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KNESSET BACKS GOVERNMENT'S STAND ON JERUSALEM'S "SMALL WAR"

JERUSALEM, July 5. (JTA) -- The Jordan Government must bear full responsibility for the "barbaric shelling of Israel's capital for three days, for jeopardizing the lives of innocent people and for endangering the Holy Places of three religions," Pinchas Lavon, Israel Defense Minister told Parliament today in reviewing the events of last week in which three persons were killed and 27 wounded in Israel.

Immediately after the Defense Minister concluded his report, the deputies held a debate on the government's handling of the Jerusalem battle, which was opened Wednesday when Arab Legionnaires on the walls of the Old City began firing into the New City's main thoroughfares with automatic weapons, mortars and grenades. The Mapai, General Zionists and Mizrachi--government parties--upheld the government's policy of cooperating with the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission in this affair. The Mapam attacked the role of the Western Powers in the Arab-Israel conflict, while the rightist Herut group and the Communists criticized the coalition government.

Mr. Lavon declared that Israel had "clear proof" that the Jordanian Government had planned and carried out the attack on Jerusalem. He said that the Arab Legion had planned the attacks several weeks ago and had brought into the city three additional battalions, two of Legionnaires and one of national guards. He rejected the theory that the shooting was begun by "nervous" troops, noting that green troops are not placed in front line positions and, further, that "nervousness" rarely lasts three days.

City Prevented from Becoming a Heap of Rubble, Lavon Says

He reported that he had instructed the Israeli troops to restrain themselves, although he knew that restricting their freedom of action hampered their situation. But, he emphasized, this had to be done to ensure that "the Holy City would not become a heap of rubble." As a result, he went on, not a single Holy Place was hit.

He explained that despite its misgivings, the Israel Government had agreed to participate in the Israel-Jordan MAC meetings on this matter, but not under the chairmanship of Lt. Commander Elmo R. Hutchinson. "I admit without blushing that my colleagues and I decided to participate in the MAC to give the UN a chance to show that it can judge rightly, not as in the case of Scorpion Pass. Jerusalem will not be a second Scorpion Pass," he continued, but if by this "brutal and cowardly" attack the Jordanians hoped to "scare the Jews they failed utterly."

Reviewing the course of events on Lake Tiberias last week, where an Israeli patrol boat was fired on and two Israelis killed and five wounded, the Minister noted bitterly that Israel had been condemned by the MAC for firing back at the Arabs. He insisted that despite all considerations the Israel Army would defend Israel's soil. "It is the meanest lie that Israel contemplates an attack," he declared. "We want peace, but we will not yield our natural right to defend our liberty and sovereignty."

U. N. BODY COMPLETES INVESTIGATION TODAY ON JERUSALEM FLARE-UP

JERUSALEM, July 5. (JTA) -- The Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission's investigation into the causes of last week's three-day battle between Israelis and Jordanians in this city is expected to come to an end tomorrow. However, it is not expected that the MAC, under the chairmanship of Maj. Gen. Vagn Bennike, head of the UN truce organization, will meet again until the end of this week.

ISRAEL, JORDAN TRADE CHARGES ON ORIGIN OF JERUSALEM BATTLE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., July 5. (JTA) -- Israel and Jordan, in communications to the president of the United Nations Security Council, traded charges and counter-charges as to who precipitated the three-day "small war" in Jerusalem. However, neither of them asked for a meeting of the Security Council. Their communications will merely be distributed among the Council members.

Mordecai R. Kidron, Deputy Permanent Representative of Israel at the United Nations, charged in his communication that the Arab Legion of Jordan started the fighting by opening fire from its positions in the Old City of Jerusalem on the Israeli section of the city. "There was not the slightest provocation for this deliberate attack," he stated. "It was obviously planned in advance and centrally directed."

Issa Bandak, Acting Foreign Minister of Jordan, in a cable to the United Nations, said that "armed forces of the Israeli Army have showered the Arab section of Jerusalem with bullets and shells of their automatic guns." Mr. Kidron emphasized in his communication that the Israeli forces were under orders not to return the fire when the Arab Legion started to lob mortar shells into the Israel part of Jerusalem. "No fire was returned for two hours," he stressed. "Eventually, however, as the Arab firing continued to gain in intensity and striking power, it became necessary for Israel forces to react," he pointed out.

"These latest attacks," Mr. Kidron said in his communication, "constitute a new deliberate act of repudiation by the Jordan Government of its obligations under the Armistice Agreement. It would seem that the absence of any international reaction to Jordan's flouting of the Armistice Agreement in the past has served to encourage the Government of Jordan to commit this outrageous disturbance of the peace of Jerusalem, which constitutes an offense against the entire civilized world, no less than against Israel."

