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Z. O. A. CONVENTION OPENS; U. S. URGED TO CLARIFY STAND ON JERUSALEM

NEW YORK, Aug. 26. (JTA) -- The United States Government was urged today to clarify its position on the status of Jerusalem "as speedily as possible" in order not to give "an impression that the Arab states are able to extort from Washington statements which are at variance with our country's policy, and thereby confuse the situation."

The request was voiced by Rabbi Irving Miller, president of the Zionist Organization of America, in his presentational address at the opening session of the 56th annual convention of the ZOA at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. More than 1,200 delegates from all parts of the country are attending the convention. Rabbi Miller emphasized that "Jerusalem's status as the capital of Israel is inextricably linked with Jewish history, Jewish tradition and the Jewish religion."

The ZOA president expressed surprise at the recent statement by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles criticizing the transfer of the Israeli Foreign Ministry to Jerusalem. Emphasizing that "the United States is on record as favoring an arrangement for the Holy Places which would not disturb the sovereignty and the political institutions of Jerusalem," Rabbi Miller said: "We do not believe that Mr. Dulles means to alter this policy, although his statement has served to produce considerable bewilderment."

Eisenhower Extends Greetings to Zionist Convention

A message from President Eisenhower greeting the delegates was read at the convention. "It is heartening to know," the President said "that so many Americans from all parts of our nation are gathering at such a convention and reaffirming their dedication to the cause of freedom everywhere. Upon such dedication depend not only our own strength, but our hopes for peace for all the world." The convention was also greeted by Mayor Vincent Impellitteri on behalf of the City of New York.

In his keynote address, Rabbi Miller warned that "powerful anti-Israel forces were attempting to swing our Government away from its policy of friendship to Israel." He expressed the Zionist position as being "unalterably opposed to the supply of arms to any of the Arab states as long as they persist in their refusal to make peace with Israel and continue to threaten renewed warfare."

The way to hasten a final solution to the problems of the Middle East and pave the way for real security to the entire region, the ZOA president maintained, is for "our government to inform the Arab countries that they cannot expect to receive military assistance from the United States unless and until they sign a peace treaty with Israel."

Rabbi Miller blamed "a large and well-financed propaganda machine which is focusing its attention on Washington" for a stream of misinformation on the question

of Jerusalem. "We would do well to ensure that the real situation is made known to our government and to the American people in general," he stated. "Once this is done -- and the facts are widely disseminated and understood in our country -- the American Government will surely have a positive attitude on this question."

Israel Needs American People and Government, ZOA President Says

The ZOA president appealed for the continued active and sympathetic interest of the American people and constructive statesmanship on the part of the American Government if Israel is to successfully solve her problems.

"Such statesmanship and support has enabled Israel to overcome the economic and political difficulties of the past five years," he stated. "Today, when our country is seeking definitive solutions for the problems of the entire Middle East, it is more essential than ever that the American people should understand how the respective interests of the United States and Israel continue to run along parallel lines."

Referring to the anti-Israel forces in Washington, Rabbi Miller declared: "They are working ceaselessly to create the impression that the United States has heretofore accorded 'preferential' treatment to Israel as compared with the Arab states, a contention which is not supported by the facts -- as we took occasion to prove by publishing the statistics, which demonstrate that American aid both to Israel and the Arab states has in fact always been characterized by an attitude of impartiality.

"The motive behind this propaganda is transparent," he said. "They would have the Administration translate impartiality into appeasement and lead our government along the dangerous path of bidding for Arab friendship at Israel's expense. I do not believe that the American Government and people will really be taken in by this line," he added.

Sets Forth Position Between American Jewry and Israel

Touching upon the relationship between American Jewry and Israel, the ZOA leader declared: "We have made our position clear as American citizens and as Zionists. During the past year I have on a few occasions restated on behalf of our organization our positive approach to America and the American way of life, to our spiritual and cultural ties with Israel, and to the future of the American Jewish community.

"There is nothing ambiguous about our political allegiance to the United States or our conception of Jewish life. We have no intention of 'explaining' ourselves because it is not necessary for us to do so. We shall continue to affirm our point of view in a positive manner, certain that we are hereby giving expression to the high ideals and best interests of America."

