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SECURITY COUNCIL HEARS EGYPT'S ARGUMENTS ON ANTI-ISRAEL BLOCKADE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Egypt today insisted at the United Nations Security Council that it has the right to search Israel-bound ships passing through the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Ellath, and charged the Israel complaint against the Egyptian restrictions lacked "seriousness."

Major General Abdel Hamid Ghaleb, member of the Egyptian delegation, told the Security Council that although Israel and Egypt have signed an armistice agreement, a state of war still exists between the two countries. "A state of war gives belligerents certain rights," he said. "Foremost among them is the uncontested right of visit and search of ships in territorial waters, in ports, in mid-ocean and in enemy waters, with a view to confiscating what is legally considered war contraband," he argued.

Emphasizing that he bases his argument on "rules of international law," the Egyptian representative claimed that "nowhere in the U. N. Charter could a provision be found to modify these rules." He emphasized that Egypt will continue its practice of searching ships bound for Israel through the Suez Canal "until a state of peace is established and as long as our very existence is threatened by aggressive and hostile Zionism."

Israel Says Blockade Does not Violate International Pact

Gen. Ghaleb insisted that the Egyptian blockade against Israel does not violate the Constantinople Convention of 1888. He claimed that this international pact which safeguards the free use of the Suez Canal in peace and war, without distinction of flag, reserved to Egypt "full defensive rights."

"With Zionist expansion growing from a nightmare into an ugly daylight fact, with the threats of Israel to force her flagships through the Suez Canal and Egyptian territorial waters, could the United Nations organ established for the preservation of peace deny Egypt her right to self-preservation?" the Egyptian representative argued.

Egypt was well aware, he said, of the Security Council's resolution of September 1951. Egypt was equally aware that the Council in adopting that resolution, had based itself "on considerations other than the essentially legal aspects of the case." The aim of the Council had been to take some political step toward the final settlement of the Palestine question, but experience had shown to what that had led. It certainly had not failed "to accelerate the tempo of Israeli aggression and Zionist expansion." General Ghaleb concluded by saying that his government trusted that

the attitude of the Council would be determined by the facts, and that the Council would "refrain from recreating problems the Council itself" was "established to solve."

Ambassador Eban Takes Issue with Egypt's Arguments

Israel Ambassador Abba S. Eban told the Security Council that "a very grave turn" had been taken "in what was already a serious situation." The Security Council had heard "a firm and defiant insistence" on the blockade measures which the Council had "vigorously denounced." Egypt upheld its contention that it could "wage unilateral war" four years after the hostilities had ceased.

The contentions Israel had presented in 1951 and repeated a few days ago, he said, had been substantially upheld by the Security Council. The Council had rejected the concept of unilateral belligerent rights, he said, and three times it had rejected the concept that the armistice agreement was compatible with the active exercise of belligerent rights.

The Security Council had already determined that the armistice agreement was incompatible with the rights of visit and search, he continued. The representative of Egypt today had made contentions identical to those made by his predecessor, now the Foreign Minister, in 1951.

The interpretation of the armistice agreement had been made not by Israel but "authentically and authoritatively" by the Security Council, he stated. In his view, the Constantinople Convention of 1888 - if it were compatible with Egypt's contentions, which it was not - would not support Egypt's case as the Charter prescribed supremacy of its provisions over treaties. The basis of the present debate, he said, was formed by the Charter of the United Nations, the armistice agreement and the Security Council resolution of September 1, 1951.

At the request of the Israeli delegation, the Egyptian Government decree of 1950 and the amendments to it dealing with restrictions on shipping in the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Aqaba were circulated today to members of the UN Security Council.

In a letter to the President of the Council, Ambassador Abba Eban said "compliance with the Security Council's resolution of September 1, 1951 would of course require the complete and unconditional revocation both of the (Egyptian) decree of February 7, 1950 and of the amendments published on November 24, 1953."

The original decree contained 17 articles. Article 2 called upon customs officials to assure that cargoes did not include munitions, war materials or other goods considered to be contraband of war and destined "for institutions or persons residing in Palestine territory under the control of the Zionists." The amendments put "foodstuffs and all other commodities which are likely to strengthen the war potential of the Zionists in any way whatever on the contraband list." The amendments also implicitly include the Gulf of Aqaba in the blockade.

