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## U.S. TO INTERCEDE WITH AUSTRIA ON PAYMENT OF CLAIMS TO JEWS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30, (JTA) -- A delegation representing the committee for Jewish Claims on Austria today called upon the Deputy Undersecretary of State, Mr. Robert Murphy, to discuss the crisis in the negotiations between Austria and the world Jewish organizations for a settlement of Jewish claims. Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee, Frank Goldman, honorary president of B'nai B'rith, and Adolph Held, president of the Jewish Labor Committee, expressed appreciation for the sympathetic attitude with which the U. S. Government has been following these negotiations.

The delegation called to the attention of the State Department the refusal of the Austrian Government to continue negotiations on settlement of claims for heirless property. Austria had agreed to discuss a settlement of this issue last June when negotiations began.

The delegation pointed out that while balking on a settlement of heirless Jewish property, the Austrian Government has repeatedly attempted to restore property and legal status to incriminated Nazis. The Jewish representatives also recalled that tens of thousands of persons who suffered losses and privations through Nazi rule in Austria, but were fortunate to find a haven in the United States, and are now American citizens, are vitally concerned with the successful outcome of the negotiations.

The delegation reported that Mr. Murphy expressed the deep concern of the U. S. Government over the deadlock in the negotiations between Austria and the Jewish organization. He assured the delegation that the State Department will continue its efforts to bring about the satisfactory solution of the present difficulties. He further re-affirmed the State Department's continuing desire for effective action to give justice due in the interest of victims of Nazi persecution.

The delegation was accompanied by Mr. Saul Kagan, of the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria; Dr. Nehemiah Robinson, of the World Jewish Congress and Seymour Rubin, of the American Jewish Committee.

## WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS TO BE HELD IN 1955 IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30, (JTA) -- The convocation of the next World Zionist Congress in 1955 in Jerusalem was recommended today to the Zionist Actions Committee by its commission on organizational problems. It is expected that the plenary session will approve this recommendation. The Finance Commission of the Actions Committee today adopted the £17 million pounds budget submitted by the Jewish Agency.

HIGH OFFICIALS IN ISRAEL MAY PROCLAIM A THREE-DAY STOPPAGE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- High officials in government offices today decided not to appear for work for three days beginning next Monday, if the government does not agree to increase their salaries. Exemptions will be made in cases where the interests of the state may suffer directly from the absence of the officials from their posts, it was indicated.

ISRAEL PARLIAMENT TO GET BILL AGAINST CARTELS; PASSAGE FORESEEN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A bill to fight cartels both of cooperatives and private enterprises will be submitted by Israel's Ministry of Industry to the Parliament within three months, it was announced here today.

The announcement said that the Israel Cabinet and the leaders of the various factions in the Parliament have agreed on the necessity of introducing anti-cartel legislation.

The Israel Parliament today voted to empower Finance Minister Levi Eshkol to register gold in the country whenever he finds such a measure necessary.

U.S. GOVERNMENT INTENDS TO SEND ARMS TO EGYPT; INFORMS BRITAIN

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- State Department press officer Henry Suydam indicated today that American munitions shipments to Egypt are under consideration.

Mr. Suydam was asked about a London report which told of British concern lest the United States announce a program of military assistance to benefit Egypt without waiting for the outcome of current anglo-Egyptian negotiations on the Suez Canal issue. He said "the whole question of aid to Egypt has been under continuous examination here at the State Department."

Declining to further elaborate on the nature of assistance under consideration, Mr. Suydam would say only that he was authorized to make known that Egypt is now receiving \$16,000,000 in technical assistance for the fiscal year ending June 30. This sum, he said, was devoted to agricultural development.

It was learned from authoritative State Department sources today that the United States has already informed Great Britain of its decision to send arms and dollar aid to Egypt. This move is taking place despite British objections arising from the present tense negotiations between Great Britain and Egypt involving the Suez Canal Zone.

