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AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR EXPLAINS INTERRUPTION OF CLAIMS TALKS

VIENNA, July 13. (JTA) -- Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today said that the two basic reasons for interruption of the Austro-Jewish negotiations for restitution and indemnification claims of Jewish victims of the Nazi regime in Austria were that the Jews are disunited and that the Jewish Committee for Claims on Austria demanded too high a settlement.

He insisted that the Jewish negotiators must bring their demands down to "a real and bearable level." He noted that the first Jewish demand had come to some \$80,000,000 and said that the Austrian Government is willing to assume certain economic burdens to settle the Jewish claims, but only if the government can bear them in the current economic situation.

In the Fall, Chancellor Raab said, the Austrian Government will give the Jewish groups its final offer. At that time, he continued, it will be up to the Jews to decide whether they will accept it.

Elaborating on the question of disunity, the Chancellor revealed that he had received a cable today from a Jewish organization which insisted that the claims committee did not represent it in this matter.

AMOUNT OF U.S. AID TO ISRAEL OBSCURED; 10% SLASH FOR MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, July 13. (JTA) -- The amount of American aid Israel will receive in the new fiscal year was obscured by doubt today as a 10 percent across the board slash was applied against funds requested by the Administration.

The \$130,000,000 authorization requested for the entire Near Eastern area was reduced by today's action to \$117,000,000. It is to be shared by the Arab states, Israel, and other countries in the region.

No exact breakdown to individual countries has been specified because the State Department wants to maintain "flexibility" so that it might determine at a later date how much it feels each country should receive.

Before the new slash, it was anticipated that Israel might get about \$40,000,000. State Department officials announced at recent hearings of the House Foreign Affairs Committee that they intend to increase aid to Arab League states while reducing assistance to Israel. In the current fiscal year, Israel received \$52,500,000 in aid from the United States.

ISRAEL PARLIAMENT APPROVES PUNISHMENT FOR ISRAELIS ABROAD

JERUSALEM, July 13. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament approved today the first reading of a measure providing for punishment of Israelis who injure the Jewish State while they are abroad. The measure does not provide for extradition because a general extradition measure now under consideration would cover this situation too.

The bill provides punishment for Israeli nationals abroad who damage the property of Israel, of the World Zionist Organization or of similar institutions; it punishes Israelis in positions of state or municipal authority for dereliction of duty while they are abroad; and it punishes persons who forge Israeli bank notes or official documents or who falsely represent themselves as Israeli officials.

ISRAEL DELEGATE ADDRESSES CONFERENCE IN KREMLIN IN HEBREW

TEL AVIV, July 13. (JTA) -- Jacob Efer, general manager of Hamashbir, the Israel wholesale trading cooperative, returning to Israel today from a trip to the Soviet Union, reported that he had addressed an international conference at the Kremlin in Hebrew.

The conference dealt with the cooperative movement and its problems in a number of different countries. Mr. Efer spoke on the problems of Israel's cooperatives, as well as on Israel's development and the program of immigrant integration.

ISRAEL WILL SOON HAVE TO DECIDE ON RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

TEL AVIV, July 13. (JTA) -- Israel will soon have to make a decision on whether to establish diplomatic relations with Germany. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency, declared here today after disembarking from a plane which brought him from Zurich, where he presided at a meeting of the joint executive board of the Jewish Committee for Claims on Austria.

Dr. Goldmann stressed that the question of Israel-German relations will become much more important next year, when Germany is expected to regain its sovereignty. On the Austrian-Jewish negotiations, he stressed that the claims committee had decided to wait until October for the final Austrian offer. Thus far, he noted, Austria has disappointed the Jewish groups.

ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF GREETED BY U.S. ARMY REPRESENTATIVES

WASHINGTON, July 13. (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, Chief of Staff of Israel's defense forces, arrived here today and was greeted at the airport by representatives of the United States Army and Ambassador Abba Eban.

The Defense Department sought to avoid any offense to the Arab League by issuing a delicately-worded statement announcing the arrival of Gen. Dayan. The Departments of State and Defense are currently seeking to cement relations with Iraq and are apprehensive about the effects in Arab states of the visit by Gen. Dayan to U.S. military installations.

Today's statement recalled that Gen. Dayan, during a visit to the United Nations Security Council last year, "expressed the hope that he might visit various U.S. military installation." Therefore, the statement said, "the Department of the Army has arranged for him to make such visits during the next few weeks." The Defense Department made known that transportation for Gen. Dayan will be entirely by commercial airlines.

