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KNESSET ADOPTS BILL GRANTING SPECIAL STATUS TO JEWISH AGENCY

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament last night adopted the bill granting the world Zionist movement a special legal status in Israel. Immediately after passage, Premier David Ben Gurion traveled to the Jewish Agency building where the Zionist Actions Committee was meeting and presented the charter to that body, which is responsible for Zionist policy-making between world congresses.

"Deep satisfaction" with the passage of the bill was expressed today by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, co-chairman of the Jewish Agency, at a press conference. This bill, he stressed, "regulates the Zionist Organization's standing and functions in Israel and lays the foundations for its future work. It entrusts the World Zionist Organization with the right, indeed the task, of coordinating the functions of all other overseas Jewish groups in Israel.

"At the same time," Dr. Goldmann continued, "it increases the responsibility of the World Zionist Organization to whom the supreme legislative body of Israel has assigned such major tasks as the regulation of immigration and colonization. It is my hope that Jews all over the world and the World Zionist Organization will live up to these responsibilities and prove themselves worthy of the status which the government and Knesset have granted in behalf of the people of Israel," he concluded.

Place of Zionists In American Jewish Life Debated

In a debate on the place of Zionism in Jewish life in the United States, which followed the formal presentation of the status charter to the Actions Committee, Dr. Goldmann insisted that the Zionist movement must adopt a "new approach to the greatest Jewish concentration of our era -- in the United States." He advocated that the Zionists not confine their work in the United States to education and fund-raising, but also participate in the "inner Jewish life in America," such as communal welfare and other aspects. He asked that narrow party interests be submerged in the face of the broader problems before the entire movement, "I am afraid of acute party strife which always was the curse of our life and which has always ruined us."

Turning to the agreement on strengthening the American Zionist Council -- whose broad outlines were agreed upon Sunday night at a meeting of Premier Ben Gurion and the heads of the Zionist Organization of America, Hadassah, Labor Zionist Organization of America and the Mizrahi Organization of America -- Dr. Goldmann praised it but added "it remains to be seen how it will work out." Replying to criticism that only four American Zionist groups were represented at the parley with Mr. Ben Gurion, Dr. Goldmann said that all the smaller Zionist groups would participate in the conference in the United States at which the details of the broad agreement would be worked out.

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PRAGUE TRIAL HEARS "CONFESSION" OF "JEWISH PLOT" AGAINST GOVT.

VIENNA, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- The anti-Jewish atmosphere which dominates the Prague "purge" trial continued today unabated when Gen. Karl Svab, former chief of the secret police in Communist Czechoslovakia, who is one of the 14 defendants, told the court that he "protected a Jewish nationalist" plot to overthrow the Communist Government. His testimony was broadcast over the Prague radio.

Gen. Svab's testimony followed the testimony yesterday of Rudolf Margolius, Evzen Loebl and Otto Fischl, former Deputy Ministers of Trade, export and finance, who "confessed" that they had committed the following financial crimes against Czechoslovakia:

1. In 1950, they made a trade agreement with Israel whereby Israel in effect did not have to pay for 17 per cent of the goods exported by Czechoslovakia. 2. They recently repaid more than half of a \$400,000,000 loan made in 1938 by Great Britain to Czechoslovakia and arranged that a large part of the repaid funds should be used to support Jews and others who emigrated from Czechoslovakia.

3. They paid compensation amounting to millions of Czech crowns for former Jewish-owned property seized or nationalized since 1938. 4. They planned to tie Czechoslovakia's light machine industry financially to the United States through a plan whereby Zionist organizations in the United States would be encouraged to buy Czech goods under the slogan "Buy Czech Goods and You Help Israel."

PRO-SOVIET PARTY IN ISRAEL SPLIT ON STAND TOWARD PRAGUE TRIAL

TEL AVIV, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- Reports of the proceedings of the Prague trial continue to be major news here and people remain glued to their radios for hours to listen to the testimony of the defendants, which are being broadcast from the Czechoslovak capital, where the press and the radio is engaged in an ever-mounting campaign against Jews and the Jewish State.