Rabbi Miller expressed his belief that "there is a future -- even a great one -- for the American Jewish community. We reject the notion that Israel's establishment implies the spiritual and cultural disintegration of American Jewry," he stated. "We now have an unprecedented opportunity to create a richer, more meaningful American Jewish life, in which Israel will serve as a sustaining cultural influence, and we believe that increasing numbers of American Jews are today in search of

precisely such a life. Zionism will be the answer to their quest -- if we ensure that the program of our organization is carried forward in an inspiring way. "

Reverting to the internal Israel scene, Rabbi Miller praised the formation during the past year of the Israeli coalition government in which the Mapai and the General Zionists are the chief partners and its first major accomplishment in the passage of a unified national education law a few weeks ago. He termed this new national education system of Israel a great victory for the democratic way of life as well as fulfillment of a General Zionist principle advocated by the ZOA throughout the years.

In his appraisal of the future program of the Zionist Organization of America, Rabbi Miller declared that it must continue to provide initiative and inspiration in the area of economic activity for Israel. He also stressed the need for a strong and dynamic organization, which would not divert its energies in "prolonged public philosophizing on the theme of 'Israel and the Diaspora.' "

BRITISH AUTHORITIES IN ADEN HAMPER JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM YEMEN

LONDON, Aug. 26. (JTA) -- The British authorities at the Aden protectorate are unwilling to allow several hundred Yemenite Jews wandering in the desert near the Aden border to enter until the Israel authorities have made this necessary arrangements for their early transportation to the Jewish State, sources close to the Colonial Office stated today.

These sources say the protectorate officials fear that the Yemenite Jews will be stranded in Aden while the Israelis try to arrange transportation, and that they do not want this to happen. As one source put it: "It's now up to the Israelis. It's their responsibility to arrange transport. "

ISRAEL BACHELORS URGE GOVT. TO ENCOURAGE IMMIGRATION OF WOMEN

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26. (JTA) -- A demand that the Israel Government take measures to encourage the migration of Jewish women from all parts of the world to Israel was today made in a memorandum sent the Cabinet and Parliament by a so-called "League for the Defense of Bachelors' Rights to Marry. "

The memorandum pointed out that 52 percent of the population of the country is male and 48 percent female. It says that one of the reasons that young men are leaving agricultural settlements is a dearth of women willing to share their lives. It also blames this situation for the emigration of men from Israel. Among other suggestions, the memorandum proposes that the government provide cheap housing for newlyweds.

Twenty-two Jewish immigrants from Hungary who were unable to adjust themselves to life in Israel left yesterday aboard the cargo ship Constanza from Hungary. The Hungarian legation in Tel Aviv financed their return voyage via Rumania. All of the 22 returnees -- who include three children born in Israel -- refused to talk with correspondents, and boarded their ship quietly.

ISRAEL PARLIAMENT PASSES LAW ON DATE OF MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 26. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament last night passed an amendment to the election law providing that elections for municipal office shall be held on the same day as Parliamentary elections. Municipal councillors are elected for a four-year term.

ISRAEL TO SELL CITRUS PRODUCTS TO GERMANY; SENDS REPRESENTATIVE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 26. (JTA) -- The Israel Government has decided to permit citrus exports to Germany and the industry has sent a representative to Bonn to try to obtain orders. It was reported here today by I. Isaakson, president of the Israel Farmers Association.

He expressed the hope that citrus exports to the Soviet Union would increase as a result of the resumption of diplomatic relations between Israel and the USSR. He also predicted that exports to France would amount to 250,000 cases next season. Next season's citrus crop is expected to reach 10,000,000 cases, he said. Some 7,000,000 cases will be exported, he revealed.

WEST GERMANY APPROVES ISRAEL'S PURCHASE OF WHEAT IN TURKEY

BONN, Aug. 26. (JTA) -- The purchase of 50,000 tons of wheat from Turkey for payment to Israel on account of German reparations has been approved by the reparations authorities here, it was reported today. The \$3,500,000 which the wheat costs will be supplied from blocked German accounts in Turkey.