It was recalled here that the Defense Department last month issued a much more enthusiastic statement to announce the arrival of Maj. Gen. Mohammed Rafiq Arif, Chief of Staff of the Iraqi Army. Gen. Arif was awarded the Legion of Merit by Gen. Matthew B. Ridgway, U.S. Chief of Staff.

U. N. BODY VOTES TO ADMIT RUMANIA; U. S. CITES JEWISH PROTESTS

GENEVA, July 13. (JTA) -- The United Nations Economic and Social Council today voted to admit Rumania into membership in the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, but the margin by which the vote passed indicated that the application might be rejected in the UNESCO General Council, where membership applications must be accepted by two-thirds majority.

The vote on admission was ten for, seven against and one nation abstaining. Voting against were the United States, Britain, France, Turkey, China, Cuba and Ecuador. Venezuela abstained.

The American delegate, J. Hotchkiss opposed admission on the grounds that there was no reason to have confidence in Rumania's living up to her obligation after admission into UNESCO and that the UN General Assembly had already condemned Rumania for failing to observe the human rights guarantees included in her treaties of peace with the Allies.

Mr. Hotchkiss also called the attention of the Council to a World Jewish Congress memorandum detailing persecution of Jewish communal and Zionist leaders in Rumania and insisted that these charges alone were sufficient to bar Rumania from membership. The British delegate also indicated that his vote against admission was based on Rumanian non-compliance with its treaty obligations.

The Soviet delegate, defending Rumania, said that Rumania was a democratic country in which the national minorities had all rights. He noted that Rumania had recently sent a note to Israel dealing extensively with the charges of anti-Jewish persecution.

REINSTATEMENT AND PENSIONS FOR GESTAPO MEN DEMANDED IN GERMANY

BONN, July 13. (JTA) -- The BHE refugee party, two of whose leaders are members of Chancellor Adenauer's Cabinet, has called for unconditional repeal of the legal provision that bars Gestapo torturers and a few leading Nazis from civil service rights.

Shortly after the war, officials with a record of Nazi sympathies and activity were dismissed or not re-employed. Under present practice they are entitled to reinstatement and full pension, unless they were professional members of the Nazi secret police -- Gestapo and the "SD" Security Service -- or classified as top Nazis by the lenient denazification boards.

The BHE refugee party now demands that these Nazi bigshots and Gestapo men be reinstated in positions commensurate with their experience. If no such position is available at the moment, they would nonetheless be entitled to full pay in their grades. National chairman of the BHE party is Theodor Oberlaender, now Federal Minister for Refugees, in former days a Nazi Party member, Storm Troop officer and national leader of the Nazi "League for a German Eastern Europe."

ISRAEL'S MISSION IN GERMANY SUFFERED NO SINGLE SETBACK, ENVOY SAYS

COLOGNE, July 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Chaim Yachil, deputy head of the Israel Purchasing Mission in Germany since its establishment here, left for Jerusalem today to assume his new post as head of the Israel Foreign Office's Information and Cultural Relations Department.

Commenting on the work of the purchasing mission, Dr. Yachiel noted that it had not received a single setback in carrying out the tasks assigned to it. So far, no successor has been named to his post with the purchasing mission.

ZIONISTS LAUD SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT FOR SUPPORTING ISRAEL

JOHANNESBURG, July 13. (JTA) -- The 24th biennial national convention closed here today after adopting resolutions deploring the arming of the Arab states by the major powers and protesting the persecution of Zionists in Rumania and other East European states. Some 500 delegates from all parts of the Union and Rhodesia attended the sessions.

The South African Zionists also recorded their appreciation of their government's support of Zionist aspirations and Israel and urged the government to support Israel in her present difficulties. The session also laid plans for launching the United Israel Appeal nationally next month and pledged full support of the Jewish National Fund, immigration to Israel, youth work, education and women's activities.

At a session devoted to immigration, it was reported that about 1,000 South African Jews had settled in Israel since the Jewish State was established. However, concern was expressed because the rate of immigration was falling off. It was also decided to establish a branch of PATWA--the specialized immigration organization for technical and scientific workers--in South Africa.

Simon Kuper, president of the federation, called for a return to the principles of Theodor Herzl, founder of the modern Zionist movement. He rejected as extreme the views of former Premier David Ben Gurion that the only true Zionist is one who settles in Israel, as he objected to the extreme view of Assistant Secretary of State Henry A. Byroade that Israel should stop viewing itself as the center of world Jewry. He also hailed the pro-Zionist views expressed in Washington recently by Prime Minister Sir Winston Churchill.

WOMAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF WORLD UNION OF PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM

LONDON, July 13. (JTA) -- The Honorable Lily Montagu has been elected president of the World Union of Progressive Judaism by the Union's governing body, it was announced here today. She succeeds Rabbi Leo Baeck, who was named honorary president.

