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THOUSANDS OF ISRAELIS FAST IN PROTEST AGAINST ARRESTS IN RUMANIA

TEL AVIV, May 24. (JTA) -- Many thousands of Jews in Israel observed a day of fast yesterday in response to a call by the Chief Rabbinate to demonstrate their solidarity with the Zionist and Jewish communal leaders arrested and imprisoned in Rumania. They joined some 60 former leaders of Rumanian Jewry, now in Israel, who began an "unlimited" hunger strike intended to arouse the conscience of the world to the fate of Rumanian Jewish leaders. (See Premier Sharett's speech on Page 2.)

The hunger strike began after a mass prayer session in the Great Synagogue of Tel Aviv where the strikers will maintain their vigil day and night. Thousands of persons crowded into the synagogue and additional thousands assembled outside to pray and, afterwards, to hear Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Iser J. Unterman and Jewish Agency chairman Berl Locker denounce the Rumanian authorities' treatment of the Jewish leaders as "cruel persecution."

Rabbi Unterman told his listeners that the arrested men and women in Rumania were suffering for their loyalty to Jewry and Zion. Mr. Locker said the hunger strike was a desperate call to the world to act against the persecutions which bring no benefit to Rumania and which are aimed at persons who are no threat to the regime.

During the services in the synagogue Israeli Communists distributed pamphlets defending the Rumanian authorities and attacking those "who are trying to undermine relations between Israel and the Rumanian People's Republic." Huge posters in the streets called on all citizens to keep in mind the sufferings of the Rumanian Jewish leaders.

The hunger strike began only after each of the 60 participants was given a medical examination. Arrangements have been made for them to sleep in the synagogue and to remain there at all times. A medical team will be kept on the spot to give any aid which may be required.

The strikers include Dr. Shmuel Kochavi, ex-president of the Rumanian Zionist Federation; Idov Cohen, a member of the Israel Parliament; Sammi Singer, one-time member of the Rumanian Parliament; Rabbi A. Burstein, former president of the Rumanian Mizrahi; and Dr. Michael Landau, ex-member of the Rumanian Parliament.

ISRAEL MEDICAL ASSN. CALLS NEW STRIKE OF PHYSICIANS FOR JUNE 1

TEL AVIV, May 24. (JTA) -- The Israel Medical Association today set June 1 as the date of a new strike of doctors employed on a salary basis by the government and various national institutions. The Histadrut-sponsored Physicians Council has decided to oppose the strike call.

Instead, the council proposed that the doctors accept the Histadrut's proposal that a public commission be established to study the doctors' working conditions and to recommend salary increases.

SHARETT, IN PARLIAMENT, CONDEMNS RUMANIA'S MASS-ARRESTS OF JEWS

JERUSALEM, May 24. (JTA) -- The Israel Government was "shocked" by the severe sentences meted out to Rumanian Zionist leaders by Rumanian military courts, Premier Moshe Sharett declared today in Knesset.

Mr. Sharett made his remarks after the appearance in Parliament of Idov Cohen, a deputy and leader of former Rumanian Jews now residing in Israel. Mr. Cohen, who helped organize the hunger strike of 60 former Rumanian Jewish leaders and is one of the strikers, appealed to the Israel Government, to world Jewry and to world public opinion to save Rumanian Jewry, especially the Zionist leaders now in prison.

The Premier told the deputies that the Israel Government believed that the Zionist leaders had not acted and had no intention of acting against the Rumanian Government. He said the Israel Government had information in its possession that led it to believe that the sole reason for the heavy sentences imposed on the Zionist leaders was their devotion to Zionism and to the cause of immigration to Israel.

He pledged that the Israel Government would not stop "sounding the alarm" and would continue to demand the release of the Rumanian leaders and their migration to Israel which, he said, was the natural right of every Jew no matter where he might be. "Those who were sentenced are our comrades-in-arms in the Zionist cause," he said. At the conclusion of his speech, the Premier asked Parliament to refer the matter to its Foreign Affairs and Security Committee because "this is a very delicate matter."

ISRAEL SEEKS CLARIFICATION OF U.S. STAND ON JORDAN WATER PLAN

WASHINGTON, May 24. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban and Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee, today conferred separately with Henry A. Byroade, Assistant Secretary of State.

Mr. Eban said after the conference that he sought clarification of a recent State Department expression endorsing Arab proposals for the utilization of the waters of the Jordan River. Mr. Eban said he explained Israel's views on the Arab water proposals.

