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ISRAEL CABINET RATIFIES WEST GERMAN REPARATIONS AGREEMENT

JERUSALEM, March 22. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet today approved the West German reparations agreement under which Germany will pay the Jewish State some \$822,000,000 over a period of 12 years.

Earlier this week-end, the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee voted eight to five, with one abstention, to ratify the pact. Under the terms of Parliament's decision on the treaty, some months ago, ratification required only approval of the Foreign Affairs Committee and Cabinet.

The vote surprised Mapai observers here, since two of the votes against ratification and the lone abstention were those of General Zionist deputies, members of the government coalition. It was recalled that when the original Parliamentary debate on the treaty was held, the General Zionists, at that time an opposition party, fought the agreement. Two Mapam deputies and a Herut representative also voted against the pact in committee.

The committee vote followed a report by Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett who informed the group that the pact as ratified by the Bonn Parliament was the same one signed at Luxemburg last September 10, except for a provision contained in an exchange of letters which would have barred German shipping from entering Israeli ports with reparations goods. After German shipping interests had protested this point, Israel agreed to a German request to eliminate the prohibition.

After the initial payments on reparations are made during the two fiscal years ending March, 1954, the Germans are obligated under the treaty to make ten annual payments of \$74,000,000 in goods. However, in the event that Bonn finds that these payments strain the German economy, it may reduce the annual payment to \$60,000,000 and spread it over 12 years.

(The New York Times, commenting editorially today on the ratification of the reparations pact, says: "Credit for this result, which should contribute to Germany's moral rehabilitation and ease the lot of Israel, belongs primarily to two men--Chancellor Adenauer himself and Dr. Nahum Goldmann of New York, who negotiated with him on behalf of both Israel and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. They had to withstand opposition from extremists both in Germany and in Israel, but the agreement they made has set a precedent which should contribute toward the solution of other problems in the Middle East.")

Under the terms of the agreement, West Germany will pay Israel 3,000,000,000 Deutschmarks (\$715,000,000), and an additional 450,000,000 Deutschmarks (\$107,000,000) which Israel will transmit to world Jewish organizations to reimburse them for expenses incurred in aiding Jewish victims of the Hitler terror.

GERMAN-ISRAEL PACT WILL ENTER INTO EFFECT THIS WEEK

BONN, March 22. (JTA) -- The German-Israel reparations agreement will enter into effect officially this week, after being promulgated in the Federal Gazette. The bill ratifying the agreement was signed this week-end by West German Federal President Theodor Heuss, after it had been approved unanimously by the Upper House.

The exchange of the ratification documents between Germany and Israel is expected to take place this week in the office of the United Nations Secretary General in New York. West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer today termed ratification of the agreement by the Bonn Parliament as being of "far-reaching significance."

The Foreign Office here issued a statement declaring that the Federal Government would agree in principle to the appointment of a "trustee" to carry out the provisions of the reparations pact. This trustee, the statement said, would have to be a personality "acceptable to all parties concerned." At the same time, the Foreign Office emphasized that the West German Federal Government is determined to improve and strengthen Germany's relations with the Arab states.

(The New York Times today reported from Cairo that a high Egyptian Minister, who would not permit himself to be identified by name, has indicated that an Arab economic boycott of West Germany in reprisal for Bonn's ratification of the reparations agreement with Israel would conflict with Egypt's desire to consolidate relations with the Germans.)

AUSTRIA TO START REPARATIONS TALKS SOON WITH JEWISH GROUPS

LONDON, March 22. (JTA) -- Negotiations between Jewish organizations and the Austrian Government for the payment of reparations to Jews for damages suffered during the Nazi regime are "expected to commence shortly," Agudas Israel leaders reported here today, revealing that the Agudah has been asked to join the Jewish committee which will negotiate with Austria.

These same Agudah leaders revealed that the Orthodox group has discussed the matter with Baron von Wimmer, Austrian Minister in London, and that it has also contacted the Foreign Ministry in Vienna. The Agudah estimates that the value of confiscated Jewish property in Austria, some of which is still in the hands of non-Jewish Austrians, is some \$900,000,000.

