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ISRAEL PRESIDENT AUTHORIZES SHARETT TO FORM NEW COALITION CABINET

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- President Ben Zvi today called upon Moshe Sharett, Acting Premier and leader of the Mapai Party, to form a new Cabinet. Afterwards, the President said that he thought Mr. Sharett the most "suitable" man for the job.

Mr. Sharett tonight began talks with representatives of various parties in preparation for the constitution of a new Cabinet. He has invited the General Zionists and the Labor Mizrahi to send representatives to a conference on Friday. The Acting Premier indicated that he will ask all parties to try to keep the negotiations short, and hopes to see the formation of a stable government some time next week.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Sharett appeared in Knesset to reply to a demand by a Communist deputy and Dr. Moshe Sneh, leader of a pro-Soviet left party, that Parliament immediately debate the West's rearmament of Germany. Dr. Sneh insisted that such rearmament has a special meaning for Jews, claiming that it is leading to a rebirth of Nazism in Germany.

The Acting Premier, who is also Foreign Minister, said that the Foreign Ministry was fully aware of the problem and would, in due course, report to the appropriate Knesset committee. He asked that the motions for a debate on German rearmament be removed from the agenda. The majority voted as he requested.

ISRAEL'S TOP GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS DECLARE ONE-DAY STOPPAGE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Some 300 of Israel's 350 top government officials staged a one-day stoppage today in protest against a government refusal to increase their wages.

The officials pointed out that many of their number have left for private employment, which pays incomparably better. One complaint voiced now and in the past is that in cases where family allowances are large, the least skilled government employee may take home more pay than some top civil servants.

(The United Press reported that among the strikers were Dr. Walter Eytan, general director of the Foreign Ministry and Dr. Shmuel Ben Dor, head of the North American section of the Foreign Ministry. The civil servants union permitted Raanon Silver, director of the office of President Ben Zvi, to work half a day.)

"BIG THREE" REPORTED SYMPATHETIC TO ISRAEL'S HYDROELECTRIC PROJECT

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Optimism was voiced in pro-Israel circles here today regarding the recommendations which the U. N. Security Council is expected to make in connection with Syria's complaint against Israel's hydroelectric project at Bnoth Yaacov, following an exchange of views between Ambassador Abba Eban and the heads of the American, British and French delegations, at the United Nations.

It is understood that the discussion between Mr. Eban and Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, the chief of the U. S. delegation, was especially promising. The most important conclusion so far reached in the talks is the apparent acceptance by the three Western delegates of the principle that Syrian consent cannot be made a condition for renewal of the work.

From United Nations circles it is learned that this view has been transmitted both to Mr. Eban and to the Syrian delegate, Farid Zeineddine. In general, the Israeli representatives have not encountered any sentiment against the hydroelectric project itself.

On the other hand, the Western Powers attach great importance to the authority and functions of the United Nations chief of staff in Palestine and are resolved to ask him to renew his efforts to solve the problem in the field. This is in accordance with the procedure which led to the renewal of work on the Huleh drainage project in 1951.

The Israel delegate, while he has been assured that the Syrian contention will not be upheld, is still concerned lest the resolution will not be sufficiently specific to insure rapid agreement with Gen. Vagn Bennike on actual arrangements on resumption.

Ambassador Eban is known to be urging very strongly that the Western Powers, both in the resolution and in the speeches of its sponsors, give a clear directive on the basis of which an early resumption can be negotiated. He is also reported to be stressing the need for the sponsoring delegates to state officially in the Council that in renewing Gen. Bennike's mandate to deal with the problem their purpose is to have him overcome the obstacles adduced against the project and not to subordinate the project to the obstacles.

It was largely because such a sentiment in favor of the project was expressed in May, 1951 by the sponsors of the Huleh resolution that Gen. Riley was able to proceed rapidly with the authorization of the work in the demilitarized zone, it was pointed out today in UN circles.

