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STATE DEPT. SAYS U. S. DOES NOT DISCRIMINATE AGAINST ISRAEL IN ARMS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The State Department today said that there had been no discrimination against Israel in the issuance of arms export licenses by the United States. At the same time, the State Department declared that the "volume of requests for such licenses for Israel has greatly exceeded those of the Arab states, as have the arms shipments from commercial sources."

The statement was seen here as a reply to a letter to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles signed by six Senators and 29 Congressmen of both parties and made public here yesterday. That letter protested American plans for granting military assistance to Arab states which were still technically in a state of war with Israel. The Department's statement today referred to export licenses granted for the shipment of arms bought in this country.

The Department's statement noted that the general policy of the U. S. on arms shipments to Israel and the Arab states had been laid down in the tripartite declaration of May 25, 1950 at which time the U. S., Britain and France "recognized that the Arab countries and Israel all need to maintain a certain level of armed forces for the purpose of insuring their internal security and their legitimate self-defense and to permit them to play their part in the defense of the area as a whole."

The State Department today also noted that the three powers had pledged to consider all arms requests in the light of these circumstances and that they had "also declared their opposition to the development of an arms race between Israel and the Arab countries." Finally, the Department noted that the facts concerning shipments in today's statement pertained only to the United States and not to any other exporting countries.

ISRAEL BONDS TO GO ON SALE THROUGHOUT WORLD APRIL 1

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The flotation of Israel bonds on a worldwide basis will be initiated April 1, Henry Montor, vice-chairman and chief executive officer of the Israel Bond Drive Organization, announced today.

He revealed that arrangements have already been concluded for the sale of Israel bonds in Switzerland and Holland and that the Israel Finance Minister, Levi Eshkol, has been given authority to make arrangements for the sale of bonds in countries which have currency restrictions in effect.

Speaking of the bond sales campaign in the United States, Mr. Montor said that prospects for sales are now better than he would have predicted several months ago. He expressed the opinion that the present downturn in American business life will not adversely affect bonds, and reported that the bond organization had sold \$140,000,000 worth of securities in a mass campaign. He said that recent events compel American Jewry to increase its vigilance in Israel's behalf.

JORDAN REPORTEDLY REJECTED U. N. CALL FOR MEETING WITH ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Jordan has replied negatively to United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold's request for a direct meeting with Israel, as demanded by Israel under the provisions of the armistice agreement, it was stated tonight in United Nations circles.

It was also stated here that the reply was received by the secretariat last week. The reply has not yet been released here.

The Jordan Government replied once before in the negative, suggesting that any problem between Israel and itself could be handled through the UN-chaired Mixed Armistice Commission. Mr. Hammarskjold referred the matter to the Arab Government for a second time and, when an early reply was not forthcoming, indicated publicly that he would not wait too long for it.

Israel called for the meeting under Article XII of the armistice agreement which states that either party to the agreement may call for a direct meeting of both parties to consider changes in the agreement. Israel and the Secretary General have taken the position that a meeting is mandatory under the pact.

It was learned here that Israel delegate Abba Eban met with Soviet delegate Andrei Vishinsky late last week to discuss the Israeli complaint to the Security Council against Egypt's blockade of Israel-bound goods in the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Eilat. The details of the meeting were not available. During two Security Council sessions last Thursday and Friday the Soviet delegate sided with the Arab states.

ISRAEL DENIES LEBANESE CHARGES OF PLOTTING AGAINST ARAB STATE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Lebanese charges that a group of saboteurs was working for Israel on Lebanese soil today received emphatic denial from the Israeli military spokesman. He said Israel had no connection whatever with the gang the Lebanese authorities assertedly had uncovered there and indicated belief that the gang was probably involved in inter-Arab feuds.

Israel, he said, "has no hostile intentions towards The Lebanon, its government or its president."

ISRAEL COMPLAINS TO MIXED ARMISTICE COMMISSIONS OF ARAB ATTACKS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Israel has called for an emergency meeting of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission following a shooting incident this weekend in which an Israeli border guard was severely wounded.

A Syrian-owned flock crossed into cultivated fields of the Israeli settlement of Dardara on Friday. When the border guards sought to drive the sheep back, heavy fire was opened on them from behind the frontier.

