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JEWS START PASSOVER CELEBRATIONS ON SATURDAY; TO STRESS LIBERTY

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- Jews throughout the democratic world will start celebrating Passover this Saturday evening, marking the liberation of the Israelites from slavery in ancient Egypt and dedicating themselves to the cause of freedom and liberty everywhere.

In the United States, the attention of the Jews will this Passover be directed particularly toward Israel in view of the growing Arab-Israel tension. During synagogue services appeals will be made on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, the Israel bond organization and various Zionist groups to secure as much financial aid in this country for Israel as possible.

Passover will be observed by 150,000 Jews in the American armed forces in various parts of the world. Two large Seders for several hundred Jewish servicemen will be held in Korea. American Jewish chaplains will also conduct Seder services in Japan, the Philippines, Hawaii, Okinawa, India, French-Indo China, North Africa, Europe and the Caribbean. A mass seder for GI's in Puerto Rico will be conducted at the Carib-Hilton Hotel. Shipment by the National Jewish Welfare Board of holiday supplies to remote stations in Greenland, Iceland, Labrador and Alaska, where the GI's will receive in addition individual Passover food boxes, will assure holiday services at these outposts.

318,000 Included in U. J. A. Passover Aid Program

Edward M. M. Warburg, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, in a Passover message, urged American Jews to mark the Passover holiday with "greater contributions than ever before" for the UJA. "This aid is crucial if Israel is to continue to strengthen its free way of life and to survive as a 20th century democracy in an area of hostile feudal and military dictatorships," he stated, adding that 185,000 immigrants in Israel, 100,000 impoverished Jews in Moslem lands, 30,000 Jewish displaced persons in Europe and 3,000 newcomers to the United States are included in the UJA Passover aid program.

Samuel Rothberg, national chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, called for the strengthening of Israel as "a dynamo" of democratic growth. "We who are associated with efforts to mobilize capital for Israel's growth through the Israel Bond drive find a special meaning in this Passover observance. For work in behalf of Israel bears a close and abiding relationship to the struggle for freedom which we are now celebrating," he said.

Rudolf Sonneborn, national chairman of the United Israel Appeal, emphasized in his appeal that Israel approaches Passover as a target of hostility on the one hand while she fights valiantly to meet the needs of the people. "To help bolster the area of the economy which is concerned with needy immigrants, to speed the job of

rehabilitation and resettlement, it is vital that Jews in this country respond with a maximum of efforts of generosity in these times of emergency and crises," he declared.

Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, pointed out in her message that "Passover has also acquired great universal meaning, especially for the Anglo-Saxon world whose democratic traditions are drawn from the sources revealed during the ancient exodus from Egypt." This, she said, is why America has shown throughout such great interest in Zionist efforts to restore the Jewish homeland and why America continues to take a profound and sympathetic interest in Israel.

"We, of the Zionist movement, have always deeply appreciated this affinity between the people and Government of the United States and the new State of Israel. We are confident that this affinity will eventually result in further extending, conceptually and pragmatically, the dimensions of freedom," Mrs. Halprin stated.

Rabbi Irving Miller, president of the Zionist Organization of America, asserted that "for the Jewish people the essential elements of the Passover story have been repeated in the life of each generation. In our own time, the account of the Exodus and the struggle of the ancient Children of Israel for freedom and nationhood has acquired special meaning; for it is our generation which has achieved the rebirth of the free and independent State of Israel."

Dr. Harris J. Levine, president of the Jewish National Fund, in his Passover message, said: "This year, Passover should be the occasion for helpful thought and action, for the generous aid we, American Jews, can render to hasten the deliverance of the State of Israel from the threat of new bloody occurrences along the Israel-Arab borders and from the perils of economic and political collapse. More than ever before, the Jews of the world must stand guard to protect the security and the welfare of the Jewish State against the dangers that threaten to engulf it."

Jewish Civic Groups Stress Freedom Theme of Passover

Irving M. Engel, president of the American Jewish Committee, noting in his message that Passover is the holiday signifying the fight for freedom, declared: "We shall strive to protect the traditional American freedom from designing and misguided individuals within our own country and from scheming dictators without. We shall continue to view with sympathy Israel's heroic efforts to become a democratic bulwark in the Middle East and, within the framework of American interests, we shall continue to aid that effort. Above all, on this Passover we of the American Jewish Committee will rededicate ourselves to the ideals of this occasion by continuing our efforts to protect the human rights of Jews and of our fellow men."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress, said in his message: "So long as mankind refuses to heed the voice of mere expedience and pursues instead justice and the principles of genuine democracy, so long will the Passover message have enduring meaning and compelling force. Today, unfortunately, there are men in this country who, bowing to the dictates of what they conceive to be expedience, would supply arms to the Arabs in spite of their malevolent threats of aggression toward Israel. There are also men in this country who, through excessive anxiety over our security, would cast aside the entire heritage of democracy in the effort to uncover subversion."

