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STATE DEPT. TO START IMPORTANT MEETINGS ON ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION

WASHINGTON, June 7. (JTA) -- Important meetings concerning Israel will take place in the State Department this week following the arrival here today of Francis H. Russel, Charge D'Affaires of the United States embassy in Israel. Ambassador Edward B. Lawson, who has been designated as the new U.S. envoy to Israel to succeed the late Ambassador Monnett B. Davis, will arrive in Washington later.

Mr. Russel was summoned three days ago by the State Department to come to the United States for a week of consultations. Only three weeks ago he reported on the situation in Israel at the conference of the United States diplomats which took place in Istanbul under the chairmanship of Assistant Secretary of State Henry A. Byroade.

State Department officials today said that the purpose of Mr. Russel's visit here was for "routine conversations." Following the consultations, he will return to Israel since it is not expected that Ambassador Lawson will take up his post in Tel Aviv until early in the autumn.

State Dept. Announces Johnston's Mission to Israel, Arab Lands

WASHINGTON, June 7. (JTA) -- The State Department announced today that Presidential envoy Eric Johnston's aim during his forthcoming talks with Arab and Israel leaders will be to discuss the Arab and Israel Jordan River development schemes "to define points of essential agreement and, insofar as possible, to narrow the differences on technical aspects."

Ambassador Johnston will leave by plane this Thursday. He will go first to Cairo to meet with representatives of the Governments of Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and Egypt. Following these discussions, the State Department said, he will leave for Tel Aviv for similar talks with the Israel Government. He will be accompanied by staff advisers from the State Department and the Foreign Operations Administration.

The State Department announcement said that "both Israel and the interested Arab states have given Ambassador Johnston their comments on the broad program for Jordan Valley development proposed to them last November during his first visit to the area as the personal representative of President Eisenhower."

"In addition," the Department said, "both the Arab states, acting as a group, and Israel, have now submitted detailed engineering proposals of their own as to how the valley's water resources can be developed for irrigation and power. These proposals, together with those originally put forward by Ambassador Johnston, will form the basis of the forthcoming discussions at Cairo and Tel Aviv."

During the week-end, Mr. Johnston met with President Eisenhower and received his final instructions on the plan. Later, at a press conference, the Ambassador said that the Arab and Israel proposals for regional development were "poles apart."

AUSTRIAN PARLIAMENT VOTES TO RESTORE "ARYANIZED" PROPERTY TO NAZIS

VIENNA, June 7. (JTA) -- The entire Austrian Parliament, with the exception of four Communist deputies, today voted for two bills providing for the possible restitution of confiscated property of minor Nazi offenders and for the resumption of pension payments to former Nazis.

The bill 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 originally belonged to Jews.

Meanwhile, the Association of Jewish Merchants, at a meeting here, charged the government with making virtually no effort to indemnify Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

RUMANIA SAYS MASS TRIALS OF JEWISH LEADERS NOT ANTI-SEMITIC

LONDON, June 7. (JTA) -- The Rumanian Government has protested to the Israel Government against the "hostile propaganda carried out by certain organizations in Israel with regard to Rumania," the press reported here today.

The reports added that the Rumanian Government denied that the recent mass trials of Zionist and Jewish communal leaders had an anti-Semitic character. The Rumanian Government was also reported as accusing Israel of preventing "by various means" the return to Rumania of Rumanian Jews.

GERMAN PARLIAMENTARY COMMITTEE APPROVES GENOCIDE BILL

BONN, June 7. (JTA) -- The Bundestag Legal Committee has endorsed, with certain changes in definition and phraseology, a bill ratifying the United Nations Genocide Convention. This brings West Germany a step closer toward the outlawing of the crime originated by Germany.

The present bill, which proclaims West Germany's adherence to the convention and incorporates its provisions into the German Penal Code, received the parliament's unanimous consent in a first reading last January. Thereafter, it was referred to the Legal Committee for further study. The revised bill now goes to the Bundestag for a second and third reading, which is expected some time in the Summer. No open opposition to its adoption is anticipated.

GERMAN GROUP SEEKS TO CHECK REVIVAL OF ANTI-SEMITISM

MUNICH, June 7. (JTA) -- A demand that strong legal measures be taken by the West German Government to prevent the revival of anti-Semitism and anti-democratic forces in Germany was voiced here today at a meeting of the Bavarian Council for Freedom and Justice. The organization also protested plans to end denazification procedures in Bavaria.

Charging that the situation of the victims of Nazism regarding indemnification for damages suffered under the Hitler regime had deteriorated considerably in recent months, the meeting called for the appointment of a special member of the West German Cabinet to be responsible for indemnification of Nazi victims.

