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## SYRIA FIRES ON ISRAELI BOATS; THREE ISRAELI POLICEMEN WOUNDED

TEL AVIV, March 15. (JTA) -- Three Israeli policemen were wounded today by gunfire from Syrian territory when Arabs on the eastern bank of Lake Tiberias opened fire against Israeli fishing boats on the lake. The fishing boats were escorted by a police launch.

The Syrians used machine guns and other automatic weapons as well as artillery. The Israeli police returned the fire. Two of the fishing boats suffered damage but managed to reach the Israeli shore. The police launch also reached shore safely. The Israel Government has demanded an immediate meeting of the Syrian-Israeli Armistice commission to discuss the incident.

This is the second serious attack by Syria on Israeli fishermen on Lake Tiberias within a week. Two Israeli fishing boats were fired upon by Syrian troops on the east bank of the lake last Thursday. The lake is in Israel territory together with a narrow strip about ten metres deep along the north eastern bank. This arrangement dates back to the Anglo-French agreement on the Syrian-Palestine frontiers reached after World War I.

The Syrians have recently started to press claims to the eastern bank of the lake, and have been molesting Israelis fishing near the eastern shores. In the clash today, the Israeli police boats first replied with rifle fire to the Syrian shore artillery. Later, however, the police had to use artillery to protect the damaged fishing boats as they limped to shore.

The attack by the Syrians on the Israeli fishing boats took place today while the Israel-Syrian mixed armistice commission was in session and discussing Israel's complaint over the similar attack by Syria last Thursday. The Israeli representatives demanded that the United Nations take speedy measures to prevent further attacks of this nature.

(In London it was reported from Damascus today that Israeli boats, equipped with heavy caliber guns, shelled two Syrian advance posts on the eastern shore of Lake Tiberias, injuring two Syrians.)

### Syria Reports Alleged "Concentration of Israeli Troops"

LONDON, March 15. (JTA) -- A Beirut report to the British press today said that Syria has complained to Britain, France and the United States--signatories of the 1950 Tri-Partite Declaration guaranteeing the present borders of Israel and the Arab countries--against alleged "concentrations of Israeli troops" on the Syrian-Israel frontier.

Newspapers here also carried a dispatch stating that the Lebanese Foreign Minister has denied reports that Israel had allegedly massed troops on the Lebanon-Israel frontier.

ISRAEL CABINET APPROVES BUDGET INCREASE; BUDGET REMAINS BALANCED

JERUSALEM, March 15. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet tonight approved a 17-million pound increase in its current budget. The original budget provided for 216 million pounds in expenditure.

A government spokesman said that the budget remains balanced in view of the fact that the additional expenses--mainly for education, health services and police--are balanced by increased income from custom duties and taxes.

Defense Minister Pinchas Lavon reported at the Cabinet meeting on the problem of recruitment of Yeshiva students. A government spokesman explained that the students will not be called up for military service, but only for registration and for medical examination in view of the fact that the position of these students with regard to army service has not yet been clarified. The Cabinet referred the problem to a ministerial committee headed by Prime Minister Moshe Sharett.

TEL AVIV MUNICIPAL COUNCIL BANS SALE OF PORK IN THE CITY

TEL AVIV, March 15. (JTA) -- The Tel Aviv Municipal Council today voted to ban the sale of pork within the boundaries of the city. This decision follows similar action taken by most of the Jewish municipalities in Israel.

Several months ago the Israel Parliament approved regulations according to which the breeding of pigs is allowed only in the region of Nazareth which is populated by Christians. Pork is prohibited under the Moslem religion as well as under the Jewish.

GERARD SWOPE ESTABLISHES \$100,000 FUND FOR STUDENTS IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, March 15. (JTA) -- The establishment by Gerard Swope, former president of the General Electric Company in the United States, of a \$100,000-fund for loans to students of the Haifa Technion and the Hebrew University was announced here today by Dr. Karl Compton of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

The fund will enable many students to pay their tuition by securing the necessary loans. A large number of students in the Haifa Technion and in the Hebrew University find it difficult to raise sufficient funds to finance their studies. Mr. Swope visited Israel several years ago and was greatly impressed with the achievements here. He reported his impressions in New York at a dinner tendered to him there by the Palestine Economic Corporation.