Henry Edward Schultz, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League, said that the observance of Passover has linked many generations of Jews in the universal yearning for freedom, and added: "Although oppression overshadows large areas of the world and the oppressors have control over forces which are catastrophic in destructiveness, each succeeding Passover reminds us that whatever the tyranny, the cause of freedom and justice emerges from its struggles with spirit undiminished."

Passover statements were also issued by Prof. William Haber, president of the American ORT, Dr. Norman Salit, president of the Synagogue Council of America, and Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

JEWISH GROUP WITHDRAWS FROM RESTITUTION SUCCESSOR ORGANIZATION

LONDON, April 15. (JTA) -- The Council for the Protection of the Rights and Interests of the Jews from Germany, an organization of Jews who formerly lived in Germany, has withdrawn its representatives from the executive board of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization in protest against the JRSO's alleged refusal to allocate funds which the Council asked for its social welfare programs among aged and indigent refugees.

The JRSO was formed by 12 world Jewish organizations to claim heirless Jewish property in the United States zone of Germany. Between 1949-1953 the JRSO granted the bulk of its funds to the American Joint Distribution Committee and to the Jewish Agency both of whom were principally engaged in the relief and resettlement of the Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution. JRSO funds during the same period contributed towards the resettlement of more than 70,000 Jewish victims from Germany as well as towards the support of thousands more living within Germany largely through the local Jewish communities there.

In a letter to the JRSO announcing the Council's action, Dr. Leo Baeck, former Chief Rabbi of Berlin and now head of the Council, said that every reasonable request which his organization placed before the JRSO "was in some way or other put off" in the course of the last four years. "We think that we are entitled to say that we have shown a great deal of patience and a steady wish to cooperate honestly," Dr. Baeck wrote.

The Council, in a subsequent statement, declared: "This deplorable rift in the structure of Jewish organizational life at a time when solidarity is needed should not be misinterpreted as ingratitude on the part of the German Jews or as their dissociation from the two great Jewish organizations which act as the operating agents of the JRSO.

JRSO President Terms Withdrawal "Inappropriate"; Cites Facts

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- The hope that the Council for the Protection of the Rights and Interests of Jews from Germany will reconsider its decision to withdraw from the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization was expressed today by Monroe Goldwater, president of the JRSO, which is incorporated in New York.

In a letter addressed to Dr. Leo Baeck, president of the Council, Mr. Goldwater said that the action of the Council in withdrawing "is particularly inappropriate" in the light of the JRSO decision taken last month to set aside out of the first 20,000,000 deutschmarks expected to accrue in Germany, the sum of 3,000,000 deutschmarks against which projects originating with the Council could be considered. "It is distressing that the Council, in place of participating in the implementation of this decision, has chosen instead to make a public gesture of disunity," the JRSO president stated.

Mr. Goldwater recalled that on October 9, 1953, the JRSO granted the sum of \$200,000 to "Help and Reconstruction," whose application for the care of aged persecutees in the vicinity of New York City the Council had sponsored. "Unhappily, these funds have not as yet been utilized," he added. He also emphasized the following facts:

1. The JRSO has returned to some 3,000 individual German Jews assets valued at \$3,452,000. These persons had failed to submit their claims before the filing deadline had passed. In every case the JRSO had filed a timely claim and hence it became the only claimant under the law entitled to recovery. The JRSO position would have rested on solid ground had it insisted that the funds be used for general Jewish relief.

2. JRSO funds have also enabled the United Restitution Office, an agency with close links to the Council and originally sponsored by it, to carry on its operations during the period under review. The URO was organized to provide legal assistance

to needy Jewish victims for the recovery of their assets and satisfaction of other claims in Germany. The JRSO funds enabled the URO to assist more than 10,000 Jews formerly from Germany in the recovery of assets exceeding 60,000,000 marks in value.

Mr. Goldwater revealed that the Council has demanded special consideration in the form of a grant of 20 percent of all JRSO funds. The Council anchored itself upon the argument that the Jews from Germany possess a special and rightful claim to all heirless property that JRSO may be entitled to recover. In his letter to Dr. Baeck, Mr. Goldwater drew attention to the fact that the JRSO was called into life by twelve major organizations representing the principal segments of organized Jewish life.

