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ARAB-ISRAEL TENSION UNABATED, EISENHOWER REPORTS TO CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, March 8. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower today transmitted to Congress a report on the operation of the Mutual Security program which said "the tensions between Arab and Israeli have not abated, and only a precarious truce is maintained."

The President's report, which was for the six months ended December 31, 1953, said: "Boycott of Israeli goods and firms has been extended; the Arab refugee problem remains as a tragic barrier to regional harmony." It noted that "dispute over the Jordan waters has stirred hatred and bitterness and has aggravated nationalism to a degree which threatens the possibility of cooperative development of this vital resource."

The report recommended military aid to the Near East, stressing the importance of the countries possessing oil. The report did not list any particular Arab League state nor did it list Israel as a suggested recipient of such aid.

The Arab refugee problem, involving what was said to be 850,000 Palestinian Arab refugees, was described in the Presidential report in great detail. "These refugees," said the report, "constitute a serious problem which is woven inextricably into the economic, social and political frictions that afflict the Near East." It said this problem "remains as one of the principal unresolved issues between Israel and the Arabs."

Says U.S. Helps Israel to Stabilize Its Economy

President Eisenhower considered "the most significant development" during the period covered by the report to be "the preparation of a plan for unified development of the Jordan Valley." It was said that Mr. Eisenhower has now asked Eric Johnston to return to the area "for further discussion as soon as the governments complete their review."

It was estimated in the report "that 240,000 acres of land, now idle and unproductive, can be put into production if the proposed development plan is accepted. Most of this land would yield three crops a year. In addition, more than 65,000 kilowatts of power could be made available to aid the industrial development of the area."

The report told of how "Israel is helped to stabilize its economy" through special U.S. economic aid. Of the \$26,000,000 made available in November, 1953, the report said that \$20,500,000 worth of procurement authorizations were issued within two months. There was no indication as to whether or not Congress will be asked for economic assistance allocations for Israel for the next fiscal year.

ISRAEL ON ALERT AGAINST MERGER OF ARAB LANDS, SHARETT STATES

JERUSALEM, March 8. (JTA) -- The warning that Israel intends to protect itself and its interests in the event that any of the neighboring states merge with each other or annex one another, was sounded in the Israel Parliament today by Premier Moshe Sharett.

Mr. Sharett, who is also Foreign Minister, said that although Israel was aware of its ability to achieve its justified interests by using its military strength, its policy nevertheless remains one of fighting for peace. Mr. Sharett rebuked certain fighting elements who, during the recent crises in Egypt and Syria, had suggested an attack on the Arab forces in behalf of Israel's interests.

Commenting on East and West wooing of the Arab states, Mr. Sharett said that Moscow's overtures to the Arabs was based on the illusion that they represented a military and geographical power. However, he said, the possibilities of changing Soviet policy in this matter were limited in comparison to the possibility of changing the policy of the Western Powers because the latter were open to influence by public opinion.

He deplored American "appeasement" of Iraq, noting for the record that Iraq had once before attempted to crush Israel with British military assistance which had been received on assurances that it would only be used for defense purposes.

Mr. Sharett expressed alarm over the statement of the Premier of Pakistan, after the recent Turkish-Pakistani military pact was signed, affirming his "loyalty" to the Palestine Arab cause. Turkey's immediate disassociation from the Pakistani "threat" was "gratifying" to the Israel Government, he added.

Israel Will Act Against Federation of Arab States, Deputy Says

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- Israel is only concerned with the problem of safeguarding its own frontiers in the current Arab upheavals, Ishar Harari, Progressive Party member of the Israel Parliament and a member of the Israel Foreign Affairs and Security Committee, told a press conference here today.

He underlined that if there is federation of some of the Arab states in the area--he cited Syria, Jordan and Iraq as possibilities--Israel will be "free to act in accordance with its own interests." The armistice agreements which Israel signed with the Arab states were with countries as they were presently constituted and Israel is not ready to accept any changes which would be involved in such federation, Mr. Harari said.

Commenting on the Turco-Pakistan military pact, Mr. Harari stressed that Israel's relations with Turkey were "good and friendly" but that Pakistan had seized every opportunity to hit out at Israel. It was to be hoped, he continued, that Turkey would influence Pakistan to adopt a more neutral attitude toward Israel.