Israel today lodged a protest with the Egyptian-Israel Mixed Armistice Commission against an attack by an armed gang of Arabs from Egyptian territory on Israeli Bedouins in the demilitarized zone near El Auja. The Egyptians invaded the demilitarized zone, opened fire on the Bedouin herdsmen and then made off with 18 camels.

In an incident near the Jordan frontier, a group of armed marauders crossed into Israel territory yesterday and drove off a flock of 64 sheep.

16 JEWS REPORTED ARRESTED AS "ZIONISTS AND COMMUNISTS" IN EGYPT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Sixteen Jews have been arrested in Alexandria on charges of "Zionist and Communist activities," the evening newspaper Hador reported today.

369 AGRICULTURAL SETTLEMENTS ESTABLISHED IN ISRAEL IN SIX YEARS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- A total of 369 agricultural settlements have been established in Israel since the state was established nearly six years ago, the Agriculture Ministry reported today.

Of this total, 203 were smallholders settlements for new immigrants and 93 collective settlements. The report added that during the past year 129,000 dunams (32,250 acres) of land were irrigated. New settlements now possess some 20,000 head of cattle, the report said.

10,000 IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL LAST YEAR, AGENCY REPORTS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- A total of 10,347 immigrants arrived in Israel in 1953, including almost 5,000 from Morocco, Tunis and Libya, the Jewish Agency announced today. The number of immigrants from Asian countries was 2,793, while nearly 1,000 came from Eastern Europe and another 747 from Western Europe.

ROLE OF ISRAEL LABOR MOVEMENT PRAISED BY BRITISH LABOR LEADERS

LONDON, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The role of the labor movement in the development of Israel and its influence on the democratic movement in the Middle East were lauded at a meeting of the British-Asian Socialist Fellowship here yesterday. Among those who paid tribute to Israel and its institutions were Aneurin Bevan, leftwing Labor leader, who recently returned from Israel, and Kenneth Younger, Minister of State in the late Labor Government.

Mr. Bevan suggested that if British Labor leaders wanted to renew their faith in democracy and socialism they should live a few weeks in an Israeli kibbutz. Major Younger spoke of the close ties uniting Britain and Israel.

Dr. S. Levenburg, Jewish Agency representative in London, said that Israel welcomed the Fellowship as a new link with the British Labor movement, whose ideals it shared. Commenting on a speech by a Lebanese Socialist delegate to the conference, Dr. Levenburg declared there was nothing Israel would rather see in the Arab countries than the emergence of a genuine labor movement imbued with democratic ideals.

Clement R. Atlee, former Labor Prime Minister, was named president of the Fellowship, while Mr. Younger was elected chairman and Dr. Levenberg, treasurer.

ISRAEL-ARGENTINE TRADE, CULTURAL RELATIONS DISCUSSED BY DIPLOMATS

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Dr. Arie Kubovy, Israel Minister to the Argentine, today called on Foreign Minister Dr. Jeronimo Remorino.

The two men discussed Argentine-Israel trade relations, which will shortly be the subject of new trade pact negotiations, the Argentine supply of beef to Israel, and mutual cultural relations between the two states within the framework of the treaty signed last year by Israel Premier Moshe Sharett, then Foreign Minister, when he visited the Argentine. Dr. Kubovy expressed satisfaction with the fact that the Argentine Government recently granted import licenses for Israeli goods.

ISRAEL CONSULATE PICKETED IN PROTEST AGAINST DRAFT OF WOMEN

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Several hundred men and women today picketed the Israel consulate here in protest against the conscription of Orthodox young women for national non-military service in Israel.

The pickets, responding to a call by a group which identified itself as the National Committee to Repeal the Women's Draft in Israel, carried placards and shouted slogans opposing conscription of women and demanding "democracy in Israel." The group included a number of rabbis.

WOMEN PLEDGE \$1,000,000 TO START NEW YORK UNITED JEWISH APPEAL DRIVE

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Close to \$1,000,000 was pledged to the 1954 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York by 500 leading women contributors today. The gifts were announced at two fund-raising luncheons that followed the Women's Division's opening rally.

Israel's Consul General in New York, Avraham Harman, addressing the rally, appealed for continuing support by Americans of the UJA-financed programs of immigrant absorption and agricultural development that have helped the people of Israel withstand the efforts of hostile neighbors to bring about the collapse of Israel through "economic siege and blockade."

