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U. S. TO GIVE MILITARY AID TO ARABS; PLANS NO SUCH AID TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The United States Government is inclined to give military aid to Saudi Arabia and Iraq which are considered potential targets of Soviet attacks, but has no immediate plans to provide such aid for Israel, Lebanon or Syria since these countries are not in danger of a sudden Soviet invasion, it was indicated here today by a State Department spokesman.

The question of supplying free munitions to individual Arab states outside of the framework of a Near Eastern Defense Command is "under active consideration," the spokesman said. However, he emphasized that no final decision has yet been reached.

The State Department official pointed out that there is available for munitions for the Near East the sum of \$30,000,000 from Mutual Security Administration legislation for the current fiscal year, but none of this has yet been allocated.

While it is known that a military aid agreement may be concluded by the State Department very shortly with Saudi Arabia and later with Iraq, it was reported today that State Department officials indicated that they are not considering any arms aid to Israel at this time because they believe "the Israeli armed forces are fairly well supplied."

The State Department was reported last week as being close to an agreement with Egypt on arms shipments, but it was indicated today that this project has been temporarily delayed owing to violent protests from Britain. The British want Egypt to first conclude its negotiations on the precarious Anglo-Egyptian Suez Canal issue involving British evacuation of the Canal Zone.

In the British view the Egyptian position would be strengthened by any shipment of arms from the United States at present. In order to arrive at a solution favorable to British interests, it is felt in London that Washington should delay arms aid to Egypt.

Standardization of Arms for Arab Armies Discussed in Cairo

LONDON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The Arab League's military advisory committee met in Cairo yesterday to discuss the training of the various Arab armies, and standardization of arms, it was reported here today from the Egyptian capital.

CHAIRMAN OF CONGRESSIONAL GROUP REPORTS ON ARAB REFUGEES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The chairman of a House Foreign Affairs subcommittee returned to Washington from the Near East today with a report stating that the Arabs want "assurances that Israel will not expand its borders." The chairman, Rep. Lawrence Smith, Wisconsin Republican, headed a five-week study of the Arab refugee problem and plans to make a formal report to Congress later this week.

Rep. Smith stated he found 750,000 displaced Arabs, who, he said, "want: 1. The right to go back into Israel to resettle there if they wish; 2. Adequate compensation for the property seized, including bank accounts, and, 3. Assurances that Israel will not expand its borders."

The Congressman declared it was a "must" that problems creating the Arab refugee tension be solved and called on the United States and Britain to work toward that end. Israel-Arab tension represented "a potential for war," he stated. Rep. Smith is known to have inserted anti-Zionist matter in the Congressional Record in past years and has collaborated in activities of anti-Israel groups.

JORDAN WILL RESIST DIRECT TALKS WITH ISRAEL, ARABS WARN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The Arab press and radio today indicated that Jordan will resist moves by the United Nations and Western democracies to bring about direct Israel-Jordan talks.

A Damascus broadcast said: "The persistent efforts of the Western powers to bring about direct negotiations between the Tel Aviv authorities and the Arab states, reflect the mistaken belief that such negotiations will lead to peace and tranquility in the Middle East. We, however, do not share this belief. We are fully convinced that the only way to establish peace is to stop favoring Israel, to make her accept principles of justice, and to implement decisions of the United Nations relating to the Palestine question."

In Cairo the important daily "Al Misri" said: "The Security Council's decision opens the door to direct negotiations between Jordan and Israel beyond the framework of the armistice, and involves a wicked plan to draw the Arab states, one after the other, out of this framework. The existing unity of the Arab League states with regard to their commitments and agreements toward Israel would thus disintegrate."

FRANCE CONDEMNS EGYPTIAN SHIPPING BLOCKADE AGAINST ISRAEL

PARIS, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- A French Foreign Office spokesman has condemned Egyptian interference with Israeli-bound shipping through the Suez Canal, following receipt of an Israeli note to the French Government on the seizure of a cargo of kosher beef confiscated from an Italian vessel bound from Eritrea to Haifa. "Freedom of shipping through an international waterway is an unquestionable principle which must be respected," the spokesman emphasized.