The central council of the pro-Soviet Mapam Party here held an all-night session on the stand of the party with regard to the trial. In the early morning hours the council approved an editorial in the Mapam newspaper which rejected Czechoslovak Government charges of espionage against Mordechai Oren, Israel Mapam leader, whose "confession" was introduced as evidence against the 14 defendants at the Prague trial.

The vote on approval was 25 to 9, with Dr. Moshe Sneh and members of his radical group in the minority. This is the first time that representatives of the Hashomer Hatzair faction within the party voted against the Sneh group. The minority had demanded that the party disassociate itself from the editorial in order "not to hamper" the party's relations with the Soviet bloc of nations.

Jews Will Resist Anti-Jewish Demagogy, Goldmann Warns

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, acting president of the World Jewish Congress, today warned that the Jews of the world would not "countenance" any anti-Jewish policy which might emerge from the Prague trial of 14 ex-Communist and Czech Government officials on charges of treason and espionage. In behalf of the W. J. C., Dr. Goldmann declared:

"The Prague trial is a startlingly depressing event which has aroused indignation and anxiety among the Jewish people throughout the world. The most shocking

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aspect of the trial is the injection of anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish incitement. It would be a grim tragedy if the trial were to establish a new pattern and policy for the governments of the Soviet bloc. Indulgence in anti-Semitism and anti-Jewish demagoguery will not be countenanced by the Jewish people and will be met with determined resistance.

"The World Jewish Congress has sought for many years to retain contact with its affiliates -- the Jewish communities of Eastern Europe -- and it was through no fault of theirs that those communities were constrained to sever their ties with the rest of the Jewish people. It is with deep sorrow and profound indignation that the World Jewish Congress must raise its voice to protest against this trial and to serve notice on the rulers of Czechoslovakia and other Eastern European countries to desist from the road that might lead to the camp of countries notorious for their indulgence in demagogic anti-Semitism."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress, today described the Prague trial as "a calculated campaign of defamation" by the Cominform against Israel and the Jewish people. He made the statement here, where he is attending meetings of the Zionist Actions Committee, that the A. J. C. "views with the greatest apprehension this Communist revival of the evil spirit which gave birth to the forged Protocols of the Elders of Zion with all its hideous consequences."

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT RECEIVES VOTE OF CONFIDENCE IN PARLIAMENT

JERUSALEM, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament last night rejected a leftist attempt to censure Premier David Ben Gurion in his capacity of Defense Minister over the manner in which Israeli police and troops searched the Arab village of Wadi Ara three months ago in a hunt for smuggled goods.

The government received a vote of confidence by 52 to 14, with 27 abstentions. The abstainees included Mr. Ben Gurion and deputies of the General Zionists, Agudah and Progressive Parties and a two-member faction which recently broke away from the Mapam.

At the time of the search Mapam and Arab deputies in Parliament charged that the troops had used unnecessary force in searching the village. The Mapam rejected Mr. Ben Gurion's explanation and said that it would introduce a motion of non-confidence in the Defense Minister. The measure came to a vote only last night.

JORDAN COMPLAINS TO BIG POWERS AGAINST ISRAEL IRRIGATION PROJECT

WASHINGTON, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- Jordan today sent a memorandum to Great Britain, France, and the United States complaining that Israel plans "disastrous" draining of the Jordan River for irrigation purposes. The note appealed to the Western nations to stop the drainage which Jordan said was "tantamount to Jewish aggression."

Jordan alleged that Israel proposes to draw water from a point six miles below the meeting place of the Rivers Jordan and Yarmuk and alleged that this will have a disastrous effect on vast areas of Jordan territory. Many refugees now in Jordan as a result of the Palestine war will lose their livelihood if this project goes through, the Jordan note added.

U.N. OPENS DEBATE ON PALESTINE CONCILIATION COMMISSION

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 25. (JTA) -- The Arab states attacked the Palestine Conciliation Commission as the Palestine debate opened in the United Nations Special Political Committee today.

