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GENERAL ZIONISTS AND MAPAI TO FORM NEW ISRAEL CABINET

TEL AVIV, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Announcement of the conclusion of an agreement for the entrance of the General Zionist Party into the Israel Cabinet is expected here tonight following the meeting of the central committees of the Mapai and General Zionist Parties to approve negotiations to this effect which have been taking place for the past week or so.

A Mapai leader, who expressed confidence that the negotiations would be approved tonight, said that the agreement provides for: immediate introduction of a law to reform the educational system; decontrol of certain commodities, including raw materials for industry; and change of the election law so that a political party will have to obtain eight percent of the total national vote to receive representation in Parliament.

What still has to be settled is the position of the Progressive Party and the Hapoel Hamizrachi in the coalition government. The electoral reform would eliminate the Progressives from the Knesset, while the General Zionists' demand for four portfolios, two of which are now held by Mizrachi Laborite leaders, will cause a clash with the Orthodox groups. If the portfolios held by the Mizrachi Laborites were reshuffled the Mizrachi representative, Rabbi Mordecai Nurok, would be eliminated entirely. The Progressives are expected to stay out of the Cabinet rather than support an electoral law which would eliminate them as a Parliamentary factor.

Orthodox Laborites Meet To Consider New Position

The central council of Hapoel Hamizrachi, largest religious party in the country, today began meeting here to consider whether it would remain in the government coalition, from which two other Orthodox parties have already withdrawn. The points on which the decision will turn are the government's attitude toward the educational systems, conscription of Orthodox women and the assignment of jurisdictions to rabbinical juries.

The threatened split in the leftwing Socialist Mapam Party over the Prague trial seems to have been averted, it was reported here today. A closed meeting of the party's central council has been taking place on this problem for the past few days.

The report said that attempts at reconciling the extremist and moderate factions in the party on a position to be taken publicly on the trial's proceedings were apparently successful. Dr. Moshe Sneh, leader of the extremist-Hashomer Hatzair group, was said to have suffered in influence in the party under the pressure of the moderate Leachdut Avoda faction, led by former General Jacob Galilli.

U.S. EMBASSY ISSUING CERTIFICATES TO AMERICAN CITIZENS IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The American Embassy here has begun issuing certificates of proof of United States citizenship to all American nationals living in this country. The Embassy has also begun listing Americans serving in the Israel Army who do not desire to withdraw from the Army.

The Embassy's activities are in connection with the McCarran Immigration and Naturalization Act, which goes into effect Dec. 24 and provides that Americans serving in foreign armies on that date will forfeit their citizenship. Meanwhile, the Embassy has asked the Israel Government to release from its army some 50 Americans who have indicated that they prefer to retain their American citizenship.

ARAB LEAGUE TO MEET ON U. N. CALL FOR PEACE TALKS WITH ISRAEL

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The Arab League today issued a call for a meeting of its seven member nations in Cairo this week to discuss the opposition of the Arab states to the United Nations resolution urging direct Arab-Israel peace talks, it was reported this afternoon from Cairo.

The report said that the Egyptian press bitterly criticizes the United Nations resolution. It added that Egyptian Government leaders are of the opinion that peace talks cannot be started with Israel until the Arab refugee problem is solved.

Other reports from Cairo said that Premier Naguib, Egypt's "strong man," and Syrian dictator Col. Shishekly pledged themselves yesterday to work for Arab unity and military might "to dictate the will of the Arab world in the Middle East."

Premier Naguib and the British Ambassador in Cairo, Sir Ralph Stevenson, today discussed the Palestine problem following an Egyptian Foreign Office announcement that Gen. Naguib would protest against Britain's support of the United Nations resolution calling on the Arabs and Israel to settle their differences in direct talks. The meeting of Premier Naguib with Ambassador Stevenson lasted 45 minutes.

ISRAEL TO RETURN TWO VESSELS TO SYRIA; SETTLES BEDOUINS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Two Syrian sailing vessels captured in Israeli territorial waters into which they drifted recently during a spell of bad weather will shortly be returned to the Syrian authorities, it was announced here today. Israel and Syria have concluded an agreement providing for the return of each other's vessels which have violated territorial waters as a result of storms or engine trouble.

The Israeli authorities have completed the construction of a pipeline to a major Bedouin encampment in the Negev north of Beersheba, it was announced here last night. This development is expected to provide the Israeli Bedouin tribes with enough water and pasturage to meet their needs and help them settle down as permanent residents of the area.

