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ISRAEL OBJECTS TO U.S. DECISION TO PROVIDE IRAQ WITH ARMS

WASHINGTON, April 26. (JTA) -- Israel's objections to the decision of the United States Government to give free American munitions to Iraq under the Mutual Security program were presented today by Ambassador Abba Eban to Henry A. Byroade, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. The understanding reached between Iraq and the United States was announced officially this morning by the State Department.

Diplomatic sources here noted that Iraq is still technically at war with Israel, not having concluded an armistice agreement such as the ones signed by the other Arab countries. Iraq is the first Arab League member state to receive military aid from the United States Government. It was indicated here today that other Arab states may soon receive similar grants in line with President Eisenhower's desire to create "situations of strength."

No responsible official would say whether Israel would be included among the recipients of military aid grants although Israel applied for such aid long before Iraq. Unofficial government sources said that a group of American military officers is preparing to leave for Baghdad to work out final details for sending to Iraq various types of artillery, tanks and military aircraft.

Contents of Israeli Note to U.S. Government Revealed

The Israel Embassy today revealed the contents of a note handed to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles by Ambassador Eban several weeks ago in which the Government of Israel informed the State Department that it considers the provision of arms to Iraq as inconsistent with the Tripartite Declaration of May 25, 1950, and that it does not believe any "assurances" would deter the use of such arms against Israel.

"The despatch of arms to Iraq by the United States in the present conditions," the note said, "would be interpreted throughout the Middle East as acquiescence in current Arab policies toward Israel, which are marked by a fierce hostility." It pointed out that "there is already evidence that Arab hostility to Israel has been intensified by the assumption of Arab governments that the United States is increasingly indulgent to Arab policies."

Mr. Dulles was told that "a sentiment in Israel that the security of the state has been prejudiced through a needless reinforcement of its hostile neighbors by the United States would in itself be a source of added tension in the life of the Middle East."

Stressing the fact that Israel would not do anything "which the friendly American people could regard as directly prejudicial to the security or independence of the United States," the note asked the U.S. to refrain from a step "which, whatever its

justification on other grounds, could not fail to aggravate the deadly dangers amidst which Iraqi lives, and to augment the tensions which prevail between the peoples of the Middle East."

"It would surely be a highly unusual step with few, if any, precedents in all history for the United States to supply arms to a government which has so recently expressed such emphatic hostility to a neighboring state," the note stated. It emphasized that such reinforcement of Iraq "would prejudice the existing balance of military forces in the region, and, by compelling Israel to undertake a corresponding increase of its own establishment, would serve to stimulate an arms race in the Middle East."

The note demonstrated how "Iraq has always shown a special virulence in its aggressive attitude to Israel." It stressed that Iraq was a pioneer and leader in armed aggression against Israel both before and during the official invasion by Arab regular forces in 1948. Mr. Dulles was reminded that Iraqi forces took a prominent part in these Arab military operations which were characterized by the American representative in the United Nations Security Council as an "aggression of international character."

Israel told in the note how Iraq not only refused to conclude an armistice agreement of the type signed by other Arab League aggressor nations, but is currently and publicly threatening new attacks. Belligerent official statements by the Iraqi Prime Minister were cited.

Zionists Ask State Dept. to Reconsider Decision on Arms to Iraq

WASHINGTON, April 26. (JTA) -- Chairman Louis Lipsky of the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs today issued a statement asking the State Department to reconsider the decision to provide American military aid to Iraq.

Mr. Lipsky said that the arming of Iraq would neither contribute to the Near Eastern peace nor strengthen the defenses of the free world. "Iraq has been the most vindictive and belligerent member of the Arab League in the continuing war against Israel," he stated, "it has refused even to enter into an armistice agreement with Israel."

