

J T A

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U. J. A. TO SEEK \$145,000,000 IN 1953; WARBURG RE-ELECTED HEAD

NEW YORK, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The three-day annual national conference of the United Jewish Appeal concluded here today with the adoption of a resolution setting forth the U. J. A. objective for 1953 as the raising of "the largest possible sums" to meet the urgent needs of its constituent agencies -- The United Israel Appeal, Joint Distribution Committee and United Service for New Americans -- totalling nearly \$145,000,000.

Edward M. M. Warburg was unanimously re-elected General Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal for the third successive year. The 1,200 delegates at the conference acclaimed him for his dedicated leadership of the U. J. A. during his previous two terms of office. Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz was also re-elected vice-chairman of the U. J. A. for the third successive year. The sum of \$2,250,000 in checks toward the 1952 goal was presented at the final session by leaders of Jewish communities.

The conference also adopted a resolution seeking to reverse a downward trend in U. J. A. allocations by some communities. The resolution urged that "all communities refrain from making allocations to the U. J. A. out of the proceeds of their campaigns without first giving the U. J. A. an opportunity to have its representatives meet with the representatives of the communities for a full discussion of mutual problems and needs."

The delegates, in a resolution, expressed their sorrow at the death of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, first President of the State of Israel, and paid tribute to "his statesmanship, his wisdom, his warm human qualities and his superb leadership." They also sent congratulations, in another resolution, to Itzhak Ben Zvi on his election to Israel's Presidency.

\$72,000,000 Raised in 1952; \$806,000,000 Since 1939

The 1,200 Jewish community leaders from all parts of the country were told by Mr. Warburg that the United Jewish Appeal, in the 14 years of its existence, has raised more than \$806,000,000 and has succeeded in assisting resettlement and aid programs for a total of 2,240,000 Jews. This sum includes \$72,000,000 raised during 1952.

The U. J. A. General Chairman pointed to the scope of world-wide Jewish needs confronting the United Jewish Appeal, and called on the Jews of this country "to serve as a key force in assuring a better future for Israel and for distressed Jews in other parts of the world." Mr. Warburg told the conferees that recent events

in Eastern Europe affecting the status of Jews and the spread of tension in the Moslem world where Jews are traditionally an oppressed minority come as warnings that American Jews must redouble their support of the United Jewish Appeal.

William Rosenwald, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, called attention to the \$144,354,250 required by the U. J. A. agencies in the coming year and said that the United Israel Appeal would require the largest sum, or \$117,250,000, with \$25,491,000 needed by the Joint Distribution Committee, \$545,250 by the United Service for New Americans, and \$1,238,000 by the New York Association for New Americans. He pointed out that of the \$144,354,250 required by the U. J. A. constituent agencies in the coming year, more than 90 percent, or \$130,600,000, is proposed for expenditure in Israel alone.

Consequences for Jews of Prague Trial Stressed by Speakers

The consequences which the anti-Semitic tone of the recent "purge" trial in Prague may have for Jews in countries behind the Iron Curtain were stressed by some of the leading speakers during the sessions last night and today. Dr. Joseph Schwartz, executive vice-chairman of the U. J. A., said at the concluding session today that American Jews "should hold themselves in readiness for possible contingencies" attendant on the rise and spread of anti-Semitism in Czechoslovakia and other parts of Eastern Europe.

Referring to the recent "confession trials in Prague," Dr. Schwartz termed them "a terrible echo" of 14 years ago when "Hitler won a free hand in Czechoslovakia." He pointed out that anti-Semitism has again become "a weapon of the Czech State in violation of the spirit of Benes and Masaryk," and asked whether "the world is about to witness once more the spectacle of Jewish oppression at the hands of totalitarian government, this time Communist totalitarianism."

He emphasized that "there are still 2,000,000 or more Jews behind the Iron Curtain, including those in the Soviet Union." More than 280,000 of them, he said, are in Rumania, 150,000 in Hungary, 80,000 in Poland, 18,000 in Czechoslovakia, 7,000 in Bulgaria, and the rest in the U. S. S. R.