ERIC JOHNSTON ADMITS HIS JORDAN RIVER PLAN IS UNSATISFACTORY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Revealing that the plan he submitted for a Jordan Valley Authority was unsatisfactory to Israel, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon, Ambassador Eric Johnston, President Eisenhower's special envoy to the Near East, today announced that he would return to these countries next month to obtain suggestions for making another plan acceptable to the four countries.

"Our Jordan River plan is not the plan but a plan," he said. He added that it could be modified, but warned that if Israel and Jordan go their separate ways and undertake public works within their boundaries unilaterally, there will again be conflict. The nation which would suffer most from the other's diversion of water would probably sabotage the project, there would be reprisals and "at the worst" renewed military conflict, he said. He spoke at the conference of the American Christian Committee for Palestine now taking place here.

CHIEF RABBI CONDEMNS ANTI-ISRAEL DEMONSTRATIONS OF EXTREMISTS IN U.S.

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog of Israel today called on American rabbinical bodies to take every possible measure to prevent future demonstrations by extremists against the Israel Government on the issue of national service for women. The Chief Rabbi said that these demonstrations constituted a defamation of the State of Israel and bore ominous portents. The statement reads:

"I was shocked at reports that preparations are being made to continue the demonstrations and that a plan is afoot for a demonstration next Tuesday in front of the United Nations buildings. I urge you to resort to all possible means of enlightenment and to bring your influence to bear towards the termination of this campaign of defamation against the State of Israel which implies desecration of the honor of the Jewish people before the nations of the world and is bound to bring irreparable damage. This is certainly not the way in which to strengthen and fortify our sacred faith."

Haoved Hazioni, the religious workers movement affiliated with the Histadrut, last night strongly condemned the demonstration in front of the Israel consulate in New York last week in protest against the conscription of women in the Jewish State. The Haoved Hazioni statement asserted that the demonstration in New York could only hurt its organizers.

ISRAEL CABINET COMMITTEE SEEKS TO SATISFY P. E. C. STOCKHOLDERS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- A solution satisfactory to stockholders who want to keep possession of their stock in the Palestine Electric Corporation after the Israel Government buys into control of the utility has been worked out by a committee of Israeli Cabinet Ministers responsible for various areas of Israel's economy, it was announced here today.

Those who do not sell their shares--the government has indicated it has no desire to buy out all stockholders--will be guaranteed a four percent tax-free dividend. They will also have the option of selling to the government within three years after the government formally buys up the controlling interest, on the same terms as those who sell now.

The purchase agreement for those who sell now provides that they shall receive four percent Israel government bonds valued at 29 and one-half shillings a share. If there is any difference in dividend payments between the government bonds and the PEC shares, the government will pay the difference to any shareholders who use the three-year option, thus guaranteeing them against any loss of income.

BRITISH COMMANDER LAUDS EFFICIENCY OF ISRAEL'S ARMY

LONDON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The Israel Army has achieved a high degree of proficiency, Lt. Gen. Sir Brian Horrocks, former commander of British forces in Germany, who last fall observed the Israeli forces on war maneuvers, declared last night at a Joint Palestine. Appeal dinner here.

He said the Israeli force had reached this degree of proficiency because it was a young army officered by young men, because nearly all the officers had served with the Jewish Brigade and therefore were war-seasoned soldiers and, finally, because the victory over the Arab armies had given the Israel Army a high morale. He said he thought that the Israel Army's mobilization arrangements were the best of any force he had seen anywhere in the world.

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE DISCUSSES ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- A mutual defense pact for the Near East patterned after the NATO treaty was proposed today at the American Christian Palestine Committee national conference by a prominent Protestant church authority on foreign affairs, Dr. Walter Van Kirk. He is executive director of the National Council of Churches' department of international justice and goodwill.

The U. S. should "persist in its efforts to achieve" such a pact guaranteeing Jews and Arabs against attack by either and both against Soviet aggression, he told the 300 participants in the conference. He warned against the extension of arms aid to either side by America.

President Eisenhower's policy is one of sympathetic and friendly attitude toward these countries, he stated. Our aid policy should therefore be economic, technical and diplomatic and proffered as much as possible under the aegis of the United Nations, he recommended. This would be in harmony with Eisenhower's announced policy, he said.