He also expressed the opinion that if arms were to be given, it would be better that they go to Turkey and Pakistan rather than Syria and Egypt - so long, he stressed, as the arms going to Turkey and Pakistan would not be transferred to another Arab country for use against Israel.

The need for Israel to remain on the alert because of the recent upheavals in the Middle East Arab states was stressed in an editorial today in the Manchester Guardian. The newspaper noted that though Israel has taken no military measures in this situation it has obviously been on guard.

The Guardian also expressed the opinion that that the recent Arab revolts may confirm the United States in its policy of by-passing the Arab League and making individual defense arrangements with selected Arab states, a policy whose wisdom the newspaper questioned. The editorial noted that Iraq, because of her recent call for Arab federation, has taken a leading role in the Arab world, but added that her government seems not too secure.

JEWISH AGENCY PLANS TO MOVE 10,000 FAMILIES TO FARM WORK

TEL AVIV, March 8. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency and other institutions are preparing a plan for the transfer of 10,000 families from towns and cities to agriculture in the current year, Levi Eshkol, Finance Minister, reported today at "Towns to Villages" conference held here.

Mr. Eshkol said this plan was part of a larger one to divert 50,000 families to Israeli villages in the next four years. He said 5,000 families would this year be resettled in kibbutzim and the remainder would go into smallholders villages and settlements.

ISRAEL NEEDS MORE IMMIGRANTS, JEWISH AGENCY OFFICIAL REPORTS

PARIS, March 8. (JTA) -- Israel needs a "reawakening of the spirit of immigration" if it is to survive and flourish, S.Z. Shragai, head of the immigration department of the Jewish Agency, told a press conference here. He said his current European trip was an endeavor to "awaken" the "dormant will" of Jews everywhere to migrate to Israel and to study the reasons for their "hesitation."

Mr. Shragai said that last year 10,000 Jews had come to Israel, but 8,000 had emigrated. He said that despite the enormous difficulties involved, the Jewish Agency wanted to liquidate the entire Jewish community of North Africa and bring 50,000 to 60,000 Jews from there to Israel.

The Agency leader also revealed that the Israel Government was planning to offer housing tax exemptions and guaranteed incomes to professionals to attract them as immigrants. This and every other move to attract immigrants was made at "high cost to our society," Mr. Shazar noted.

JEWISH AGENCY SEEKS TO REMOVE CHILDREN FROM IMMIGRANT CAMPS

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency's Youth Aliyah Department wants to remove between 3,000 and 4,000 children between the age of 12 and 15 from immigrant work villages to more permanent homes, Moshe Kol, head of the department, declared here today at a press conference. Mr. Kol has come to this country to attend a national annual Youth Aliyah conference which opens tomorrow.

Mr. Kol said that the Agency also wants to establish ten centers for pre-vocational training for children in immigrant camps who are forced to remain in the transient centers because no other facilities exist for them.

JEWS FROM INDIA ADMITTED TO ISRAEL AFTER MEDICAL EXAMINATION

TEL AVIV, March 8. (JTA) -- A party of 70 Jews from Cochin India arrived here. They were admitted only after prolonged consideration and after an Israeli medical officer had examined them in India and certified them for entry. The Israeli medical authorities feared to admit them because elephantiasis, a dread tropical disease, has infected many members of the Cochin Indian community.

ISRAEL-ITALIAN TRADE PACT SIGNED; TRADE WITH TURKEY RESUMED

JERUSALEM, March 8. (JTA) -- The Israel-Italian trade pact which was signed in Rome this week-end provides for Israel to export the equivalent of \$3,400,000 worth of goods and to import from Italy about \$9,000,000 worth, chiefly in raw materials and foodstuffs, it was announced here today.

It was also revealed that the temporary block in trade between Israel and Turkey has been eliminated as a result of negotiations. Turkey has agreed to grant licenses for the import of an additional \$2,500,000 worth of Israeli products and Israel is buying 30,000 tons of Turkish wheat and has an option to purchase 20,000 tons more.

AUSTRIA URGED TO HONOR JEWISH CLAIMS; SEN. WILEY STRESSES ISSUE

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- The Austrian Government was urged today to honor the "just claims" of Austrian Jewish victims of Nazism and "not to seek to enrich itself" at the expense of these victims.