The board also decided to call the Union's next international conference in Paris in July, 1955. Also discussed at the meeting were plans for the Union's future activities in Israel and the need for spiritual leadership of synagogues in various parts of the world.

U.S., ISRAEL DIPLOMATS ATTEND ORT GRADUATION CEREMONY

GENEVA, July 13. (JTA) -- The Central ORT Institute here held commencement exercises for its latest crop of instructors to be trained for vocational training assignments in various countries of Europe, North Africa and Israel. All 35 students in the course were graduated, while 17 other graduates, having completed a year's work after school, received special instructors' diplomas.

Present at the ceremony were diplomatic representatives of Israel, United States, France, Holland and Italy, as well as H. Pugin, head of the Geneva Labor Department, Prof. William Haber, president of the American ORT Federation, Dr. Yehuda Beham, president of the Israeli ORT, and Mrs. Ferdinand Kaufman of the American Women's ORT.

During the ceremony the French Consul General in Geneva decorated Dr. Aron Syngalowski with the Legion of Honor medal previously awarded by the French Government for his leadership in a movement which has benefitted the people of France and North Africa. S. Tolkovsky, Israeli Minister at Berne, praised the ORT's work, particularly the Geneva's school which provides instructors for Israel's immigrants.

ARGENTINE JEWS TO PLANT FOREST IN ISRAEL IN PERON'S NAME

BUENOS AIRES, July 13. (JTA) -- The DAIA, central representative organization of Argentine Jews, has turned over to the Jewish National Fund the technical details of the planting in Israel of a forest to be named in honor of Argentine President Juan Peron. Gen. Peron has expressed his pleasure at the manner in which the Argentine Jews are honoring him.

A Max Nordau School, built with funds contributed by the Jaime Prilutzky family of Argentina, was opened yesterday in the province of Mendoza. Present at the ceremony was Juan de la Torre, Deputy Governor of the province, who was active in the campaign to build the school in Mendoza, and Anibal Orozco, provincial Minister of Education.

HISTADRUT LEADER REPORTS IN U.S. ON ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS

NEW YORK, July 13. (JTA) -- The economic progress of the State of Israel in the past year is due in great measure to the close cooperation of the Israel Government and the labor movement, Yitzchak Haskin, treasurer of the Histadrut, told a meeting of Histadrut campaign workers here. Mr. Haskin, who returns to Israel Sunday, spent a month in this country and Mexico.

He reported that the Histadrut had taken responsibility for a number of specific goals, including: increased industrial productivity, irrigation of large tracts of arid land and the founding of cooperatives for the purpose of creating jobs. He stressed the Histadrut's projects in the Negev, including cultural work as well as industrial and agricultural projects.

Mr. Haskin disclosed that the Histadrut had a 9,500,000 pound fund for combatting unemployment and had managed to cut jobless rolls from 26,000 to 11,000. In a review of Israel's economic progress, he emphasized that during the past year Israel produced half of all it ate, as against 17 percent of the total for earlier years.

GARDEN VILLAGE FOR RETIRED AMERICAN JEWS PLANNED IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, July 13. (JTA) -- A garden village to be known as Tel Shalom is being constructed on a 100 dunam site in Israel for Americans and others who wish to retire in Israel, it was announced here today by the American Israel Retirement Service.

The village will feature American-style buildings with all the latest American household devices and incorporating American techniques. It is aimed primarily at American Jews who want to retire to Israel but who want to live among American conveniences. The project is sponsored by the African Palestine Investment Corporation, which is headed by Jacob Geri, onetime Israel Minister of Commerce, and the South African Building Mortgage Bank.

ABRAHAM GOODMAN NAMED ACTING PRESIDENT OF Z. O. A.

NEW YORK, July 13. (JTA) -- Abraham Goodman, of New York, has been named to serve as acting president of the Zionist Organization of America in the absence of Mortimer May, newly elected president of the ZOA. The appointment of Mr. Goodman, who is chairman of the ZOA Inner Committee, was announced by Mr. May on the eve of his departure for Israel to attend the sessions of the World Zionist Actions Committee in Jerusalem.

COLOGNE COMMUNITY DEDICATES MEMORIAL FOR ITS LAST RABBI

COLOGNE, July 13. (JTA) -- A memorial tablet for the last pre-war rabbi of this ancient community, Dr. Isidor Caro, has been unveiled on the local Jewish cemetery in the presence of his widow, who journeyed here from the United States. Dr. Caro had been deported from Cologne by the Nazis and perished in a concentration camp.