It was learned, however, that France is not disposed to make an individual demarche to the Egyptian Government over the incident, as requested by the Israeli note, which was sent to the Big Three. France feels that such an individual protest would be useless and that only joint action by the great powers will bring results. Britain, however, is known not to be interested in such a move at this time.

ARAB LEAGUE TO DISCUSS U.S. PLAN FOR JORDAN RIVER WATERS

LONDON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Premier Mulki of Jordan met in Beirut with President Camille Chamoun of Lebanon and Lebanese Premier Abdullah Jaffi on the American project for developing the Jordan River waters for the benefit of Arabs and Israelis, it was reported from Beirut.

Mr. Mulki later stated that the American plan, as presented recently by Eric Johnston, President Eisenhower's personal envoy, would be considered from "technical" -- as distinct from political -- aspects when the Arab League Council meets in Cairo this Saturday.

Another report, from Beirut, said that at the Arab League Council meeting in Cairo, Syria will propose a federation of the Arab states. The Lebanese Government prefers an economic union instead of outright federation, the report added.

ISRAEL AND TURKEY EXPAND THEIR TRADE AGREEMENTS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Israel and Turkey have amended their trade agreement to permit a \$3,000,000 differential between imports and exports from one country to the other, it was revealed here today. In the past the "swing" between imports and exports have been limited to \$850,000.

Turkey recently cut off imports from Israel when the "swing" exceeded the limit, but the placement of large orders by Israel with Turkish firms and the increase in the "swing" limit have resulted in full resumption of trade.

EISENHOWER CONSIDERS EMERGENCY REFUGEE ACT A MAJOR ACCOMPLISHMENT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower, in his radio report to the American people, tonight described the adoption of the 1953 Emergency Refugee Act as one of the 12 major "accomplishments" of the new Administration.

Tonight's address contained no mention of the President's previous request for revision of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act, a request he addressed to Congress last year with no results.

The 1953 Refugee Act to which President Eisenhower referred tonight has been described by former Solicitor General Philip Perlman, chairman of a Presidential Commission on Immigration and Naturalization, as even worse than the McCarran-Walter Act.

The President will have another opportunity to repeat his 1952 request for McCarran-Walter revision on Thursday when he makes his State of the Union address to Congress. In his address tonight the President covered the whole field of immigration by merely saying "emergency immigration legislation has been enacted."

U.S. AGUDAH MEETING SUPPORTS OPPOSITION TO DRAFTING OF WOMEN

NEW YORK, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- A resolution voicing support of current efforts by some of the Orthodox groups in Israel to halt implementation of the law drafting religious women for non-military national service, was adopted here tonight at a public meeting sponsored by the Agudath Israel of America.

The meeting also heard reports on the latest developments in religious education in Israel. Guest speakers were Rabbi Zalman Ben-Yakov, member of the Israel Parliament, and Rabbi Menachem Porush, Jerusalem leader of the Agudath Israel.

SPEEDY ACTION DEMANDED ON INDEMNIFICATION PAYMENTS IN BAVARIA -

MUNICH, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- A request that all indemnification provisions in the Federal Indemnification Law which do not require specific implementation regulations be put into effect immediately, has been sent to the Bavarian Parliament by the "Advisory Council for Reparations Questions" and the Bavarian Council for Freedom and Justice, it was revealed here today.

The two organizations pointed out that work at the Bavarian Restitution Office has come to a virtual standstill while Federal implementation regulations are awaited. They insisted that without such regulations a great deal of work could be done in processing applications, making payments and advancing loans against claims, as well as searching pension claims. The stoppage of work at the Restitution Office is working a hardship on many Nazi victims, the organizations underlined.

It is understood that the number of claims processed dropped from some 1,700 in September to less than 100 in October and November.

EX-NAZI HEAD OF EXTERMINATION CAMP SENTENCED IN GERMANY

WUERZBERG, Germany, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- A German court here has sentenced Helmut Eschner, onetime assistant SS leader in the Grossrosen concentration camp, a satellite of the Oswiecim death camp, of complicity in murder, attempted murder and manslaughter and has sentenced him to 12 years in jail.