JEWS IN HOLLAND SEEK RETURN OF JEWISH GIRL HELD BY CATHOLICS

THE HAGUE, Holland, March 15. (JTA) -- The board of Jewish communities in Holland yesterday addressed an appeal to the archbishops of Belgium and of Holland urging their intervention in search for a Jewish girl believed to be hidden by Roman Catholic authorities. The girl, Anneke Beekman, who is 13 years old, was whisked away from a Roman Catholic boarding school near Banneux just a few minutes before detectives arrived.

Miss Beekman is one of two Jewish war orphans cared for in non-Jewish homes. The other orphan, Rebecca Melhado, was discovered last Saturday by two state detectives in a Belgian convent near Liege and has been brought back to Amsterdam where she was entrusted to a council of guardians. Dutch and Belgian police have been searching for the last 48 hours for Miss Beekman and for the woman who took her away from the Roman Catholic boarding school. The case may come up in the Senate this week where the Dutch Minister of Justice, Dr. Donkers, is expected to make a full statement on the matter.

U. S. ZIONIST GROUPS ESTABLISH CENTRAL OFFICE IN WASHINGTON

NEW YORK, March 15. (JTA) -- The national Zionist organizations in the United States today established a committee to be known as the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs, with headquarters in Washington.

The committee will "conduct and direct public action on behalf of the American Zionist movement, bearing upon relations with governmental authorities, with a view to maintaining and improving friendship and good will between the United States and Israel." Louis Lipsky was elected chairman and Isaiah L. Kenen, executive director of the new committee.

Z. O. A. LEADERS DISCUSS FUTURE OF ZIONISM; REPLY TO BEN GURION

NEW YORK, March 15. (JTA) -- The future role and functions of the Zionist Organization as a decisive force in the building and safeguarding of the State of Israel and as an instrument for cultural survival of the Jewish people everywhere, were stressed today by Rabbi Irving Miller, president of the Zionist Organization of America and chairman of the American Zionist Council, and Dr. Emanuel Neumann, former ZOA president and member of the Jewish Agency executive.

The two Zionist leaders spoke before 350 key workers and leaders from nine ZOA Regions, assembled at the First ZOA Area Conference on World Zionist Affairs which was convened to discuss the problems facing the world Zionist movement today. Jacques Torczyner, a ZOA vice president, presided.

Rabbi Miller said that "a seemingly endless debate over definitions of Zionism is today serving no constructive purpose" and that "against the background of present-day realities in Israel and the Diaspora, is quite academic." Both Rabbi Miller and Dr. Neumann alluded to the world-wide discussion engendered by the statement addressed by David Ben Gurion to the Jerusalem meeting of the World Zionist Actions Committee last December. In this, the former Israeli Premier defined a Zionist as one who assumes the obligations of "personal emigration" to Israel.

Dr. Neumann said he felt that Mr. Ben Gurion's "polemical statements on the future of Zionism may have a most salutary effect." "The movement suffered severely from the fact that the State and Government of Israel have not had a clear and consistent line of policy toward the Zionist movement and its relations to the State," he said. He asserted that the controversy now going on between Ben Gurion and other Israeli leaders, including some of his own party colleagues, "reveals the root cause of the difficulty - the absence at this late date of a crystallized opinion on the subject within the dominant party."

The speaker revealed that "despite the continued rift and occasional conflicts between the General Zionists and Progressives, they are actually nearer rapprochement and unification than at any time since the Progressives split off six years ago." He further reported that "some of the Progressive leaders who were most instrumental in the formation of the Progressive party have come to realize that it was a historic mistake to split the forces of the center and are now seeking the way back toward union."

ISRAEL CABINET MEMBER RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT OF CHILE

SANTIAGO, Chile, March 15. (JTA) -- Chilean President Ibanez received Dr. Joseph Burg, Israel Minister of Posts, Telegraph and Telephones, in a half-hour audience during which they discussed Israel-Chilean relations.

Later, Dr. Burg, who is touring Latin America in behalf of the Israel Bond Drive, inaugurated a bond sales campaign at a banquet in the city's leading hotel. The Israel Legation also gave a reception for Dr. Burg which was attended by members of the diplomatic corps led by the Papal Nuncio, and members of the Chilean government.

