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## THREE-DAY NATIONAL UJA PARLEY OPENS TODAY; \$65,350,000 LOAN RAISED

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The sum of \$65,350,000 has been pledged by 69 Jewish communities throughout the country toward a five-year \$75,000,000 loan now being floated by the United Jewish Appeal with a view to stabilizing Israel's economy, it was announced today, on the eve of the opening here tomorrow of the three-day 1954 National Inaugural Conference of the UJA. The conference will be attended by 900 community leaders from all parts of the country.

The announcement was made by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, UJA executive vice-chairman, who pointed out that the loan project--the first of its kind by an American philanthropic agency--is in addition to the \$119,921,150 goal of the UJA for 1954. It emphasized that it is the aim of the UJA leaders to complete the campaign for the loan in the next six weeks to avoid interference with the regular UJA drive.

The extraordinary loan project was proposed by the UJA last December 10 in New York at a meeting of representative American Jewish leaders. They heard that the Jewish Agency had incurred a critical indebtedness arising out of the mass influx of 750,000 immigrants in the period from May 14, 1948, when the State was founded, to May, 1953.

Taking action on this report, the New York meeting endorsed a proposal to seek a \$75,000,000 loan from the country's Jewish communities to be amortized over a five-year period at a rate of 20 percent per annum and to be guaranteed out of the receipts of the United Jewish Appeal's regular fund-raising campaigns. The meeting also named a 99-man organizing committee headed by William Rosenwald, national chairman of the UJA, who led a move to present this plan to local Jewish welfare funds.

## Israel Will Be Able to Repay \$75,000,000 in Short Term Debts

Dr. Schwartz pointed out that the loan would serve not only to relieve the Jewish Agency of its most pressing problems, but would have the effect of making it possible for the Government of Israel to retire some \$75,000,000 in short term debts which now impose a staggering burden on the new State's economy. This follows from the fact that the Jewish Agency, like all organizations and individuals under Israel law, furnishes its foreign currency to the Israel Treasury in exchange for Israel pounds.

It was explained that to make up for the shortage of funds required to carry on its philanthropic work, the Jewish Agency was forced to borrow heavily from the Government of Israel, and that the Government, in its turn, incurred sizeable debts of a short-term nature to meet the emergency growing out of the mass immigration. The funds which the Jewish Agency will receive will come to it from the United Israel Appeal, the major constituent agency of the UJA.

MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL DEFENSE CAN INCLUDE ISRAEL, SHARETT SAYS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- There are circumstances in which the defense of Israel could be bound up with a system of regional defense of the Middle East, Premier Moshe Sharett told the Israel Parliament last night. However, Mr. Sharett did not elaborate on just what such circumstances are or whether they would arise in the foreseeable future.

Mr. Sharett's statement was made during a discussion of a motion, subsequently rejected, calling on the Israel Government to withdraw its request for military aid from the United States. Mr. Sharett noted that the U.S. had not yet replied to Israel's request, although it was willing to sell arms to the Jewish State.

He also stated that even if the United States were prepared to give Israel such assistance it did not "follow" that Israel could accept it, since such aid would be offered under certain conditions which the Israel Government would have to weigh carefully.

In a discussion of the draft of Orthodox women in the Knesset, the Premier denounced the demonstration in front of the Israel consulate in New York last week by several thousand Orthodox men and women who were protesting the conscription of Orthodox women in Israel. Mr. Sharett asserted that the demonstration had resulted from "malicious misrepresentations" of the law, adding that these misrepresentations had been spread "by elements hostile to Israel and Zionism."

U. N. COMMISSION DISCUSSES RELEASE OF ARAB ACCOUNTS IN ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The members of the United Nations Conciliation Commission for Palestine met with Mordecai Kidron, deputy representative to the UN, yesterday to discuss the release of all Arab refugee accounts frozen in Israel regardless of the size of the account.

Last year, following agreement between Israel and the Conciliation Commission, Israel unilaterally released refugee accounts up to a certain figure. For this sum the amount of 1,000,000 pounds sterling was set aside, but somewhat less than that figure has been paid out up to now. Payment is made upon certification of applications by owners of the frozen accounts.

(In Washington today, Israel Ambassador Abba Eban called on Assistant Secretary for United Nations Affairs David Key to discuss with him various UN matters including future procedures in connection with a discussion in the Security Council of its resolution of September 1, 1951 concerning the Suez Canal blockade.)

MIZRACHI IN LONDON DENOUNCES ORTHODOX DEMONSTRATION IN NEW YORK

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The executive of the British Mizrahi Federation today denounced the recent Orthodox demonstration in front of the New York Consulate of Israel as being "against the best interests of traditional Judaism."