The United States and the United Nations, backed by the Christian community can do something to relieve tensions in the Middle East, he said. "There is not enough money in our national treasury to buy security in the Middle East," he added, but economic aid should be allocated on a regional basis and in relation to established needs. The U.S. should strive to set up in the Middle East a healthy and viable economy that will enrich the lives of all without regard to national boundaries.

He regretted the fact that Jerusalem is "a city divided by barbed wire." His organization's position on the status of that city, he said, is the same as that expressed by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles: "Some form of political arrangement respecting Jerusalem should be set up, giving precedence to the claims of the world religious community to the city over the political claims of any particular nation."

Arab-Israel Conflict Can be Resolved, Leader Says

Rev. Karl Baehr, executive director of the ACPC, said the conflict between Israelis and Arabs "is unfortunate but understandable, and above all, capable of resolution." Rev. Baehr added that besides bringing death and destruction and creating thousands of refugees, both Arab and Jewish, the conflict has precipitated a propaganda struggle in America.

Americans who have over the years opposed the "idea of a re-established Israel on the sands and waste places of Palestine" take the attitude that to be a friend of the Israelis is to be an enemy of the Arabs and vice versa, he said. The same people and groups in the U. S. "continue to question or even to denounce Israel's right to exist as a nation," he added, despite League of Nations and United Nations decisions accepting the principle of self-determination for the Jews as well as the Arabs in the Near East.

"It is this hostile attitude on the part of certain American groups which most forcefully stimulates the morbid hopes of Arab leaders that Israel can be wiped off the map if they but hold out," Rev. Baehr stated. "Those unfriendly to Israel, apparently, are convinced that a propaganda campaign against the new nation and particularly against Zionists will cause the American people to forget the idealism of the past decades and to seek the destruction of Israel as eagerly as they were once challenged by the right and the necessity of its creation."

Pointing out that the Arab states are more interested in war against Israel than in solving a pressing human problem, Rev. Baehr said: "Indeed, they consider the refugees their best weapon against Israel. There seems little hope, therefore, for the Arab refugees until the Arab leaders come to appreciate the untold economic assets that could come to them and their countries from great resettlement programs"

JEWES IN AUSTRIA HOPE GOVERNMENT WILL ACT ON JEWISH CLAIMS

VIENNA, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The executive board of the Jewish Communities of Austria today indicated cautious approval of Chancellor Julius Raab's statement to a Peoples Party meeting last week that the Austrian Government was prepared to re-open negotiations with the Committee on Jewish Claims Against Austria for a lump sum settlement of claims for heirless Jewish property.

The board said that "certain changes" in attitude on the part of the Austrian Government were "visible" on the Jewish claims. It also expressed the hope that concrete action would follow Chancellor Raab's words.

GERMAN BAR ASSN. FORCES JEWISH LAWYER TO APPEAR ON SABBATH

FRANKFURT, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Ruling that "the Sabbath is not a high Jewish holiday," the Honor Court of the Frankfurt Bar Association has compelled the appearance before it, on a Saturday, of Dr. Joseph Klibansky, stormy petrel of the German bar and an outstanding trial attorney.

Frankfurt-born Klibansky, whose father headed a local orthodox boarding school for boys, is probably the sole strictly orthodox Jewish lawyer now practicing in Germany. His letterheads bear the conspicuous notation that his office is closed on the Sabbath and on all Jewish holy days. In 1952 he brought suit before the Supreme Constitutional Court when a Munich judge set the opening of the Auerbach trial, in which he served as principal defense counsel, for the seventh day of Passover. That suit has not yet come up on the Court's calendar.

Dr. Klibansky asked for a postponement to some other week day as soon as he received a summons to appear before the Frankfurt Honor Court on the Sabbath. This request was denied by Court President Dr. Jakob Flesch, a man of Jewish stock who flaunts his status as an active lay leader of the Lutheran Church and who, in the back-pay suit brought against the IG-Farben chemical trust by its former Auschwitz slave laborer Norbert Wollheim, represented IG-Farben. A Jewish lawyer cannot expect "special treatment," Dr. Flesch argued.

