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ISRAEL WANTS TO HAVE OBSERVER AT BERLIN MEETINGS OF BIG POWERS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The Israel Government will make an approach to the Big Four requesting that an Israel observer be permitted to sit in on all committee sessions at the Berlin conference on a German peace treaty which will open toward the end of this month, it was reported here today. Israel will dispatch an observer to Berlin to report on questions relating to the peace pact which are of concern to Israel.

It was stated that the Israeli Foreign Office would dispatch a memorandum to the Big Four outlining the reasons for Israel's request. It will state that although Israel did not exist as a nation during the war, it is morally entitled to participate in the parley because Hitler proclaimed the Jewish people an enemy of the German state and because Jews fought on all fronts and in all armies against the Germans.

RELIGIOUS GROUPS SUBMIT CONDITIONS FOR JOINING ISRAEL CABINET

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Leaders of the Mizrahi and Hapoel Hamizrachi--the two religious groups with whom Acting Premier Moshe Sharett is now negotiating for their entrance into a reorganized Israel Cabinet--today revealed at a press conference here that they have submitted seven demands as conditions for their participation in the new coalition government.

The seven demands deal chiefly with religious education, prohibition of pig breeding in Israel and the regularization of work on Saturdays for certain branches of life in Israel where such work is imperative to the interests of the state. One of the demands stipulates the appointment of a religious Deputy Minister of Education.

In a statement to the press, Moshe Shapiro, Minister of Religion who is one of the principal leaders of the Hapoel Hamizrachi, said today that the demands presented by the religious groups are not new. "The bulk of them," he declared, "were promised when the former Cabinet was to be formed, but to our regret were not fulfilled by the Cabinet's majority." He insisted especially on the appointment of a religious Deputy Minister of Education.

The formation of a new Cabinet depends at the present moment on the reaching of an inter-party agreement with the Orthodox groups, since the Mapai and the General Zionists--the two leading parties represented in the Cabinet--have already come to an agreement between themselves.

AUSTRIAN EMBASSY IN U.S. ISSUES STATEMENT ON JEWISH CLAIMS

NEW YORK, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- A statement admitting that the question of Jewish claims for heirless property in Austria "is still awaiting final settlement" was issued today by the Austrian Embassy through its consulate here.

The statement says that "according to the records of the Austrian Government not more than \$1,000,000 to \$1,500,000 worth of heirless property would now be available" and claims that the rest of the heirless Jewish property was "destroyed during the war or is still being administered as so-called 'German assets' by the Soviet occupation authorities."

"The Jewish organizations," the statement declares, "have on their part submitted claims upwards to \$40,000,000, based on a rough estimate not of the present value of such heirless property, but on the general losses suffered by Austrian Jews under German occupation in the years of 1938 to 1945.

"The Austrian Government," the statement continues, "has stated repeatedly that Austria does not want to enrich herself with Nazi loot and is therefore ready to provide for the use of the still available heirless property for the Nazi victims. The Austrian Government declines, however, most categorically to pay compensation over and above these values for wrongs it did not commit and that it could not prevent because it was itself the victim of the circumstances.

"There is, of course, a fundamental difference between 'restitution,' meaning the return of the property still in existence, and 'compensation,' which means indemnifying for losses, a distinction not always clearly conceived by those who comment on that issue. The Austrian Government wishes to restitute, but refuses to compensate, because it is of course not responsible for the deeds of the German Reich," the statement emphasizes.

Says Bulk of Jewish Property Was Returned

Asserting that "the bulk of Jewish property had already been returned to the former owners or their legal heirs" under the existing restitution laws, the Austrian Embassy statement declares: "An obstacle to a speedy disposition of the heirless property which the Jewish organizations apparently overlooked, but which is very much in the mind of the Austrian authorities, is that under Article 44 of the present Austrian Treaty Draft such property, rights and interests have to 'remain heirless or unclaimed for six months after the coming into force of the present Treaty' before they are to be handed over 'to appropriate agencies or organizations to be designated by the Four Heads of Mission in Vienna in agreement with the Austrian Government.'"

"Naturally, the Austrian Government would be reluctant to dispose of property for which claims may under the Treaty still be put forward at some later date. Also the Austrian Government has no desire to make a settlement which under the above mentioned article may be contested by the Four Powers at any future time. Pending the conclusion of the Treaty, adequate action would therefore have to be taken by or in conjunction with the four occupation powers, permitting the Austrian Government to consider heirless any property that remains unclaimed at a specified date and consenting to its disposal according to the wishes of the Jewish organizations."

