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ISRAELIS URGED TO END HUNGER STRIKE AGAINST ARRESTS IN RUMANIA

TEL AVIV, May 26. (JTA) -- The 50 Rumanian Jewish leaders in Israel who today entered the fourth day of their hunger strike here in protest against the mass arrests of Jewish leaders in Rumania were urged this afternoon by Joseph Sprinzak, Speaker of the Israel Parliament, to end their strike.

Mr. Sprinzak directed his appeal to the strikers from the floor of Parliament. He emphasized that since the strike has had the desired political effect there is no necessity to further endanger the lives of the strikers, who are determined to maintain their fast indefinitely.

The strikers were visited today by members of the Israel Cabinet, Jewish Agency executive and Histadrut leaders in the Great Synagogue here, where they are maintaining their vigil. The visitors expressed their solidarity with the strikers.

Messages of encouragement were received today from the Board of Deputies of British Jews in London, from the Zionist Federation of Great Britain, from the British section of the World Jewish Congress and from Jewish organizations in other countries. "We hope your self-sacrificing action will attract the attention of the civilized world and will arouse condemnation of this wanton cruelty by the Rumanian Government," the message from the Board of Deputies said.

(A similar message was sent today from New York by Dr. Israel Goldstein on behalf of the World Confederation of General Zionists. A resolution protesting the mass arrests of Jews in Rumania was adopted today in Montreal at the convention of the Farband-Labor Zionist Order attended by more than 400 delegates from the United States and Canada.)

U.S. CONGRESS GETS RESOLUTION CONDEMNING ARRESTS OF JEWS IN RUMANIA

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- Rep. Emanuel Celler today introduced a joint resolution in the House of Representatives expressing "abhorrence" of "the treatment by the Communist Rumanian Government of its Jewish people."

Rep. Celler said some Jewish returnees to Rumania from Israel were being "brainwashed" and "conditioned" to act as prosecution witnesses in forthcoming mass trials of Zionist leaders now imprisoned in Rumania. He said he thought it appropriate that Congress adopt the resolution in order to focus world public opinion on the Rumanian developments.

EX-NAZIS IN AUSTRIA MAY HAVE THEIR PROPERTY RESTORED; JEWS AFFECTED

VIENNA, May 26. (JTA) -- While preparations are being completed here for the resumption by the government of talks with Jewish leaders on Austrian reparations to Jews for property lost under the Nazis, the path was paved today for early passage in the Austrian Parliament of a bill which restores to former Nazis the property seized from them by the courts after their conviction. Much of this property was "Aryanized" under the Nazis and belongs to Jews.

A draft of the bill was approved today by the Parliament's executive committee. The committee also approved the draft of another bill reinstating pensions to retired civil servants who had served the Nazi regime.

DR. GOLDMANN GETS GERMANY'S ASSURANCES ON INDEMNIFICATION

COLOGNE, May 26. (JTA) -- Assurances that the Federal indemnification laws for individual victims of the Nazi regime--which have been stalled for nearly a year--would be implemented within the next few months were given by West German Finance Minister Dr. Fritz Schaeffer in Bonn yesterday to Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

Upon his arrival here from Bonn today, Dr. Goldmann said he was satisfied with the results of the conferences he held in Bonn with Dr. Schaeffer and Prof. Ludwig Ehard, West German Minister for Economic Affairs. Later in the day Dr. Goldmann left Cologne for Berlin to confer with the Mayor of West Berlin, Dr. Walter Schreiber, on a "bulk settlement" of claims filed by the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization for the recovery of unclaimed or communal Jewish property in West Berlin.

Such settlements have been concluded with four states in the American zone and with the city-state of Hamburg in the British zone. But in Berlin, negotiations for a "bulk settlement" have been hanging fire since 1951.

BRITISH PARLIAMENT DISCUSSES EGYPT'S BLOCKADE AGAINST ISRAEL

LONDON, May 26. (JTA) -- More vigorous action on the part of the British Government to halt the Egyptian blockade of the Suez Canal against Israel-bound traffic was demanded in Commons today by Conservative M. P. Eric Johnson.

Replying, A. D. Dodds-Parker, Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, said that the "government was taking all action that is open to them within diplomatic lines. We are working through the United Nations and we think that is the way to deal with this situation and not to deal with it unilaterally."

Mr. Johnson precipitated the discussion by asking for information on the number of British ships that had been interfered with in the Suez Canal since passage of the Security Council resolution of 1951 calling on Egypt to end its anti-Israel blockade of the waterway.

Mr. Dodds-Parker said he had no reliable information on that matter although a few British ships had been delayed or prevented from passing through the Canal since the 1951 resolution. However, he noted that it was well known that certain types of cargoes had been held to be contraband by the Egyptian authorities and British ships were not taking them on for delivery to Israel.

ISRAEL NEVER OFFERED BASES TO BRITAIN, SHARETT TELLS KNESSET

JERUSALEM, May 26. (JTA) -- Britain has never asked Israel for military bases in Israel and the Jewish State has never offered such bases to Britain, Premier Moshe Sharett today declared in Parliament.