PROF. EINSTEIN'S INTEREST IN JEWISH LIFE CITED ON HIS BIRTHDAY

NEW YORK, March 15. (JTA) -- Prof. Albert Einstein's deep interest in Jewish life was emphasized in messages from Israel's Prime Minister, Moshe Sharett, and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency, presented to him yesterday at his home in Princeton, New Jersey, on the occasion of his 75th birthday. The messages were included in a testimonial volume in which 15 Nobel Prize winners and more than 60 distinguished scientists, statesmen and educators joined in paying tribute to Dr. Einstein.

Mr. Sharett, in his message, stated: "As a Jew, Prof. Einstein has brought glory to his people and honor to their name by his wisdom, scientific eminence and unswerving struggle for human freedom. If his intellect has been so brilliantly creative in opening new horizons of knowledge for humanity at large, his heart has always been with his own people in its torments, trials and triumphs.

"Israel is proud to send him its best wishes and congratulations on his 75th birthday. We all pray that he may continue to adorn, teach and inspire this world for many years to come."

Dr. Goldmann said in his message: "Prof. Einstein has never been indifferent to the fate of his people. He has always been a proud Jew and has taken a profound, active and vigorous interest in the Jewish political and intellectual movements of our day. Through his authority and personality, he has made lasting contributions to all Jewish institutions and enterprises which engaged his interest."

The testimonial volume was presented to Prof. Einstein at a quiet ceremony at his home by a delegation representing the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University. The volume was sponsored by the College which was named for Prof. Einstein on his last birthday. Messages from former President Harry S. Truman, Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, Lester B. Pearson, Secretary of State for External Affairs for the Dominion of Canada, and Luigi Einaudi, President of Italy, are among those in the volume.

Leading newspapers throughout the United States today carried editorials emphasizing Prof. Einstein's contribution to science. The New York Herald Tribune said in an editorial: "He is a figure on the streets of his town just as he is a figure in scientific history, and to both he lends unique dignity as a symbol of man's inquiring spirit. In America he has found a home and the freedom to follow his own paths, and he cherishes both. On his seventy-fifth birthday his fellow Americans will join millions of others the world over in wishing him many more years of contentment and achievement."

Prof. Einstein's Birthday Celebrated in Israel

JERUSALEM, March 15. (JTA) -- The 75th birthday of Prof. Albert Einstein was celebrated here last night at a gathering arranged jointly by the Hebrew University, Haifa Technion, Weizmann Institute of Science and the Israel Research Council.

President Itzhak Ben Zvi of Israel, who opened the meeting, spoke at great length of Prof. Einstein as a scientist and a warm-hearted Jew. Other speakers included members of the Cabinet and noted Israeli scientists.

GERMANY AWARDS BEHRING PRIZE TO NEW YORK-BORN JEWISH PROFESSOR

MARBURG, March 15. (JTA) -- Professor Michael Heidelberger, New York-born Jewish biochemist and top specialist in the field of immuno-chemistry, was today awarded the 1954 Behring Prize in a ceremony held here to commemorate the 100th birthday of the discoverer of the diphtheria serum and the tetanus antitoxin, Emil von Behring, whose work was associated with the local University.

## U. S. N. A. RATIFIES MERGER WITH HIAS AS SINGLE MIGRATION AGENCY

NEW YORK, March 15. (JTA) -- The Board of Directors of United Service for New Americans took final ratifying action at the concluding session of its annual meeting yesterday on recent proposals to merge with the Hebrew Sheltering and Immigrant Aid Society and form a single worldwide Jewish migration agency to be called United Hias Service.

The forthcoming merger will also include the overseas migration operations of the Joint Distribution Committee. Ratification of the merger agreement by the USNA national board left only legal and statutory formalities in the way of physical consolidation of the two migration agencies.

In a special message to the delegates, President Eisenhower lauded the agency's resettlement program and said that the efforts of United Service in the field of immigration had brought important benefits to the United States.

In a series of panel discussions conducted yesterday, some 400 Jewish resettlement leaders from all over the U. S. studied the effect of the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 on their migration programs, assessed the impact of the forthcoming merger on local community operations and planned resettlement programs for 1954. Arthur Greenleigh, executive director of USNA, speaking at a luncheon meeting following the panel discussions, asserted that America's restrictive immigration policies spring from fear rather than logic.

## A. J. C. AND A. D. L. LEAVE SOUTHWEST COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL

HOUSTON, Tex., March 15. (JTA) -- Action by the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in announcing their withdrawal from the Southwest Jewish Community Relations Council and their intention to establish local regional offices brought demands today that the two national agencies reconsider the situation.

