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U.S. POLICY TOWARDS MIDDLE EAST COUNTRIES OUTLINED BY EISENHOWER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7. (ITA) -- President Eisenhower, in his State of the Union message delivered to the new session of Congress, today declared that the United States "will show sympathetic and impartial friendship" towards the countries of the Middle East "where tensions and serious problems exist."

His statement was similar to the note struck by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles soon after his return last spring from a visit to Israel and the Arab states. The President also indicated that economic aid may be reduced for certain countries which he did not specify, emphasizing at the same time that "technical assistance must be maintained."

Circles in Washington concerned with economic support for Israel paid particular attention to the portion of the President's address which read: "The forthcoming budget message will propose maintenance of the Presidential power of transferability of all assistance funds and will ask authority to merge these funds with the regular defense funds. It will also propose that the Secretary of Defense have primary responsibility for the administration of foreign military assistance in accordance with the policy guidance of the Secretary of State."

Israel at present receives no American military assistance and only a minor amount of technical assistance compared with the considerable economic aid it has been enjoying.

President Omits Reference to Immigration Issue

Following the President's address in Congress, Sen. Herbert H. Lehman issued a statement pointing out that President Eisenhower made significant omissions in his State of the Union message, citing particularly the President's failure to urge revision of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act.

The Senator regretted "very much that the President saw fit to omit any reference to the need for drastic amendment of the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Naturalization Act."

Sen. Lehman pointed out that "while the President vaguely referred to progress made in the field of civil rights, there is no reference in the message to the need for fair employment legislation and other Federal civil rights measures. Indeed, his report and recommendations in the civil rights field are bare and discouraging."

The Senator stressed that Mr. Eisenhower made "no reference whatever to the need for recovering ground already lost in the field of civil liberties and in broadening the horizons of individual rights and freedoms."

CABINET CRISIS IN ISRAEL EXPECTED TO BE RESOLVED THIS WEEK-END

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament today rejected a proposal by Jochanan Bader, Herut leader, that it adopt a law empowering the President to dissolve Parliament if there is no legally constituted Cabinet for two consecutive months.

Opposing the proposal, which was presented in the form of an amendment to the election law, Justice Minister Pinchas Rosen noted that the Herut had opposed such a measure when the government had offered it three years ago. He called Mr. Bader's motion "absurd" because it would have provided automatic dissolution of the Knesset, while the law offered in 1950 by the then Premier David Ben Gurion would have given the President the right to dissolve Parliament if he was satisfied that no Cabinet could be formed.

The Cabinet crisis, which began last month with the resignation of Mr. Ben Gurion and his retirement to the settlement of Sdeh Boker, is expected to be resolved during the coming week-end.

ISRAEL MINISTER REPORTS TO KNESSET ON AGRICULTURAL GROWTH

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- Israel has doubled its area under cultivation in the last five years, Dr. Peretz Naphtali, Acting Minister of Agriculture, told Parliament today as he opened a debate on the government's plan for agriculture.

He also reported that livestock had doubled in that period and that 92 percent of the nation's farmers had achieved a good standard of living. Nonetheless, he said, agricultural self-sufficiency is not near. He said agricultural credit is tight, despite the high priority given to agriculture in the government's planning. He said that this sector of the economy could play an even more important role in achieving economic independence for Israel if it could produce more for export.

ARABS HESITANT ON ACTION AGAINST GERMANY FOR PAYMENTS TO ISRAEL

BONN, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- The Arab League's economic council has once again postponed action on a proposal to institute an Arab boycott of West Germany because of the latter's payment of reparations to Israel, it was reported here today from Cairo. The report said that as a result of conflicting proposals, it was decided that the delegates would confer with their governments and would discuss the matter again at the next meeting of the group on April 6.

One group was reported to have demanded a general boycott of West Germany, while another group proposed the more "moderate" idea of blacklisting individual German firms which supply reparations goods for Israel. Some delegates were said to have demanded a sweeping worldwide boycott of all nations which trade with Israel.

JEWISH AGENCY TO FLY STRANDED YEMENITE JEWS TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency today made arrangements to dispatch a plane to Aden, following receipt of a report that 38 Yemenite Jews had crossed the desert surrounding Aden and were now in the British colony awaiting transportation to Israel. They are part of a group of some 350 Yemenite Jews, most of whom are still travelling in the desert.

AMERICAN ORT SENT \$11,437,862 ABROAD SINCE END OF WORLD WAR II

NEW YORK, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- A total of \$11,437,862 has been sent abroad since the end of World War II by the American ORT Federation for the retraining of some 150,000 Jews in ORT vocational training schools in 19 countries, Dr. William Haber, ORT president, reported here today on the eve of the annual meeting of the ORT board of directors Saturday evening.

Assurance of the continuation of American financial support during 1954 to 270 vocational schools and workshops abroad will be the main problem to come before the meeting, which will hear a report of the financial agreement between the Joint Distribution Committee and the ORT. Dr. Abram L. Sachar, president of Brandeis University and a member of the ORT board, will deliver the guest address at the meeting.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT ACQUIRES TWO HOUSES IN CANADA FOR ITS LEGATION

OTTAWA, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- The Israel Government has purchased two houses in this city to provide headquarters for its legation and living quarters for Minister Michael Comay.

Since August, the Israeli legation staff has been operating out of a hotel here because of its inability to find adequate quarters. The current housing shortage in Ottawa has affected eight foreign missions, including Israel, and all have been living and working in hotels.

RECORD WITH WORDS "HEAR YE ISRAEL" CONFISCATED IN EGYPT

LONDON, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- A British businessman who travelled to Egypt had one of his phonograph records confiscated by Egyptian customs officials because it had the word "Israel" in it, the Daily Express reported today.

The Express report said that the businessman, who entered Egypt with a number of records from his personal collection, was halted at customs until all had been played by the officials. The confiscated record was Mendelsohn's "Elijah" oratorio which begins with the words "Hear Ye Israel."

ANNIVERSARY OF JAKOB WASSERMAN'S DEATH COMMEMORATED IN GERMANY

FRANKFURT, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- German publications this week carried essays and literary appraisals recalling the death, 20 years ago, of Jakob Wassermann, the great novelist who throughout a productive life labored to prove himself both German and Jew. He could not survive the collapse of his world, and in the first year of Nazism died of a broken heart.

French director Julien Duvivier has just made Wassermann's "The Maurizius Case" into a film that will have its premiere in Paris next March. Wassermann was born in the ancient Jewish community of Fuerth in 1873 and traced his family in that region back for 600 years.

MOSHE MELAMED, JEWISH NOVELIST, DIES IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 7. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Moshe Melamed, Jewish novelist who for many years was on the editorial staff of the now defunct Philadelphia Jewish World. He died here Tuesday night at the home of his son. Born in Bessarabia in 1882, he came to the United States in 1905 and settled in Philadelphia.

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