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BONN VOTES ON ISRAEL PACT TODAY; FINAL RATIFICATION FRIDAY

BONN, March 17. (JTA) -- The German-Israel reparations pact will be put into effect by the end of this month, it was indicated today when the Federal Council, which is the Upper House of the German Parliament, placed the question on its agenda for Friday. Positive action by the Upper House would mark final parliamentary ratification of the pact signed at Luxemburg last September.

The Upper House's action is contingent upon the expected approval of the measure in the Lower House tomorrow, when it is scheduled to receive its last two readings. Although determined opposition to the agreement is expected to come in the Lower House, a substantial majority seems assured.

The Upper House had already approved the agreement unanimously last month and sent it to the Lower House, which will now return it to the Upper House after taking a final vote. Ratification by the Upper House on Friday is merely procedural.

Israeli circles here have expressed gratification that the Upper House has avoided further procrastination on the pact, whose passage was first expected by last November. Unless an unforeseen hitch develops, the pact should go into effect by March 31, when the first instalment of 200,000,000 marks is due.

Meanwhile, the German Government has received requests from the Free Democratic Party and the German Party, both rightist groups, urging immediate negotiations with the Arab states for trade agreements.

Communist Germany Concludes Secret Pact on Arms with Egypt

FRANKFURT, March 17. (JTA) -- The trade agreement recently concluded between East Germany and Egypt contains a secret clause providing for the delivery by Communist Germany to Egypt of 80,000 rifles and 300 anti-tank guns, it was learned here today. The same clause also provides for the "loan" of several scores of military experts by East Germany to Egypt.

The recall of Fritz Apelt, East German Ambassador to Moscow, was predicted here today in political circles, which reported that a number of months ago he made the "political blunder" of permitting Israel's Minister to Moscow, Dr. Shmuel Eliashev, to raise the question of East German reparations in a conversation with him.

It was reported here that Apelt went to East Berlin to seek clarification of his government's position on reparations to Israel. When he raised the question, the report said, Communist President Grotewohl reprimanded him for permitting Eliashev to "talk" to him. He was also instructed to avoid further meetings and dealings with Israel diplomats.

NEW POLICY ENABLES ENTIRE COMMUNITIES TO IMMIGRATE TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- The basis for the selection of immigrants to Israel in the future will be the family unit rather than the individual, Itzhak Raphael, Jewish Agency immigration head, today told a press conference here. He was reporting on decisions reached at a meeting this week of the joint Agency-Israel Government immigration coordination board.

Mr. Raphael said that under the new system entire families and even communities desiring to immigrate to Israel will be able to do so without delay. He said the effect of the new policy will not be seen for another two or three months. He added that there had been no change in the requirement that a government-approved physician must testify to the physical fitness of prospective immigrants before they are accepted as immigrants.

The Agency leader revealed that the next meeting of the joint coordination board would consider additional measures to attract immigrants from the wealthier classes and from the "free countries." Even within the framework of the latest decisions, he stressed, immigration in 1953 will not exceed 35,000 unless the Eastern European countries open their gates to permit Jews to leave for Israel. However, he emphasized, the year's immigration will be "young, healthy and constructive."

JERUSALEM ORTHODOX JEWS DEMONSTRATE AGAINST CONSCRIPTION

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- A mass meeting was held today in the Mea Shearim quarter of Jerusalem, inhabited chiefly by Orthodox Jews, to protest the conscription of women for national service. The demonstrators prayed before an Ark which was set up in the open and then shouted slogans, such as: "Girls, Save Your Souls, Oppose Conscription."

An unidentified person today threw an incendiary bomb into a butcher shop near the Knesset building which sells pork. A bystander quickly extinguished the flames and prevented damage to the shop. The same shop had been attacked twice before and the owner's automobile burned up by religious extremists. The owner, Itzhak Levi, testified for the prosecution in a recent trial of religious extremists charged with burning cars used on Saturdays.

DR. SCHMORAK DIES IN JERUSALEM; CABINET MEMBERS ATTEND FUNERAL

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Dr. Emil Schmorak, former member of the Jewish Agency executive and one-time comptroller of the World Zionist Organization, who died here yesterday after a long illness. He was 66. Drs. Emanuel Neumann and Joseph Serlin, General Zionist leaders, eulogized Dr. Schmorak. All members of the Cabinet now in the country attended the services.

Dr. Schmorak was a Polish Zionist leader and top-ranking member of the General Zionism "B" group. A member of the World Zionist executive, he headed the Jewish Agency's economic department for many years. He also helped develop the economy of the Jewish community of Palestine during the days of World War II.