MOSLEM CONFERENCE VOTES TO OPPOSE PERMANENT PEACE WITH ISRAEL

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A Moslem conference in the Arab part of Jerusalem which included 34 delegates from Arab and other Moslem countries, today passed a resolution opposing permanent peace with Israel. The gathering was described as "the Moslem Conference for Palestine's Salvation from Israeli Occupation.

(In New York, Abdul Khalek Hassouna, Secretary General of the Arab League, indicated today that there would be no reply from Jordan on Israel's proposal for direct negotiations until the Arab League Council had met. The proposal was presented by Israel recently to the UN Security Council.)

BERLIN PAYS \$25, 000, 000 IN INDEMNIFICATION TO NAZI VICTIMS

BERLIN, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- By the end of the year, the West Berlin Indemnification Agency will have paid out \$25, 000, 000 to Jews and non-Jewish victims of Nazism, mainly in compensation for illegal deprivation of liberty and incarceration in concentration camps, it was reported here today. In total amounts disbursed, Berlin has now moved into first place among the individual states of Germany.

The new seven member Supreme Restitution Court in West Berlin yesterday recorded as its first action a settlement of 22, 000 marks (\$5, 238) to Mrs. Alice Frank-Arams of New York, formerly of Berlin. The sum was arrived at in an out-of-court settlement between Mrs. Frank-Arams and present owners of an apartment and store building on West Berlin's main street which had been seized by the Nazis.

The tribunal consists of one judge each appointed by the United States, Britain and France, three judges appointed by the Berlin city administration and a "neutral" Swedish jurist, who presides over the court. The court, which already has 500 cases to consider, most of them affecting Jews, is expected to be in existence for at least two years.

JEWISH CONGRESS HEARS REPORT ON RESTORED PROPERTY IN GERMANY

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A report on Jewish assets restored in Germany with the aid of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization was presented here today by Dr. Benjamin Ferencz, JRSO director general, at a meeting of the national executive committee of the American Jewish Congress. Summarizing the work of the JRSO since its organization in 1948 by 12 major Jewish organizations, Dr. Ferencz pointed out that:

1. Assets valued at over \$190, 480, 000 have been restored to about 50, 000 persecutees; and another \$16, 214, 600 was retrieved by JRSO as heirless and unclaimed.
2. Jews who had been denied their rights to restitution found themselves reinstated, through action by JRSO, to assets worth \$3, 452, 500. "As a result of JRSO vigilance, thousands of indigent claimants received legal aid helping them recover cash or properties totalling \$7, 428, 700."
3. JRSO grants of \$9, 047, 800 to the Jewish Agency bought prefabricated houses to shelter homeless refugees and aided Israel's reconstruction. A total of \$4, 285, 800 given to the Joint Distribution Committee provided funds for relief work in Germany and for the purchase of essential medical equipment.

"After five years," Dr. Ferencz declared, "the restitution program in the U.S. Zone of Germany borders on completion. The JRSO served as a bulwark against the almost constant attempts to undermine the restitution objectives, but the laurels go to the U.S. Government which enacted the law, and to the Jewish organizations which joined in insisting upon its fulfillment. It is a tragic commentary," he added, "that the individual Germans concerned failed to grasp the moral urgency of voluntarily reinstating the dispossessed."

Dr. Gerhart Riegner, director of the World Jewish Congress office in Geneva, reported at the meeting that during the past four years the World Jewish Congress, as a UN accredited non-governmental organization, submitted on behalf of its affiliated communities and organizations in 62 countries some 46 written and 36 oral statements on matters concerning their civil, religious and other human rights before the various organs of the United Nations.

WEST GERMAN CABINET CONSIDERS LIFTING BAN ON HITLER FILM

BONN, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The West German Cabinet last night considered the lifting of a ban by the Federal Government and the nine West German state governments against the showing of the film about Hitler's life and regime, "Until Five Minutes Past Twelve," following a decision by a Federal court in Dusseldorf setting aside the ban.