"The United States Military Government in Germany appointed the JRSO as the proper successor organization to heirless Jewish property in recognition of the fact that the funds accruing would be used for the benefit of all Jewish victims of Nazi persecution without regard to national origin," Mr. Goldwater stated. "From its earliest inception, our organization has pursued the policy of treating Nazi victims from the vantage point of urgent need and not of national origin."

Mr. Goldwater emphasized that, notwithstanding the withdrawal of the Council from our organization, the JRSO is fully prepared to give serious consideration to any specific projects the Council may wish to submit. "The executive committee of the JRSO has made it clear that it will continue to honor its commitments on the 3,000,000 marks it had set aside, he said.

U.S. POLICY ON MIDDLE EAST COOPERATION COINCIDES WITH ISRAEL'S

WASHINGTON, April 15. (JTA) -- The statement issued this week by the State Department expressing the hope that cooperation rather than force would characterize the relations of the countries of the Middle East expressed precisely what the Israel Government has been trying to emphasize all along, Israel Ambassador Abba Eban told Assistant Secretary of State Henry A. Byroade yesterday.

Mr. Eban added that Israel only hoped her neighbors would come to understand the necessity for direct cooperation. Later, he made known that he will make an address in the near future in which might be found Israel's view of the relationship of the state with world Jewry and other subjects mentioned by Assistant Secretary of State Henry A. Byroade last week at Dayton, Ohio.

ARABS TO SUBMIT TO EISENHOWER PLAN ON JORDAN RIVER DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, April 15. (JTA) -- Arab diplomatic representatives in Washington are preparing to submit to President Eisenhower a Jordan River development project which is their alternative to the plan recommended by Presidential envoy Eric Johnston.

The Arab plan differs from the Johnston plan mainly in that Israel would be forced to make vast concessions. A group of Syrian, Lebanese and Egyptian engineers drew up the new scheme. Their definition states that it "differs from the Johnston project regarding the use of Lake Tiberias as a storage basin for the Yarmuk waters."

The Arab plan proposes that the river basin shall be the reservoir for its own waters. The two plans are contradictory as regards the quantity of water to be used for irrigation. The American water allocation per dunam is 15 percent less than provided in the Arab plan. The American project also offers no benefits to Lebanon, whereas the Arab plan grants Lebanon quantities of water "sufficient to irrigate an additional 35,000 dunams."

U.S. AUTHORIZES \$100,000 WORTH OF CRUDE ASBESTOS FOR ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, April 15. (JTA) -- The Foreign Operations Administration today announced the authorization of \$100,000 of crude asbestos for Israel. Some of the asbestos may be shipped to Israel from European participating countries.

U.S. JEWRY LAUDED BY LEHMAN FOR AIDING JEWS THROUGHOUT THE WORLD

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- The fact that nearly half a million Jews in many parts of the world look to the United Jewish Appeal for assistance should not prove a source of discouragement to the American Jews but rather a source of pride in accomplishment, Sen. Herbert H. Lehman declared here tonight.

Speaking to a dinner sponsored by the American ORT Federation on behalf of the UJA of Greater New York, Sen. Lehman pointed out that partly because of American Jewry's aid five times as many Jews have been enabled to become self-sufficient citizens in recent years. A total of \$850,000 was pledged for the UJA by the 600 guests who attended the dinner.

Noting that there are many thousands of Jews who cannot be aided among the 500,000 and to whom "we can offer nothing but the deep assurance that we have not forgotten or forsaken them," the Senator listed in this category:

1. Jewish refugees in Western Europe who want to come to the United States as immigrants but are barred by "the iniquitous, restrictive and arbitrary terms of the McCarran Walter Act" and the "shocking frustration" of the purposes of the Refugee Relief Act.

2. The "much vaster number of Jews terrorized, oppressed and pinned down behind the Iron Curtain, over whom hangs the heavy sword of genocide."

The creation of the State of Israel, Sen. Lehman continued, "more than any other simple act of statesmanship in the past two thousand years, has given heart to those who have known only despair and suffering--to the homeless, the unwanted, the rootless wanderers in hostile lands. In six short years 750,000 Jews have found in Israel a refuge and a homeland. There in six short years a new nation, with a dynamic economic life and a vibrant, democratic political life, has been constructed."

