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## AUSTRIAN FINANCE MINISTER REPORTS TO PARLIAMENT ON JEWISH TALKS

VIENNA, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Austria did not enter the negotiations with representatives of world Jewish organizations on Jewish claims for damages wrought by the Nazi regime because it was under any "obligation" to make restitution or pay reparations, Dr. Reinhardt Kamitz, Austrian Finance Minister, declared today as the Austrian Parliament resumed its discussion of the negotiations.

The Parliamentary debate was touched off yesterday by questions raised by Social Democratic deputies. The first to reply to these questions was Chancellor Julius Raab who spoke yesterday. Today, the Finance Minister told Parliament that the Austrian Government does not consider Austria responsible for the suffering of Austrian Jewry during the Nazi regime. He insisted that full responsibility rests with Germany.

Reviewing the course of negotiations, Dr. Kamitz said that the Jewish negotiators had first put forward a demand for 1,500,000,000 schillings, which they termed a "moral obligation on the Austrian Government." At a later date, Dr. Kamitz reported, the Jewish delegation estimated losses of Jews in Austria during the Nazi regime at some 30,000,000,000 schillings. He insisted that during the negotiations the Jewish representatives had failed to give "due consideration" to Austria's "special situation."

### Jewish Groups Asked for \$12,000,000 for Heirless Property

In the final stage of negotiations last September, the Finance Minister said, the Jewish negotiators had reduced their demands to a lump sum payment of 300,000,000 schillings (\$12,000,000) for heirless Jewish property. This demand was reiterated in a message from Dr. Nahum Goldmann in October after Chancellor Raab had requested him to present new proposals for resumption of the Austro-Jewish talks, Dr. Kamitz said.

During the course of the negotiations, he revealed, the Austrian Government had received protests from the Arab states against a settlement of the Jewish claims similar to the one arrived at by Bonn. In addition, he asserted, various Austrian and foreign organizations had informed the government that they did not recognize the Jewish negotiators in Vienna as their representatives.

The Socialist newspaper Arbeiterzeitung, commenting on Dr. Kamitz' statements, declared that they "do not conform with the declaration delivered by the (Austrian) government representatives earlier in the negotiations."

## GERMAN CATHOLICS REACH PROPERTY AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL

COLOGNE, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- An agreement on the disposition of German Catholic property in Israel was reached this week in Basle, Switzerland, between representatives of the Government of Israel and the Roman Catholic Archiepiscopal See of Cologne, it was learned here today.

When Israel confiscated all German property in the country three years ago, real estate held in the name of the Cologne See was also affected. More than a year ago Israel agreed, in a companion pact to the German reparations agreement, to pay adequate compensation for such church property.

At negotiations held in Luxemburg and Paris last Spring, Israel representatives declared the willingness of their government to return to the church all property used for religious purposes. This chiefly concerns the Abbey of Dormition and a church on Mt. Zion, which is in the hands of German monks of the Benedictine Order, and churches and a guest house at Tabgha, on Lake Tiberias. Israel will provide a substantial financial contribution to repair the Abbey, which suffered damage during the Arab invasion.

As for German Catholic property used for secular purposes--notably the Schmidt School in Jerusalem and real estate in Haifa--part will be sold and part will be leased to the Israel Government. Details covering these arrangements have been laid down in the Basle agreement.

## ISRAEL SEEKS TO SAVE ARCHIVES LISTING JEWS KILLED BY NAZIS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The new directorate of the Yad Veshem, the institution which will erect a world memorial in Jerusalem to the memory of the 6,000,000 Jews martyred by the Nazis, has started negotiations to save the archives and files of the International Tracing Service at Arolson, Germany, it was announced here today by Minister of Education Ben Zion Dinur.

The ITS, currently operated by the Allies, is expected to be turned over to German administration after the Allies sign a peace treaty with Bonn. Concern has been expressed in Israel that if the Germans take over the ITS they will destroy evidence bearing on the Nazi crimes against the Jews.