ISRAEL'S PROGRESSIVE PARTY REFUSES TO MERGE WITH GENERAL ZIONISTS

TEL AVIV, March 17. (JTA) -- The executive council of the Progressive Party has rejected an offer from the General Zionists for the merger of the two groups. Chief obstacle to the union is reported to be the General Zionists' support of a Parliamentary ruling that no party may have representation in the Knesset unless it receives at least ten percent of the total vote.

ANTIST GERMAN FEEL UNSAFE, INVESTIGATION ESTABLISHED

March 17. (JTA) -- Although the East German Government has denied the existence of a racial character, every Jew in East Germany feels insecure about maintaining contact with the West or with Israel, it was reported by the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

A report submitted by Dr. G. Warburg, who conducted an investigation of the position of Jews in Germany at the behest of the Board. He urged that the Jewish position be given to rising nationalist sentiments and to the efforts to strengthen Jewish positions in West Germany. The report suggested that the Jewish position should be given to all democratic elements in Germany.

WEST GERMANY PREPARING "DEATH LISTS" OF JEWS IN GERMANY

March 17. (JTA) -- West German legal authorities today made it known they are investigating "death lists" containing names of Jews and left-wingers who are to be liquidated in the event of Soviet invasion of the country. The lists were prepared by former Storm Troop elements.

An ex-officer of the S. S., was charged today with drawing up the lists. A German prosecutor also announced that he is investigating the activities of a member of the Anti-Communist League of German Youth who is alleged to have possession of a list of 100 Jews and left-wingers.

ROMANIA INTENSIFIES DRIVE AGAINST U.S. JEWS AND ISRAEL

March 17. (JTA) -- Rumanian newspapers received from Bucharest today published attacks on American Jews, on Israel and on the Joint Distribution Committee. Most vitriolic attacks appear in Viata Nova, a Jewish periodical.

The vilifications can be seen from the headlines over some of the articles. These headlines read: "Jewish working people express indignation against Zionists"; "Joint Distribution Committee, American agent of Zionism"; "Path to Auschwitz ovens passes through the hands of the Joint." Articles on Israel are captioned: "Yesterday, Israel was a Jewish state"; "Today, Israeli diplomat"; "Israel's economy on road to bankruptcy."

RUSSIAN AUTHORITIES CANCEL VISAS OF ISRAELI PING-PONG TEAM

March 17. (JTA) -- A six-member Israeli ping pong team scheduled to leave for Moscow last night to participate in a world championship tournament, was prevented from leaving at the last minute when the Rumanian authorities cancelled the visas of three men and two women on the team. The visas had been granted by the Rumanian authorities but they were revoked.

ALBANIANS SHOT FOR ATTEMPTING TO FLEE TO ITALY

March 17. (JTA) -- A number of Jews from Albania have escaped to Greece, it was reported here. The refugees are said to have fled from the town of Kastoria, in northern Greece. Some Albanian Jews who attempted to flee to Italy were allegedly shot. All Jewish property in Albania was reportedly destroyed. The reports stated that there were about 300 persons remaining in Albania.

BEST REFUSAL OF U.S. VISA TO SIDNEY SILVERMAN

March 17. (JTA) -- The refusal by the State Department to issue a visa to Sidney Silverman, a member of the British Parliament who is a member of the Jewish Congress, has been referred for action by the British Foreign Secretary, Anthony Eden, Foreign Secretary of Great Britain.

Silverman was denied a visa under the regulations of the McCarran-Wheeler Act. He sought to enter this country to address a "clemency dinner" in New York on behalf of convicted atomic spies.

British sources said their government felt that Mr. Silverman had a right to enter and that his exclusion was insulting to a friendly nation. The matter was referred to Mr. Eden and the Foreign Office in London for a decision. A visa may be made shortly by Foreign Office officials in London. Mr. Silverman is a Labor Party member there. The sources described Mr. Silverman as a Labor Party member "but definitely not a Communist."

It was learned that Edward Maney, chief of the State Department's Visa Division, rejected an appeal by the American Jewish Congress for reconsideration. The AJC, in its approach to the Visa Division, clearly stated the purpose of Mr. Silverman's visit and from his own admissions, but viewed the denial of a visa as an injustice. The AJC has opposed "The Committee to Secure Justice in the Rosenberg Case" and feels there is no anti-Semitic or civil liberties issue involved.