Taking issue with the fact that the Austrian negotiations have been compared to negotiations between the Governments of Germany and Israel and Jewish organizations, the statement says: "Such comparison, however, is misleading: Germany has accepted responsibility for the wrongs done to Jews not only in Germany, but also

in countries under German occupation and has therefore agreed to compensate the victims or their heirs and survivors. Austria, which was one of the countries occupied by Germany, has no such obligation and the Israeli Government has never approached the Austrian Government in that respect. Austria has, however, the obligation and the desire to return stolen property, rights and interests and it has carried out this obligation to the general satisfaction of all concerned, only the question of heirless property still awaiting final settlement."

Jews Will Continue to Seek Reparations from Austria, Goldmann Says

VIENNA, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Emil Maurer and Wilhelm Krell, president and general secretary, respectively, of the Board of Jewish Communities in Austria, today returned from Zurich where they conferred with Dr. Nahum Goldmann, head of the Jewish Claims Committee, on the attitude of the Austrian Government toward the Jewish claims for indemnification and restitution arising from Nazi persecution of Austrian Jews.

The Board of Jewish Communities stated that Dr. Goldmann had told the Austrian leaders that strong bitterness had been aroused in Jewish circles by the Austrian Government's sudden reversal of position on the Jewish demands. Dr. Goldmann also pledged that the world Jewish organizations would continue to press the claims against the Austrian Government, and will make known to world opinion the arguments presented by the Austrian Government for not meeting the Jewish claims.

ISRAEL-GERMAN TALKS ON PROPERTY OF "TEMPLARS" RESUMED IN ROME

ROME, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Delegates from Germany, Israel and Australia gathered in the Italian capital yesterday to determine the amount of compensation which the Jewish State should pay for the holdings left behind by Protestant "Templars" when they were deported by the Mandatory Palestine Government during the war, because of their avowed Nazi sympathies.

The "Templars" are a Swabian sect who settled in Palestine during the 19th century and, after many vicissitudes, prospered as farmers. Almost all of them embraced Hitlerism with such vigor that, at the time of Rommel's advances in Africa, the British shipped them to Australia as a precautionary measure. About half of them remain there, the other half are making their way to Germany.

Negotiations were begun in Copenhagen last July and recessed in August, after a tentative agreement had been reached that there should be a blanket settlement of all Templar claims rather than individual indemnification. The Israel delegation, both in Copenhagen and now in Rome, is led by Gershon Miron, top executive of the "Delek" National Petroleum Company of Israel. It also includes Chaim Kadmon, the General Administrator of Israel National Property, and Eli Nathan, of the Israel Foreign Office Legal Department.

Because many of the Templars have become Australian citizens by now, an observer of the Australian Government is also present. The German delegation is headed by Dr. Wolff, of the Ministry of Finance, and by Dr. Abraham Frowein, a non-Jewish lawyer who is in charge of the Israel desk in the German Foreign Office.

HEAD OF ISRAEL MISSION ATTENDS RECEPTION OF GERMAN PRESIDENT

BONN, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Pinchas Shinnar, head of the Israel purchasing mission in West Germany, who carries the personal rank of Minister, this week attended an official reception at the residence of German President Theodor Heuss. This is the first official German reception attended by Dr. Shinnar. His invitation came from Archbishop Muench, Papal Nuncio, and dean of the diplomatic corps in Bonn.

FRANKFURT COURT COMPLETES WRITTEN VERDICT IN "JEWISH BANK" CASE

FRANKFURT, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Twenty weeks after the sentences were announced, a local court this week concluded the drafting of a written verdict in the case of the former "Jewish Restitution Bank" in Frankfurt. Later in the month copies will be transmitted to the parties concerned.

In German judicial practice, the judge generally issues his written decision not long after he has pronounced the oral sentence. Presiding Judge Hofmeyer, whose neo-Nazi and anti-Semitic utterances from the bench in another case caused a nationwide outcry three years ago, labored five months to give reasons for the unexpectedly severe jail terms and fines he handed down last summer, at the end of a trial stretching over ten months.

The heaviest penalty he imposed upon Dr. Joseph Klibansky, Germany's best-known Jewish attorney, who was mainly charged with the violation of foreign-currency control regulations. This action evoked strong criticism in democratic German papers, which intimated that the sentence showed the earmarks of anti-Jewish prejudice and of personal antagonism toward Dr. Klibansky.