The assistance planned for Egypt was said to include various categories of heavy munitions as well as dollar aid to bolster the Egyptian economy. Negotiations have been in progress on this question for some time with the Egyptian military attache in Washington, in close consultation with Department of Defense officials. The Egyptian Ambassador recently returned to Cairo to make a personal report to Premier Naguib on the progress of developments.

The Mutual Security Act passed by the last congressional session includes \$30,000,000 in military aid available to the Arab states, Israel, and Pakistan with actual disbursement of this sum subject to the discretion of the State Department.

ISRAEL'S EARLY RESUMPTION OF JORDAN WATERS PROJECT SEEN IN U.N.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Optimism was expressed in United Nations circles today over the possibility of the passage by the U. N. Security Council next month of the Big Three resolution under which, it is hoped, that Israel will be able to resume its work on the hydroelectric project in the demilitarized zone of the Israel-Syrian border.

Whether the Soviet delegation will veto the resolution, when adopted, was today a matter of speculation. Andrei Vishinsky, head of the Soviet delegation--who has been fighting the resolution ever since it was introduced on December 21--told the U. N. Security Council last night that he will continue to fight it, in view of the fact that Moscow considers the resolution as an attempt on the part of the United States "to lay its hands on the economy of the Middle East." He insisted that the resolution was "defective from A to Z."

The fact that Mr. Vishinsky disclosed that his opposition to the resolution is motivated by anti-American feelings rather than by pro-Arab inclinations came as a surprise to the French and British delegations which were beginning to yield slightly to the Arab demands for substantial revisions in the resolution, while the U.S. delegation stood firm on the proposed text. Today it was considered likely that the stand of the American delegation would be reaffirmed by the French and the British when the Security Council resumes debate on the resolution some time between January 7th and 15th.

The January session of the Security Council, although it will be conducted under the presidency of Dr. Charles Malik, the Lebanese delegate who speaks at the Council on behalf of all Arab countries, offers the Big Three a better opportunity for receiving the seven votes needed for the adoption of the resolution of the 11-member Council. Pakistan, Chile and Greece--which have been known as opponents of the Big Three resolution in its present form and which is acceptable to Israel--will be replaced in the Council in January by New Zealand, Brazil and Turkey, which are likely to vote in favor of the resolution.

The Arabs are seeking the introduction of modifications in the Big Three resolution to assure Syria the right to veto Israel's resumption of work on its hydroelectric project. The U.S. delegation, it was learned today, is of the opinion that while each country is entitled to its sovereign rights, it cannot impose its will on neighboring countries. The American Government takes the stand that the U. N. Truce Chief in Palestine, Gen. Vagn Bennaïke, is the only authority to decide on whether Israel should or should not continue the work on its project. The Big Three resolution directs Gen. Bennaïke to report to the Security Council within 90 days on the measures he has taken to give effect to the resolution.

JORDAN WILL NOT HOLD DIRECT TALKS WITH ISRAEL, PREMIER SAYS

LONDON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Fawziel Mulki of Jordan indicated yesterday that Jordan would reject Israel's request for direct talks on frontier issues as provided by the Armistice Agreement, the Times of London reports today from Beirut. Mr. Mulki made his statement following a meeting of the Arab League Political Committee in Beirut at which the subject was discussed.

ISRAEL SIGNS UNITED NATIONS AGREEMENT ON OPIUM

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Israel today became the 34th country to sign the United Nations Opium Protocol, which is an interim agreement anticipating the conclusion of a single convention to deal with narcotic drugs as a whole. Mordecai Kidron, member of the Israel delegation at the U. N., signed the Protocol this morning in the office of Constantin Stavropoulos, head of the UN legal department.

JEWS IN U.S. ZONE OF GERMANY FORM CENTRAL COORDINATING BODY

MUNICH, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A "Joint Committee of the State Associations of Jewish Communities in Southern Germany" was constituted at a meeting here of delegates representing the state associations of Bavaria, Hesse and Wuertemberg.