The directorate of the Yad Veshem, set up by an act of the Israel Parliament, held its first meeting here yesterday. It elected an executive committee including S. Z. Shragai, Dr. Marc Dvorzetsky, Joseph Weitz and Moshe Kol. The executive was instructed to commence work on plans for the memorial, including its site. The directorate also adopted a provisional budget which will be supplied jointly by the Israel Government, Jewish Agency, Jewish National Fund and World Jewish Congress.

## SECURITY COUNCIL STARTS DEBATE ON ISRAEL'S JORDAN RIVER PROJECT

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The U. N. Security Council today started its debate on the Syrian complaint against Israel's Jordan River hydroelectric project.

Gen. Vagn Bennike, U. N. truce chief in Palestine, told the Security Council that a certain amount of water within the borders of Syria would be diverted from the Jordan River by the Israel project. He made this statement in reply to a question by Zafrullah Khan, representative of Pakistan.

The Pakistan delegate delivered a long legalistic address in an effort to defend the Syrian complaint. The debate will continue next week. The Security Council invited Ambassador Abba Eban to attend today's discussion.

TRUMAN SAYS U. S. HAS OBLIGATION TO PROMOTE ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- In his first major address on the Middle East since leaving the White House, former President Harry S. Truman tonight emphasized that the United States has the responsibility "of promoting peace" between Israel and the Arab states.

Addressing more than 1,500 persons attending the Decennial Celebration of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science at the Waldorf-Astoria, Mr. Truman warned that unless the Arab states and Israel "sit down and negotiate their differences, the present condition of smoldering violence will lead to graver dangers and new disasters."

The former President declared that United States support of the establishment of the State of Israel was "not an act of favoritism," but was part and parcel of American bi-partisan foreign policy in the Middle East which has been instrumental also in helping Syria and Lebanon achieve independence. He added that through the United Nations, the United States had supported the creation of the newest Arab state--Libya.

Mr. Truman's address highlighted the \$250-per-plate dinner in memory of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, first President of Israel and founder of the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovoth. Representatives of many United Nations delegations, scientists and civic leaders from communities throughout the United States were among the guests.

Other speakers included Israel Ambassador Abba Eban, Dewey D. Stone, chairman of the board of governors of the Weizmann Institute of Science; Harry Scherman, chairman of the Louis Lipsky Exchange Fellowships Foundation, and Abraham Feinberg, president of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science, who presided. Mr. Feinberg announced that the dinner had raised more than \$300,000 for the Weizmann Institute of Science, Israel's center of scientific research.

A bronze portrait bust of Dr. Weizmann, the work of Robert Berks, noted American sculptor, was unveiled at the dinner and presented to Mr. Truman, a close friend of the late President of Israel, for permanent placement in the projected Truman Library in Independence, Mo.

Says Israel's Future Concerns the Interests of U. S.

"The future of Israel is an issue of great concern to many of us here tonight," Mr. Truman said. "Whatever our religious faith may be, it is an important matter to all Americans. And I want to talk about it as it concerns the interests of the United States. As Americans, we look at Israel not only as a newborn and friendly democracy, but also as part of the whole Middle East."

Recalling that John Adams was the first American President to approve the idea of an independent Jewish State in Palestine, and that Secretary of State John Hay encouraged the early Jewish settlers in Palestine in the 19th century, the former President said: "The first bill for aid to Israel had bi-partisan sponsorship, including the late Senator Taft. American support for Israel's independence today is the support of our whole people, and not the support of one or the other of our great political parties."

On the subject of American assistance to the Arabs, Mr. Truman stated: "Not only as a government but as a people, we have long shown our sympathy for and our desire to help the peoples of the Middle East. Before the Ottoman Empire fell,

American missionaries and American educators had established colleges and universities in those countries--in Egypt, in Lebanon, in Syria, in Turkey. These institutions of learning helped to revitalize Arab culture. Many of the leaders in the movement toward Arab nationalism were educated by Americans.