The call to the Austrian Government was issued at a memorial meeting here marking the 16th year since the Nazis marched into Austria. Principal speakers at the gathering included Senator Alexander Wiley, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee; Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency and president of the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria; Congressman Jacob Javits and Dr. Gustav Jellinek, vice-president of the American Federation of Jews from Austria, which arranged the meeting.

By honoring the claims of surviving Austrian Jewry, "our friend Austria can play an expanded role in the family of nations," Sen. Wiley said. "The stake is not just the right of the victims. At stake is Austria's own prestige in the family of nations. As a sovereign nation, Austria's responsibilities as well as obligations must be fulfilled. Time is an important factor. The days pass into months, and the months into years.

"Already there has been delay unfortunately," Sen. Wiley continued. "The United States Government, through the Department of State in Washington as well as through our Ambassadors in Austria, has again and again firmly indicated that surely the victims of Nazism could and should receive consideration prior to consideration shown to those who engaged in Nazi activities.

"Our delegation, headed by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, did everything it could in furtherance of Austria's full sovereignty. Now it is only fair to point out, in turn, that Austria, in the exercise of its sovereignty, should honor just claims upon it," the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee stated.

Goldmann Hopes for "Reasonable, Equitable" Settlement

Dr. Nahum Goldmann told the meeting that "the negotiations between the Committee for the Jewish Claims on Austria and the Government of Austria, begun on June 17th, 1953, were suspended through no fault of the Jewish negotiators.

"We were ready to resume negotiations on schedule in the Fall of 1953," Dr. Goldmann said. "However, to our surprise, the Austrian Government decided, in December, to remove from the agenda, indefinitely, the subject of heirless Jewish property. Before we ever entered these negotiations, it was clearly understood between the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria and the Austrian Government that heirless property was one of the items to be discussed and settled.

"Several weeks ago, the Austrian Chancellor announced that his government was considering resumption of the negotiations. To this date, we have received no invitation for resumed talks. However, it is our sincerest hope that a formula will be found to enable the Jewish organizations to reenter these negotiations. Our demands certainly cannot be called unreasonable. The actual losses of the Jews under Nazi rule in Austria cannot be computed. They amount to hundreds of millions of dollars.

"What the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria asked for is only a small percentage of the losses," Dr. Goldmann pointed out. "On the other hand, we wish to make it clear that the Jewish organizations would not be satisfied with an insignificant token amount, if such were offered.

"In our efforts to obtain a settlement, we had the good fortune of the support of the Western Powers for our moral claims, for which we are profoundly grateful. As Americans, we are particularly proud of the support of our government. The Jewish people is not seeking a permanent conflict with Austria, and the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria will certainly be glad to resume negotiations on a reasonable and equitable basis acceptable to all parties," Dr. Goldmann emphasized.

J. D. C. REACHES AGREEMENT WITH JEWISH DP'S; BARS DEMONSTRATIONS

MUNICH, March 8. (JTA) -- Full agreement was reached here today between the Joint Distribution Committee and representatives of about 1,300 "oldtimers" among the displaced Jews residing in the Foehrenwald camp, near Munich. The agreement bars further demonstrations by Jewish DP's in German cities.

The pact covers points left in abeyance during the recent visit to Munich by Moses W. Beckelman, JDC European director, following the fight between German police and some DP's from Foehrenwald who attempted to occupy the JDC headquarters. The JDC will now resume its medical services in the Foehrenwald camp and will reopen its liaison office there which was closed following threats by some of the camp residents.

NAZI WOMAN WHO DOOMED 3,000 CAMP INMATES FREED FROM JAIL

HANOVER, March 8. (JTA) -- Margarete Rabe, a German concentration camp overseer sentenced to 21 years in jail in 1948 for maltreating women prisoners and for selecting 3,000 of them for the gas chambers, has been released from the war crimes prison at Werl, upon recommendation of the British-German Clemency Board.

In Deggendorf, a 51-year-old German named Samuel Kuhnke was given eight years of penal servitude, less two years of pre-trial custody. He was charged with having caused the death of 17 fellow-inmates in a concentration camp by denouncing them to the Gestapo and then participating in their interrogation.

Kuhnke, who volunteered for the position of Senior Camp Trusty, was found guilty of having been "an accomplice to manslaughter" in the 17 cases. He had already appeared before the same court on identical charges in 1952, but the proceedings were then broken off because Kuhnke claimed that a large number of former inmates would give evidence on his behalf.

