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AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR OPTIMISTIC ON RESTITUTION TO JEWS

VIENNA, April 20. (JTA) -- An Austrian-Jewish agreement on world Jewish restitution and indemnification demands could have been achieved a long time ago if the Jewish organizations had not started the talks with "exaggerated demands," Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in an exclusive interview.

Asserting that he was very optimistic about the possibilities of still reaching agreement, Chancellor Raab declared Austria was fully aware of the extent of Jewish sufferings under the Nazi regime. But, he continued, Austria cannot overstrain its economic abilities. The government must also consider public opinion on this issue, he said, revealing that threatening letters opposing such a settlement had been received by government figures.

The Chancellor said that he would do his best to arrange for the earliest possible settlement. He also expressed his satisfaction that the Jewish organizations had not taken their protest to the recent meeting of the Big Four Foreign Ministers in Berlin at which the question of an Austrian peace treaty was discussed.

U. S. GRANTS \$13,125,000 IN SPECIAL ECONOMIC AID TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, April 20. (JTA) -- The Foreign Operations Administration today announced that \$13,125,000 in special economic aid has been allotted to Israel for the fourth quarter of the fiscal year, bringing the total for the year to \$52,500,000.

For the first three quarters a total of \$39,375,000 had been made available to Israel under the program to provide that nation with essential supplies, encourage export earnings and bolster local production by assisting in development of the economy. An additional \$1,487,000 is being devoted to the technical cooperation program.

Since the first year of United States aid to Israel, when the assistance was directed principally toward relief, the emphasis has shifted toward development. The program today includes building, new industry, vital reclamation and irrigation projects, and expansion of food supply. Extensive work is also under way in the fields of education, transportation, public health and sanitation as part of the technical cooperation program.

U. N. TRUCE GROUP IN PALESTINE TO BE STRENGTHENED

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 20. (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary General Hammarskjöld today announced at a press conference that he was giving "active consideration" to strengthening the observer group in Palestine under Maj. Gen. Vagn Bennike. He said he did not understand Danish reports that the Danish Government would ask Gen. Bennike to resign, and indicated that he had full confidence in the General.

U. N. COMMITTEE COMPLETES SURVEY ON USE OF JORDAN RIVER WATERS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 20. (JTA) -- The inter-departmental committee sent up by the United Nations to survey the question of the use of Jordan River waters has wound up its work, it was announced here today. The committee was headed by Dr. Ralph Bunche, former mediator between Israel and the Arab states, who brought about the conclusion of the Arab-Israel armistice agreements.

BRITAIN AND JORDAN DISCUSS SITUATION ON ISRAEL FRONTIER

LONDON, April 20. (JTA) -- The British and Jordan Governments have been exchanging views during the past two weeks on the Israel-Jordan border situation, the Times of London revealed here today.

The newspaper reported that the British Government is most concerned with re-establishing direct contact between Jordan and Israel in the wake of Israel's boycott of the Mixed Armistice Commission. It adds that while Jordan refuses to meet with Israel under the terms of Article XII of the armistice agreement, it might be willing to confer if all the Arab states participated and if the agenda was restricted to the single item of border conflict.

Jordan is hoping to obtain British agreement to invocation of the Anglo-Jordan treaty of 1948 under which either party is required to come to the assistance of the other in the event of an attack. Jordan last tried to obtain British assistance to patrol the border in February 1953, but was not successful, the Times disclosed.

ISRAEL COMPLIES WITH IRAQ'S TERMS FOR RELEASE OF ISRAELIS

UNITED NATIONS, April 20. (JTA) -- The Secretary General of the United Nations Dag Hammarskjold announced today that Israel had complied with the Iraqi terms for releasing three Israeli citizens imprisoned in Bagdad when their plane was forced down.

He told a press conference today that he had received a letter from the Israel Government saying that it was Israel's policy to return any Iraqi citizens found in its territory. He had forwarded this letter, which was dated a week ago, to the Iraqi delegation. Such a letter had been demanded by the Iraqis who contended that seven unnamed Iraqi citizens might be somewhere in Israel.

When he was asked if this was not similar to Hitler's principle of holding hostages he agreed that the principle was an "extraordinary" one, but if the parties agreed there was nothing he could do. The Secretary General said that this diplomatic exchange was another sign of the "irregular conditions" in the Middle East.

HERUT CONVENTION OPENS; BEIGIN OUTLINES PROGRAM FOR ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, April 20. (JTA) -- Criticism of the Israel Government's immigration, economic and security policies was voiced here last night by Menahem Beigin, Herut leader, at the opening of the party's national convention. Addressing more than 300 delegates and over 1,000 guests at ZOA House here, the rightist leader outlined his party's program in the economic and foreign affairs spheres.

Mr. Beigin demanded the stabilization of Israel's currency, as well as prices and wages, and called for the break-up of all monopolies, whether owned by the Histadrut or private investors. He urged that trade unions be prohibited from owning industrial enterprises.

