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BEN GURION, SHARETT FAVOR ISAAC BEN ZVI FOR PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- Isaac Ben Zvi, veteran Zionist labor leader and former president of the Jewish National Council of Palestine, which was replaced by the Israel Parliament after the establishment of the Jewish State, is supported as a candidate for the Presidency of Israel by Premier David Ben Gurion, Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and other influential members of the Mapai, Israel's Labor Party.

On the other hand, the majority of Mapai leaders were reported today backing the candidacy of Joseph Sprinzak, Acting President of Israel and Speaker of the Parliament. A final decision will be made on Sunday when the central committee of the Mapai meets to nominate the party's candidate.

The support offered Mr. Ben Zvi by Premier Ben Gurion and Mr. Sharett is reportedly motivated by a desire to avoid further complications connected with the naming of a new Speaker of the House, should Mr. Sprinzak become President. Mr. Ben Zvi, who is 68 years old, was born in Russia and came to Israel in 1907. He was exiled by the Turkish Government from Palestine in 1917 and went to the United States where he recruited volunteers for the Jewish Legion, in which he himself served. The British Government later appointed him a member of the Palestine Advisory Council which was established after World War I.

Dr. Itzhak Gruenbaum, former Minister of Interior in the provisional government of Israel, was today nominated for the Presidency by the leftwing Socialist Mapam Party, in a letter to Acting President Joseph Sprinzak. The Poale Mizrachi today indicated that it intended to nominate Aaron Barth, while the Mizrachi will name Dr. Mordecai Nurok, Minister of Posts, Telephones and Telegraphs. None of the three is expected to obtain a majority vote in the Knesset.

Einstein Declines Offer of Israel Presidency

The Premier's Office late last night announced that Prof. Albert Einstein had replied negatively to a query from Premier Ben Gurion whether he would accept the Presidency of Israel if elected. The Premier's Office revealed that last week, after Dr. Weizmann's funeral, Premier Ben Gurion had instructed Ambassador Abba Eban to approach Prof. Einstein to ask whether he would accept the post.

Prof. Einstein replied that he was deeply moved by the proposal, but that he felt unsuited for the position, adding that he never assumes any task which he cannot conscientiously fulfill. Prof. Einstein said that he felt he was not qualified in the field of human relations; that he had a little understanding of the physical world and that it was his ardent desire to continue undisturbed the observation of this world.

Earlier yesterday, the Premier's secretary said he had no knowledge of an approach by Mr. Ben Gurion to Prof. Einstein.

EMBASSY REVEALS DETAILS OF OFFER OF ISRAEL PRESIDENCY TO EINSTEIN

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The Embassy of Israel today issued the following statement:

"On November 16th, Ambassador Eban, on instructions from the Prime Minister, had a conference with Professor Einstein in the course of which he inquired whether, if elected by the Knesset, Professor Einstein would accept the Presidency of Israel. Dr. Einstein replied that moved as he was by the deep honor implied in the question he was compelled to give a negative answer,

"On November 17th, Ambassador Eban addressed a letter to Dr. Einstein suggesting that he give further consideration to this question in view of its importance and solemnity. In the letter sent to Professor Einstein, Mr. Eban wrote:

"I am anxious for you to feel that the Prime Minister's question embodies the deepest respect which the Jewish people can repose in any of its sons. To this element of personal regard, we add the sentiment that Israel is a small state in its physical dimensions, but can rise to the level of greatness in the measure that it exemplifies the most elevated spiritual and intellectual traditions which the Jewish people has established through its best minds and hearts both in antiquity and in modern times. Our first President, as you know, taught us to see our destiny in these great perspectives as you yourself have often exhorted us to do!"

"On November 18th, Mr. David Goitsen, Minister at the Embassy of Israel in Washington, representing Ambassador Eban, received a written message from Professor Einstein. In this message Professor Einstein reiterated that he was deeply moved by the suggestion but found it impossible for him to accept it. He went on to say:

"Since all my life I have been dealing with the world of objects, I have neither the natural ability nor the experience necessary to deal with human beings and to carry out official functions. For these reasons I do not feel able to fulfil the requirements of this great task, even were my advanced age not to limit my strength to an increasing extent.

"This situation is indeed extremely sad for me because my relation to the Jewish people has become my strongest human attachment ever since I reached complete awareness of our precarious position among the nations.

"After we have lost in recent days the man who among adverse and tragic circumstances bore on his shoulders for many years the whole burden of leadership of our striving for independence from without, I wish from all my heart that a man be found who by his life's work and personality may dare to assume this difficult and responsible task."