Israel's concern about the American program for the arming of Iraq was expressed by Mr. Eban. Asked by a reporter if Israel noted any change in the State Department position on the Iraq's arm question, Mr. Eban said "our positions are certainly not in harmony on this point."

The State Department assurances "do not go to the heart of the matter," he said, adding that Israel could not draw any reassurance or consolation from what he has been told by the State Department about quantitative limitations on munitions for Iraq.

The occasion for today's meeting was Mr. Byroade's return from a conference of American diplomats held earlier this month in Turkey. Mr. Eban said that while routine matters were reviewed, Israel's concern was reiterated on the Iraq arms matter and Israel's views put forward in connection with developments affecting the Jordan River. The Ambassador was accompanied by Col. Chaim Herzog, chief military attache, and Reuven Shiloah, Minister Plenipotentiary.

ISRAEL ORDERS DIESEL DRIVEN LOCOMOTIVES FROM U.S. FIRM

TEL AVIV, May 24. (JTA) -- Israel has ordered five diesel driven locomotives worth \$800,000 from a United States manufacturer, it was reported here today. Israel will use U.S. grant-in-aid funds to pay for the locomotives, the report added.

JORDANIANS FIRE ON ISRAEL TRAIN; FOUR OTHER INCIDENTS REPORTED

TEL AVIV, May 24. (JTA) -- Jordanian forces last night fired on an Israel train some two miles south of the "triangle" town of Tulkarm, an Israel spokesman charged. He said that although several bullets struck the locomotive there were no casualties.

This was one of five incidents which Israel charged had been committed yesterday by Jordanian forces. The others included firing from the Old City of Jerusalem into the new city and the wounding of an Israeli woman, the kidnapping of an Israeli Arab youth near Tulkarm, an invasion of Israel territory near Latrun by an Arab band which was beaten back, and indiscriminate firing on Israeli farmers in the fields in the "triangle" area. There were no casualties in the last instance.

The Israeli spokesman also accused Egyptians of having invaded a Bedouin encampment in Israel, near Auja el Hafir, Friday night. The camp was demolished, weapons, camels and donkeys were stolen and a number of Israeli Bedouin were stabbed.

JORDAN ORDERS BRITISH BANK TO PAY ARAB FUNDS FROZEN IN ISRAEL

LONDON, May 24. (JTA) -- Jordan's highest court, the Court of Cassation, has ordered Barclay's Bank to pay 6,000 pounds sterling to a Palestine Arab refugee whose funds were frozen in a branch of the bank in Israel under Israeli law, it was reported here today from Amman.

The effect of this decision is to make Barclay's Bank and the Ottoman Bank--both British institutions--responsible for Arab funds frozen in their branches in Israel.

In a similar action brought recently by an Arab bank in British courts, the British banks were upheld in their refusal to pay the frozen accounts. The British courts held that inasmuch as Britain recognized Israel it accepted the validity of Israel's freeze order and the British banks had to obey the order.

INDONESIA BARS ISRAELI DELEGATES; PARLEY MOVES TO BURMA

LONDON, May 24. (JTA) -- A meeting of the Asian Socialist Bureau opened in Burma today after a last minute change of venue when the Indonesian Government refused to admit Israeli delegates who were to attend the meeting originally scheduled to be held there.

The Government of Indonesia said that the Israelis would not be admitted because Indonesia has not formally recognized Israel and because Indonesia wanted to avoid ill will in the Moslem world.

This action has been attacked by the powerful Masjumi Party, the country's largest party and an avowedly Moslem movement. Three of its leaders, including former Foreign Minister Mohamed Rum, have issued a statement condemning the ban on the Israelis. A similar statement has been issued by the Indonesian Socialist Party.

ISRAEL TRADE MISSION TO LEAVE FOR POLAND; SEEKS TRADE PACT

TEL AVIV, May 24. (JTA) -- An Israel trade mission will leave for Warsaw this week to negotiate a new trade agreement, it was learned here today.

The mission will offer citrus products in exchange for Polish barley, sugar and lumber for boxes. Between 1949 and 1951 Israel and Poland signed three annual pacts, the last of which lapsed in 1952 without being renewed. Poland still owes Israel some \$200,000 on the 1951 agreement.

DEMOCRATS, REPUBLICANS URGE U.S. TO HELP BUILD "STRONG ISRAEL"

NEW YORK, May 24. (JTA) -- Leading spokesmen for both political parties, including former Vice President Alben W. Barkley and Governor Thomas E. Dewey, last night urged the United States to help build a "strong Israel" as a major step in bringing peace to the Middle East. Joining them in stressing the need for American aid to Israel were Senators Herbert H. Lehman, Democrat, and Irving M. Ives, Republican.