COMMUNIST PAPER IN ISRAEL SUSPENDED FOR ATTACKING EBAN

JERUSALEM, March 22. (JTA) -- Interior Minister Israel Rokach today again suspended the Communist daily newspaper Kol Haam for a ten-day period. The suspension was invoked because the newspaper published an article attacking Abba Eban, Israel Ambassador to Washington.

The Communist paper attacked Mr. Eban for allegedly telling an Israel bond conference in Washington that "Israel will mobilize 200,000 troops on the side of the United States against the Soviet Union when they are needed." Kol Haam also reported that the Israel Communists would ask that Mr. Eban's alleged statement be discussed in Parliament.

U.S. TO GIVE \$10,000,000 FOR REHABILITATION WORK IN EGYPT

WASHINGTON, March 22. (JTA) -- The State Department this week-end made known that Secretary John Foster Dulles has expressed sympathy for the "pro-gressive attitude" of the Naguib Government of Egypt and announced a large-scale program in which the United States will assist Egypt in reclaiming wastelands and resettling landless farmers. The U.S. will contribute \$10,000,000 to a joint fund to establish an "American-Egyptian Rural Improvement Service," it was indicated.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN GERMANY MAP AID PROGRAM FOR NEW REFUGEES

BAD NAUHEIM, Germany, March 22. (JTA) -- A broad assistance program designed to help the Jewish refugees from East Germany immigrate abroad or re-establish themselves in West Germany, was mapped out here today at an emergency meeting of German-Jewish communities called by the Joint Distribution Committee.

Samuel L. Haber, JDC director for Germany, told the meeting that his organization would provide all possible aid to East German refugees seeking to leave Europe. He warned, however, that because of the restrictive features of current resettlement schemes most of the more than 500 Jewish men, women and children who fled to West Berlin since mid-January will probably remain in Germany.

Mr. Haber disclosed that more than 100 of the refugees had already been evacuated from West Berlin to West Germany under the Bonn Government's air lift for those who fled Communist Germany. In the weeks to come, he said, more will be flown out and they will need help in reintegrating themselves in their new communities. The JDC is prepared to make special cash grants to provide job opportunities, emergency housing and other assistance, he added.

A pledge of full cooperation with the JDC program was given in behalf of the communities by Dr. Berthold Simonsohn, chairman of the Central Welfare Committee of the Council of Jews in Germany. Dr. Simonsohn said his committee would commence immediately a study of employment and housing possibilities for the refugees. The meeting adopted a decision to channel all aid to the refugees arriving in West Berlin through the Central Welfare Committee.

Heinz Galinski, head of the Berlin Jewish Community, expressed the gratitude of the community for the JDC's emergency aid in handling the influx of refugees. Mr. Galinski said that the largest number of those who fled the Communist countries were poverty stricken, having come out with little more than the clothes on their backs. Many of them were old people who still carried the scars of Nazi imprisonment, he said. Every major Jewish community in Germany was represented at today's meeting.

JEWISH MILITARY LEADER IN EAST GERMANY REPORTEDLY DEPOSED

BERLIN, March 22. (JTA) -- Herbert Gruenstein, a Jewish Inspector General of the East German People's Police, has been deposed, according to an unconfirmed report reaching here from the Soviet zone.

The report says that nothing is known about the 40-year-old Communist leader who served as a Communist political commissar in Spain during the civil war. Gruenstein lived in the Soviet Union during the late war, returning to Berlin only after the collapse of the Nazi regime. He has since risen to high military rank as the East German Republic has increased its police force, which is in effect its army.

Gruenstein has always been an ardent Communist and the only explanation the report makes for his removal is that the Soviet officials in Germany object to his being a Jew and that his wife is said to be a close relative of Ana Pauker, deposed Rumanian Foreign Minister.

DR. MAURER RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY

VIENNA, March 22. (JTA) -- Dr. Emil Maurer, a Socialist, has been re-elected president of the executive of the Vienna Jewish Community. Others named include Dr. Emil Felsberg, a Socialist, first vice-president, and August Leitner, a Zionist, second vice-president. Following expulsion of the Communist members of the executive, only Socialists and Zionists are represented on that body.