Marcus Ginsburg, chairman of the Council, has notified the federations and community councils affiliated with it of receipt of notice from the two agencies "that they have decided to sever their relationships with our organization in 1954 and that each national agency plans to open a functional regional office in the Southwest."

The nine-year-old council has as its members 15 communities in Texas, Oklahoma and Louisiana, along with the two national agencies. It is affiliated with the National Community Relations Advisory Council and has served as a unifying and coordinating agency for the area on community relations problems. The annual grants to the council by the two national agencies totalled \$20,000, about two-thirds of the Council's budget.

The Texas State Association of B'nai B'rith, which met at Galveston last Sunday, adopted a resolution calling on the national office of the ADL to reconsider its action.

Resolutions adopted by the Jewish community organizations in Ardmore, Fort Worth and Houston, expressed concern over the action of the two national agencies, called for continuation of the tristate council and urged the two agencies to reconsider.

A resolution by the Fort Worth Jewish Federation said that the action of the two agencies would result in "useless duplication." It recommended that the federation's allocation to the council be increased and that the additional funds for the council be deducted from the federation's allocation to the Joint Defense Appeal. The Jewish Community Council of Houston, in a resolution, called for continuation of the council and urged the two national agencies to reconsider their action.

WARBURG ISSUES CALL TO U.S. JEWRY FOR PURIM-PASSOVER GIFTS TO U.J.A.

NEW YORK, March 15. (JTA) -- With the Festival of Purim beginning this Friday and separated by only four weeks from the Festival of Passover, the United Jewish Appeal today called on American Jews to mark this period of Judaism's freedom holidays with an outpouring of contributions in behalf of the UJA's 1954 "freedom-serving" campaign.

Edward M. M. Warburg, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, pointed out that "the Purim and Passover holidays are among the oldest freedom festivals in the world" and said that "the UJA regards this period as uniquely appropriate for a rededication to the freedom aims represented by the 1954 campaign."

He stressed in this connection that the UJA's 1954 campaign "is aimed principally at advancing the freedom of the people of Israel, and at rescuing tens of thousands of men, women and children from the tyrannies of oppression, poverty, hunger and sickness."

Mr. Warburg called special attention to Purim as marking the beginning of the UJA's peak campaign period and asked all citizens of the country's Jewish communities "to go on record now with announcement of gifts." He urged at the same time that "every contributor bear in mind the urgent necessity for a swift redemption of pledges in cash" to speed the flow of assistance to areas of need.

Illinois Conference Urges Increased Contributions to U. J. A.

PEORIA, Ill., March 15. (JTA) -- General Carlos P. Romulo, special Philippine Republic Ambassador to the United States and former President of the United Nations General Assembly, today hailed "the vigor and courage of the people of Israel" in creating and building a pilot system of free institutions in their part of the world and endorsed the United Jewish Appeal for fostering the new state's drive to achieve economic independence.

Addressing more than 350 campaign leaders at an Illinois state conference of the United Jewish Appeal, Gen. Romulo declared that Israel's people "have shown their devotion to freedom," and "must be given the wholehearted cooperation of all those who are willing to stand up and be counted in the fight for justice and democracy."

The conferees, who met at the Jefferson Hotel here to inaugurate the 1954 Illinois campaign in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, moved adoption of a three-point program calling for: 1. Increased giving by all contributors; 2. The immediate beginning of fund solicitations; 3. The earliest cash redemption of all pledges.

A. D. L. OFFICIALS LEAVE FOR GERMANY TO STUDY JEWISH SITUATION

NEW YORK, March 15. (JTA) -- Three officials of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith left by plane today for Germany, at the invitation of the West German Government, to study conditions affecting Jews. They will join a party of 24 other Americans who are making a four-week tour of Germany as guests of the Bonn Government to study cultural and industrial life there.

The three ADL representatives are Jacob Alson, national treasurer, Benjamin R. Epstein, national director, and Nathan C. Beith, public relations director. The invitation to them was extended by Walter Hallstein, Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs in West Germany.

"BROTHERHOOD WEEK" STARTED IN GERMANY; SPONSORED BY PRESIDENT

FRANKFURT, March 15. (JTA) -- The annual observance of "Brotherhood Week," a concept which the German Societies for Christian-Jewish Cooperation adapted from the American model, was inaugurated in a dozen German cities yesterday. As in previous years, Federal President Theodor Heuss has accepted the protectorate over "Brotherhood Week."