To a demand by Communist deputy Meir Wilner that Parliament debate reports that Israel had offered bases to Britain, the Premier replied that the reports were "absolute lies." The House decided not to hold a debate on these reports.

NEW BORDER INCIDENTS REPORTED BY ISRAEL; NO CASUALTIES

TEL AVIV, May 26. (JTA) -- Two new incidents occurred along Israel's borders yesterday, one on the Egyptian frontier and one on the Jordan-Israel line, an Israeli military spokesman revealed here last night.

The spokesman said that several Israeli military victims came under heavy automatic fire near Kibbutz Kissufim, near the Israel-Egyptian demarcation line. They had been halted by steel obstacles placed on the road when the shots rang out. There were no casualties.

Near Latrun an Israeli patrol which was driving back a gang of Arab peasants who had illegally crossed into Israel territory to harvest fields there was brought under fire by Jordanians.

EGYPTIAN ENVOY DISCUSSES JORDAN RIVER PLAN WITH STATE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- Egyptian Ambassador Ahmed Hussein today met for over an hour with Assistant Secretary of State Henry A. Byroade to "seek information about Egyptian-American relations" in the wake of Mr. Byroade's return from the conference held in Turkey earlier this month by American diplomats assigned in the Near East.

Although the center of today's discussion was an Anglo-Egyptian settlement of Suez Canal differences, it was learned that the Arab-sponsored plan for Jordan River development was among the topics discussed. Mr. Hussein said he saw America's attitude as friendly and was hopeful that American influence would bring about justice in the Near East and a satisfactory settlement of the Suez issue.

President Eisenhower today cabled personal greetings to King Hussein of Jordan on the occasion of Jordan's anniversary, conveying "congratulations and best wishes."

DR. SILVER CONFIDENT AMERICA WILL REMAIN FRIENDLY TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- "I am confident that the friendship between our government and the State of Israel will continue uninterruptedly," Dr. Abba Hillel Silver last night told a United Jewish Appeal dinner here.

"There are people in the lower echelons of our State Department," he said, "who are interested, if not in liquidating the State of Israel, then in isolating it, in limiting it as to population, in constricting it still further as to territory, and in weakening it in relation to its Arab neighbors by giving arms to the latter. The rash of recent speeches which emanated from some of these quarters are indicative of this attitude," he said.

Insisting that such a campaign would not succeed, Dr. Silver declared that the anti-Israel forces in the State Department have been encouraged not only by the Arab lobby in Washington, but "by the oil lobby, the Friends of the Middle East and their Jewish auxiliary--the American Council for Judaism--and other pressure groups." These, he noted, were the same forces which had opposed the establishment of Israel, refused to reconcile themselves to its existence and are now "doing their utmost to embarrass the State of Israel, to cripple it and, if possible, to destroy it."

The Soviet Union's delegate to the United Nations, Andrei Vishinsky, is "flirting with the Arabs to embarrass the United States," Dr. Silver charged, while "the Arabs are flirting with Vishinsky to blackmail the United States." There are people in government circles who were never friends of Israel, he continued, who are now "exploiting their unsavory maneuvers" to undermine the State of Israel with the aid of the American Government.

"I am persuaded that the men at the head of our government will never permit it. They want a secure and prosperous Israel even as they want security and prosperity for all the Arab people in the Near East. I am hoping that this wiser statesmanship will soon correct the unfortunate impressions which have been created," Dr. Silver concluded.

ISRAEL CABINET DISCUSSES POLICE RAID ON MIZRACHI OFFICES

JERUSALEM, May 26. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet met in an urgently called session today after Moshe Shapira, Poale Mizrahi Minister for Religious Affairs, called on Premier Moshe Sharett to discuss yesterday's raid on the headquarters of the Mizrahi world central committee here and the confiscation of documents concerning Israel Shlomo Rosenberg, Deputy Minister for Social Welfare.

Meanwhile, it was reported that Dr. Zorach Warhaftig, Deputy Minister for Religious Affairs, had offered his resignation in protest against yesterday's police action. However, the central committee of the religious movement is understood to have rejected Dr. Warhaftig's action.

It is also understood to have instructed the Poale Mizrahi members of the government to take a firm stand against this "insult to the World Mizrahi movement" and, if necessary, to "draw their own conclusions." Mizrahi circles today refused to interpret the meaning of these instructions, leaving open the question of whether a government crisis would be precipitated over the affair.

LABOR NEWSPAPER OPPOSES "CHRISTIAN AMENDMENT" TO CONSTITUTION

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- The attention of the House of Representatives was called today by Congressman Abraham J. Multer to an editorial in one of the leading labor papers in this country strongly opposing the proposed amendment to the Constitution that would officially recognize Christianity as the national religion of the United States.

The newspaper, Labor's Daily, which is published by the Typographical Union and read by members of other trade unions, said: "The fact is that there are millions of citizens in the country who are not Christians, nor even believers, and have exactly the same rights as the devout against being exiled from identification with their country. Jewish groups alone represent more than five million American citizens."