The Federal Minister of Interior and the nine state Interior Ministers, who prohibited showing of the film November 30 after two public performances, were meeting today to consider lifting the ban. Several of the Ministers were reported in favor of lifting the prohibition. The Senate of the city-state of Hamburg rejected the ban shortly after it was imposed by the Ministers, on the ground that the film glorified Hitler.

The appeal to the Dusseldorf court by Tempo Films, producers of the movie, was expected to become a test case for appeals in each of the other states. The distributors assert that there had been no objection to the film when it was originally shown privately for members of the Federal Government and the Bonn Bundestag.

NAZI TRUSTEE SENTENCED FOR KILLING SICK CAMP PRISONERS

COLOGNE, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A German court at Aachen today imposed a one-year sentence on Peter Bongartz, one-time trustee in the Nazi concentration camp of Gross-Rosen, a satellite camp of Oswiecim, who was convicted of trampling to death numerous Jewish and non-Jewish patients of the camp hospital where he served as an orderly.

After the war, an American court at Dachau sentenced Bongartz to a long prison term for cruelties to non-German prisoners. The Aachen court tried him for inhumanities against German nationals. He is still serving the original term.

BAN OF ANTI-SEMITES FROM NATIONAL ELECTIONS SOUGHT IN TURKEY

ISTANBUL, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A Democratic Deputy in the Turkish Parliament, M. Gurkan, has begun drafting a bill which he plans to introduce prohibiting anyone connected with the "Varlik" tax of 1942 to run for national office. The tax discriminated against minorities in Turkey and brought financial ruin and imprisonment to a large number of Turkish Jews.

The opposition Republican Party has reacted violently to Mr. Gurkan's proposal and is prepared to fight it in Parliament. The "Varlik" was passed when the Republicans were in power.

Ilhami Sanjar, head of the Republican People's Party of Istanbul, the major opposition party in the government, has charged that Salomon Adatto, a Democratic deputy and Jewish leader, has been accompanying Chief Rabbi Raphael Shabban on a pastoral tour of Turkey in order to reap political benefits.

Mr. Sanjar, who stressed that his party had pledged not to permit anti-Semitic propaganda in its campaign, said that Mr. Adatto's alleged action was "unfair." Both Mr. Adatto and the Turkish Grand Rabbinate have issued statements denying that the Jewish deputy had accompanied the Chief Rabbi on his tour. Mr. Adatto added that he had not seen Rabbi Shabban for the past three months.

AMERICAN JEWRY CONTRIBUTED \$19,100,000 TO J. D. C. IN 1953

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- American Jewry will have contributed to the Joint Distribution Committee by the end of this year \$19,100,000 through the United Jewish Appeal, Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the JDC, estimated today in a report prepared for the 39th annual JDC meeting which takes place here tomorrow.

Mr. Leavitt added that campaigns currently under way in Latin America are expected to yield about \$100,000 while Canadian Jewry will this year provide an estimated \$200,000. By the end of the year, JDC will also have received more than \$2,500,000 from a number of other sources, including Swiss reparations, the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, the Ford Foundation and a number of governmental and intergovernmental agencies.

During this past year JDC relief, resettlement and reconstruction assistance went to some 160,000 persons in 20 countries on three continents, the report pointed out. For the first 11 months of 1953, JDC appropriated \$20,097,540 to meet overseas needs. Included in JDC's assistance was medical care for some 72,000 men, women and children; cash relief for 14,300; educational assistance for more than 80,000; feeding aid for 44,500; vocational training for 12,000; and, despite increasingly rigid immigration laws in most countries of the world, resettlement aid for some 3,500 homeless Jews.

J. D. C. Spent 60 Percent of Its Budget on Work in Israel

"JDC's assistance programs shifted with the movement of hundreds of thousands of men, women and children," Mr. Leavitt emphasized. "The largest overseas Jewish community in which JDC is now carrying on its programs--the community in the State of Israel--has assumed ever greater importance. For aid in Israel JDC assigned nearly one-third of its appropriations in 1951; in 1953 this figure was nearly 60 percent.