He insisted that Israel must join with all free nations opposing the rearmament of Germany. He said the world was facing two dangers--war and Communist expansion--and insisted that war would be inevitable if Germany were rearmed since "no-body can foresee" against whom the German army will march. He suggested that an international conference be called in Paris against the rearmament of Germany.

NAVY DEPARTMENT TO HOLD NEW HEARING ON CHASANOW'S DISMISSAL

WASHINGTON, April 20. (JTA) -- In the wake of an American Jewish Congress request for a determination of whether anti-Semitism was in any way involved in the dismissal of Abraham Chasanow on security grounds, the Navy Department today consented to hold a new hearing to hear "reasons for reconsidering the decision" to dismiss Mr. Chasanow.

Assistant Secretary of the Navy J.H. Smith, in making the announcement, said the Navy does not intend to say any more at this time because of the possibility of prejudicing the outcome.

In a petition asking the Navy to reconsider the case, Mr. Chasanow made known that "loose charges" and anti-Semitic remarks were made by "disgruntled persons" among his neighbors at nearby Greenbelt, Maryland. The petition asking reconsideration said:

"There are but five members of the Jewish faith who are or were both Greenbelt residents and employees of the Hydrographic Office. There are at least eight members of the Gentile faiths who are both residents of Greenbelt and employees of the Hydrographic Office. All five of the Jews have had security difficulties. . . all the Gentiles remain undisturbed. In the absence of a statement of reasons for the adverse decision of the Assistant Secretary (of the Navy), it may well be believed that the proceedings which led to that decision were tainted by anti-Semitism."

U.S. SENDS REP. WALTER TO INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION PARLEY

WASHINGTON, April 20. (JTA) -- The United States Government today announced the appointment of an American delegation to the seventh session of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration which is to convene at Geneva on April 26, and it was noted that this delegation includes as alternate U.S. representative, the co-author of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act, Rep. Francis E. Walter of Pennsylvania.

The purpose of the Intergovernmental Committee is to facilitate the movement out of Europe of refugees who would not otherwise be moved because of the termination of the International Refugee Organization. The countries of emigration are Germany, Austria, Greece, Italy, and the Netherlands. Israel is one of the members of the Intergovernmental Committee. The naming of Rep. Walter to a delegation to work on behalf of refugees is considered puzzling here in light of his anti-Semitic expressions on the floor of the House of Representatives and his activities against the interests of refugees.

LEADING TURKISH PARTIES NAME JEWS AS CANDIDATES FOR PARLIAMENT

ANKARA, April 20. (JTA) -- The Democratic Party, the party presently in control of the Turkish Government, which previously dropped all Jewish candidates from its lists for the forthcoming national elections, has nominated Henry Soriano, former president of the Jewish community, as a candidate for Parliament.

The opposition party, the Republican Party, has nominated Moises Tekinalp, a well-known economist and a Jew, to run in the Parliamentary elections.

The Democratic Party recently dropped the name of Salomon Adatto, only Jewish member of Parliament, from its election slate. A short time later, Mr. Adatto was killed in an airplane crash.

JEWS IN SPAIN TO HAVE FIRST SYNAGOGUE IN FIVE CENTURIES

MADRID, April 20. (JTA) -- The first synagogue to be built in Spain since the expulsion of the Jews nearly five centuries ago, is nearing completion at Barcelona.

The building will house two congregations under one roof, there being separate worship halls for the Ashkenazi and Sephardic communities. The four-storied structure will also serve as a community center for Barcelona's 2,500 Jewish inhabitants and will provide facilities for a Jewish school for children.

JEWISH AGENCY SENDS WATER PUMPING EQUIPMENT TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 20. (JTA) -- The first units of a \$2,100,000 purchase of heavy-duty water pumping equipment manufactured in this country for use in a major irrigation project in Israel, will be shipped from New York City this week, it was announced today by the Jewish Agency which financed the purchase.

The total purchase consists of nine centrifugal pumps and nine diesel engines which, together with their gears and auxiliary equipment, were manufactured by the Worthington Corporation of Harrison, New Jersey. The machinery is consigned to the Mekorot Water Company, a public agency engaged in the development of water resources in Israel. The first shipment--two complete units of pumps, diesels and gears--leaves for Israel aboard the steamer "Henrietta Szold," of the Zim-Israel America Lines.

The \$2,100,000 contract with the Worthington Corporation was signed in July, 1952, by Gottlieb Hammer, executive director of the Jewish Agency, and Pinchas Sapir, managing director of the Mekorot Water Company. Worthington required nearly two years to engineer and build the highly specialized equipment.

The equipment will be installed in three pumping stations in Israel to carry water from the Yarkon River, near the Mediterranean coast, southward to the Negev, a distance of some 43 miles. It will supply water for irrigation and other purposes to existing agricultural settlements and will make possible the establishment of many new settlements in the arid Negev region. Irrigation of the Negev, a top priority project of the Israel Government, will increase the country's arable land area by 35 percent and will aid in the absorption of many thousands of new immigrant families.

HULEH DRAINAGE PROGRESSING, JEWISH NATIONAL FUND REPORTS

TEL AVIV, April 20. (JTA) -- Preparations were started today by an American construction company for the excavation of drainage canals in the eastern part of the Huleh swamp under an arrangement with the Jewish National Fund.