"What we can do, and what we will be able to do for Jews behind the Iron Curtain is no easier to say in this new situation," Dr. Schwartz declared, "than it was in the early days when Jews were being held behind the Nazi frontiers. But I believe that in 1953 we must do everything in our power to make ready, and to be ready, to again save lives."

Israel Leader Calls Prague Trial "Frame Up Against Zionism"

Dr. George Josephthal, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, said that the "atmosphere created by the instigators of the Prague frame-up against Zionism is conducive to anti-Semitism and relegates Jews to the category of second-class citizens." The Israeli leader, who directs the Jewish Agency's immigrant absorption program, declared:

"It is hard to say anything today about the situation of the Jews in the Iron Curtain countries. More than 400,000 Jews from behind the Iron Curtain have been brought to Israel. More than 350,000 are still left in that area, excepting the Jews in the USSR. None of us can say what the repercussions of the Prague trial may be. The atmosphere created by the instigators of the Prague frame-up against Zionism is conducive to anti-Semitism and relegates Jews to the category of second-class citizens.

"The Prague trial propounds again the infamous theory familiar to us from experience with the Fascist and Arab countries -- namely that a Jew cannot be

loyal to the country he lives in, because he is a Jew. It is a call to the lowest, most base, instincts of the illiterate, bigoted and fanatic sections of the population of those countries. We are determined that the Jews in the Iron Curtain countries should be saved for a full Jewish life and be spared the horrible fate of Soviet Jewry whose culture has been banished and whose ties with world Jewry have been banned.

"We must therefore strengthen and increase our efforts to obtain the release of as many Jews as possible from these areas at whatever cost in money and effort. The gates are closed in some of these countries, but not in all of them. We have to speed up emigration from these lands whatever the risk involved. And we say to the rulers in Prague, Warsaw, Bucharest and Budapest: Give us these 'Zionist imperialists, these stateless intellectuals, these petits bourgeois cosmopolitans.' And we pledge to the Jews in those countries: We shall never, never forget you, nor abandon you. We shall not shrink before any sacrifice to have you with us."

Dr. Goldmann Says German Reparations No Substitute for U. J. A.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency and one of the principal negotiators of the recently concluded talks with West-Germany that led to the reparations treaty providing for the payment to Israel of \$822,000,000 in goods over a 12 year period, told the conference that signing of the reparation agreement must not bring a lessening in support of the United Jewish Appeal as it seeks to strengthen the new state's economy.

He emphasized that Germany will not make its payment in dollars and that "the goods it will deliver will have to be used primarily for long term investment which will bear fruit only after a number of years." He expressed the belief that "Israel is beginning to move into a situation with real prospect of full consolidation," but stressed that the Jewish state would put aside economic considerations to give priority to a mass immigration of Jews fleeing from hostile lands.

"If the Jews of Eastern Europe would be allowed to leave those countries," he declared, "Israel would have to take them in without consideration of the economic results, especially after the Prague trial."

Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, in reporting on the J. D. C. budgetary requirements for 1953, told the conferees that his agency needs a minimum of \$25,491,000 "to meet the most urgent needs of 175,000 Jewish men, women and children in 20 countries of Europe, North Africa and the Near East, including Israel."

He reported that close to one half of J. D. C.'s 1953 financial requirement or \$12,100,000 is intended for expenditure in Israel alone on the unique medical welfare program known as "Malben." He told the conference that this program, "organized at the close of 1949 to provide comprehensive medical care and rehabilitation services for physically-disabled, sick and aged newcomers to Israel, has developed in three years into the largest voluntary health service in the Jewish State."

Ellis Radinsky, executive director of the United Israel Appeal, who presented the U. I. A. budgetary requirement totalling \$117,250,000 told the conference that "the principal purpose for which this sum is intended is to bring every able-bodied newcomer and recent immigrant to Israel out of the shadows of marginal existence in the temporary camps and into the context of full productivity and human dignity."