The executive's statement added that the demonstration was an "irresponsible manifestation of a hostile attitude towards the State of Israel harbored by a small frustrated minority." The demonstrators were protesting the Israeli law conscripting Orthodox young women for non-military service.

ARAB INFILTRERS STEAL 300 SHEEP FROM ISRAEL SETTLEMENT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Armed Arab infiltrers from Egyptian territory today stole 300 sheep belonging to the Israeli settlement of Dorot, near the Gaza strip. The shepherd was tied up and kept prisoner in a cave for several hours, but was otherwise unhurt.

An investigation by United Nations observers unearthed the marauders' tracks leading from the scene of the robbery to the Gaza strip border. Israel has demanded immediate return of the flock.

PIEAS FOR RELEASE OF ISRAELIS ARRESTED IN IRAQ INTENSIFIED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The Israel Government has approached every government with which it has diplomatic relations and asked its intervention with the Government of Iraq to secure the release of three Israelis imprisoned by the Iraqi authorities six weeks ago when the British plane on which they were travelling was forced to land at Bagdad. The spokesman added that the United Nations Secretary General and the International Civil Aviation Organization have taken specific action on the case.

The Ministry spokesman denied a claim by the Iraqi that they were holding the three Israelis prisoner in retaliation for Israel's holding seven Iraqi officers from the time of the Arab-Israel war. The Israeli spokesman said all Arab prisoners of war were released at the end of hostilities. He contrasted Israel's release of a party of Egyptian students who accidentally crossed the border last year and its freeing of a planeload of 27 Arabs who were forced down inside Israel, to Iraq's "inhuman" behavior in this case.

It was learned today that two letters have been received from Mrs. Minnie Barnes, 31, one of the prisoners in Bagdad, stating that she was depressed. The other two Israelis are an elderly couple named Ben Zaryi. Mrs. Barnes' husband and five-year-old child have appealed to the Iraqi Government to release their wife and mother.

IRAQI JEW RELEASED FROM BAGDAD PRISON; WAS SENTENCED FOR "ZIONISM"

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Abraham Ajami, an Iraqi Jew who spent five years in a Bagdad prison on charges of "Zionist activity," arrived in Israel today.

Mr. Ajami, who was manager of the Paltransport office in Bagdad at the time of his arrest, was released from prison two years before his seven-year term was up, when he said he would surrender his Iraqi citizenship and immigrate to Israel.

SAUDI ARABIA THREATENS TO SHOOT DOWN PLANES LANDING IN ISRAEL

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Saudi Arabia has threatened to shoot down any planes crossing its territory which previously had landed at an Israel airfield, it was reported here today from Cairo.

The report cited a statement by the Saudi Arabian Embassy in Cairo to the effect that Saudi Arabia had banned flights over her territory by planes which touch down in Israel. Such planes will be forced down by "all means at our disposal" including shooting, the embassy statement said. The planes would be liable to confiscation and "other penalties" when forced down, the statement added.

GERMAN LAWYER JAILED FOR DEFRAUDING JEWISH RESTITUTION CLAIMANTS

HANOVER, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A German attorney in practice in Lower Saxony, Dr. Rudolf Grosse-Hagenbrock, has been arrested for fraud, blackmail, misrepresentation, tax evasion and violation of foreign currency control legislation in connection with restitution cases, a field in which he specialized.

Among the attorney's clients were several hundred Jewish restitution and indemnification claimants. According to charges filed by the district attorney in Bielefeld, Grosse-Hagenbrock converted to his own use large sums due them. To the Jewish owner of a house he sold for a substantial sum, he remitted the equivalent of three dollars. In another case, a Jewish woman now living in the United States was credited by him with five deutschemarks while he himself retained several thousand marks for "fees" and "expenses."

**VALUABLES SEIZED FROM JEWS BY FASCISTS UNCOVERED IN ITALY**

ROME, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A treasure of gold, currency, stocks and bonds and other valuables worth approximately 1,000,000,000 lira, most of it stolen from Jews during the Fascist era, has recently been discovered in the Vicenza branch of the Bank of Italy.

The treasure consists of goods taken from Jews and other Italians ordered deported from Italy by the Nazis between 1943 and 1945. The valuables were taken by the Italian police, but no receipts were ever issued to the victims so there was no way for them or their heirs to uncover the stolen valuables. When the treasure was discovered it was found that a list of the former owners and what had been taken from them was with the loot.

The discovery, nine years after the final theft, resulted from the activities of a diligent Italian magistrate who was investigating the origin of some stolen property which featured in a case before him. He traced the property back to the hidden treasure trove and brought it to public attention.

It is not known why the Bank of Italy had not informed the persons on the list nor their heirs of the existence of the store of wealth. More information is expected to be made public as an investigation into the matter progresses.