They expressed their views on the current Israel-Arab crisis and on American policy towards Israel to more than 700 Jewish communal leaders attending a dinner-meeting at the Biltmore Hotel launching the Greater New York campaign for the State of Israel's new Development Bond issue.

Ira Guilden, chairman of the Board of Directors of the Greater New York Israel Bond Committee, announced that nearly \$2,000,000 in Israel Development Bonds had been sold for the opening of the Bond campaign last night. The drive, which is world-wide, will seek to raise \$75,000,000 in 1954.

The dinner, which also heard from Joseph Saphir, Minister of Communication of the Israel Government, was featured by a special ceremony formally establishing the "Guardians of Israel," a new national organization of Americans rendering outstanding service to Israel's economy.

Barkley Says U.S. Must Dispel Doubts of Israelis

Asserting that American help for Israel means more than economic aid, Mr. Barkley declared "there is something of infinitely greater value that we Americans and our Government can bestow upon Israel."

"That something," he said, "is a reaffirmation of our friendship. A reaffirmation of the kind of friendship that we were proud and eager to demonstrate when Israel was born, when we cheered it, when we helped nurse it and when we let the world know where we stood. Our Government and our people have a long tradition of sympathy and working friendship with the people of Palestine and Israel. Nothing should be done or said to impair it."

"And if something has been done or said to cause some doubt in the minds of the people and the Government of Israel, then it is proper in view of the widespread and earnest friendship which our people have for the people of Israel, for our Government to remove that doubt by a clear statement of where we stand now."

Governor Dewey, in his message to the dinner, declared that the "well being of the entire free world requires that Israel, this shining example of free government, should stand firmly among its neighbors." He called upon the U.S. to help Israel to become so strong that her people can give their time to human welfare and to the production of goods and services instead of the maintenance of armed camps."

Mr. Saphir, in a reference to recent suggestions that Israel curtail its policy of unrestricted immigration, strongly emphasized that his government "will not deviate from its policy of securing Israel as the refuge for all Jews who wish or must settle there." "We are resolved," he said, "to defend the State of Israel and what it stands for."

Stressing the importance of the "economic integrity and stability of Israel as its mainstay of political independence," Mr. Saphir asserted that both grants-in-aid by the United States Government and proceeds from the sales of Israel Bonds were vital instruments for maintaining that independence.

"Israel's economy," the Cabinet Minister declared, "is progressing toward economic stability. The availability of investment capital through the sale of Israel Development Bonds will facilitate this progress and assure, at the same time, the various shades of private enterprise sound bases for further development."

GERMAN COURT CONVICTS TWO NAZIS ON EVIDENCE GIVEN IN ISRAEL

STUTTGART, May 24. (JTA) -- A German court here has used evidence given in an Israeli court before reaching its own decision in a case involving two men charged with complicity in the murder of more than 100 Jewish inmates of a Nazi slave labor camp at Volanov, Poland.

The Israeli trial ended in acquittal of Dr. M. Przeticky, a Jewish physician at the Nazi camp who had been charged with abetting Nazi crimes against the Jewish prisoners. The testimony at that trial, translated into German at the Stuttgart court's order, implicated Wilhelm Rube and Wilhelm Bergmann, the two men charged before the German court.

Rube was construction supervisor on projects for the Luftwaffe and Bergmann was his labor foreman. The Stuttgart court found them guilty of aiding the S.S. in executing Jewish and other prisoners and convicted them of being accessories to murder. Both have appealed their convictions.

FIRST POST-WAR JEWISH CULTURAL CONFERENCE HELD IN GERMANY

BAD NAUHEIM, May 24. (JTA) -- For the first time since the downfall of Hitlerism, Jews from all parts of West Germany and from West Berlin assembled here to deliberate on ways and means of invigorating Jewish cultural life and Jewish education in Germany.

Heretofore, all Germany-wide meetings had been overshadowed by political questions and concerned principally with restitution, indemnification, relief or organizational issues. A conference on cultural affairs, it was agreed by all speakers here, was a token of the gradual stabilization of the postwar Jewish community in Germany, which Professor Baruch Graubard described as being slightly on the up-grade after "having passed its lowest point, probably in 1952."