"When the Ottoman Empire broke up, after World War I, President Wilson's Fourteen Points opened the way to the Arab leaders to create new and independent nations in the area. President Wilson even sent a fact-finding mission to the Middle East, which helped to lay the ground-work for the future independence of the Arab nations. Our friendly interest did not cease during the period between the two wars, and after World War II, we used our influence to achieve complete independence for Syria and Lebanon."

Mr. Truman concluded that the United States could never be "indifferent" to the fate of Israel because of emotional, political and spiritual ties. He noted, too, that "Israel, as a democracy, will stand with the other free nations of the world against Communism."

#### FIRST AMERICAN ZIONIST ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS U.S. -ISRAEL RELATIONS

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Problems of major interest to the American Zionist movement will be discussed at the First National Zionist Assembly which will open this Saturday evening at the Hotel Roosevelt. The program of the three-day Assembly was announced today by Louis Lipsky, chairman of the American Zionist Council, which convened the Assembly.

Mr. Lipsky said that delegates to the Assembly have been designated by eight national Zionist groups, representing a combined membership of 750,000. The groups are: Hadassah; Hapoel Hamizrachi; Labor Zionist Organization of America-Poale Zion; Mizrachi Organization of America; Progressive Zionist League--Hashomer Hatzair; United Zionist Labor Party (Achdut Avodah-Poale Zion); Zionist Organization of America, and Zionists-Revisionists of America. In addition, 12 delegates-at-large have been named by the Council.

At the opening meeting Saturday evening, December 5, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, honorary chairman of the Council, and Mr. Lipsky will speak on current relations between the United States and Israel. Ambassador Abba Eban will deliver an address to the Assembly at the concluding session on Monday afternoon. Representing the Government of Israel, Mr. Avraham Harman, Consul General, will bring greetings to the Saturday evening session.

#### COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM LEADERS MEET WITH ASSISTANT SECRETARY BYROADE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Henry A. Byroade, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, conferred for over two hours today at a secret luncheon meeting at the Carlton Hotel with top leaders of the American Council for Judaism. Among those at the meeting were Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of the Council, and Rabbi Elmer Berger, its executive director.

Interviewed by a JTA reporter, Mr. Byroade declined to talk about the meeting. "I merely met with some old friends whom I have known for a number of years," he said. Mr. Rosenwald told the JTA he had "absolutely nothing for publication about the meeting today."

**CONCERN OVER ANTI-SEMITISM DECLINING AMONG U. S. JEWS, SURVEY SHOWS**

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Concern over anti-Semitism as an incentive for participation in Jewish affairs has been relegated to a minority position in this country, a survey conducted by the United Synagogue of America, national organization of 457 Conservative congregations, has established. The survey was conducted in cooperation with the Bureau of Applied Social Research of Columbia University.

The results of the survey, made public today by Charles Rosengarten, newly elected president of the United Synagogue of America, indicate that three-quarters of the synagogue leaders in the United States and Canada believe that the synagogue is the center of Jewish life and the prime motivation for their participation in congregational affairs.

The survey also established that there is a growing awareness among leaders that a basic knowledge of the spiritual concepts of Judaism is an indispensable prerequisite for leadership. It revealed a clear trend toward the rejuvenation of synagogue leadership and emphasized the fact that in the last two years 24 percent of those who have assumed leadership in the Conservative synagogues have been younger people.

**"Isolationism" in Jewish Congregational Life Reported Receding**

The survey found that "isolationism" in congregational life is receding and that inter-congregational cooperation is gaining; that synagogue leadership is still over-taxed because of a dearth of leadership personnel; that the same leaders who serve the synagogue are pressed into leadership of many other organizations within the community; and that 50 percent of the leaders believe synagogue leadership in general is not democratically elected and is not operating on democratic principles.

At the same time, the survey revealed that the leadership in Conservative congregations does not come up to the standards as upheld by the Conservative movement and that 70 percent of those in office refuse to accept the responsibilities of top leadership. The survey emphasized the necessity of a thorough educational effort on a national scale to build leadership for synagogue and community.