Dr. Klibansky thereupon submitted an affidavit from a Frankfurt rabbi that Jewish law would not authorize his participation in the Honor Court proceedings. He further filed a formal constitutional complaint with the German Constitutional Court in Karlsruhe. Due to the absence of a quorum, the latter was unable to take up the matter in time, however. The Bar Association insisted upon going through with its hearing, but in the end failed to arrive at a verdict.

NEO-NAZI LEADER WHO FLED GERMANY WORKS FOR EGYPTIAN GOVERNMENT

BONN, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Otto Remer, German neo-Nazi leader who fled from Germany to escape arrest, is now in Egypt in an official capacity with the Nagaib regime, a German newspaper correspondent reported from Cairo today.

The correspondent quoted a German military advisor to the Egyptian Government as the source of his information. This expert, he said, met and talked with Remer, who was the leader of the illegal Socialist Reich Party. He said Remer was advising the Egyptians on establishment of a Nazi-type system. It was officially reported some months ago that Remer had been deported from Egypt.

KENYA PAPER PUBLISHES "PROTOCOLS OF THE ELDERS OF ZION"

LONDON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The notorious anti-Semitic forgery, "The Protocols of the Elders of Zion," is currently being published in Nairobi, capital of the British colony of Kenya, it was reported here today. The Board of Deputies of British Jews reported that a local newspaper is publishing the slander as "evidence" of Jewish support of the native revolutionary Mau Mau movement.

ROLE OF JEWS IN DEVELOPMENT OF NEW YORK LAUDED BY MAYOR

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The role which Jews played in developing the city of New York was emphasized here today by Mayor Robert F. Wagner at a special City Hall ceremony during which he appointed Stanley Lowell, his assistant, as his official representative to the American Jewish Tercentenary.

"Throughout the last three centuries," the Mayor said, "the Jews have been a vital, constructive and stimulating element in the life of our city. During the American Revolution, they were among the fighters for American independence. When the British occupied New York City, Rabbi Gershom Mendes Seixas and his congregants refused to conduct services in the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue and fled to Philadelphia, where they helped the American cause. They returned to New York only after the British had left our city.

"In the late Nineteenth Century, about 75 years ago, when pogroms and oppression were rampant in Russia and other Eastern European countries, Jews were among the millions of immigrants from those parts of Europe who streamed into the United States seeking refuge. They helped make New York a city of energy and vitality. They have contributed to virtually every phase of the development of New York City."

Mr. Lowell, in accepting the appointment, stated that within the next few weeks, in cooperation with the American Jewish Tercentenary, he will work out plans for New York City's official share in the celebration. "The American Jewish Tercentenary is important to the City of New York," Mr. Lowell said. "Since the arrival of the first 23 Jewish settlers 300 years ago, our Jewish population has grown to more than 2,000,000, making it the largest in the world. All around us, in our religious and cultural life, in our commercial and professional activities, we see tangible evidence of the useful and constructive participation of the Jews of New York. We are proud of that participation, and proud to commemorate it on the occasion of the Tercentenary."

N. Y. AUTOMOBILE CLUB CHIDES HOTELS PRACTICING DISCRIMINATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- A resolution expressing "emphatic disapproval" of discriminatory guest policies by hotels and resorts that cater to the motoring public was made public here today by the Automobile Club of New York, third largest affiliate of the American Automobile Association. The resolution emphasized that the Club "deplores discrimination on the basis of race, creed, color or national origin, as undemocratic and un-American."

The adoption of the resolution followed a series of meetings between club officials and representatives of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The club acknowledged that many of its members "have been embarrassed by such discrimination." ADL first raised the issue several years ago after receiving a large number of complaints that Jewish members were being denied accommodations in AAA-approved places. The League made its protest to the national agency. But AAA, while condemning discriminatory guest policies, rejected the League's suggestion that AAA deny its emblem to places which engage in such practices.

MEMBERS OF COLORADO LEGISLATURE RECEIVE ANTI-SEMITIC LITERATURE

DENVER, Col., Feb. 15. (JTA) -- All members of the Denver State Legislature have received copies of the "Protocols of Zion" and issues of the anti-Semitic paper, "Common Sense," from Conde McGinley, publisher of the sheet, it was learned today.

McGinley is circulating legislators throughout the country with this material. In New Jersey, the State Legislature adopted a resolution condemning his activities and, in other states, demand has been raised for investigation of his activities by the postal authorities.