U. N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold conferred during the week-end with representatives of the United States, Britain and France in connection with the flare-up in Jerusalem and also met with the Soviet delegate Semyon Tsarapkin. At the same time, he sent a communication to the Israel and Jordan Governments and to Maj. Gen. Vagn Bennike, chief of the UN truce commission in Palestine, insisting on complete and unconditional observance of the armistice pact by both parties putting an end to the shooting.

U. S. Warns Israel and Jordan; Anxiety Expressed in Washington

WASHINGTON, July 5. (JTA) -- State Department sources today said that the flare-up in Jerusalem is causing anxiety in Washington and is increasing the determination of the United States Government to resolve the Arab-Israel problem and to strengthen the Middle East against Communism.

In a special statement, the State Department said the United States "deplores" the Jerusalem outbreak and "earnestly hopes" Jordan and Israel will "cooperate whole-heartedly with Gen. Vagn Bennike, chief of staff of the United Nations truce supervision organization, in his efforts to terminate this serious clash."

The Department said identical messages were dispatched to Jordan and Israel urging those governments to take "immediate steps to insure the observance of the ceasefire."

ARMISTICE COMMISSION CONDEMNS SYRIAN SHELLING OF ISRAEL BOAT

TEL AVIV, July 5. (JTA) -- The Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission condemned this week-end the Syrian shelling of an Israeli patrol boat on Lake Tiberias June 30 in which two Israeli policemen lost their lives and five others were wounded.

At the same time, the MAC censured Israel for the presence of armed landing craft on the lake and for the fact that the craft fired on the Syrian positions. This firing was in self-defense after the Syrians shelled the vessel.

U.S. ENVOY FORESEES ISRAEL-ARAB AGREEMENT ON JORDAN WATERS

NEW YORK, July 5. (JTA) -- There is a possibility of settling the dispute between Israel and Jordan over the development of the Jordan River Valley, Ambassador Eric Johnston, President Eisenhower's personal envoy, declared here yesterday upon his return from a trip to the Near East during which he conferred with Israeli and Arab leaders on American and other plans for the development program.

Mr. Johnston, who is scheduled to report to the President tomorrow, refused to discuss his mission further until after he had had an opportunity of reporting to Mr. Eisenhower. He did reveal that he expects to return to the Near East in two to three months.

ARABS ATTACK CHURCHILL'S PRO-ZIONIST VIEWS EXPRESSED IN WASHINGTON

LONDON, July 5. (JTA) -- The pro-Zionist position enunciated by British Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill last week in Washington has come under violent attack in the press and radio of the Arab League states.

In an English-language broadcast beamed to Europe, the Damascus Radio said: "What is surprising and irreconcilable is that the two statements, the one calling for peace in the Middle East and the other expressing support for Israel and Zionism, should appear in the same speech and should be uttered by such a reasonable leader of the Western Bloc of nations as Sir Winston Churchill.

"It is to be hoped," the broadcast continued, "that Sir Winston's recent utterances in support of aggressive Israel will be duly noted by the responsible leaders of the Arab world. It would also be interesting to note the change in the attitude of Churchill's friends in the Arab countries now that he has reiterated his full support for Zionist aims, which include, as we all know, the total destruction of the Arab peoples and the wholesale distribution of their land."

50TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. HERZL'S DEATH OBSERVED IN BASLE

BASLE, July 5. (JTA) -- More than 1,500 people, including representatives of Jewish communities in many countries throughout the world, gathered here last night to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the death of Dr. Theodor Herzl, father of modern Zionism.

The keynote address at the meeting was delivered by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive. Messages to the meeting came from all parts of the world. The session was held in the municipal casino, in which the first World Zionist Congress was held in 1897.

(Most of the major activities in the United States connected with observing the anniversary of Dr. Herzl's death will be coordinated by a joint Herzl Committee of the Jewish Agency and the American Zionist Council. The Committee plans to highlight most of the events during the months of November, December and January. Mrs. Samuel W. Halprin, acting chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency and member of the executive committee of the American Zionist Council, is chairman of the Committee.)

HOPES FOR AGREEMENT WITH AUSTRIA ON JEWISH CLAIMS SHATTERED

VIENNA, July 5. (JTA) -- The Jewish delegation which has been negotiating with the Austrian Government for the entire month of June in the hopes of receiving an acceptable offer in settlement of claims against the Austrian Government for Jewish personal and communal property losses and damage during the Nazi regime today had its hopes all but shattered.

