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JEWS PRESENT PROTEST TO AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR ON CLAIMS DEADLOCK

VIENNA, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- A five-page letter outlining the stand of the world Jewish organizations toward the Austrian Government's breaking off negotiations for payment of compensation for heirless property of Jewish families annihilated by the Nazis in Austria, was presented to Chancellor Dr. Julius Raab this week-end by Fred Fedez, director of the Joint Distribution Committee in Austria.

The letter, which was signed by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Joint Executive Board for Jewish Claims on Austria, practically accuses the Austrian Government of breaking its promises and demands that a settlement of Jewish claims should precede the enactment of measures benefitting former Nazis. The letter declares that the Austrian Government's announcement that it was impossible to make a lump sum settlement of heirless Jewish property claims came as a "surprise" and caused "consternation."

The Austrian interpretation that settlement depends on a case-by-case study to be made six months after ratification of an Austrian state treaty is not shared by other governments, Dr. Goldmann's letter states. It points out that the Allied Council in Austria, informed of the progress of the Austro-Jewish talks, had posed no objections. Dr. Goldmann also notes that the Austrian treaty is not yet completed and may never be completed.

The Jewish groups, the letter concludes, have reduced the claims against Austria to the "limit of our conscience." But, it says, the Jews are still prepared to discuss methods of liquidating any agreed amount in a manner which would impose little burden on the Austrian economy. Dr. Goldmann writes of the Jewish groups' willingness to reopen discussions on both a legislative program for surviving persecutees and on settlement of the heirless property problem.

DR. GOLDMANN REVIEWS CRISIS IN JEWISH-AUSTRIAN CLAIMS TALKS

LONDON, Dec. 20. (JTA)-- Speaking for 22 major Jewish organizations in the free world and the Federation of Austrian Jewish Communities, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, at a press conference here this week-end, announced that in his letter to Chancellor Julius Raab of Austria he expressed his "distinct shock" over the Austrian Government's "sharp reversal" of policy on Jewish claims.

Negotiations on these claims began last June in Vienna. At his press conference, Dr. Goldmann emphasized that as soon as the Austrian Government has indicated that it is ready to continue discussions on both the legislative program for surviving

persecutees and the heirless property problem, the Jewish organizations would be ready to resume negotiations.

The crisis between the Austrian Government and the Jewish groups developed over the sudden refusal of the Austrian Government recently to continue discussions on heirless Jewish property claims. Chancellor Raab, in a letter to the Joint Executive Board for Jewish Claims on Austria, suggested that discussion of these claims cannot be undertaken until six months after an Austrian peace treaty has been signed. "This certainly was not the view of the Austrian Government as communicated to us by the Chancellor and his government when we began negotiations," Dr. Goldmann stated.

Jewish Groups Object Strongly to Austria's Arguments

The Jewish organizations take strong exception to Chancellor Raab's attempt to link the settlement of heirless property claims to an Austrian peace treaty. "Although it is hoped by all that a peace treaty with Austria will come into effect," Dr. Goldmann said, "the treaty is not a complete draft. It may never be completed. It is not in force. It may never be in force. It has no present validity.

"Moreover, support for the objective of a mutually satisfactory agreement between Austria and the Jewish groups has been several times stated by the Allied governments, and we believe these views to be known to the Austrian Government," Dr. Goldmann continued. "The principles on which we base our claims have been recognized by many nations and are embodied in international agreements."

Dr. Goldmann recalled at his press conference that the Austrian Government persists in its efforts to restore property and legal status to former leading Nazis. "The deadlock in the present negotiations seems to indicate," he said, "that the Austrian Government does not share the universal view that measures for the benefit of the victims of Nazism must precede action in favor of incriminated Nazis."

No State Should be Beneficiary of Murder of Its Citizens

Dr. Goldmann stated that the Jewish organizations have demonstrated that substantial portions of heirless Jewish property, traceable and untraceable, remain in the Austrian economy and benefit it to this day. "The Austrian Government is no less aware of these facts than we are," he said, "and knows full well that there are factories in Austria, now operating, which were either built or rehabilitated with Jewish slave labor." He expressed the hope that no state will wish to be the beneficiary of the murder of its citizens and residents.