Emphasizing that synagogue leadership in Conservative congregations "has arrived at the crossroads," the United Synagogue of America came--on the basis of the survey--to the following conclusions:

1. The synagogue leadership must undergo "a profound and vigorous" change or, congregational life--in the foreseeable future at least--will continue to struggle for its very existence against the tremendous odds of a general apathy.
2. The Conservative movement, in spite of its rapid expansion in recent years, is not sufficiently rooted in the public consciousness of Conservative congregations. Organizational affiliations must be matched by an affiliation in spirit.
3. The problem of synagogue leadership reaches far beyond congregational confines. It revolves around the general leadership crisis in the Jewish community at large. It is a community problem.

The report concluded with a recommendation that the United Synagogue take the initiative in rallying the Jewish community for concerted action in launching and sustaining a national drive for leadership building and development.

"ROBERT SZOLD INDUSTRIAL CENTER" TO BE ESTABLISHED IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- A "Robert Szold Industrial Center," which will comprise a compound of factory buildings in the Haifa Bay area, will be established in Israel, it was announced last night at a dinner in honor of Robert Szold, chairman of the Board of the Palestine Economic Corporation and former president of the Zionist Organization of America.

More than \$800,000 worth of stock of the Palestine Economic Corporation was purchased by the 600 persons who attended the dinner. The money will be earmarked for the establishment of the industrial center. Mr. Szold was honored by PEC and ZOA for his "lifetime of service to Israel and the Jewish people."

In addressing the guests, Mr. Szold said: "The State of Israel has recognized the necessity of private initiative and private capital. It passed a law for their encouragement. To pass a law, however, is not enough. The law must be implemented. The governing group must believe in it. It must not be frustrated by a myriad of subtle obstructions." Other speakers at the dinner included Mayor-elect Robert F. Wagner, Jr., of New York, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Rabbi Irving Miller, former Judge Simon H. Rifkind, Albert Schiff, Julius Simon, Joseph Meyerhoff and Boris Margolin.

JEWS IN URUGUAY DECIDE TO SELL \$1,000,000 WORTH OF ISRAEL BONDS

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- A general assembly of the representatives of the Jewish community of Uruguay has enthusiastically endorsed a proposal for the sale of \$1,000,000 worth of Israel bonds in the country, it was reported here today from Montevideo. The campaign will be headed by Miron Sheskin, Latin American director of the bond issue, and will be inaugurated immediately.

JEWISH PERSONNEL AT BERMUDA PARLEY TO HOLD CHANUKAH SERVICE

NORFOLK, Va., Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Chaplain David Hachen, Jewish chaplain at the Norfolk Naval Training Station, was flown by the Navy to the Bermuda "Big Three" conference of President Eisenhower, Prime Minister Churchill and Premier Laniel, to conduct a Chanukah service there for Jewish military and civilian personnel from the United States, Great Britain and France in the U.S. Naval Chapel, the National Jewish Welfare Board announced today. The "Big Three" parley opens tomorrow. Special Chanukah supplies for the service--menorahs, candles and dreidels--furnished by the JWB, are being flown to Bermuda.

DUTCH UNIVERSITY TO BUILD LABORATORY ON JEWISH CEMETERY SITE

THE HAGUE, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Groningen University will soon build a new laboratory on the site of an ancient Jewish cemetery in that north Holland city, it was revealed here today. Permission to clear the cemetery, a rare occurrence, was given by the city's former Chief Rabbi I. Prins, who now lives in Israel.

STOCKHOLM JEWISH LEADER DECORATED IN SWEDEN ON KING'S BIRTHDAY

STOCKHOLM, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Fritz Hollander, chairman of the executive committee of the Zionist Federation of Sweden and a member of the executive of the Swedish section of the World Jewish Congress, has been named a knight of the Order of Vasa, First Class, in the King's Birthday Honors List issued today.