Egyptian delegate Abdul Monem Mustafa claimed that the Conciliation Commission has "espoused the cause of Israel." He said that it sought shelter behind "the realities of the situation in Palestine" and thus was attempting to justify a fait accompli.

"Whenever the interests of Israel are at stake," Abdul Mustafa said, "the Commission forges ahead and is able to find United Nations resolutions to help it do so. Whenever the interests of the Arab states are at stake, the Commission tries to belittle and water down the resolutions which refer to them."

The Egyptian delegate asserted that full compensation payments should be made to the Palestine refugees and that these payments should not be held up because of the financial position of Israel. If these payments could not be made by Israel, he declared, the U.N. should make them.

Dr. Fadil el Jamali of Iraq asked that Dr. Izzat Tannous, "representative of the Palestine refugees," be invited to speak. The British representative opposed this. Ambassador Abba Eban, Israel delegate, said that the Israeli delegation would have "serious objections" to such an invitation. He pointed out that there had been no official request and no credentials offered. The Arab cause, Mr. Eban said, was adequately represented here. "Six against one" was already an overbalance, he said. The Arab request was rejected by 14-13, with 20 abstentions.

EBAN URGES U. N. TO PROMOTE DIRECT ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE TALKS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 25. (JTA) -- Ambassador Abba S. Eban said today that the United Nations should make every effort to bring about direct negotiations between the Arab states and Israel for a peace settlement. He made this comment at a luncheon given for members of the press on the occasion of the opening of the Palestine debate in the Ad Hoc Committee.

"We've tried every other means of bringing about peace and they have all failed," Mr. Eban said. He described the situation with regard to the Arab-Israel dispute as unique in that it was the only one in which there was no direct contact between the two parties. In every other international conflict, even between the Soviet Union and the Western Powers, there was contact, he pointed out.

Mr. Eban declared that on every occasion that Israel and the Arab states have met there has been agreement. He referred to the "weariness" in the United Nations over the "traditional" discussion on Palestine. "Year after year we have chewed the cud of Arab denunciations," he stated.

Instead of continuing the controversy, Israel intended to submit its peace plan at this session, Mr. Eban said. He announced that Israel's aim would be full peaceful relations with the Arab states, the pooling of efforts to conquer the desert, the reestablishment of communications and the solution of security questions together.

The Israeli diplomat felt the time was ripe for such a move because of the passage of years which had healed many wounds and because the "resistance within the Arab states was psychologically less towards a settlement." In connection with this, Mr. Eban answered a question by saying that he felt that Egypt was the logical leader among the Arab states to bring about peace negotiations. He declared that there was no issue between Egypt and Israel which could not be readily solved.

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GOODS UNDER GERMAN-ISRAEL PACT WILL REACH TEL AVIV IN FEBRUARY

TEL AVIV, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- The belief that the West German Bundestag would ratify the Israel-German reparations agreement in January and that the first goods under the agreement will reach Israel in February was expressed here by Dr. F. Shinnar, who just returned from West Germany where he made arrangements for the setting up of the Israel-Purchasing Mission there.

(The West German Government is not too perturbed over the Arab League threats of an economic boycott if the Israel reparations agreement is honored because it hopes that the "Arab countries will hardly be so blind to their own interests as to sever relations with a customer who already buys from them twice as much as she sells," the London Times said today.)

ARABS WARN AUSTRIA AGAINST PAYMENT OF REPARATIONS TO JEWS

VIENNA, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- The Arab states have warned the Austrian Government that if it opens negotiations with major world Jewish organizations for payment of reparations for Nazi damages to the Jews, the Arab states would oppose Austria's cause in the United Nations, it was learned here today.

The Arabs indicated that they would oppose both a state treaty for Austria and her admission to the United Nations. This development was seen here as one of the reasons for the recent decision of the Austrian Government to postpone discussions with the Jews until after the Austrian national elections in February.