Dr. Reinhardt Kamitz, Austrian Finance Minister, who only a week ago had held out the offer of 120,000,000 schillings as a lump sum settlement for heirless Jewish property, has now reversed his position and offered 50,000,000 schillings. Beside this, he has made a number of other unacceptable offers in settlement of various other claims, again in contradiction of what earlier appeared to be satisfactory offers. The Jewish delegation is quite bewildered and shocked by the sudden Austrian reversal and, although it is continuing to meet with the Austrians, is very pessimistic of the outcome.

When he proffered the 50,000,000 schilling settlement, Dr. Reinhardt declared that the Austrian Government experts estimate the total value of the heirless property involved in the claim at only 25,000,000 schillings, but the Austrian Government is willing to double this figure. The Jewish delegation, which had been prepared to make some sacrifice in reaching a settlement, considers this offer unacceptable.

The second surprise pulled by Dr. Kamitz is an offer to pay pensions halted by the Nazis only to Jewish former government employees. He would specifically exempt from this pension offer doctors, lawyers and private employees now living abroad. The delegation considers such a proposal as discriminating against Jewish victims of the Nazis.

Thirdly, the Austrian Finance Minister insisted that it was impossible to pay compensation for individual losses such as household furniture, except for Jews now living in Austria or willing to return to Austria. This offer is in complete contradiction of previous promises.

As far as property which cannot be restored is concerned--such as securities and bank accounts--the government would only agree to "study" the problem, and would be willing to "consider" amending legislation in behalf of victims of Nazism in this direction. The Jewish delegation feels that these vague terms do not fix the Austrian Government's liabilities in this field.

GERMANY, ISRAEL NAME HEAD OF ARBITRATION BODY FOR REPARATIONS

BONN, July 5. (JTA) -- Israel and West Germany today agreed to name Prof. Georges Sausen-Hall, well known Swiss expert on international law, chairman of a three-man arbitration commission to which they would refer any serious disputes involved in the implementation of the reparations pact signed at Luxembourg two years ago.

The pact provides that questions arising out of the interpretation or application of the agreement shall be handled by a mixed German-Israel commission and, if that body fails to settle the disputes, they will be referred to a commission, one of whose members was to be named by each party and the chairman or umpire by agreement between the two. All three men are to serve for five-year terms. So far there has been no call for the services of the commission.

Last year, Israel named Lord Nathan of Churt as its member on the body. Bonn nominated Dr. Hans-Juergen Schlochauer, Law Professor at the University of Frankfurt, who is a half-Jew. Now, after an unaccountably long delay, both parties have agreed on Dr. Sausen-Hall.

Dr. Sausen-Hall, 70, has held the Chair of International Law at Geneva University for the past 30 years and is dean of its law school. For many years he was a member of the Permanent Court of International Arbitration and has also served as a legal advisor to the Swiss and other governments.

RUMANIA RELEASES ZIONIST LEADERS; UPSETS TWO CONVICTIONS

JERUSALEM, July 5. (JTA) -- The Rumanian authorities have released six imprisoned Zionist leaders and have upset the conviction by a military court of two others, it was learned here. The two will be retried by civilian courts.

The six Jews who were released were named as: Dr. Aharon Cahane, Ephraim Guttman, Dr. M. Zalman, I. Badi, a lawyer, Mrs. Bluma Lupu and Yank Makrlat. The two whose trials were upset were Mrs. Suzanne Benvenisti, wife of World Jewish Congress leader Misu Benvenisti, who had received a ten-year sentence, and attorney Jean Littman, who had been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment.

J. D. C. MEDICAL CONFERENCE CLOSES IN PARIS; HEALTH WORK DISCUSSED

PARIS, July 5. (JTA) -- The international medical conference of the Joint Distribution Committee closed here this week-end after hearing a report that the JDC's health and welfare program had established 41 hospitals and institutions in Israel and had treated 35,000 persons in those institutions.

Dr. Boris Pliskin, JDC medical director in Israel, who detailed the work of the JDC program for aiding the tubercular, chronically ill, crippled and aged in Israel, reported that the institutions established by Malben included: two TB hospitals, a TB rehabilitation center, a home for aged tuberculars, four institutions for the chronically ill, and 14 homes for aged men and women.

Israel presents a unique opportunity for the study of health problems affecting Jews from various countries and for studying geriatrics, speakers at the conference declared. They pointed out that the Malben institutions have made a solid contribution to two difficult problems: care of aged and care of the chronically ill.