The Council of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, meanwhile, has launched an inquiry into the affair and hopes to accumulate information useful in recovering the stolen articles for the owners or their heirs.

**MALENKOV LINKED TO FALSE CHARGES AGAINST JEWISH DOCTORS**

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Moscow has apparently confirmed foreign suspicions that the false charges against a group of doctors and "international Jewish organizations" of a plot to kill Soviet leaders were the work of Premier Georgi M. Malenkov and his faction in the Communist party high command, the New York Times reports today.

The report says that the February 16 issue of Izvestia, Soviet Government newspaper, identified Semyon D. Ignatiev as the first secretary of the Communist party in the Bashkir Autonomous Republic, a key oil-producing area of the Urals.

Last April Mr. Ignatiev was removed from his post as secretary of the Communist party's Central Committee after Pravda had charged him with "political blindness." He had served as Minister of State Security when the charges against the doctors were originally published in January, 1953. Nothing had been heard about Mr. Ignatiev's fate until the announcement of his elevation to the provincial Communist party post.

"In the light of the evidence now available, it seems clear that the original charges made in January, 1953, and then repudiated last April were part of a behind-the-scenes intrigue in the Communist high command," the Times says. "The factions in the dispute were apparently headed respectively by Premier Malenkov and by Lavrenti P. Beria, Minister of Internal Affairs, who was executed last December after his dismissal and arrest in June, 1953.

**DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS IN POLAND REPORTED; DANGER SEEN**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- "Jews in Poland face discrimination daily in every field of life," Dr. M. Fraenkel, who arrived at Haifa last night from Warsaw, declared today.

Dr. Fraenkel said that the Polish people lump the Jews with the Communists and the Russians, and expressed the fear that in the event of a change of regime in Poland the Jews would be the first victims.

**EISENHOWER ASKS \$1,560,000 FOR SCREENING REFUGEES FOR U.S. ENTRY**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower asked Congress today for \$1,560,000 in supplemental funds "to provide for continuation of the program of screening and selecting refugees for admission to the United States under the emergency immigration program of the Refugee Relief Act of 1953." The 1954 appropriation which has to be supplemented provided only enough money to operate the program until March 31 of this year.

**10,000 COMMUNITIES TO OBSERVE "BROTHERHOOD WEEK" STARTING TOMORROW**

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- More than 10,000 communities in the United States and Canada will join in the observance of Brotherhood Week this week-end under the sponsorship of the National Conference of Christians and Jews. President Dwight D. Eisenhower is honorary chairman of the observance.

Religious services to be held during the week by American churches and synagogues will emphasize the brotherhood theme. Ministers, priests and rabbis will join in dedicating the people of the nation to the concept of the brotherhood of man. Abroad in the free nations of Europe, World Brotherhood Week will be simultaneously celebrated under the auspices of World Brotherhood, an organization formed in 1950 to lessen frictions created by national, religious and cultural differences.

Proclamations by the governors of nearly every state and the mayors of large and small cities will spur civic bodies, schools, colleges, and theological seminaries, fraternal organizations, veteran and youth groups to plan special activities related to the brotherhood ideal. This year marks the twenty-first annual observance of Brotherhood Week and the 26th anniversary of the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The nation's 18,000 motion picture theatres have organized a Brotherhood Week campaign to enroll 100,000 new members for the National Conference. Newsreels to be shown in the theatres will bring news items about the observance to millions of viewers. Radio and television stations will carry brotherhood messages in song, story and discussions throughout the week. Roger W. Straus, national co-chairman of the NCCJ and a founder of the organization, will review its 26-year history over the MBS network on Sunday.

**UNION OF JEWISH WOMEN OF SOUTH AFRICA HOLDS FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE**

CAPETOWN, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The activities of the Union of Jewish Women of South Africa were lauded here by Mayor A. F. Keen, addressing the opening of a five-day national conference of the organization. He particularly stressed the welfare work which the Union conducts among the under privileged non-Europeans.

It was reported at the conference that the Union now has a membership of 9,208 women organized in 52 branches in various parts of South Africa and in seven branches in Rhodesia.

**CANADIAN CORPORATION SENDS FOURTH SHIPMENT OF WHEAT TO ISRAEL**

MONTREAL, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The Canada-Israel Corporation, sponsored by the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Zionist Organization of Canada, arranged for a further shipment of wheat to Israel. This shipment's value was about \$302,000. It was consigned to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry in Jerusalem. The value of the first shipment was about \$843,000, the value of the second shipment of \$820,000 and of the third was \$794,000.

**FIRST SHIPLOAD OF ISRAEL CITRUS FRUIT LEAVES FOR ARGENTINA**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The first shipload of Israel citrus fruit left Haifa port bound for Buenos Aires. The consignment totalled 6,000 cases.

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