ALL JEWS IN COMMUNIST GERMANY LISTED BY POLICE AUTHORITIES

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- A list of all Jews in Communist Germany was compiled by the authorities there two months ago, it was reported today by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress, addressing a meeting of the national administrative committee of the organization, following his return from Germany where he spent five days interviewing Jews who fled the Soviet zone.

"There was apprehension among the Jews as to uses to which such lists would be put," Dr. Goldstein said. "They had been interrogated regarding the Jewish aspects of their life, their kin abroad, whether they received help from the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, and their feelings about Israel. These interrogations were frightening. Many Jews were advised by their Christian friends to flee and they did so leaving their possessions behind."

Word has also come that the East German Government is beginning to change its attitude towards Jews, due possibly to the reactions of world opinion, Dr. Goldstein stated. "Just how long that will last," he said, "no one knows. In the view of most of the refugees, it would be advisable for the remaining Jews in that zone to get out while it is still possible."

LIBERAL GROUPS IN WASHINGTON DRAFT NEW IMMIGRATION BILL

WASHINGTON, March 22. (JTA) -- A warning against acceptance of a few minor repairs in the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act instead of a major overhaul was issued this week-end by Philip B. Perlman, chairman of the President's Commission on Immigration and Naturalization, in an address here before a national conference on civil liberties. Major Jewish organizations played an important role in the conference.

Mr. Perlman warned that "any division in the efforts of those who oppose the McCarran-Walter Act invites failure." He urged resistance against "any efforts for temporary measures, no matter how appealing they may seem" in a call for an all-out fight for immigration laws consistent with American tradition.

Revealing that a new bill, along the lines suggested by President Truman's commission, is being drafted, Mr. Perlman said the work is being done by volunteers assembled by Julius Edelstein, administrative assistant of Sen. Lehman. It is hoped to develop a draft upon which all those who believe the Act should be rewritten will agree. When completed, it will be submitted to President Eisenhower for consideration by him and his advisors. Those interested in its preparation are anxious for it to become an Administration measure, presented to Congress on a non-partisan basis.

JEWSH COMMITTEE PRESIDENT CONFERS WITH STATE DEPT. ON ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 22. (JTA) -- Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee, conferred Saturday afternoon with Assistant Secretary of State Henry A. Byroade in a general review of the situation in the Middle East, including Israel.

U. N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION WILL MEET IN GENEVA NEXT MONTH

UNITED NATIONS, March 22. (JTA) -- The United Nations Human Rights Commission will start its ninth session in Geneva on April 7 to last till May 30, it was announced here today. The session, whose main task will be completion of two drafts of international covenants on human rights, has 21 items listed on its agenda.

ISRAEL MINISTER TO CONFER IN WASHINGTON ON FOOD PURCHASES

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- Dr. Peretz Bernstein, Israel's Minister of Trade and Industry, will confer this week in Washington with the Secretaries of Commerce and Agriculture, it was learned here today. It is understood that he will raise the question of Israel's purchasing United States Government surplus food stocks, including butter, cheese and powdered milk, at nominal prices.

At a press conference here, Dr. Bernstein said he was "very much encouraged by the prospects of American investments in Israel." He emphasized that while his main purpose in coming to the United States was to attend the Z. O. A. economic parley, held last week, he would also deal with various other matters such as investment, exports, and tourism.

AID OF U.S. JEWS TO ISRAEL DEPICTED IN REPORT TO U. I. A. BOARD

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- Israel's agricultural growth is currently advancing at an accelerated pace with the aid of financial support from American Jews, Rudolf G. Sonneborn, national chairman of the United Israel Appeal, announced today in a quarterly report to the Appeals board of directors.

The UIA chairman warned that a severe drought in the Negev had resulted in at least a \$10,000,000 loss in crops and disclosed that only eight percent of the grain sown in Israel's southern area is expected to produce a yield this year.