Dr. Jean Groen of the Wilhelmina Hospital in Amsterdam said that nowhere but in Israel is there such a concentration of aged representing many different countries and many different cultures. He spoke of the research opportunity offered by the Malben village for aged where Yemenite and European Jews are gathered. He drew attention to the fact that research in this village had established that few aged Yemenite Jews suffered from heart, disease, which is rife among European Jews.

UNIVERSITY OF N. Y. TO SEND SPECIALISTS TO ISRAEL UNDER U. S. CONTRACT

WASHINGTON, July 5. (JTA) -- The Foreign Operations Administration today announced the signing of a contract with the Research Foundation of the State University of New York under which the University will assist the Israel Government in agriculture, health and sanitation, industry, and education.

The total estimated cost of the University contract, spread over a three-year period, is \$1,815,700. From currently available funds, FOA has allotted \$753,000 which, it is expected, will carry the contract through its first 18 months. An additional allotment later is contemplated.

The University plans to recruit about 30 specialists and consultants in the main four fields of activity, many of whom will come from faculties in the state university system. Operations will be under the scope of the general agreement on technical assistance between the United States and Israel.

JEWISH CENTERS SPENT \$14,000,000 IN 1953, JWB REPORTS

NEW YORK, July 5. (JTA) -- The combined expenditures of all Jewish community centers and YM-YWHA's reached a total of more than \$14,000,000 in 1953, the national Jewish Welfare Board reported here today. The JWB also reported that almost half of the 550,000 membership of the centers and "Y's" is composed of boys and girls of 17 or below and that the membership of girls and women is higher than it has ever been.

B'NAI B'RITH PRESIDENT CALLS FOR FIGHT ON "VIRUS OF HATRED"

MILWAUKEE, July 5. (JTA) -- A call to Americans to fight against "hatred and terror that Fascism and Communism have let loose in the world," was voiced here by Philip M. Klutznick, international president of B'nai B'rith, addressing the 86th annual convention of the organization's District Grand Lodge Six at the Hotel Schroeder.

Pointing out that the virus of hate was being used to destroy people and nations, Mr. Klutznick denounced the persecution of Jews in Communist Rumania as "an outburst of anti-Semitism and a diabolically clever design of the Soviet Union to court the favor of the Arab States by this demonstration of unfriendliness to Jews." He cited the recent report on Germany by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith to show that the hatred sown by the Nazis against Jews still exists.

"The virus of hate," he said, "is being spread in Austria, where restitution was recently authorized for Nazis while their victims still waited for the return of their stolen property; in South Africa, where the race conflict is so intense that the Jewish community there lives in great fear; and in the Middle East, where Arab and Jew live in fear and violence."

In a reference to the rise of demagogues in this country, Mr. Klutznick said: "The intrusion of this particular virus of hate into our national life is perhaps appropriately discussed on this platform in this state without the mention of names and without reference to individuals. It seems difficult to understand what the end will be when I hear people--some of them people of great intelligence--say, 'I do not like the methods but I agree with the objectives and, therefore, it is all right with me.' They have forgotten that democracy and freedom are a method as well as an objective."

PROCLAMATION ON JEWISH TERCENTENARY ISSUED BY RELIGIOUS LEADERS

NEW YORK, July 5. (JTA) -- A national religious proclamation, setting aside the American Jewish Tercentenary--from September 12, 1954 through May 29, 1955--as a period of "thanksgiving and rejoicing" to be marked in synagogues throughout the country, was issued here today from the steps of Congregation Shearith Israel, oldest in the United States. The congregation was established by the first group of 23 Jews in New Amsterdam in September, 1654.

Prepared in three languages, English, Hebrew and Yiddish, the proclamation bears the signatures of Rabbi Simon G. Kramer, chairman of the Tercentenary Committee on Religious and Educational Participation; and the presidents of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the United Synagogue of America, the Rabbinical Council of America, the Rabbinical Assembly of America, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, and the Synagogue Council of America.

"In some lands across the seas, our brethren have been pressed to give up their religious beliefs and practices and to disappear in a well of namelessness," the proclamation says. "But within the home of America we have succeeded in preserving the unique identity of the Jewish religion, worshipping in keeping with our historic tradition; and we have preserved our ancient teachings, our ethics, and our religious ideals in the free climate of our nation. Our religion is strong, as our American loyalty is strong."

Between now and September 12th, when the celebration of the 300th anniversary of Jewish settlement in the United States is officially launched, this proclamation will be re-issued in hundreds of cities and towns throughout the country.