Officials of the JNF revealed that the second phase of the Huleh drainage project would be completed by the end of this year. By that time the eastern, western and northern canals would carry off excess water into the new Jordan River channel just south of Lake Huleh.

ISRAEL MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 20. (JTA) -- Joseph Saphir, Minister of Communications of the State of Israel, arrived here today for a one-month campaign visit in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal. He will visit major cities throughout the country to spur the UJA's campaign.

Mr. Saphir was born in Palestine and is a veteran of the many political, social and military struggles that brought Israel into existence. He will take part here in United Jewish Appeal celebrations on May 6 of the new state's sixth anniversary.

CANADIAN GOVERNMENT ISSUES REPORT ON PROGRESS IN ISRAEL

MONTREAL, April 20. (JTA) -- A report on "The Progress of Agriculture in Israel," issued by the Economic Division of the Canadian Department of Agriculture, predicts that despite the generally satisfactory progress in agricultural development made during the short existence of the State of Israel, a change in agricultural policy must be made if the country is ever to reach the stage where it can be largely self-supporting in food supplies.

The report declares that despite the spending of over \$300,000,000 on agricultural expansion and mechanization, the doubling of land under cultivation, as well as the continuance of food rationing, Israel, approaching the sixth year of statehood, still has to import over 50 percent in value of the food requirements of her population.

B'NAI B'RITH TO PLANT LARGEST MEMORIAL FOREST IN ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, April 20. (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith, the world's oldest Jewish service organization, will plant the largest memorial forest in Israel as part of the Forest of Martyrs now going up on Jewish National Fund soil in the mountains of Judea in the vicinity of Jerusalem, according to an announcement made by Philip Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith.

The announcement followed an agreement signed by Mr. Klutznick and Maurice Bisgayer, secretary, in the name of B'nai B'rith, and Dr. Harris J. Levine, president, and Mendel N. Fisher, executive director, in the name of the Jewish National Fund of America. According to the agreement, 300,000 trees will be planted by the 300,000 members of B'nai B'rith in the United States and it is expected that an additional 200,000 trees planted by B'nai B'rith members in other countries of the world will result in a forest of 500,000.

A sanctuary cut out of solid rock will be constructed in the B'nai B'rith Forest forming a section of the Martyrs' Forest. Among the names listed in this sanctuary will be those members of B'nai B'rith who perished in Nazi Europe or who died during the war in the service of their country and in whose memory trees have been planted in the B'nai B'rith Forest. Members of B'nai B'rith who visit Israel will be able to use the sanctuary as a place of meditation and prayer for their loved ones.

The decision of B'nai B'rith to plant the largest memorial forest in Israel, which was based on a recommendation by a special B'nai B'rith commission which visited Israel under the leadership of Morris Alexander, was hailed by Dr. Harris J. Levine, president of the Jewish National Fund, "as a strong bond linking the vast membership of B'nai B'rith with the rebuilding program of Israel." A cable was received from Dr. Abraham Granott, world chairman of the board of directors of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem, welcoming the participation of B'nai B'rith in the great Martyrs' Forest.

Mr. Klutznick, speaking for his organization, said: "Our organization has taken this step as an expression of our solidarity with Israel. This feeling of solidarity has been evidenced before by our establishment in Israel of two settlements bearing the names of our two distinguished former presidents, Alfred Cohen and Henry Monsky. In memorializing our sacred martyrs, who perished at the hands of the Nazis, through the planting of the B'nai B'rith Memorial Forest in Israel as part of the Martyrs' Forest, we are strengthening an old connection with one of the chief instruments for redeeming and reclaiming the land of Israel - the Jewish National Fund."

BRANDEIS INSTITUTE TO ACCEPT 100 YOUTHS FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING

LOS ANGELES, April 20. (JTA) -- Leadership training of the Brandeis Camp Institute of the West is being sought by Jewish college youth from 30 states, Mexico, Canada and foreign countries as far away as India, it was announced today by Abraham Goodman, president of the Brandeis Youth Foundation.

Mr. Goodman said that 100 young men and women will be accepted for each of the two 1954 sessions--June 27 to July 25 and August 1 to 29--at the Institute, located on a 2,000-acre ranch in Santa Susana, 35 miles northwest of Los Angeles. The 200 campers will be selected on the basis of recommendations from local community groups, such as centers, Hillel Foundations and synagogues, as well as by direct application.

NEW YORK MAYOR PROCLAIMS "WARSAW GHETTO DAY" AT CITY HALL

NEW YORK, April 20. (JTA) -- The 19th of April was today proclaimed "Warsaw Ghetto Day" in New York by Mayor Robert F. Wagner at a City Hall ceremony attended by leaders of Polish Jewry in this city. The proclamation was issued a day late because yesterday was the second day of Passover. "The battle in the streets within the walls of the Warsaw Ghetto proves that people all over the earth will always give their lives for the cause of freedom," Mayor Wagner declared.