Meanwhile, the national UJA announced that Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt and Edward M. M. Warburg, the UJA's general chairman, would be the featured speakers at the UJA's National Inaugural Conference in Miami Beach February 19-21. More than 900 community leaders will attend the parley.

The Labor Council of the UJA, made up of Labor Zionist organizations, will open its special 1954 drive March 6 with a midwestern mobilization in Chicago, according to Dr. James G. Heller, president of the Council.

PITTSBURGH JEWS TO RAISE \$300,000 FOR HULEH PROJECT IN ISRAEL

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- "The Jewish National Fund evokes the centrality of the idea of land in the Jewish scheme of values as a normalizing agency in Jewish life," declared Edward Gelber, president of the Canadian Zionist Organization, who was the guest speaker at the 11th annual JNF dinner, which was attended by more than 1,000 people who filled the ballroom of the William Penn Hotel.

Judge Henry Ellenbogen, who was toastmaster, announced that the second installment of \$300,000 that Pittsburgh undertook for the Huleh project will be completed by next year.

Mr. Gelber emphasized particularly the importance of spiritual values in the building of the State and said that the Holy Writ, the Hebrew language, and the land are the eternal values which give Jewish existence purpose and meaning. It was one of the largest functions ever sponsored here by the JNF.

GOVERNMENT ACTS TO PROTECT OWNERS OF STATE OF ISRAEL BONDS

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The Israel Government, in accordance with its policy of currency control, has adopted a regulation prohibiting the mailing of Israel Bonds into Israel, it was reported here today by the Israel Bond Organization.

The bond organization pointed out that the new regulation bears no relationship to the mailing of Israel bonds within the United States. It was stated that the Israel Government's action was taken to safeguard the rightful owners of State of Israel Bonds and to prevent their unauthorized use and to avoid speculation.

ALLIANCE TIRE AND RUBBER COMPANY OF ISRAEL PAYS FIRST DIVIDEND

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The Alliance Tire and Rubber Company of Israel, in which a number of American investors are interested, has declared its first dividend of three percent on the company's earnings between April and September, 1953, Arthur Taubman, president of the company, announced. The payment, which was made after only one year of operations, will be paid at once, the announcement said.

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE APPROVES SOBELOFF AS SOLICITOR GENERAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The Senate Judiciary Committee today approved the nomination of Judge Simon Sobeloff to be Solicitor General of the United States. Judge Sobeloff's nomination will now go before the full Senate for final confirmation.

BERLIN POLICE CLUB YOUTHS DEMONSTRATING AGAINST HARLAN FILMS

BERLIN, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Berlin police today clubbed students and youths demonstrating against the showing here of postwar films of Veit Harlan, Nazi producer of the anti-Semitic film "Jew Seuss."

Small groups of youths, composed of students and members of Socialist youth movements, congregated outside several motion picture houses to protest the showing of Harlan's films. They were soon opposed by Harlan supporters who shouted anti-Semitic slogans at them. The subsequent clash brought police to the scene, and they used rubber truncheons to scatter the demonstrators.

After the clashes, Berlin trade union and Social Democratic Party leaders called on the Acting Mayor of West Berlin to order the film banned at least during the time the Big Four Ministers are meeting in this city. Earlier, a number of public figures issued a joint declaration protesting the showing of the films.

So far the protests and the clashes have succeeded in convincing only one theatre management here to remove the film. All others are playing to capacity houses.

The films, previously banned in many cities of West Germany, following protests and riots against Harlan, have been appearing in one city after another, after civil suits by Harlan and his backers against municipal bans. Until this week Berlin and Frankfurt held out, but this week cinemas in both cities began to show the film.

There were no protests against it in Frankfurt. A representative of the Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation, which spearheaded the campaign against Harlan's return to the German film scene, admitted today that "we're licked."

ITALIAN JEWS OBJECT TO PLACING TRACING SERVICE UNDER GERMANS

ROME, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The Union of Italian Jewish Communities is drafting a memorandum to the Italian Foreign Ministry requesting its intervention to prevent the files and administration of the International Tracing Service from being turned over to the Germans after the conclusion of a peace pact between West Germany and the Western Allies.

The memorandum will point out that in effect such an action would violate all principles of law and would place the files of the ITS in the hands of the very party against whom they might logically be used. The memorandum will suggest that either the files, now at Arolson, Germany, be placed under an international commission--including the Allies, Israel and Italy--or be turned over to the International Red Cross.