JOHN DULLES TOLD TO SEEK REVISION OF IMMIGRATION ACT

March 17. (JTA) -- The White House today denied a press report that the President has instructed Secretary of State John Foster Dulles to seek revision of the McCarran-Wheeler Act. Leaders about the possibility of amending the McCarran-Wheeler Act.

Secretary James Hagerty said: "I have talked to the President about the matter and neither one of them remembers any such conversation." Hagerty noted that the President, in his State of the Union address, spoke in a general way in favor of legislative action to revise the McCarran-Wheeler Act.

The White House took exception said that President Eisenhower would not take the matter up with Sen. Alexander Wiley, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. Sen. Wiley said today that he had spoken to Mr. Dulles speaking to him about the Act. Mr. Hagerty stressed the President's position as to when the White House may send a specific request to Congress to implement the revision of the Act mentioned in the President's address.

NEW TESTAMENT IN SCHOOLS IS LEGAL, COURT RULES

March 17. (JTA) -- A Jewish parent who attempted to prevent the distribution of copies of the New Testament in the town's public schools, yesterday received a ruling from the New Jersey Superior Court in Hackensack. The court called the distribution a "policy" but ruled that it was legal.

The plaintiff, Mrs. Mary Tudor, was represented by counsel furnished by the American Jewish Congress. Among the witnesses for the plaintiff were three rabbinical authorities who testified that the distribution of Gideon's Bibles would have an adverse effect on Jewish schoolchildren.

EISENHOWER CONGRATULATES DENVER JEWISH PAPER ON 40TH ANNIVERSARY

DENVER, March 17. (JTA) -- The present struggle of the Jewish people against "ruthless oppression and tyranny" in many countries was emphasized by President Eisenhower in a message of greetings to Robert S. Gamzey, editor of the *Mountain Jewish News*, on the occasion of the 40th anniversary of the publication and the tenth anniversary of Mr. Gamzey's editorship. The message read:

"My hearty congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the *Intermountain Jewish News*, which by happy coincidence also marks your tenth year as editor. This anniversary comes at a time when freedom of the press is but a bitter memory in many parts of the world where Jewish people are again struggling against ruthless oppression and tyranny. This should emphasize anew to all of us the need to maintain the tradition of a free and courageous press, which has been one of the chief characteristics of American journalism."

U.S. JEWS URGED TO OBSERVE "RITUAL OF REMEMBRANCE" FOR 6,000,000

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- The formation of a committee of leading Jewish educators and laymen to disseminate a "Ritual of Remembrance" for the 6,000,000 Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis and for the heroic ghetto uprisings, was announced here today. The ritual, which is to be observed at the Passover Seder in homes and wherever the Seder is celebrated, was distributed by the committee over the country through synagogues, temples and Jewish schools.

The ritual was prepared by Rufus Lears, Jewish historian, and is described as "as simple and profoundly moving." It is performed at the traditional Seder before the door is opened for the symbolic entrance of the Prophet Elijah. It consists of the recital of an original passage in Hebrew, a rendition of it in English, and the singing of "Ani Maamin," the song of faith in the coming of the Messiah, which sprang up in the ghettos and liquidation camps. The uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto began on the first day of Passover 1943, and this fact, it is pointed out, added force to the Seder ritual.

HAPOEL HAMIZRACHI TO ESTABLISH FIRST TORAH YOUTH CENTER IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- The first Torah youth center in Israel is to be established in Tel Aviv by the Hapoel Hamizrachi world organization. The organization's religious workers group announced here today.

The organization has already obtained land in Israel for the erection of a center which will house an American-style center with a variety of athletic and cultural facilities and a synagogue. The center, to be known as the Bnei Torah Center, has the sponsorship of both Chief Rabbis of Israel, the Cabinet, and is supported by representatives of the religious parties and other political and cultural leaders.

ROBERT SZOLD ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF UNION BANK OF ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- The election of Robert Szold as chairman of the Board of Directors of the Union Bank of Israel, Ltd., the third largest bank in the new state, was announced today following a meeting of the board of directors in New York. Sir Henry J. d'Avigdor Goldsmid, of London, was elected deputy chairman of the Board.

Mr. Szold, who is also chairman of the Board of the Palestine Economic Corporation, succeeds the late Sir Robert Waley-Cohen as chairman of the Union Bank. Bernard N. Waley-Cohen, son of Sir Robert, is vice-chairman. The Palestine Economic Corporation and the Palestine Corporation Ltd. each have a 50 percent interest in the Union Bank.