"It is natural," said the editorial, "that organized Jewish groups are rallying to fight the proposed amendment. It is even more heartening that the American Civil Liberties Union is preparing to intervene. A number of groups committed to separation of church and state are taking alarm."

JEWISH, OTHER GROUPS LAUDED FOR DISTRIBUTING FOOD ABROAD

WASHINGTON, May 26. (JTA) -- Tribute to Jewish and other religious groups which aided in the distribution overseas of 155,000,000 pounds of American surplus food during the year ending April 30, 1954, was paid here today by Rep. Walter H. Judd, of Minnesota. Rep. Judd called the attention of Congress to a statement by Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee and chairman of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies.

Mr. Leavitt said in this statement that "the successful pattern for free distribution of our surpluses" set by this experience, the careful carrying out of our programs in such manner as to preclude unfavorable effect on the economies of the recipient peoples, and the response of the American people, particularly through their religious institutions, to further this achievement of free compassion and brotherhood are guideposts clearly marking the way for the greatly enhanced free distribution of our surpluses now being contemplated by the Congress."

J.D.C. SEEKS TO BRING 800 JEWS FROM CHINA TO OTHER LANDS

PARIS, May 26. (JTA) -- There are still some 800 Jews in China for whom the Joint Distribution Committee is trying to find permanent homes in other countries, it was learned here today. After negotiations with intergovernmental bodies the JDC has succeeded in bringing five aged Jews from China and having them placed in a rest home in Switzerland.

JEWSH BOOK COUNCIL GIVES FIVE AWARDS FOR BEST 1953 BOOKS

NEW YORK, May 26. (JTA) -- The Jewish Book Council of America, at its annual meeting today, announced five awards for the best works of Jewish interest in the fiction and juvenile fields in 1953. It also elected Rabbi Ely E. Pilchik, Newark, as president.

The \$250 Harry and Ethel Daroff Memorial Fiction Award went to Charles Angoff, New York, for his novel, "In the Morning Light." The \$250 Isaac Siegel Memorial Award for 1953's best Jewish juvenile in English was given to Miss Deborah Pessin, New York, for her history, "The Jewish People." The three Harry Kover Memorial Awards of \$100 each went to: Ephraim E. Lisitzky, New Orleans, for his book of Hebrew poetry, "In Negro Tents"; Harry H. Fein, Boston, "for English Jewish poetry," and Eliezer Greenberg, New York, for his volume of Yiddish poetry, "Night Dialogue."

The Council awarded testimonial scrolls to a number of individuals and organizations for their efforts on behalf of Jewish literature. Dr. Judah D. Eisenstein, noted scholar and editor, was honored on the occasion of his 100th birthday with a testimonial which noted that he had "contributed greatly to Jewish scholarship by editing over 20 encyclopedic volumes, including the ten-volume Hebrew Encyclopedia, "Otzar Yisroel."

A testimonial scroll was also granted to the National Jewish Welfare Board for its work on behalf of the Council and its services to its affiliated Jewish Community Centers "on the occasion of the Centennial of the Jewish Community Center movement." Cited in addition were the Bloch Publishing Company, oldest Jewish book publisher in this country, on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of its founding, and Dr. Sol Liptzin, retiring president of the Book Council.

CANADIAN MINISTER ADDRESSES LABOR ZIONIST CONVENTION; LAUDS ISRAEL

MONTREAL, May 26. (JTA) -- Canadian Labor Minister Milton Fowler Gregg last night told the Farband-Labor Zionist Order convention here that Israel was an "uncompromising democracy" whose example serves as an inspiration for all countries. He also termed the creation of the Jewish State a "unique and fantastic event" and expressed hope that it would solve the problems now facing it.

At last night's session, too, the delegates voted to initiate a drive to raise \$150,000 for the organization's education program. It was reported that the Jewish school system supported by the fraternal group includes 73 institutions located in 12 cities in Canada and the United States. The total enrollment of these schools is 5,500 children and the combined budget is \$750,000.

The delegates adopted a resolution condemning Communism and McCarthyism as "twin threats to democracy." A series of other resolutions dealt with organizational matters intended to increase membership rolls, give greater benefits to members and make several structural changes.

CANADIAN UNIVERSITY ACQUIRES VALUABLE BIBLICAL MANUSCRIPTS

MONTREAL, May 26. (JTA) -- A collection of manuscript fragments of the Old Testament and related works, considered by Biblical scholars to be of immense significance, has been purchased by McGill University after lengthy negotiations with the Jordan Government. The McGill documents include one-quarter of those found in a cave in the Judean Desert, near the Dead Sea, in September, 1952.

Although McGill is now the owner of these manuscripts, they will not arrive in Montreal for two years - not until after they have been cleaned, sorted, classified, compared with other fragments, assembled and mounted between sheets of glass. The entire collection is to be published by the Oxford University Press.