A German oil drilling company received an exclusive contract to prospect for oil in the Arab Kingdom of Yemen last Spring, it was learned here today. Because of the threatened Arab League boycott of West Germany over the completion of the German-Israel reparations pact, announcement of the Yemen-German deal was put off.

SEVERAL STATES IN GERMANY REJECT ELECTORAL LISTS OF NEO-NAZIS

FRANKFURT, Aug. 26. (JTA) -- In the September 6 elections for the Bundestag, the Lower House of the West German Parliament, eleven parties will appear on the ballot. Seven of them are listed on the ballots of all nine states which compose West Germany.

Several of the states have rejected the electoral lists of the openly neo-Nazi parties for such technical reasons as an insufficient number of signatures by legal residents on the nominating petitions. Nonetheless, the neo-Nazi Nationalist Rally will appear on the ballot in Bavaria and Schleswig-Holstein, while the German Reich Party will appear on six state ballots. Recently two top candidates of the German Reich Party, former Goebbels aide Werner Naumann and Hans Ulrich Rudel, were struck off the ballots by government action.

While the Nationalist Rally and German Reich Party are unabashedly pro-Nazi, individual ex-Nazis appear on many other party tickets. For instance, in the Lower Saxony constituency where Naumann was running, the candidate of the Free Democratic Party is a former Nazi peasant leader and a onetime high-ranking officer of the Social Reich Party, which was outlawed last year because of its openly Nazi character.

The B. H. D. Refugee Party, German Party, Bavarian Party, Free Democratic Party, Neutralist All-German People's Party and the Christian Democratic Union, in that order, are the worst offenders in seeking to capture the neo-Nazi vote by naming Nazi candidates. However, no party is entirely free of this tendency.

MIZRACHI WILL VOTE FOR WOMEN'S CONSCRIPTION, IDELSON PREDICTS

NEW YORK, Aug. 26. (JTA) -- The prediction that the Mizrahi and Mizrahi Laborite parties in the Israel Parliament will vote for the government's bill conscripting religious women for non-military duty was made here yesterday by Mrs. Beba Idelson, Mapai member of the Knesset.

Mrs. Idelson, who spoke at a press conference under the auspices of the Pioneer Women of America, said that the religious parties would support the bill rather than risk a split in the coalition. She said that she was opposed to the controversial measure in principle, because she felt no exemptions should be granted from military service for religious reasons, but reported that she would vote for the legislation because her party was sponsoring it. Explaining her position, Mrs. Idelson declared:

"I think that it is a privilege for every woman to serve and protect her country. The government is considering the religious aspect and consequently is being very lenient with this element. Every woman regardless of her religious beliefs must and should serve in her country's national defense program. The innuendoes made by the religious group about the moral behavior of the men and women soldiers is a slanderous assault on the national defense program and the armed forces."

THREE-DAY CONVENTION OF AGUDAH YOUTH IN U.S. OPENS TODAY

NEW YORK, Aug. 26. (JTA) -- The 31st annual convention of the Zeirei Agudath Israel, Orthodox youth organization, will open tomorrow at King David Hotel in Hurleyville, N. Y. to chart a program for intensification of educational activities among Jewish youth throughout the United States.

The convention, which will last three days, will also discuss the role of Orthodox youth in coping with religious problems in this country. One of the sessions will be devoted to the problem of the women's draft in Israel, which is opposed by the Agudath Israel and other religious groups. The convention will be addressed by prominent rabbis.

HISTORICAL ESSAY CONTEST TO MARK AMERICAN JEWISH TRICENTENARY

NEW YORK, Aug. 26. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Historical Society will conduct an historical essay contest to mark the 300th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States. Dr. Salo W. Baron, president, announced here today. The essay contest is part of the Society's overall program for the American Jewish Tercentenary which aims to stimulate public interest and academic research in American Jewish history. The Tercentenary will be observed from September 12, 1954 through May, 1955.

The Society will award three prizes to essay contest winners: \$500, first prize; \$300, second prize; and \$200, third prize. The awards will be made either in cash or in the form of scholarships at recognized schools of higher learning. The contest is open to university students on the graduate or undergraduate levels, both Jews and non-Jews. The essays submitted are not to exceed 10,000 words, must be documented and must not have been published, in whole or in part, elsewhere. All essays must be in before September 1, 1954.