The prosecution, which had demanded a life sentence, charged that Eschner was responsible for the death of thousands of Jews and other camp inmates including a large number who had remained behind in 1945 when the camp was evacuated by the Nazis. The court found that a "causal relationship" had not been established between his proven mistreatment of prisoners and their subsequent death.

Six years ago he was convicted by a British military court in Hamburg of shooting 15 British prisoners of war and was sentenced to be hanged. For some unknown reason the sentence was never confirmed and he was released in 1948. He was subsequently sentenced to a four-year term by a denazification court, but was free again by 1949.

CANADA TO INTERCEDE WITH AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT ON JEWISH CLAIMS

MONTREAL, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The Canadian Government will use its good offices with the Austrian Government to seek resumption of the Austro-Jewish negotiations on restitution, the Canadian Jewish Congress was told by the Canadian External Affairs Department, the CJC revealed here.

The promise was made following a call at the Department's offices by CJC officials who requested that the Dominion Government take action similar to that of last summer when it intervened with the Austrian Government. The CJC delegation left a memorandum with the Department fully explaining the situation.

U. N. GROUP ON PROTECTION OF MINORITIES STARTS FOUR-WEEK SESSION

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities today opened its sixth session here. It is expected to last four weeks.

Max Sorenson of Denmark was elected chairman, Mohammed Awad of Egypt was named vice-chairman and John D. Ingles of the Philippines, rapporteur. Philip Halpern is the representative of the United States on the subcommission.

AUSTRALIA WILL RATIFY PACT ON STATUS OF REFUGEES, MINISTER SAYS

SYDNEY, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- Australia will shortly ratify the international Convention on the Status of Refugees, with certain reservations designed to prevent discrimination between refugees and other immigrants entering the country, R. G. Casey, Minister for External Affairs, has informed the Executive Council of Australian Jewry. Mr. Casey's statement was contained in a reply to several resolutions adopted at the recent annual conference of the Executive Council and forwarded to him.

Commenting on a resolution protesting the release of Nazi war criminals from Allied prisons and the growing infiltration of former Nazis into key positions in the German Government, the Minister said that the Allied Powers had reviewed the cases of war criminals and had reduced sentences or released prisoners where clemency appeared justified - perhaps because the prisoners had occupied relatively subordinate positions or because the courts had received new evidence.

ISRAEL AND PARIS GROUP SIGN PACT ON MEMORIAL FOR JEWISH MARTYRS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- An agreement has been signed here between Yad Veshem, Israeli institution for the establishment of a memorial in Israel in honor of the 6,000,000 Jews annihilated by the Nazis, and the Documentation Center of Paris, which is erecting a similar world memorial.

The agreement provides that the Yad Veshem will give assistance to the construction of the memorial in Paris. It also provides for the exchange of either originals or photographic copies of all documents pertaining to the destruction of European Jewry by the Nazis. Dr. Benzion Dinur, Israel's Minister of Education, signed the pact on behalf of Yad Veshem. Isaac Schneersohn signed it on behalf of the Documentation Center. The ceremony of signing the document took place under the chairmanship of Dr. Nahum Goldmann.

FIVE BOYS ARRESTED IN BALTIMORE FOR DESECRATING SYNAGOGUE

BALTIMORE, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- A raid on a West Baltimore synagogue which resulted in damage estimated at \$1,000 occurred over the week-end, according to a Baltimore police report which told of the arrest of five boys.

Benches and chairs were overturned, and the floor was littered with prayer books, glassware, silver, and wine. Upstairs cupboards had been broken into and ceremonial silver was bent, broken, or otherwise damaged. An undetermined amount of money was taken from collection boxes. The raid was considered juvenile vandalism motivated by anti-Semitism.

HADASSAH PLANTS FIRST OF 100,000 SAPLINGS IN KAPLAN WOOD IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 4. (JTA) -- The first of 100,000 saplings to be planted at the projected Kaplan Wood by the Hadassah were planted yesterday at Ein Karem, a Jerusalem suburb, at a ceremony attended by top government leaders.

Mrs. Devorah Kaplan, widow of Israel's first Minister of Finance, planted the first tree and President Ben Zvi planted the second. All the speakers at the ceremony stressed the many contributions made by Eliezer Kaplan to the shaping of the young state.

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