MORGENTHAU, MONTOR GO TO ISRAEL TO DISCUSS RESIGNATIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Henry Morgenthau, Jr., and Henry Montor, leaders of the Israel bond organization in the United States, have agreed to come to Israel to confer with Premier David Ben Gurion on the resignations which they have submitted to the Israel Government, an official communique announced today. They will arrive late next week since the Premier, occupied with the Cabinet reshuffle, will not be able to spend time with them until then.

"JEWISH" TRIAL TO BE HELD IN ODESSA; SIX OFFICIALS INVOLVED

LONDON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Six Soviet Jewish officials will go on trial in Odessa on charges of "violating Soviet laws and pilfering state property," it was reported here today. The first news of the coming trial was given in a special article published in Pravda, official organ of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, in which the names of all the six Jews were given.

Commenting on this article, the Manchester Guardian today said that it can be taken for granted that "something of importance is afoot" in the Soviet Union. The forthcoming trial of the six Jewish officials in Odessa is considered here a part of the general Soviet trend to discredit Jews as an "untrustworthy element" in Communist-dominated countries.

The London Times, in an editorial, charged today that the Communist satellite countries have embarked on a new campaign against the Jews "in obedience to directions from Moscow" and that recent developments in those countries must be interpreted as part of Moscow's general campaign against "cosmopolitanism." The Times asserted that "three events in recent weeks have given evidence of Soviet hostility toward the Jews." These developments, it said, are:

"An unusual proportion of victims of the Communist purge in the East German village of Klein Machnow were Jews; Russian diplomatic representatives were conspicuously absent from the ceremonial inauguration of Isaac Ben Zvi, the new President of Israel last Wednesday; and finally, and most dramatically, eleven of the fourteen Czechoslovak Communists condemned at the Prague treason trial were also Jewish."

Jews In Britain Resign From Communist Groups

LONDON, dec. 15. (JTA) -- Numerous Jewish members of the British-Czech Friendship Society, as well as of the Communist Party of Britain, have resigned their membership in protest against the anti-Jewish tone of the Prague "purge" trial, it was reported here today. The annual meeting of the British-Czech group here, which was to have been held yesterday, was postponed indefinitely in view of the mass resignation of active members.

Among the prominent persons who left the British Communist Party is Benjamin Frankel, well-known composer and conductor. In a statement published in the press he emphasized that his resignation was a reaction to the Prague trial and indicated that other party members among British musicians were considering resigning. He has been a party member for 12 years.

Stalin Charged with Anti-Semitism By Yugoslav Communist

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The New York Times reports today from Belgrade that Borba, organ of the Yugoslav Communist Party, carried a front-page article analyzing anti-Semitic currents in the Soviet Union and attributing an anti-Semitic attitude directly to Premier Stalin.

The article, written by Milovan Djilas, one of the four principal leaders of the Communist Party in Yugoslavia and a member of its Politburo, predicts a Soviet-directed purge of Hungarian Premier Matyas Rakosi and his Vice Premier Erno Geroe, both Jews, as well as the prominent Soviet propagandist Ilya Ehrenburg. Of Mr. Ehrenburg, also a Jew, M. Djilas said he was singing his "swan songs" at the Soviet-inspired peace conferences.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE REPORTS PROGRESS IN CIVIL RIGHTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- "Unprecedented progress in civil rights" has been achieved in the five-year period 1948-53 by the people themselves, the American Jewish Committee declared today, on the 161st anniversary of Bill of Rights Day and the fifth anniversary of the report of the President's Committee on Civil Rights.

The fields with considerable advances in respect for the rights of the individual include the armed services, athletics, citizenship, education, employment, housing, public accommodation; and professional, business, fraternal and religious societies.

"The record is not all shining, of course," the A. J. C. reported. "Bigots seeking to halt civil rights advances have incited shocking outbreaks of terrorism and repression in a number of communities. Furthermore, major measures recommended by the President's Committee remain bottled up in Congress, despite mounting public pressure for their adoption.

"But these setbacks have not blocked the forward march," the report said. "On their own initiative, the people have investigated local practices in employment, housing, education and other vital areas. They have scored many victories through administrative, legislative and judicial action. These achievements multiply daily as Americans continue to press for the rights they hold dear."