After they receive the "written grounds," the defendants will have two weeks to file detailed appeals briefs with the German Supreme Court in Karlsruhe. That body, because of its overcrowded docket, can hardly pass on them before 1955. If they are sustained, as most observers expect, the entire case will have to be referred back to a Frankfurt court for retrial of those 1949-50 transactions, by which "blocked accounts" were transferred to their Jewish owners abroad at a time when such transfers could not yet be accomplished in legal fashion.

Dr. Klibansky, who serves as legal adviser to the Association of Jewish Communities in Hesse and defended the late Dr. Philipp Auerbach during the latter's sensational trial in Munich, continues to practice law.

MAYOR, CHURCH MEMBERS LEAVE MEETING WHEN EX-NAZI ASSAILS JEWS

HANOVER, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- At a German Memorial Day celebration held in the nearby township of Dudensen, former local Nazi Party leader Fritz Knigge, who was the official speaker, blamed the "Jewish banking fraternity" for having driven the world into war.

To a protest by a Lutheran minister named Wesemann, Knigge retorted: "Probably you're a Jew yourself!" Incensed at this remark, the clergyman and members of the church vestry, as well as the mayor, stalked out of the celebration.

GERMAN DOCTOR ARRIVES IN ISRAEL TO EXAMINE NAZI VICTIMS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- A German doctor, Laura Sheffer, has arrived in Israel with the consent of the Israel Government, to examine victims of Nazi "medical" experiments, it was learned here today.

This development followed Israeli representations to the West German Government for indemnification for physical disabilities suffered in Nazi "scientific" experiments by "human guinea pigs" who are now citizens of Israel. Dr. Sheffer, who studied Hebrew specifically for this mission, received her visa from the Israeli mission at Cologne. Her whereabouts in Israel are not known, but it is understood that she will begin her examination of the victims next week.

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER EVASIVE ON REVISION OF IMMIGRATION LAW

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower today left the door open for a decision on pressing for revision of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act by evading a direct reply to a question whether there was any significance to the omission to mention the issue in his State of the Union message to Congress.

The question was posed at his press conference today by a Jewish Telegraphic Agency representative who asked whether there was any significance to the omission of reference to revision of the McCarran-Walter Act and if the President still favored revision.

The President replied that there was nothing significant in the omission. As a matter of fact, there were many, many things omitted, and he thought that he had stated that some of the things omitted would be the subject of later comment. It happens that this year, up until this time, the details of any studies made on the McCarran Act by the responsible departments have not been submitted to him. And therefore whether he is going to recommend immediate revision, he cannot say for certain.

The House Judiciary Committee decided today to tighten rules which in some cases have permitted "undesirable" aliens to remain in this country. Committee chairman Chauncey Reed said the new rules, however, will speed action on bills to allow desirable aliens to remain.

Rep. Reed explained that under the present system, deportation proceedings against illegally entered or undesirable aliens are halted automatically when a Congressman introduces a special bill to permit the alien to remain here. Almost 2,000 such bills are pending before the committee now.

In some cases, however, individual Congressmen have not been able to investigate fully. Further checks with the Justice Department show that the case is not worthy, and the special bill is killed. But there is a long delay before deportation proceedings are renewed. Some times the alien cannot be located. Under the new rules, deportation proceedings will not be halted automatically upon the introduction of a special bill unless the Congressman sponsoring the bill gives complete information on the case, Rep. Reed said.

EISENHOWER OPPOSES BRICKER RESOLUTION; JEWISH GROUPS AGAINST IT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower indicated today that he and Sen. John Bricker, author and principal sponsor of a proposed Constitutional amendment which would prevent American ratification of such United Nations agreements as the Genocide Pact and Convention on Human Rights, have been unable to agree on a compromise.

The President said he believed in states' rights and would never subscribe to any treaty he felt contravened the Constitution.

Jewish organizations and other groups concerned with human rights and individual liberties have urged the President to strongly oppose the Bricker Resolution and any compromise based upon it.

PROF. SHULMAN NAMED HEAD OF YALE LAW SCHOOL

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Prof. Harry Shulman, Yale University Sterling Professor of Law and a nationally known labor relations arbitrator, was yesterday named dean of the Yale University Law School by president A. Whitney Griswold. The 50-year-old professor, who was born in Russia, was law secretary to the late Associate Justice of the Supreme Court Louis D. Brandeis.