It was pointed out that since nothing has been done to implement the Federal Indemnification Law all legal claims have been set aside until Federal action begins. There are still 175,000 claims waiting to be processed in the Bavarian Indemnification Office, alone, it was noted, and there is still no sign when they will be settled.

SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN-JEWISH COOPERATION FORMED IN SAAR

SAARBRUECKEN, June 7. (JTA) -- A Society for Christian-Jewish Cooperation has for the first time been formed in the Saar territory. The new group plans to work in cooperation with similar societies in Switzerland and West Germany, as well as with Erich Lueh's "Peace With Israel" movement in Hamburg.

U.S. COMMUNITIES FAVOR MERGER OF DRIVES FOR ISRAEL INSTITUTIONS

NEW YORK, June 7. (JTA) -- Full support for current efforts in Israel to have the Hebrew University, Haifa Technion and the Weizmann Institute merge their fund-raising campaigns in the United States has been given by the Jewish Federations and welfare funds in this country, it was learned here today by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Reflecting the wishes of the Jewish communities in the United States, leaders of the Councils of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds reaffirmed the urgent need for unified fund-raising by the three institutions. This, they pointed out, would enable the transfer of a substantial part of the approximately \$650,000 being spent by these institutions for fund-raising and administration in the U.S. to direct use by the institutions in Israel.

Leaders of the Israel Government and of the Jewish Agency feel strongly that such a merger should take place as soon as possible, it was indicated here today. A committee representing the Finance and Education Ministries of the Government of Israel and the Jewish Agency is examining in detail the maintenance and finances of the three institutions, it was revealed. The recommendations of this committee will be available soon to the Jewish communities in the United States.

At present communities in this country allocate funds to each of the three institutions according to a formula previously recommended by Dr. Giora Josephthal, treasurer of the Jewish Agency. The formula provides for 55 percent of the total allocated for Israel's institutions of higher education to the Hebrew University, 23 percent to the Haifa Technion and 22 percent to the Weizmann Institute. However, during his recent visit to this country, Dr. Josephthal told the leaders of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds that the Israel Government, as well as the Jewish Agency, favors having the three institutions merge their campaigns and that the Jewish communities in this country will soon be advised whether any revision in the allocations formula should be made.

Dr. Josephthal was assured by the CJFWF leaders that they would accept the judgment of the committee in Israel which is now studying the merger issue. They pointed out that even under the existing "Josephthal formula" there is no need for the three institutions to send separate representatives to local budget hearings, and that "one representative can serve the same purpose better in behalf of all three, with substantial saving in expense."

Weizmann Institute Presents Detailed Merger Plan

Meanwhile, a specific proposal for the unification in the United States of fund-raising activities of the three institutions by Meyer W. Weisgal, chairman of the executive council of the Weizmann Institute of Science, was made known here this week-end. Mr. Weisgal proposed that:

1. The three institutions should give up independent organizations in the United States and establish one central office in New York.
2. A salaried president should run the organization. Present administrators for the three institutions should resign to give the new leader a free hand.
3. About \$8,000,000 should be budgeted by the institutions for improvements and maintenance in a year. The New York United Jewish Appeal and the welfare funds should raise \$2,000,000. The Jewish Agency should supply a similar amount. The Israeli Government should put up \$3,000,000 and another \$1,000,000 should be raised elsewhere in the world.
4. The organization of the combined institutions should aid campaigns of the United Jewish Appeal and also continue their own fund-raising efforts solely for capital investment.
5. If the United Jewish Appeal should take over all fund-raising for the institution, this should not be at the expense of any other Israel activity. In addition a

New York office of the three institutions should continue to help with the appeal.

Mr. Weisgal also brought up the question of the actual unification of the three institutions as Weizmann University or University of Israel. He proposed the collaboration of the institutions be studied by an Israeli equivalent of a British Royal Commission.

American Technion Society Opposes Proposed Merger

J. W. Wunsch, president of the American Technion Society, yesterday stated he opposes the merger, because the Technion and Hebrew University have nothing to gain from such move. He insists that these two institutions "do not share the same problems with the Weizmann Institute."

The American Friends of the Hebrew University would make no comment because its president, Dr. George S. Wise, is currently in Israel. Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, remarked that the question of support for the three institutions "needs study and appraisal." He added that "no formal action" could be taken by the UJA until such study had been made and approved.

JEWISH WELFARE FUND IN TORONTO THREATENED WITH \$100,000 SUIT

TORONTO, June 7. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Welfare Fund of Toronto has been publicly threatened with a \$100,000 suit for damages by the leader of a group proposing to build a Jewish orphanage here that the UJWF and Canadian Jewish Congress have said is unnecessary.