"We here have a dual responsibility toward Israel," he stressed. "We have a responsibility as Jews for the welfare of our fellow-Jews attempting to build new lives for themselves in their new land. And we have a responsibility as Americans to foster the growth and development of the democratic way of life in a feudal area of the world."

"Above all, we have a high responsibility as American citizens to work for peace in the Middle East. I am convinced that the current tension between Israel and its Arab neighbors can be abated only if the United States and the United Nations insist on the prompt formalization and stabilization of the relations between Israel and her neighbors."

Other addresses to the guests were made by Dr. William Haber, president of the American ORT Federation; Louis Brodén, a vice-chairman of New York UJA's board of directors; and Jack D. Weiler, a general chairman of New York UJA's campaign. Dr. Haber recalled that through agreements with JDC for the past eight years "ORT has received the financial help which has made it possible to place 15,000 Jews on the road to independence."

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S REFUGEE RELIEF ACT CRITICIZED IN HOUSE

WASHINGTON, April 15. (JTA) -- Rep. Jacob K. Javits said on the House floor today that the administration of President Eisenhower's Refugee Relief Act has been so disappointing that only eight arrivals have entered the country under the Act. He said "disappointing results are attributable to an obsession with security in the law as against the fundamental objectives sought by the legislation."

To make the Act functional, Mr. Javits recommended the consideration of various amendments, appointment of a commissioner, and Presidential nomination of an advisory committee representative of public and voluntary agencies. He said the Act's administration can be greatly facilitated by fully utilizing Jewish and other voluntary agencies.

ISRAEL NOT ON BRINK OF WAR WITH ARABS, ISRAELI MINISTER SAYS

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- Reports that Israel is on the brink of a war with the Arabs are not true, Moshe Shapira, Israel Minister of Religion and Welfare, declared at a press conference today. He said that as long as Israel remained strong the Arabs would not attack, and Israel had no intention of precipitating fighting with any one.

Mr. Shapira appealed to American Jews to support Israel, declaring that Israel's best ally is world Jewry. He expressed the opinion that Israel would solve the problems of the state and religion. He also reported that there were 114 yeshivah in operation in Israel with a combined student body of 5,245.

ZIONISTS URGE U.S. TO BRING ABOUT DIRECT ARAB-ISRAEL TALKS

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- The United States Government was called upon to prevail upon the Arab states to enter into direct negotiations with Israel in a resolution unanimously adopted at a large emergency rally held tonight under the auspices of the Manhattan Region of the Zionist Organization of America.

Asserting that "full responsibility for the present dangerous situation in the Middle East must be borne by the Arab states, whose unconcealed threats to destroy Israel and whose guerilla warfare along Israel's frontiers have produced a succession of tragic incidents costing many human lives along both sides of the border, the resolution continues:

"A solution to this problem can be achieved only by forthright action on the cause of the mounting unrest, rather than on its symptoms. The root of the problem is the continued refusal of the Arab states to negotiate directly with Israel, not only with respect to peace, but even on the implementation of the existing Armistice Agreements."

Rabbi Irving Miller, ZOA president, in his address, warned that "there is very grave danger that the steadily deteriorating situation in the Middle East may end in open warfare." The speaker charged that "the absence of peace, the persistent refusal of the Arab states to translate the Armistice Agreement into a final settlement with Israel is the basic problem which underlies every incident between Israel and the Arab states. Other speakers included Congressman Jacob K. Javits, Harry Torczyner and Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum.

Zionists in Canada Plead for Direct Arab-Israel Negotiations

MONTREAL, April 15. (JTA) -- The United Zionist Council of Canada and the Canadian Jewish Congress today expressed their deep regret at the inability of the United Nations to preserve peace in the Middle East and at the alarming deterioration of the situation in this strategic area.

In a joint statement made public here, these organizations pleaded that all freedom-loving people urge that the Arab states enter into direct negotiations with the Government of Israel "so that the present armistice agreements, which have not succeeded in stabilizing this area, be quickly moulded into a permanent peace."

CITY OF AMSTERDAM BUYS TWO SYNAGOGUES FROM JEWISH COMMUNITY

AMSTERDAM, April 15. (JTA) -- The City of Amsterdam yesterday bought two famous synagogues located in the former Jewish center of the city which was laid waste by the Nazis during the occupation.

The two synagogues, purchased from the Ashkenazi community, went for the price of 500,000 Dutch guilders. A third synagogue, located in the old Amsterdam ghetto, was purchased earlier by the city to be used as an architectural museum.

BECAUSE OF PASSOVER THE NEXT BULLETIN WILL APPEAR ON TUESDAY