"To arm Iraq at a time when Arab-Israel tension has been mounting and without a firm commitment to make peace with Israel is to fortify and embolden Arab intransigence and risk a renewal of open hostilities," said Mr. Lipsky. He pointed out that "the way to win the friendship of the Arab people for America and for the cause of freedom is to give them economic and technical assistance to raise their levels of living, "and not by shipping arms for regional aggression or the bolstering of despotic military regimes."

Text of State Dept. Announcement on U.S. Pact with Iraq

WASHINGTON, April 26. (JTA) -- The State Department today issued the following official announcement on the understanding reached between the United States and Iraq with regard to supplying Iraq with free American munitions:

"In March 1953, the Government of Iraq approached the U.S. Government with a request for military assistance in order to strengthen its forces for the defense of its territory against possible aggression. In requesting assistance to enable it to defend its independence, the Government of Iraq linked this objective with the defense of the vital resources of the free world."

"The request of the Government of Iraq has now been favorably acted upon by the United States and an understanding reached. The President's statement of February 25 gives general background on the subject of United States policy with respect to U.S. military assistance to certain countries of the Near and Middle East.

"The understanding reached between the two governments was effected by an exchange of notes in Baghdad on April 21. Included in the understanding is a provision that 'assistance will be provided subject to the provisions of applicable legislative authority and will be related in character, timing and amount to international developments in the area.'"

EGYPTIAN ATTACKS ON ISRAEL INTENSIFIED; U. N. OBSERVERS INVESTIGATE

TEL AVIV, April 26. (JTA) -- United Nations truce observers were today investigating Israeli complaints of renewed and intensified Egyptian attacks on Israeli military patrols in the Gaza strip area. Israel has requested an emergency meeting of the Israel-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission.

The attacks reached a high point yesterday and today, with five incidents in the Beeri area and an attack on a military vehicle. There have been 16 such attacks since April 6, an Israeli military spokesman revealed, explaining that the shootings are a device to cover Arab peasants who cross into Israeli territory and illegally harvest crops.

The attack on the car, which was moving along the Meffalsim Road when it came under fire, necessitated heavy return fire from an Israeli position before the Egyptians quit. The car was hit and an Israeli patrol which went to the rescue of its occupants was pinned down by Egyptian fire. To relieve the patrol, an Israeli unit directed heavy fire on the Egyptian positions.

Saturday, an Egyptian soldier, member of a unit which crossed into Israel in the Gaza strip area, was killed in an exchange of fire with an Israeli military patrol. The Egyptian unit crossed the border near Kibbutz Kissufim to give cover to Arabs illegally harvesting crops on Israeli territory.

SITUATION ALONG SYRIAN-ISRAEL BORDER REPORTED DETERIORATING

LONDON, April 26. (JTA) -- The situation along the Israel-Syrian border has seriously deteriorated within the past 48 hours, the Times of London reported here today in a dispatch from Beirut.

The report said that Dr. Marouf Dawaleeby, Syrian Defense Minister, cancelled Saturday a plane trip to Cairo to consult with Premier Nasser, in order to attend an urgent Syrian Cabinet meeting devoted to a discussion of the frontier situation. No details of the Cabinet meeting, the second of the day, were available except that it concerned the border.

Two Syrian soldiers died today in a pitched battle between Israeli and Syrian units inside Israel territory in the northern Lake Kinneret area. The Syrian soldiers crossed the Israel frontier with a party of Arab workmen who came to harvest crops on land inside Israel. When an Israeli patrol approached, the Syrian soldiers fired on them. The Israelis returned the fire and the Syrians retreated, leaving their two dead behind. Israel immediately protested the incident to the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY AWARDS 482 DEGREES; RECIPIENTS INCLUDE 141 WOMEN

JERUSALEM, April 26. (JTA) -- A total of 482 Bachelors and Masters degrees were today awarded at a special ceremony of the Hebrew University.

Of the total number of undergraduate and graduate students honored today, 141 were women. Among the students awarded Masters degrees were a number of senior government officials and members of the University teaching staff. In addition, 39 Doctorates in Philosophy were conferred at today's ceremony.