Dr. Graubard, director of the former Hebrew High School in Munich and now a lecturer at Marburg University, dealt with the need for implanting a spirit of Jewish identification into the approximately 1,500 Jewish children growing up in scores of towns and cities throughout Germany, with minimal Jewish education or none at all. He advocated additional emphasis on the teaching of Hebrew, summer camps, vacation travel to Israel, the employment of itinerant teachers riding a prescribed circuit and the creation of a boarding school.

The other main speaker was Dr. E.G. Lowenthal, secretary of the Cultural Commission of the Jewish Central Council in Germany, who outlined an ambitious program of adult education, lectures, scientific research and public relations. Taking part in the meeting were Dr. Chaim Yahlil, deputy head of the Israel Purchasing Mission in Germany, and delegations from the Jewish student groups at half a dozen German universities.

CURRENCY RESTRICTIONS LIBERALIZED FOR EMIGRANTS FROM GERMANY

FRANKFURT, May 24. (JTA) -- Residents of Germany who emigrate to other countries may now legally carry with them \$350 in non-German currencies and \$71 in German marks, it was announced here in pursuance of West Germany's present policy of relaxing the tight currency control regulations.

WEDDING RINGS OF HUNGARIAN JEWS FOUND BURIED IN GERMAN WOODS

MUNICH, May 24. (JTA) -- While playing in a forest near Rottalmuenster, some youngsters dug up a rusty iron strongbox filled to the brim with wedding bands, diamond rings, gold watches and other valuables. Since all engravings are in Hungarian, it is believed that a concentration camp guard who had been in charge of Hungarian Jews hid his booty in this isolated spot.

JEWISH WOMEN HOLD INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN LONDON

LONDON, May 24. (JTA) -- A triennial convention of the International Council of Jewish Women opened here today with delegates from many countries--including the United States, Canada, South Africa, Britain, India, Australia, Morocco, Switzerland and Israel--in attendance. One of the conference's first actions was the formal admission to membership of the newly-organized Israel Council of Jewish Women.

Mrs. Moise Cahn of New Orleans, president of the International Council, in her report to the parley stressed the need for Jews to stick together on an international basis to achieve their common objects. At the same time, she called on Jews to cooperate with all other peoples in working toward the goal of social justice for all men regardless of where they live or what their race, color or creed.

PRESIDENTS OF U.S. AND ISRAEL GREET LABOR ZIONIST CONVENTION

MONTREAL, May 24. (JTA) -- The national convention of Farband, Labor Zionist Order, being held here, today received greetings from President Eisenhower and Israel President Itzhak Ben Zvi lauding the fraternal and cultural activities of the organization.

Louis Segal, general secretary of the organization, told the 400 delegates from 100 cities in the United States and Canada, that the Farband now has 28,167 members and that about one-quarter of its members are English-speaking. The organization was reported to have over \$4,000,000 in assets and to have raised \$24,000,000 for Israel and for cultural work during the 41 years of its existence.

The convention was greeted on behalf of the Israel Government by Michael Comay, Israel's Minister to Canada. Other speakers at today's session included Dr. Sarah Feder, president of the Pioneer Women; Gedaliah Zakiff, who greeted the delegates on behalf of the Zionist Organization of Canada; and A. Hamlin who spoke for the Histadrut campaign. Maurice Samuel and Jacob Gladstein, two noted writers, spoke on the future of American Jewry and urged an exchange of human material between this country and Israel.

MEDITERRANEAN FRUIT GROWERS DECIDE TO MEET IN ISRAEL

PARIS, May 24. (JTA) -- The third conference of Mediterranean Fruit Growers in Algiers unanimously approved a resolution to hold the next annual meeting of the group in Israel. Z. Izakson, head of the Israel delegation to the parley, reported here today.

Mr. Izakson reported that the resolution had been introduced by the Spanish delegation, leading rival of Israel citrus fruit growers, and had been agreed to by all of the 500 delegates at the parley including representatives from Egypt, Lebanon, Libya, Turkey, Italy, Spain, Tunis, Algiers, Morocco and France.

PLAN FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF 15 NEW SETTLEMENTS ANNOUNCED IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, May 24. (JTA) -- Fifteen new settlements will be established this year, Dr. Raanan Weitz, head of the Jewish Agency's settlement department, announced here today.

Dr. Weitz also reported that a vast expansion in Israel's cultivated area is expected, including the addition of 90,000 dunams (22,500 acres) of irrigated fields, 14,000 dunams of citrus groves and 12,000 dunams of fruit plantations other than citrus.