Dr. Goldmann, who had successfully negotiated the \$822,000,000 Bonn-Israel agreement last year, expressed to the press representatives his indignation over Finance Minister Karmitz' apparent allegation in the Austrian Parliament that the Joint Executive Board for Jewish Claims on Austria seeks discriminatory treatment in favor of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

"To put it charitably, nothing could be further from the truth," Dr. Goldmann said. "Nothing would be more repugnant to those who have themselves suffered from discrimination, than that they should suggest favored treatment for persecutees of one particular kind. This is known to the Austrian Government."

"It is a fact that in legislation, any arrangements with respect to heirless assets, which might be made, whether by the Austrian Government, or the German Federal Republic, or by the U. S. or other Allied nations, will chiefly affect Jewish victims."

Dr. Goldmann stated. "This cannot be blamed on a desire of Jewish organizations for discrimination in their favor. Rather it is a reflection of the tragic fact that the Jews were the main victims of National Socialist persecution and that, as a result, 6,000,000 Jews perished under National Socialism.

"The Austrian Government well knows, although Dr. Karnitz strangely makes no mention of it in his lengthy statement, that over a third of the entire pre-war Jewish population of Austria perished. Out of these executions on a wholesale scale arises the present claim for heirless assets. That the vast preponderance of persecutees under the Nazis were Jews is bitterly obvious. The fact is internationally recognized," Dr. Goldmann emphasized during his press conference.

JEWS TO SEEK BRITISH INTERVENTION WITH AUSTRIA ON CLAIMS

LONDON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- A delegation of British Jewish leaders will confer with the Minister of State for Foreign Affairs tomorrow on the deadlock in the Austro-Jewish negotiations for settlement of claims resulting from Nazi persecution of Jews in Austria, Barnett Janner told a meeting today of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. Mr. Janner said he was delaying leaving for Israel so that he could lead the delegation.

Meanwhile, the Board of Deputies called on the British Government and the Allied Powers to use their influence with the Austrian Government to secure a fair settlement of the claims presented by the Jewish groups. The board adopted a resolution expressing its regret that the Austrian Government, "without regard for the responsibility of large sections of the Austrian populace for the sufferings of Jewish victims under the Nazi regime in Austria, apparently has no intention of making a contribution of significance toward the redress of the wrongs inflicted on these victims."

Mr. Janner also told the meeting of the Board of Deputies that the Jewish claims conference had come to the conclusion that from the very start of the Austro-Jewish talks the Austrians had "no serious intention" of making a "significant contribution" to a solution of the problem. He added that the claims conference could see no useful purpose in further negotiations unless the Austrian Government changes its attitude.

Dr. Noah N. Barou, World Jewish Congress leader who served as a member of the negotiating committee which worked out the reparations pact with Bonn, declared that there was a greater danger of a Nazi revival in Austria than in Germany.

GERMANY TO PAY BENEFITS IN FOREIGN CURRENCY TO NAZI VICTIMS ABROAD

BONN, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The West German Government will permit victims of Nazi persecution now living outside Germany to withdraw restitution payments up to 500 marks (\$119), it was announced here yesterday.

Payments will be made in the currency of the country in which the victims now live. Until now all restitution payments were made in blocked marks.

GERMANY'S UPPER HOUSE VOTES FOR ACCESSION TO U. N. GENOCIDE PACT

BONN, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Upper House of the German Federal Parliament unanimously approved yesterday a government bill for accession by the West German Federal Republic to the United Nations Convention on Genocide and for inclusion in the German penal code of an article providing penal servitude for life for anyone convicted of engaging in genocidal practices. The bill now goes to the Bundestag, or Lower House, which is expected to take it up into January.

TALKS ON FORMATION OF NEW ISRAEL CABINET MAKE NO PROGRESS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Leaders of the Mapai Party today indicated that if the General Zionists continue to put obstacles in the path of the formation of a new Cabinet by Acting Premier Moshe Sharett, the Mapai will approach the smaller parties to form a coalition government without the General Zionists.

Should the latter move not prove successful, the Mapai will call for general elections, the leaders of the party declared. They expressed the hope that the situation would not come to that point and that the parties concerned would not force the country into new parliamentary elections at the present time. It is generally believed that an understanding will be reached by the middle of this week.