U. N. COUNCIL VOTES TO CALL CONFERENCE ON STATELESSNESS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 26. (JTA) -- The United Nations Economic and Social Council today adopted a resolution on statelessness submitted by its Social Committee, providing for the convening of a second conference of plenipotentiaries to revise the draft protocol on the Status of Stateless Persons to improve the legal situation of such people. The Council also endorsed the principles underlying the work of the International Law Commission which is analyzing and seeking to remove the causes of statelessness.

THREE PERCENT DECREASE REPORTED IN FUND-RAISING BY FEDERATIONS

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- The national average of funds raised by Jewish federations and welfare funds in 1953 was three percent less than in 1952, it was reported here today by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. This compared with a drop of 10 percent between 1952 and 1951, the report said.

The 135 Spring campaigns and 46 Fall drives which have reported to the CJFWF raised a total of \$75,696,128 in 1953, as compared with a total of \$77,999,989 in 1952. The percentage of decline for Fall campaign cities was 4.0, while the Spring cities dropped an average of 2.7 percent.

The reporting communities are estimated to account for more than 90 percent of the total funds raised by all Jewish federations and welfare funds in the United States and Canada (exclusive of New York City). The reports are based on final results, estimated finals, and a few incomplete returns.

"In general, campaigns in 1953 showed closer groupings of communities in specific areas of results," the CJFWF commented in its report. There were fewer extremes of increase or decrease, and a heavier clustering around the national average. This development, which was in evidence in 1952, gained strength during 1953.

"Further favorable comparison with 1952 shows that in 1953, 30 percent of the communities reported results equalling or bettering those of the previous year. Moreover, 60 percent of the cities reported either plus results or losses of 6 percent or less. In 1952, only 25 percent of campaigns showed similar classifications," the report said.

Atlantic City Federation Is First to Surpass its 1953 Drive

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., April 26. (JTA) -- The Atlantic City Federation of Jewish Charities won the distinction today of being the first American Jewish community to surpass its 1953 campaign total.

With its campaign still incomplete, the federation announced receipts to date of \$322,865 as compared to a total of \$321,068 in 1953. Completion of the campaign may see the 1953 total exceeded by about ten percent. Dr. Edward R. Knight heads the Atlantic City drive. Irving Spivack is the executive director.

ISRAEL BOND DRIVE POSTPONED IN NEW YORK AT U. J. A. REQUEST

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- In deference to functions being held by the New York United Jewish Appeal at that time, the State of Israel Bond Organization has postponed the opening of its Greater New York drive in behalf of the new Israel Development Bond Issue from May 5th to Monday, May 24th, it was announced today by Ira Guilden, chairman of the Greater New York Committee for State of Israel Bonds.

The original date for launching the city-wide campaign for the bond drive was announced six weeks ago. However, leaders of the United Jewish Appeal requested that it be delayed because they felt it might conflict with several important UJA functions they were planning for the same time. "The action to postpone our drive is in keeping with the established policy of the Israel Bond Organization of support of the United Jewish Appeal," Mr. Guilden declared.

U. J. A. LEADERS HONOR ISRAEL MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- Israel in the six short years of its sovereign existence has emerged as a leading outpost in the Middle East of American industrial activity and today is producing a variety of American-brand products that are finding a world market and bringing a profitable return to United States and Israeli capital, Joseph Saphir, Israel Minister of Communications, declared here today at a reception in the Plaza Hotel given in his honor by the United Jewish Appeal.

Mr. Saphir called particular attention to the growing concentration in Israel of American industrial, agricultural and financial experts, asserting that these technicians, in cooperation with the investors themselves, have given the new State a widening range of "American know-how."

JEWISH GROUPS HAIL LEGISLATION TO REVISE IMMIGRATION LAW

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- Seven Republican Senators and Representatives were commended today by national Jewish religious bodies and a large number of national and local Jewish community relations organizations for introducing legislation to revise the present law governing immigration and naturalization.