BELGIAN STATESMAN HONORED FOR AIDING JEWS DURING NAZI OCCUPATION

BRUSSELS, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Leon Platteau, director-general of the Belgian Foreign Ministry, was today presented with a Jewish Resistance medal for the leading role he played in helping save 3,000 Belgian Jewish children from death at the hands of the Nazis.

M. Platteau, a high official of the Ministry of Justice during World War II, at grave personal risk cooperated with a Resistance group composed of Belgian Jews and non-Jews centered around the "Comite de Defense des Juifs."

The medal presented to M. Platteau today bears the inscription: "To Leon Platteau From Grateful Jewish Children." It was presented by Prof. Chaim Perelman, a leader of the Jewish Resistance during the Nazi occupation, at a meeting of the Youth Aliyah Committee here.

DUTCH HONOR JEW WHO BECAME THEIR FIRST WOMAN DOCTOR

THE HAGUE, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- A number of celebrations in various parts of Holland tomorrow will mark the 100th anniversary of the birth of Mrs. Aletta Jacobs, a leading feminist who became Holland's first woman medical student and practicing physician. Mrs. Jacobs died in 1929 at the age of 75.

PREMIER NAMED HONORARY CHAIRMAN OF CANADIAN BROTHERHOOD WEEK

MONTREAL, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Canadian Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent has accepted the post of honorary chairman of Brotherhood Week in this country. The Week, sponsored by the Canadian Council of Christians and Jews, will be held from February 21 through 28, the same period as in the United States.

DR. LEO DAVIDOFF APPOINTED TO FACULTY OF EINSTEIN MEDICAL COLLEGE

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Dr. Leo M. Davidoff, internationally known neurosurgeon, has been named Professor and chairman of the Department of Surgery at the Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshiva University, sponsor of the college, announced. This is the first appointment to the faculty of the college, which is expected to open for the fall semester of 1955.

Dr. Davidoff, who has also been named Director of Surgery of the Bronx Municipal Hospital, with which the college will be connected, is at present Director of Neurological Surgery at Beth Israel Hospital and has held professorial academic appointments at the College of Physicians and Surgeons of Columbia University and the New York University College of Medicine as well as leading posts at other hospitals. He served on a number of medical missions for the Unitarian Service Committee and the World Health Organization to Israel, Iran, Poland, Finland and Czechoslovakia.

AGREEMENT BETWEEN YIVO, ISRAEL MEMORIAL TO MARTYRS ANNOUNCED

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The signing of an agreement between the Yiddish Scientific Institute (YIVO) and Yad Veshem, the memorial projected for construction in Israel in memory of the six million European Jews martyred by the Nazis, was announced here last night at the YIVO annual dinner by Avraham Harmon, Israel Consul General. The agreement envisions the YIVO doing documentation work on files and papers which eventually will be stored in the library attached to the memorial.

In his address, Mr. Harmon declared that while no one could resurrect the murdered Jews, "nobody can take from us the rich treasure of culture and spirit which they produced." He added that it is "our duty and our desire" to weave this treasure into the fabric of the life of the Jewish people.

The YIVO sent greetings to the "well known scientist and writer, Itzhak BenZvi," who is the President of Israel.

RELIGION IN CLASSROOMS TO BE STUDIED BY TEACHER TRAINING UNIT

CHICAGO, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- A five-year project to prepare prospective teachers to deal directly and objectively with religion in their classrooms will rate major consideration by the representatives of 269 colleges and universities at the sixth annual meeting of the American Association of Colleges for Teacher Education here, February 11 through 13.

The teacher education and religion project, a division of the National Education Association, is expected to develop a program which will give greater emphasis to religion as an aspect of education in the preparation of teachers in all member institutions of the Association.

DR. GEORGE LANDAUER, A FOUNDER OF YOUTH ALIYAH MOVEMENT, DIES

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Dr. George Landauer, who played an active role in the Zionist movement in Germany and Palestine, died here this weekend at the age of 57. He headed the German Department of the Jewish Agency at one time and in 1935 became one of the founders of the Youth Aliyah movement. After the war he headed the Agency office in Munich and was active in the campaign for improved restitution legislation in West Germany.