Meanwhile, the smaller parties have indicated a willingness to enter a coalition with the Mapai alone, but at a price. The Progressives and the Labor Mizrahi groups demand scrapping of the proposed election law which would restrict Parliamentary representation to parties which receive at least 10 percent of the total vote in a national election. The Mizrahi and the Labor Mizrahi would demand prohibition of the sale of pork in Israel, as one of the conditions for entering a coalition with the Mapai but without the General Zionists.

ISRAEL MAY LIFT FOREIGN CURRENCY CONTROLS; ESHKOL LAUDS U.S. JEWS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The possibility that Israel will be in a position to lift foreign currency controls if American Jewry succeeds in raising \$75,000,000 in loans to help Israel retire its short-term obligations, was held out here today by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol in a report to the Cabinet on his trip to the United States.

Mr. Eshkol, who returned to Israel this week-end after ten days in the U.S. where he worked with Jewish leaders on the loan, said he believes American Jewry will be able to arrange the long-term loans which Israel needs. Earlier, interviewed by newsmen, he praised the efforts of the American Jews to help Israel.

ISRAEL GETS \$9,000,000 FROM U.S. AS PART OF GRANT-IN-AID

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The United States Government this week-end turned over to Israel a \$9,000,000 check for the purchase of food and raw materials. The money is part of the Foreign Operations Administration grant-in-aid to Israel for 1953-54. The State Department has authorized the allocation of \$26,000,000 in aid to Israel for the period ending December 31, 1953.

RABBI AND ELEVEN STUDENTS RELEASED ON BAIL IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Rabbi Amram Blau, leader of the extremist Neturei Karta, and 11 Yeshiva students arrested with him Wednesday in anti-conscription disorders in the Mea Shearim quarter, were released on bail this week-end.

Earlier, four aged rabbis presented themselves in the office of the chief police inspector of Jerusalem and asked that they be arrested and the Yeshiva students freed since "we are responsible for the disturbances." The offer was refused.

AMERICAN AMBASSADOR IN ISRAEL REPORTED SERIOUSLY ILL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- United States Ambassador Monnett B. Davis remains seriously ill, the Embassy announced tonight. First indication of his illness came last night in an earlier Embassy bulletin.

SECURITY COUNCIL RESUMES TODAY DISCUSSION ON ISRAEL-SYRIAN DISPUTE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 20, (JTA) -- The U.N. Security Council will resume its debate tomorrow on the resolution presented by the United States, Britain and France on the Israel-Syrian dispute over the use of the waters of the Jordan River. Moslem countries on the Security Council and China oppose the resolution. The Chinese representative indicated that he may veto the resolution.

Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon, who speaks for the Arab countries at the Security Council, introduced his own resolution last Friday. Ahmed S. Bokhari, the Pakistan delegate, announced that his government had ordered him not to support the Big Three resolution, which authorizes Gen. Vagn Bennike, U.N. Chief of Staff in Palestine, to make an attempt to settle the dispute within three months.

In view of the opposition to the joint American-British-French resolution by China, Pakistan and Lebanon and the possibility that the Soviet Union and Columbia may abstain from voting on the resolution, doubt was expressed in UN circles today that the resolution, which is not opposed by Israel, will secure the necessary seven votes needed for its passage.

ISRAEL PROTESTS TO U.S. AGAINST EGYPT'S SEIZURE OF MEAT TRANSPORT

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 20, (JTA) -- The Israel Government protested to the United Nations Security Council this week-end against the seizure by the Egyptian authorities of a cargo of 140 tons of kosher beef at Port Said.

In the complaint, Israel Ambassador Abba Eban charged the Egyptian Government with violating the armistice agreement between the two states and of disregarding a Security Council order of Sept. 1, 1951 which instructed the Egyptians not to seize Israel-bound shipping or cargoes in the Suez Canal. Mr. Eban told the Council that the Israel Government expects it to take measures against Egypt on this matter and to prevent repetition of such incidents in the future.