"Among the hundreds of thousands who had been aided by JDC to emigrate to Israel there were tens of thousands of newcomers who still required medical aid and other types of assistance--including institutional care--which the Israel Government had called upon JDC to provide. So it was that by 1953 JDC was expending so much of its overall budget on Malben, the JDC medical and welfare program on behalf of aged, ill and handicapped newcomers to Israel," Mr. Leavitt explained.

The JDC is also aiding some 98,000 Jews in six countries in North Africa and in Iran, Mr. Leavitt reported. In Europe, the American Jewish relief organization is giving assistance to 11,000 Jews in Germany, Austria and Italy. In addition, the JDC is still operating today in Belgium, France, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and Yugoslavia--countries with a population of nearly 400,000 Jews. In Belgium, Portugal, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland, JDC's activities are carried on almost exclusively on behalf of refugees.

In other European states, JDC provides various types of assistance to the settled Jewish population. In Greece, JDC was called upon to provide emergency relief during 1953 to the members of the Jewish community of Zakhintos following the earthquake there. The total number of beneficiaries in these countries amounts to about 18,000 men, women and children per month. By far the largest of these programs is in France, where JDC is currently assisting 14,000 beneficiaries.

Reporting on emigration aid, Mr. Leavitt said that in the first nine months of the year JDC assisted only some 2,655 men, women and children to find new homes: Australia and New Zealand, 138; Canada, 365; the United States, 1,512; Latin America, 333; Israel, 216 and other countries, 101.

NATIONS URGED TO FULFILL PROMISES OF U. N. HUMAN RIGHTS CODE

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, today urged "all peoples and nations" to dedicate themselves to the fulfillment of the aims and promises contained in the U. N. Declaration of Human Rights. In a message for the celebration of Human Rights Day, tomorrow, Dr. Goldmann called upon governments to implement the Declaration by the following specific actions:

1. "They should give prompt and effective recognition to the right of all persons under their jurisdiction to liberty and security of person and to the right not to be subjected to arbitrary arrest and detention.
2. "They should abide by the provisions of the Universal Declaration to grant everyone freedom of movement within the country and the right to leave the country whenever anyone so desires," and should "set free everyone arrested or condemned without a fair trial and let those who so desire go to the land of their choosing."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress, warned in a statement against the campaign now being waged by "short-sighted and self-seeking men" to villify or distort the Declaration of Human Rights. The Declaration, Dr. Goldstein noted, has "added poignance" for the Jewish people, since it represents "a firm and urgent protest by the combined member states of the United Nations against the atrocities and persecutions which have victimized so many millions of human beings, and particularly, the Jewish people, over the centuries."

NON-JEWISH FOUNDATION GIVES \$500,000 GIFT TO BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

WALTHAM, Mass., Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Brandeis University today announced the receipt of \$500,000 as a gift from the Charles Hayden Foundation. This non-Jewish gift is the largest individual contribution ever received by the university.

The contribution, according to J. Willard Hayden of Lexington, Mass., president of the Hayden Foundation, will go towards the construction of a million-dollar science building on the University's 192-acre campus in Waltham. The gift is in keeping with the pattern of philanthropy set up by the Hayden Foundation, in which one-half the total is provided by the Foundation, with the provision that the recipient furnish the remainder.

Dr. Abraham L. Sachar, president of the Brandeis University, also announced today that the University this week received accreditation from the New England Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools.

HADASSAH LEADER HONORED AT JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Mrs. Moses P. Epstein, Hadassah leader, was honored last night for her achievements as an outstanding American citizen and for her contributions to Jewish life by the Women's Institute of Jewish Studies of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America. The Institute, a leadership training school for Jewish women, offers adult education courses in elementary, intermediate, and advanced Hebrew, Bible, religion, community organization, history and music.