GENERAL ZIONISTS MAY JOIN ISRAEL CABINET; ANNOUNCEMENT EXPECTED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Official announcement of a decision by the General Zionist Party to enter the government coalition is expected within a few days, reliable sources here said today following a meeting this week-end of the central council of the centrist party. The political committee of the Mapai Party, major factor in the government, which meets here tomorrow, is also expected to approve an arrangement for broadening the Cabinet.

The only snag still holding up agreement is the distribution of four portfolios -- Commerce, Interior, Communications and Health -- which are demanded by the centrists. It was pointed out that three of these posts are now held by members of one or another of the religious parties. Sources close to the Mapai leadership says that the Laborites are willing to end the "unstable" coalition in which they depend on the religious parties and replace it with a more stable government based on a Labor-Centrist coalition.

Apparently the religious parties will be the only ones to suffer if the centrists enter the government, since they will have to surrender some of their portfolios. Also, the religious parties will lose their fight against the amalgamation of the four "trend" schools into one state system, because the General Zionist-Mapai agreement calls for immediate establishment of a unified school system, with any special schools becoming a private matter for the parties which wish to maintain them. The conscription of Orthodox women is also expected to be put into effect quickly by a Mapai-General Zionist coalition.

Another important aspect of the reported Mapai-General Zionist agreement is that both favor the introduction of a law in Parliament aimed at reducing the number of political parties by requiring a party to obtain at least seven percent of the total vote in order to be represented in Parliament. The present regulation sets a minimum of one percent.

ARABS RAID ISRAEL DEPOT NEAR JERUSALEM; STEAL ARMS, AMMUNITION

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Israel today lodged a strong protest with the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Committee against a raid by a band of Arab infiltrators who stole a quantity of arms and ammunition near Jerusalem last night.

Late last night a band of some 10 Arabs attacked an arms depot near here and, after an exchange of fire with the Israeli guards, broke into the building and made off with a quantity of weapons and ammunition. It was also announced today that the Mixed Armistice Commission has found Jordan responsible for two new violations of the armistice agreement.

EGYPTIAN MISSION DELAYS DISCUSSIONS WITH BONN ON ISRAEL

BONN, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- An Egyptian mission scheduled to arrive here this week to discuss the West German-Israel reparations pact has postponed its visit "indefinitely," it was learned here today. The decision came as a surprise to Bonn Government circles and apparently the Egyptians gave no reason for the delay.

Sources close to the government say that the Egyptian Government has established a special commission, including Secretaries of State of various Ministries, to draft boycott measures against Germany in the event that the Bundestag ratifies the reparations treaty.

EX-IRGUNIST GETS 21 MONTHS IN JAIL FOR BOMB PLOT

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Dov Shilansky, former member of the Irgun Zvai Leumi and the Herut Party, was today sentenced to 21 months imprisonment on charges of having planted explosives alongside the building of the Foreign Ministry in Tel Aviv. The judge of the district court here who sentenced Shilansky ordered that he receive special treatment during his incarceration.

The court accepted Shilansky's contention that he had not planned to blow up the building, but had tried to stage a "one man demonstration" against the Israel Government's conclusion of a reparations agreement with West Germany. During the trial Shilansky testified that it was he who had given the police an anonymous tip that an attempt would be made to blast the Foreign Office.

After his arrest, two other former members of the Irgun were picked up and charged with having aided Shilansky. So far neither of them has been brought to trial.

MIZRACHI LEADER REPORTS ON JERUSALEM PACT ON U. S. ZIONISM

NEW YORK, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The agreement worked out in Jerusalem among the Premier of Israel, the co-chairman of the Jewish Agency executive and the leaders of the four largest Zionist organizations in the United States on expanding the functions of the American Zionist Council, represents "an important milestone in improving relations" between American Zionism and Premier David Ben Gurion, Mizrachi president Rabbi Max Kirshblum today told a meeting of the Mizrachi national executive.