Morris Grossman, president of the recently-formed Ontario Hebrew Children's Home, last week threatened to sue unless the matter is settled to his satisfaction. The \$100,000, he said, represents the amount his campaign has lost through the UJWF-Congress opposition to the project.

In advertisements published last week in Toronto daily newspapers, Mr. Grossman asked that people stop supporting the Welfare Fund until the controversy is settled. The UJWF-Congress position, as outlined in public statements issued following appearance of the Grossman ads and reported in the local daily press, is that there is no need for a Jewish orphanage in Toronto.

The local community has successfully met orphan problems through the "foster home" plan followed by Jewish communities "in Montreal, Winnipeg and many cities of the United States," the statement said. Mr. Grossman, a clothing store proprietor, came to Canada six years ago. He says he was raised in an orphanage himself in Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, more than 40 years ago.

He said he obtained a charter for the proposed home 11 months ago, and that since that time more than 800 people have indicated support.

The UJWF-Congress statement notes that a Jewish orphanage "situated on Annette Street in Toronto closed its doors some 20 years ago because it was found by responsible community agencies that the best interests of the children concerned would be served by placing them in approved and properly supervised children's homes."

The UJWF-Congress statement also noted: "Proof that an orphanage is unnecessary is provided in the experience of 1,200 Jewish orphans brought from Europe to Canada by the Congress after the second World War. These children were placed in suitable foster homes and a vast majority already have taken their places in communal life and are making constructive contributions to the welfare of their adopted country."

MIZRACHI LABORITES IN U. S. REJECT MERGER WITH MIZRACHI

NEW YORK, June 7. (JTA) -- A proposal that the Hapoel Hamizrachi and Mizrachi merge on a worldwide basis was rejected by a special committee set up by the Hapoel Hamizrachi to study the question, the Orthodox Zionist Laborite group announced today. The committee was established after a number of speakers at the Mizrachi Laborite convention in Greenfield Park, N. Y., last week expressed support of the merger proposal.

The special committee adopted a resolution requesting that "Hapoel Hamizrachi and Mizrachi set up a federation with a joint board in every country for the purpose of undertaking joint action in matters of mutual interest. Such joint activities for the purpose of fostering religious Jewish life in Israel and the Diaspora could be in the field of public relations and Jewish education, fund-raising and in our relations with inter-organizational institutions."

ISRAEL EXPANDS ITS BROADCASTS TO JEWISH COMMUNITIES ABROAD

TEL AVIV, June 7. (JTA) -- Israel's news broadcasts to Jewish communities in various parts of the world will be heard in more countries as the station on which the broadcasts are sent out, Kol Zion Lagola, today placed in use a new and larger transmitter. The new 50 kilowatt station operates on the 33.5 metre band.

Premier Moshe Sharett and Minister of Posts Dr. Joseph Burg addressed the ceremony inaugurating the new transmitter, which is situated near Yavneh. The installation was named in memory of the late Minister of Communications David Remez.

"EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE WEEK" PROCLAIMED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, June 7. (JTA) -- Mayor Robert F. Wagner has proclaimed this week "Albert Einstein College of Medicine Week" in New York City. A week of activity in behalf of the new medical school will be climaxed in the laying of a cornerstone for the new institution next Sunday.

The medical school, part of Yeshiva University, is the first medical school to be established in the United States under Jewish auspices. It is also the first medical college to be opened in this city in more than 50 years. The institution will be attached to a new municipal hospital going up in the Bronx.

ECONOMIC DIRECTOR OF JEWISH AGENCY IN U. S. RETURNS TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 7. (JTA) -- David Stern, director of the Jewish Agency's Economic Department in New York since January 1951, will leave this week for Israel where he will head the Israel Government Investment Center, it was announced by the Jewish Agency here today.

Mr. Stern, an economist and agriculturalist, settled in Palestine before World War I. In 1920 he joined the Jewish Agency's Agricultural Colonization Department as assistant director, and later became its director. In 1949 he was appointed head of the Israel Government's Supply Mission in New York and in 1951 took over the direction of the Economic Department.

MRS. WEIZMANN ARRIVES IN CHILE AS GUEST OF GOVERNMENT

SANTIAGO, Chile, June 7. (JTA) -- Mrs. Vera Weizmann, widow of Israel's first President, arrived here yesterday as a guest of the Government of Chile. She was guest of honor at a reception tendered in her honor by the Jewish community which was attended by President Ibanez and members of his Cabinet.