The new committee, which has its seat in Stuttgart, named Josef Warscher, the executive secretary of the Jewish Community in Wuertemberg, as its managing secretary. Its purpose is to coordinate the activities and policies of the Jewish bodies in the American Zone, particularly with regard to the Central Council of the Jews in Germany and to the Central Welfare Agency, in both of which a "united front" of the South German communities is deemed desirable.

U.S. COMMISSIONER IN GERMANY EXTENDS JURISDICTION OF GERMAN COURTS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The State Department made known today that the United States High Commissioner in Germany signed two laws, both effective January 1, which will extend the jurisdiction of German courts over persons in Germany, including Jews, who are not United States personnel or dependents.

The new laws had been under study for several months and "are the latest in a series of steps taken since 1951 with the aim of eventually inactivating the HICOG courts," the announcement said.

NEO-NAZI PUBLICATION DEMANDS LAW PROHIBITING INTERMARRIAGE

MUNICH, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- "We propose that the German Bundestag introduce a law which would henceforth prohibit all marital union between Christians and Jews who were born in the Jewish faith, whether they still adhere to it or were later baptized," says the "Deutschland-Brief" in its current issue.

This neo-Nazi periodical, which appears in its fourth year, is published at Berchtesgaden, the site of Hitler's mountain retreat and a hotbed of unreconstructed Nazism. For a time the masthead listed Barcelona, Spain, as location of the editorial offices, presumably in an effort to forestall a possible ban by the German authorities, but it appears that such a subterfuge is no longer considered necessary because a Berchtesgaden address is again given.

EX-OFFICER OF RED ARMY TESTIFIES ON BIRO-BIDJAN IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Hershel Weinrauch, a former Jewish officer in the Soviet armed forces who escaped from the Soviet Union and is considered the only person now in the United States who has an intimate knowledge of life in Biro-Bidjan--the section of the USSR which was designated by the Soviet authorities before World War II to become a Jewish region--appeared here as a government witness in a case concerning the objection of the Internal Revenue Department to income tax reduction of contributions made in this country for work in Biro-Bidjan. Following Mr. Weinrauch's testimony, the defendants have been given 75 days in which to file briefs.

The case concerns Joseph Morgenstern of Cleveland, and his three children, who from 1945 to 1949 made substantial contributions to Biro-Bidjan which they deducted from their income tax as philanthropy. The family, which is engaged in the electric alarm manufacturing business, allegedly reported to have sent \$220,000 to Birobidjan, much of it in heavy machinery and contributed \$80,000 to Yikuf, a Jewish cultural farband in New York.

Internal Revenue purported to show through their questioning of Mr. Weinrauch that Birobidjan was a political entity, not a philanthropic one. Mr. Weinrauch's testimony indicated that much of the machinery sent probably never got beyond Moscow and its environs; the area was not Jewish in character and actually Jews were compelled and ordered to leave, he amongst them.

## PHOENIX RESIDENTS ORGANIZE TO BAN HATE-MONGERING MOVEMENT

PHOENIX, Ariz., Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The "Freedom of Choice" movement - an organization devoted to combatting anti-discrimination legislation to restore "freedom of choice" to American citizens - has selected Arizona as "the test site for a nation-wide campaign to spread a program described by opponents as 'hate-mongering and race bigotry,'" according to an expose published in the Arizona Republic and the Phoenix Gazette.

The movement, also known as "America Plus," is run by Aldrich Blake, of Laguna Beach, California. It has made four unsuccessful attempts to secure legislation in California which would permit racial and religious discrimination.

Blake was quoted by the newspapers as declaring that he was setting up the movement in this state because Arizona has no state civil rights code and he thought prospects would be better here. His movement, he said, would guarantee to businessmen, landlords and employers the right to choose patrons, tenants and employees. Eleven prominent citizens of Phoenix have already taken steps to organize an active opposition to Blake's activities here.

## JEWS IN CONNECTICUT OPPOSE DISTRIBUTION OF BIBLES IN SCHOOLS

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Efforts by the Gideon Society to secure authorization to distribute Gideon Bibles in the public schools of Connecticut towns came under attack today.