FORMER MAYOR OF WIESBADEN REINSTALLED; WAS SENTENCED AS NAZI

FRANKFURT, March 8. (JTA) -- Dr. Erich Mix, the Nazi Lord Mayor of Wiesbaden when that city's synagogue was put to the torch in 1938, was sworn in as new Lord Mayor this week, a few years after he was sentenced as a "Nazi activist."

No voice was raised in opposition at the ceremony, or in the local press just as not a single vote was registered against him when the City Council held the election in January. After a deal in which they were promised the Deputy Mayoralty, the 20 Social Democrats had cast blank ballots, with all other councilmen voting for Mix.

A few months ago the Christian Democrats and the Social Democrats, who then still resisted the Mix candidacy, urged, with an eye to potential Jewish tourists to Wiesbaden - a famed resort city as well as the capital of the State of Hesse - that Mix was unacceptable because "the sensibilities of our international clientele should be respected."

JEWISH CONGRESS TO OPPOSE CALENDAR REFORM BY UNITED NATIONS

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress today announced here that it will oppose India's proposal to place the item of world calendar reform on the agenda of the 18th session of the United Nation's Economic and Social Council as "a secular act which will have disastrous effects on religious observances based on traditional calendars."

"Religious opposition to the calendar reform which is behind India's proposal is based on the fact that in it the Sabbath would fall on working days, and that these days would change from year to year, it was pointed out by Dr. Maurice L. Perle, the WJC consultant on UN affairs. "If such a scheme were adopted, it would deliver a body blow to the observance of the Sabbath and consequently to the practice of Judaism."

AMERICAN GROUP PLANS TO EXPAND JEWISH EDUCATION IN NORTH AFRICA

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- Plans to expand its educational activities were announced here today by Ozar Hatorah, agency for Jewish schools which supports 76 educational establishments in North Africa and the Middle East in which more than 15,000 Jewish boys and girls receive religious and secular education.

In a statement by Isaac Shalom, president of the organization, it was emphasized that American Jews must pay more attention to the "forgotten million" of Jews in North Africa, Iran and other Moslem countries. "The Jews in that area constitute today one of the largest reservoirs of world Jewry desiring and needing combined religious and secular education," the statement pointed out.

REFORM RABBIS SEEK TO INTENSIFY SOCIAL ACTION PROGRAM

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- A proposal that the 475 Reform Jewish congregations in the United States establish local committees to "put the social principles of Judaism to work" has been made by the Joint Commission on Social Action of the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

The Joint Commission's recommendation noted that "it has become increasingly clear that a grassroots social action program within our individual congregations is badly needed in our time." It added that the Jewish religious bodies have the same responsibility as non-Jewish religious bodies "to seek to strengthen democracy and the ideals of justice by translating our faith into concrete social action."

HILLEL FOUNDATION BUILDING OPENED AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

WASHINGTON, March 8. (JTA) -- The opening of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation building at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, enlarging the opportunities for cultural and spiritual exchange between the students of Israel and the United States, was announced here today at B'nai B'rith headquarters.

Acquired in 1951, the former Swiss Consulate building in Jerusalem has been remodeled and decorated for use as a student center. An informal "Open House" marked the occasion with Rabbi Maurice B. Pekarsky, B'nai B'rith Hillel director at the Hebrew University, welcoming university officials and students to the lounges, study halls, discussion and music rooms which were created through the support of B'nai B'rith members in both countries.

MRS. WEIZMANN NAMED PRESIDENT OF MOGEN DAVID ADOM IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- President Ben Zvi of Israel has appointed Mrs. Vera Weizmann president of Mogen David Adom, Israel's nation-wide first aid service, it was announced here today by Congressman Emanuel Celler, chairman of the board of directors of the American Red Mogen David for Israel.

Mrs. Weizmann, widow of the first President of Israel, may come to America in connection with her organization's activities, the announcement said. She is also expected to take a leading part in advancing Mogen David Adom's claims to recognition by the International Red Cross. The issue will be raised at the next Diplomatic Convention of the I. R. C. in Geneva this summer.

ISRAEL GIFT WARE SOLD IN 1,400 AMERICAN STORES

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- Israel arts and crafts are now being sold in more than 1,400 department stores and gift shops throughout the United States, according to a report issued here today by the Jewish Agency's Economic Department.