In identical letters to the legislators, and in a letter at the same time to President Eisenhower, the Jewish groups, while expressing disappointment over some "shortcomings" on the measures, urged immediate hearings on the bills, and on other pending immigration legislation, in this session of Congress.

The American Jewish Congress, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, United Synagogue of America and 31 state, regional and local Jewish community relations councils throughout the country joined in the messages to the President and the legislators. The letters were sent by Bernard H. Trager, chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, joint coordinating body for all the organizations.

Noting that the new Republican-sponsored proposals coincide with the recommendations for revision of the present Act advanced by the President in a letter he wrote last April to Senator Arthur V. Watkins, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee subcommittee on immigration, the Jewish groups, in their letter to the Chief Executive, said:

"We are convinced, as you are, Mr. President, that the present Act requires basic revision. We earnestly trust that the new bills will have your outspoken and unqualified support and that you will make known your desire for early hearings on the measures in the present Congress."

Calling the Republican-sponsored measures "excellent and far reaching proposals in behalf of an enlightened American immigration policy," the Jewish groups expressed disappointment that they did not provide for abolition of the national origins quota system. President Eisenhower, they pointed out, had called that system "the blasphemy against democracy that only certain groups of Europeans are welcome to our American shores."

SOUTH AMERICAN ZIONIST INVESTORS TO BUILD VILLAGE IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, April 26. (JTA) -- South American Zionist investors will build an agricultural-industrial cooperative village on a 5,500 dunam (1,400 acre) plot near Beer Tuvia allocated for the project by the Jewish National Fund at a ceremony today.

The project calls for Latin American Jewish families to immigrate to Israel and settle in the village over the next four years, after which the village is expected to be completely built up and its vineyards yielding a crop. The industry supported by the village would consist of a food canning plant and a winery.

JEWISH INDUSTRIALIST HONORED IN HOLLAND ON 65TH BIRTHDAY

AMSTERDAM, April 26. (JTA) -- The small industrial municipality of Oss, in southern Holland, today conferred honorary citizenship, a rare distinction in this country, on Saal Van Zwanenberg, a Jew and founder of the famous chemical and food corporation Royal Dutch Zwanenberg Organon. The honor was conferred on Mr. Zwanenberg's 65th birthday.

PROF. ELIEZER RIEGER, NOTED EDUCATOR, DIES IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, April 26. (JTA) -- Prof. Eliezer Rieger, director general of the Ministry of Education, died here at 58. He was one of the top educators in Israel and the author of numerous books on education. His latest book "Modern Hebrew" was published here only two weeks ago. He was principal of the Hebrew University's experimental secondary school for many years.

LAST MINUTE NEWS

U. S. ARMS TO ARABS WILL INCREASE TENSION, EBAN WARNS STATE DEPT.

WASHINGTON, April 26. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban late today, after an emergency hour-long talk with Assistant Secretary of State Henry A. Byroade, made known that he strongly urged the State Department to desist from what he termed "such an imprudent cause" as the arming of Iraq. Mr. Eban said the purpose of today's meeting was to seek clarification for the Israel Government of statements issued today in Baghdad and Washington on the subject of the transfer of free American munitions to Iraq and to urge abstention from this course.

The Israel Ambassador reiterated his government's strongest and most vigorous conviction that such arms supplies would increase tension in what he described as an already tense area. In response to Secretary Byroade's explanation of why Iraq was to receive arms, Mr. Eban made it clear that Israel opposed the entire concept of military aid to a country like Iraq because of its present hostile attitude toward Israel.

Before Ambassador Eban met with Secretary Byroade, the Secretary spent one-and-a-half hours with Jacob Blaustein, former president of the American Jewish Committee. Mr. Blaustein and Secretary Byroade exchanged opinions on the State Department's decision to supply arms to Iraq.

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