TRUMAN URGED TO PREVENT ADMISSION OF NAZIS TO UNITED STATES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- President Truman has been urged by Jesse Moss, National Commander of the Jewish War Veterans, to do everything in his power to keep Nazis from being admitted to the United States under terms of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act.

In a White House visit, Mr. Moss told President Truman the J. W. V. favored the barring of Communists and considered Nazis "equally obnoxious and undesirable." He also discussed the possibility of a United Nations resolution condemning the "inauguration of anti-Semitism in Czechoslovakia as an instrument of Communist political policy."

Mr. Moss told newsmen that the Jewish War Veterans was not defending the Jewish Communists executed in Czechoslovakia because the organization felt "Jewish Communists are just as bad as any other kind of Communists." He pointed out that what the J. W. V. was alarmed about was the injection of religious prejudice as a state policy.

CANADIAN PARTY CHARGED IN PARLIAMENT WITH ANTI-SEMITISM

OTTAWA, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The Canadian Parliament has again heard the accusation that the Social Credit Party is steeped in anti-Semitism and racialism, although the charges were denied by Solon Low, the party's national leader.

The charges were made by M. J. Coldwell, leader of the Cooperative Commonwealth Federation, who stated that racial prejudice and dictatorial tendencies have been a part of general Social Credit propaganda since the movement was founded by Maj. Douglas and they still are used by Mr. Low and his followers. "Condemnation of ideas, policies or movements which they dislike are followed by the naming of Jewish persons" having a real or supposed connection with such policies or movements, Mr. Coldwell asserted.

20,000 ATTEND CHANUKAH FESTIVAL AT MADISON SQUARE GARDEN

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- More than 20,000 people including hundreds of standees attended the Chanukah Festival of Light which was presented at Madison Square Garden tonight under the auspices of the Greater New York Committee for State of Israel Bonds. It sold \$2,575,000 in Israel bonds.

The Festival of Light, which was the climax of the 1952 campaign for State of Israel Bonds, presented a dramatic pageant depicting the heroic struggle of the Maccabees for freedom from religious persecution. In addition to a cast of more than 100 actors, the production included a dance group, a symphonic orchestra, the massed voices of the Schola Cantorum and the Hebrew Union Cantors Ensemble. An outstanding feature of the festival was the blessing of the Chanukah candles by more than forty cantors.

TWO JEWISH POETS, BELGIAN RABBI WIN KESSEL AWARDS IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Abraham Szuakever of Tel Aviv and S. Katcherginsky of Buenos Aires, two noted Jewish poets, were the winners here today of the Zvi Kessel prize awarded for the best Jewish literary works of the year.

Szuakever was voted the \$200 prize for his volume of poems "In the Fire Wagon," while Katcherginsky was given the prize for his book "I Was a Partisan." Rabbi Shmuel Hibner, of Brussels, also received a prize from the Kessel Fund for his translation into Yiddish of a part of the Talmud. The Fund was established six years ago by Zvi Kessel, local Jewish philanthropist, and is administered by the Cultural Section of the Central Jewish Committee of Mexico.

PRESIDENT OF CUBA LAUDS JEWS FOR THEIR DEVOTION TO COUNTRY

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The people of Cuba are well aware of, and grateful for, the contribution the Jews have made to the cultural, economic and industrial development of the country, General Fulgencio Batista, President of Cuba, told Dr. Henry Shoskes, HIAS representative, it was reported today by HIAS headquarters here.

General Batista also lauded the 7,000 Jews of Cuba for their patriotism and devotion to their country, and for their solidarity in caring for their co-religionists. The Centro Israelita -- the Jewish community, organized by ... immigrants to Cuba -- has been the guiding force in the upbuilding of Jewish life in Cuba.

BAPTIST CHURCH PRESENTS SYNAGOGUE WITH ETERNAL LIGHT

YONKERS, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The Baptist Church of the Redeemer presented Temple Emanu-El of Yonkers with a new eternal light at a community ceremony here yesterday. The Protestant congregation made the gift in gratitude for the extension of the Temple's facilities to the Christian group last winter when its church was undergoing repairs.

\$100,000 RAISED AT CHANUKAH BANQUET OF LOS ANGELES J. N. F.

LOS ANGELES, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Approximately \$100,000 was raised for the Jewish National Fund of America last night at the 18th annual Chanukah Banquet of the J. N. F. of Los Angeles. The dinner guests also pledged to redeem 2,500 dunams (625 acres) of land in the Huleh area. Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, World Jewish Congress leader was the featured speaker.