U.S. AMBASSADOR IN ISRAEL LEAVES FOR TOUR OF ARAB CAPITALS

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- United States Ambassador Monnet B. Davis left here today for a tour of the Arab capitals. Embassy sources described the trip as "personal," but the Hebrew press drew attention to the trip, coupling it with news of a new attempt by American statesmen to bring about a peace settlement between Israel and the Arab states.

(Egyptian Foreign Minister Ahmed Farrag yesterday declared at the United Nations that there can be no prospect of peace with Israel until the Jewish State carries out past decisions of the U. N. concerning the Palestine problem. Among these he included repatriation of Arab refugees and payment of compensation to those who left their homes.)

JEWISH AGENCY REPORTS ON CULTURAL EXCHANGE BETWEEN ISRAEL, U.S.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- A vigorous cultural exchange between Israel and the United States and a widespread revival of Hebrew studies in this country, are indicated in a report made public here today by the Jewish Agency on the eve of the opening of the Zionist Actions Committee session in Jerusalem.

The report disclosed that discussions have been under way for nearly a year to increase the areas of joint effort by the various Zionist bodies in America through a reorganized American Zionist Council. The talks have been between leaders of the various Zionist groups and leaders of the Jewish Agency who initiated this effort. They will be continued in Jerusalem now with Premier David Ben Gurion, Jewish Agency leaders and spokesmen for U. S. Zionist groups. The American Zionist Council presently speaks for the American Zionist movement in the public relations field only.

Quoting from a survey by the Hebrew Culture Service Committee, an independent body composed of prominent American Jews and non-Jews with which the Jewish Agency cooperates, the report shows that Hebrew is now taught in 200 universities and 55 high schools throughout the United States. Some 1,000 American colleges and universities now recognize Hebrew for admission purposes.

In the past six months, the Jewish Agency's Department of Education and Culture, headed by Dr. Hayim Greenberg, member of the Jewish Agency executive, has conducted twelve seminars for Hebrew educators and student teachers in the United States, Israel, England, Holland and France.

Last August, in cooperation with the Association of Hebrew Teachers' Colleges in America, the Jewish Agency inaugurated a project whereby outstanding undergraduate students spend six months studying in Israel which counts as credit toward their degrees. Earlier in the year, leading figures from Israel and eminent Americans of all faiths participated in the Seminary-Israel Institute, arranged by the Agency in cooperation with the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

In cooperation with the Israel Ministry of Education, the Agency granted one-year scholarships in Israel for twelve Hebrew teachers from Jewish communities in Latin America. It has also secured qualified Israeli teachers to fill vacant posts in the U. S. as well as Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Mexico, Finland and the Philippine Republic.

HAIFA TECHNION AWARDS ITS FIRST DOCTORATE IN TECHNICAL SCIENCE

HAIFA, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The first doctorate in Technical Science was today awarded by the Haifa Technical Institute to Dr. Eliezer Mishkin, lecturer in electrical engineering at the school and himself a graduate of the Technion in 1942. The degree was presented at a ceremony at the opening of the academic year which was combined with the awarding of degrees to 172 new engineers and architects graduated from the school last summer.

Speaking at the ceremony, Col. Yaacov Dori, president of the school, revealed that a site has already been set aside on the northern slopes of Mt. Carmel here for a new "Technion City" to be established as soon as funds become available. He revealed that fund-raising programs have been initiated in the United States and other countries for this purpose and that the Jewish Agency has included a "significant" sum in its proposed budget for the expansion of the Technion.

President Dori also reported that the school would soon inaugurate three new departments -- aeronautics, production engineering and agricultural engineering. He expressed gratitude to the United States for its technical assistance to the school in these fields.

HEALTH INSURANCE COMMISSION WILL OPEN BRANCH IN BERLIN

BERLIN, Nov. 19 (AP) — The Health Insurance Commission which will shortly start its operations in Berlin is to supply the grants and services Germany will receive from Israel under the terms of the German-Israel reparations agreement, being known as "Deutsch-Lohn" in West Germany in order to give Berlin firms an opportunity to produce some of the reparations goods, it was announced here today.

It was also reported that the Federal Ministry of Health is continuing to receive applications from the Israeli side. The latest applications have been received by the Ministry of Commerce of Berlin and Prignitz, both in Lohmann, and of the Old City Association, in Berlin.

From Jerusalem it was reported that the "White Tree Campaign for Israel," organized by David Ben-Gurion, was also initiating the "Peace with Israel" campaign, but in the United States. Thirty thousand marks was recently transferred by the "White Tree" to the Jewish National Fund in Israel for planting of trees.