Meanwhile, the Austrian Government has not issued any public statement indicating that talks with the Jewish groups have been postponed. The Austrian press also has suppressed this information, although it is aware of the development.

170,000 CLAIMS TALLING 1,000,000 MARKS FILED IN BERLIN

BERLIN, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- Some 170,000 claims for indemnification have been filed with the local indemnification office -- the largest total that has been registered with any restitution office in Germany. This is explained by the fact that 200,000 of Germany's pre-war Jewish population of 600,000 lived in Berlin. The claims represent an aggregate value of 1,000,000 deutschmarks.

Norbert Wolheim, former chairman of the Jewish Communities of Northwest Germany, and now a resident of the United States, has brought an action in a Frankfurt court to force the I. G. Farben company to pay him compensation for compulsory work in its behalf while he was imprisoned by the Nazis in the Auschwitz concentration camp. Mr. Wolheim's action is based on a ruling of the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal that forced labor of Nazi camp inmates in I. G. Farben plants situated near the camps was illegal. A decision from the Frankfurt court is not expected until early next year.

In a letter to Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, the Association for Christian-Jewish cooperation of Germany has stated that any deviation from the present German Government attitude toward payment of reparations to Israel would result in "national disaster." The letter also rejected Arab threats against Germany if the Israel pact is implemented and urged its speedy ratification by Parliament.

JEWISH COMMUNITY IN AUSTRIAN TOWN DISSOLVED; ALL JEWS EMIGRATED

VIENNA, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Hohenems, a small town in the province of Vorarlberg, has been dissolved. A year ago the town still had 120 Jewish families, but today only a few families remain, the others having emigrated.

U.S. EDUCATORS ASK CHECK ON RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION IN COLLEGES

CHICAGO, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- A resolution suggesting that the college accrediting agencies in the United States be asked to consider racial and religious discrimination as a criterion for accreditation and rating of colleges was adopted here at a two-day conference on discrimination in education attended by about 300 educators representing 100 educational institutions in seven mid-western states.

The conference, which was arranged in cooperation with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, also resolved that Federal scholarships, fellowships and grants-in-aid with non-discriminatory clauses be approved by Congress; that a nationwide survey on discrimination in graduate and professional schools be conducted by the American Council on Education; and that student organizations should seek the elimination of discrimination in social organizations on their campuses.

CANADA TO BAN BIAS IN INDUSTRIES UNDER FEDERAL JURISDICTION

OTTAWA, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- The Canadian Government has announced a far reaching legislative program which includes a bill to outlaw discrimination because of race, color or religion in industry under Federal regulation. This measure will extend this principle, already effective for firms doing government work, to industries such as railways, shipping and air transport that are under Federal jurisdiction.

Previously the government had issued an order-in-council under which it became illegal to discriminate against any person in regard to employment because of that person's race, national origin, color or religion.

All contracts entered into after the first of January, 1953, on behalf of the Government of Canada will include a clause to this effect. It is hoped that this legislation will also greatly influence the field of private industry where such discrimination is rampant. Many Jewish professionals, especially engineers, have had to seek employment outside the country since their race and religion was found objectionable by some private concerns.

The promulgation of the order-in-council followed representations made to the government for legislation outlawing religious and racial discrimination in employment. The national conventions of the major labor congresses in Canada had advocated Federal regulation to this effect and memoranda on this point have recently been submitted to the government by labor groups, the Canadian Jewish Congress, the Jewish Labor Committee, and other proponents of civil rights.

MISS TRUMAN HEADS BENEFIT FOR U. J. A.; 20,000 ATTEND

NEW YORK, Nov. 25. (JTA) -- More than 20,000 persons last night attended the annual "Night of Stars" arranged by the United Jewish Appeal in Madison Square Garden at which Miss Margaret Truman was mistress of ceremonies.

Mayor Impellitteri, who was one of the speakers, urged full public support for the United Jewish Appeal. Sylvan Gotschal, chairman of the "Night of Stars," said that the proceeds of the evening would be used to help Israel and Jews in other countries.