The Society has requested the boards of education in Willimantic and West Hartford for permission to distribute its Bibles in the schools. The Connecticut Jewish Community Relations Council has supplied to both school boards the text of the recent decision by the New Jersey State Supreme Court holding that distribution of Bibles in the public schools was a violation of the Constitutional separation of Church and State.

The New Jersey verdict was handed down in an action to prevent distribution of Bibles in the schools of Rutherford, N.J. Leo Pfeffer, attorney for the American Jewish Congress, prosecuted the case and argued the appeal before the New Jersey State Supreme Court.

### Gideons Organization to Appeal to U.S. Supreme Court

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Gideons International Organization made known here today that it will appeal to the United States Supreme Court to set aside the recent New Jersey Supreme Court ruling banning free distribution of the King James version Bibles to school children.

A statement issued by Gideons headquarters said the organization believed in the constitutional principle of separation of Church and State but felt the New Jersey court incorrectly interpreted the constitution by barring school children from receiving Bibles "with consent of parents."

It was said that a 1950 ruling later affirmed by the New Jersey Supreme Court held that New Testament Bibles could not be considered sectarian books. The new 1953 ruling maintains that a New Testament Bible is a sectarian book. Jewish organizations and other groups concerned with separation of Church and State hailed the New Jersey decision as a re-affirmation of traditional civil liberties.

EL AL ISRAEL AIRLINES ACQUIRES FOURTH CONSTELLATION IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The El Al Israel Airlines today announced the purchase of a fourth Constellation for the airline in the United States. The announcement, issued by Mr. Dror Galezer, the company's manager of finance and administration, said that the El Al administration in Israel is also planning to put new equipment into operation some time in 1955.

"The acquisition of the fourth transatlantic airliner will permit us to continue operations at the highest level of efficiency and will enable us to serve the public in the manner on which our reputation for safe, reliable and individualized service was carefully built over the last four and a half years. This addition to our fleet is indicative of the healthy commercial growth of El Al," commented Mr. Yehuda L. Koppel, commercial manager for the Americas of the Israel national flag carrier.

STEPHEN WISE AWARD PRESENTED TO SPEAKER OF ISRAEL PARLIAMENT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress' Stephen Wise Award was today presented here to Josef Sprinzak, Speaker of the Israel Parliament, at a special ceremony at the King David Hotel. The award, which carries a cash value of \$1,000, was given to Mr. Sprinzak for "his creative role in the development of parliamentary government and practices in the Jewish State."

The presentation of the award was made by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress, who is now here attending the Zionist Actions Committee session. Attending the ceremony were President Itzhak Ben Zvi of Israel, Acting Premier Moshe Sharett, Dr. Nahum Goldmann and other notables.

JEWISH WRITERS RECEIVE AWARDS IN MEXICO FOR THEIR WORKS

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Two Israeli writers, Isaiah Spiegel and Mendel Mann, and the Argentine Jewish journalist, Simcha Sned, today received literary awards of 250 dollars each given annually by the Zvi Kessel Fund for Jewish Literature. The fund is being administered by the Central Jewish Community of Mexico.

Mr. Spiegel received the prize for his book of short stories and ghetto life in Lodz. Mr. Mann received the award for his "The Awakened Earth." Mr. Sned was given the prize for his volume on World War II.

JEWISH OFFICER IN TURKISH ARMY RECEIVES U.S. DECORATION

ISTANBUL, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Lieutenant Isaac Cohen of this city, who served in Korea as volunteer in a Turkish military unit, is among 20 Turkish officers who received a United States Bronze Star this week for meritorious conduct. Last October another Jew who served with the Turkish forces in Korea received the same decoration.

LEO HALPERIN, VETERAN ZIONIST LEADER, DIES IN BUENOS AIRES

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Leo Halperin, a veteran Zionist leader, died here. Born in Poland, he came to Argentina in 1925. He was an active Zionist from his earliest youth and traveled through all Latin American countries on behalf of the Jewish National Fund.

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