AUSTRIAN ANTI-SEMITIC AND ANTI-GERMAN FEELINGS FOR NAZIS UNDER NAZIS

VIENNA, Nov. 19 (AP) — Reports that the Austrian Government take immediate action to suppress, at least to a minimum extent, Austrian Jews for Germanization purposes, reflected under the Nazi regime, were voiced here by representatives of major Jewish groups.

These demands were voiced by representatives of the American Jewish Committee, World Jewish Congress and Joint Distribution Committee at a meeting of the Vienna Jewish community marking the 10th anniversary of the destruction of Jewish synagogues and institutions in this country by the Nazis in 1938. The speakers told the Austrian Jews that the world Jewish groups were solidly in support of their demands for reparation and compensation.

PROTEST IN BRITAIN AGAINST FREEDOM OF FORMER NAZI FIELD MARSHAL

ROME, Nov. 19 (AP) — The Jewish Federation of Italy has joined the many organizations and individuals in British public life who have protested the freeing of former Nazi Field Marshal Albert von Kesselring by the British authorities.

The Washington has asked the British Jewish Federation to deliver a protest to the British Government in behalf of the British Jewish group against the freeing of the man considered primarily responsible in the massacre of 335 Italian Jews and more Jews by the Nazis at the Anseno Gora.

GERMANS COURT'S DECISION REVERSED TO NAZIS WHO ATTACKED JEWS

MUNICH, Nov. 19 (AP) — A local court here has halted a trial involving four former Nazis charged with destroying three Jewish-owned buildings during the anti-Jewish outbreaks in November, 1938, "on grounds of amnesty." The court said that the defendants should be acquitted, although they should at the same time be considered guilty of the charges brought against them. The reason for acquittal was given as "long period of time that elapsed between the crimes and the trial."

In a subsequent, a local court has ordered the indefinite postponement of a trial of three former Nazi "economic agents" accused of carrying Jews to sell their property in 1938, prior to the issuance of a Nazi order on the compulsory sale of Jewish property.

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS APPEALS TO GERMANY ON INDEMNIFICATION

MONTREAL, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress has appealed to the Canadian Government to urge West Germany to enforce current indemnification legislation under which several thousand Canadian residents who were victims of the Nazis are entitled to compensation payments, it was revealed today.

The Congress pointed out that there are several hundred persons in Canada who are entitled to, but do not receive, priority treatment under the German laws because they need medical treatment or have been disabled as a result of Nazi tortures. The Congress underlined the need for speed in these cases and said that despite the establishment here of consular offices of the German Government some of the claimants have received no acknowledgement of claims in over two years nor have they been able to obtain any assistance from the German offices in this country on other routine matters in connection with claims.

The Congress asked the Canadian Department of External Affairs to advise the Bonn Government "of the need for and the reasonableness of authorizing, even urging, its representation in Canada to facilitate the just claims of Nazi victims."

COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM SAYS THERE IS NO "JEWISH COMMUNITY" IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- The action of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in withdrawing from the National Community Relations Advisory Council was hailed by the American Council for Judaism in a statement released for publication today.

"The Council's deep and genuine approval" of the recent actions by the Committee and the League, Mr. Rosenwald declared, "is merely a logical extension of Council thinking over a long period of time. The concept of an 'overall Jewish community' which failed in the American Jewish Conference a decade ago has been dealt another telling blow in the failure of the N. C. R. A. C. to put the idea over behind the skirts of 'efficiency.'"

Mr. Rosenwald pointed out that the American Council for Judaism had no direct organizational stake in the series of events leading from the issuance of the MacIver Report. "The Council has never been a member of the N. C. R. A. C.," the statement says, "but had been gratified to note that the philosophical sections of the report by Columbia University Professor Robert M. MacIver had confirmed two of the Council's basic convictions, namely: 1. That there neither is nor ought to be a 'Jewish Community' in the United States. 2. That outside of their religion Jews do not and ought not to possess a unity in interest or objective."

Certain organizational recommendations of the MacIver Report, however, seemed to the Council "to be inconsistent with Dr. MacIver's philosophical understanding." Their effect, the Council thinks "would be to centralize authority and control for Jews and Jewish affairs, creating an authoritarian Jewish community," Mr. Rosenwald declared.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS LEADER HONORED BY KING OF SWEDEN

STOCKHOLM, Nov. 19. (JTA) -- World Jewish Congress leader Hillel Storch was today honored in the birthday list of King Gustav VI Adolf. Mr. Storch was named a Knight of the Order of Vasa, First Class, for his efforts to rescue Jews from the Nazis.