The cargo was removed from the Italian vessel S.S. Franca Maria Dec. 14. The ship, bound through the Suez Canal for Haifa from Eritrea, was halted at Port Said and permitted to proceed after its cargo was removed by the Egyptians.

LABOR AND MANUFACTURERS IN ISRAEL REACH AGREEMENT ON WAGES

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20, (JTA) -- Representatives of the Histadrut, Israel's general federation of labor, and of the National Association of Manufacturers reached an agreement today for continuation of the payment of cost of living allowances tied to the price index.

The agreement continues these payments for another year, with changes being computed every three months as previously but with maximum payments increased. The manufacturers had first attempted to do away with the payments system altogether and then sought to recompute the payments every six months, but finally agreed to the Histadrut's demands.

ISRAEL WORKING WOMEN SEEK CLOSER RELATIONS WITH U.S. GROUP

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20, (JTA) -- The national council of the Moetzet Hapoelet, organization of Israeli working women, at its conference here today adopted resolutions calling for closer relations with the Pioneer Women in the United States. The resolutions urged the Pioneer Women to intensify their efforts for Israel and called on the laboring women of Israel to aid newcomers to the country to become settled.

450 COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES ELIMINATE BIAS FROM APPLICATIONS

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Some 450 of a total of 518 non-sectarian institutions of higher education throughout the country have revised their application forms to eliminate direct or indirect questions of a discriminatory nature, the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League announced here this week-end. Two hundred and seventy-two of the colleges, junior colleges and universities which changed their forms were located in New York State.

Henry Edward Schultz, national chairman of the ADL, revealed that 92 percent of the institutions surveyed had indicated that they asked at least one question which tended to be discriminatory--about religion, race, name of parents, language spoken at home, etc. He added that most of the colleges requested to make changes in their application blanks had done so.

JEWS TAKE OVER U. S. O. WORK FROM CHRISTIAN FRIENDS ON CHRISTMAS DAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Jewish volunteers will take over the chores and responsibilities of their Christian co-workers at USO clubs over the country on Christmas Day, the National Jewish Welfare Board announced today. JWB is one of the seven member agencies of USO, serving through a field staff and hundreds of local JWB Armed Services Committees in all parts of the country.

Returning the Passover, Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur favors of their non-Jewish neighbors, JWB volunteer workers will organize Christmas hospitality for GI's at clubs and service units in Boston and Charleston, Mass., Newark, Nutley and New Brunswick, N. J., Columbia, S. C., San Antonio, Tex., Chicago, Ill., Detroit, Mich., Monterey, Los Angeles, San Diego and San Francisco, Calif., and at scores of other points across the country.

AMERICAN-ISRAEL PETROLEUM CORP. DECLARES ITS FIRST DIVIDEND

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The American-Israel Petroleum Corporation, which was established by Ampal, yesterday declared its first dividend at a meeting of its board of directors. The dividend will be paid on or before February 15, 1954, to all holders of the common stock of the company as at December 31, 1953.

The corporation owns 25 percent of the stock of the Israel Fuel Corporation, which imports crude oil from Venezuela and other places, refining it at the Haifa refineries and distributing it among consumers in Israel. The American Israel Petroleum Corporation also owns 31 percent of the stock of Lapidot Israel Petroleum Company, which is currently engaged in prospecting for oil, and is the first company to start drilling in Israel in the vicinity of the Dead Sea and other sites.

AMERICAN FUND FOR ISRAEL INSTITUTIONS SEEKS \$1,807,540 IN SIX WEEKS

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The American Fund for Israel Institutions will seek to raise \$1,807,540 for the organizations it assists in Israel during the next six weeks, Edward A. Norman, president of the Fund, announced this week-end. Among the events at which funds will be raised are concerts and dinners. Mr. Norman declared that through such affairs a "greater understanding is developed and that America can bring to bear on Israel the beneficial influences of its democratic life."

GENERAL DOOLITTLE AWARDED JEWISH WAR VETERANS GOLD MEDAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Lt. General James H. Doolittle has been awarded the Gold Medal of Merit of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America, it was announced today by Harry T. Madison, the organization's National Commander. The veterans group will present its award to Gen. Doolittle at a dinner in the Waldorf-Astoria on January 13, 1954.