Rabbi Kirshblum, who participated in the meeting of Zionist leaders at which the plan was worked out, announced that a joint meeting of the American Mizrachi executive and its national board would be held within two weeks to discuss the proposal. He reported that there was "increased improvement" in Israel's economic situation including a "greater abundance of food." He returned from Israel last Friday.

He also stated that the population of Israel has been "shaken and solidified" as a result of the Prague trial. There are "clear indications," the Mizrachi leader said, "that those who were given to the comforts of decrying 'American imperialism' while perched on American Marshall Plan tractors are about to make a sober return to Israel's truly democratic way of thinking and its entire western orientation in the realm of basic outlook."

45,000 PARTICIPATE IN "BIG DAY" SALE OF ISRAEL BONDS

NEW YORK, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Some 45,000 volunteers in hundreds of Jewish communities throughout the country today conducted a door-to-door effort to sell Israel bonds, spurred on by addresses by Israel Cabinet members carried over a nationwide telephone hook-up from New York.

Israel Premier David Ben Gurion, in a message recorded in Jerusalem, called upon the volunteers to mobilize maximum financial aid for Israel's development through the sale of bonds. Others who participated in the nationwide telephone hook-up, which originated in the national headquarters of the bond campaign here, included: Levi Eshkol, Israel Minister of Finance; Golda Myerson, Minister of Labor; Dov Joseph, Minister of Industry and Commerce; Abba S. Eban, Israel Ambassador to the United States, and Henry Morgenthau, Jr., chairman of the Board of Governors of the Israel bond drive.

ISRAEL CAPTAIN DENIES HE THREATENED TO SCUTTLE SHIP

MONTREAL, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Capt. Adan Graetz, who left the vessel Abraham Graetz aboard a tug off Halifax last week, this week-end denied that he was removed because he sent irresponsible messages to the Israel Ministry of Communications, conducted a reign of terror aboard the vessel and threatened to scuttle the ship.

Capt. Graetz, who said he left his command to join his father H. R. Graetz here because his father was ill, blamed the reports of irregular conduct on his part on a Tel Aviv newspaper. He told a press conference that it was "likely" that he would resume command of the vessel.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY RAISES \$100,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIP FUND

NEW YORK, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- A total of \$100,000 has been raised thus far by Yeshiva University for its scholarship fund, it was reported here last night at the University's 24th annual scholarship dinner at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

The funds will be applied toward the University's scholarship budget of \$231,000 which has been allocated for the academic year 1952-53 to assist a record number of 992 students with tuition, board and maintenance. Twelve hundred persons attended the dinner, chaired by Charles H. Silver, a member of the New York City Board of Education. The New York Philharmonic Symphony Orchestra, conducted by Andre Kostelanetz, presented a concert with Metropolitan Opera stars Hilda Guedon and Ferruccio Tagliavini as guest soloists.

BROIDO TO HEAD 1953 DRIVE FOR \$2,265,000 FOR REFORM JUDAISM

NEW YORK, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Louis Broido, New York Jewish philanthropist and one of the leaders of the United Jewish Appeal, will head the 1953 campaign for \$2,265,000 to support the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, it was announced here today.

In a statement, Mr. Broido said: "American Reform Judaism rests today on two great pillars -- the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the national parent body of 450 affiliated congregations with a membership of more than 500,000 and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, which trains and educates rabbis, teachers and scholars. Both institutions look to the campaign to provide 1953 maintenance funds for their programs of dedicated service to Jewish communities throughout America."

WIDOW OF LATE PRESIDENT WEIZMANN ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Mrs. Vera Weizmann, widow of the late President Chaim Weizmann of Israel, arrived here today, to attend the memorial tribute to the late President, sponsored by the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel this week.

ISAAC ASOFSKY RETIRES FROM ACTIVE SERVICE AS HIAS DIRECTOR

NEW YORK, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The retirement from active service of Isaac L. Asofsky, executive director of HIAS, after forty years of association with the Society, was announced today by Ben Touster, president of the organization. Maurice Eigen, who has been assistant director of the organization, has been named acting executive director.