"The food situation," Mr. Sonneborn said, "which had been hopeful early in the year has suddenly taken a turn for the worse with the daily protein consumption at least one-third less than the minimum requirements for good health. Only with intensified farming development can we hope to cope with the desperate shortages and avert alarming nutritional trends."

A total of 24 new settlements are to be founded by the end of April, he reported. Thirty more will be established through May and June, involving an over-all expenditure of \$26,600,000, including \$22,400,000 for housing and farm equipment and \$4,200,000 for local irrigation facilities. The settlements will be erected by the Jewish Agency, Mr. Sonneborn emphasized.

JEWS WOMEN'S CONFERENCE URGES U.S. GOVERNMENT AID TO ISRAEL

CLEVELAND, March 22. (JTA) -- The United States was urged to continue its aid to Israel this week-end in a resolution adopted by the concluding session of the five-day 20th triennial convention of the National Council of Jewish Women. The parley was attended by some 800 delegates from 235 local chapters in all parts of the country.

The resolution declared that Israel has "made significant contribution to democracy through building a new life of dignity and independence for its people." A second resolution requested new national immigration legislation to "eliminate all discrimination within the quota, because of race or national origin." Mrs. Irving M. Engel was re-elected president.

DR. HARRIS LEVINE RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- Dr. Harris J. Levine, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, was elected for a fourth consecutive term, it was announced today following a meeting of the Fund's Board of Directors of the Biltmore Hotel. Dr. Israel Goldstein was re-elected honorary chairman and Mendel N. Fisher, executive director and secretary of the JNF, was named to serve his 18th consecutive term.

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS ESTABLISHMENT OF BETH DIN IN U. S.

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Assembly of America will take up a proposal to establish a National Beth Din to function as a court of domestic relations and to deliberate on problems of marriage, the family and divorce, it was announced here today.

The National Beth Din, when created, would represent the first major organized effort to consider the problem of increased tensions in present-day family life within the framework of Jewish tradition. Serving as members of this domestic relations court would be internationally noted scholars whose major vocation is Jewish law and its development; authorities in American legal thought and jurisprudence, and specialists in the field of family relations.

YOUNG ISRAEL CELEBRATES 41ST ANNIVERSARY; HAS 30,000 MEMBERS

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- The Chief Assistant District Attorney of Kings County, Edward S. Silver, was presented with Young Israel's annual Gold Award to-night at the Hotel Waldorf Astoria in conjunction with the 41st anniversary of the National Council of Young Israel.

Formed in 1912, the Young Israel movement now embraces over 70 synagogues throughout the United States, Canada, the Netherlands, and Israel with a membership of over 30,000 adults and some 1,000 youth clubs. It serves the community with its Boy Scout groups, day camps, employment bureaus, and armed forces division, psychological and vocational guidance clinic, a non-political Israel department and a chain of 14 adult institutes for Jewish studies.

HILLEL FOUNDATIONS CELEBRATE THIRTY YEARS OF EXISTENCE

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- The 30th anniversary of the founding of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations was celebrated here tonight at Temple Israel. The principal speaker was Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, national director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations.

The celebration, sponsored by the Hillel Committee of the Metropolitan Council of B'nai B'rith, marked the growth of the Hillel Foundations from a single unit in 1923 at the University of Illinois to its present roster of 208 foundations and counselorships at colleges in the United States, Canada and Israel.

JEWS TEACHERS IN N. Y. CITY SCHOOLS TO GET PAY FOR HIGH HOLIDAYS

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- New York City school teachers of the Jewish faith will not lose pay for observing the Rosh Hashanah holidays next September, the Board of Education decided this week-end. This decision, affecting 8,000 teachers, supervisors and clerks, is the first such in the history of the Board.

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE HOLDS FOUNDERS DAY EXERCISES

CINCINNATI, March 22. (JTA) -- Founders Day exercises were held here yesterday at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. In a speech read for him, Dr. Leo Baeck, former Chief Rabbi of Berlin, called on both Christianity and Judaism to have mutual respect for each other. Rabbi Baeck's 80th birthday was marked at the exercises.