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ISRAEL REJECTS RUMANIAN CHARGES; ASKS UNRESTRICTED EMIGRATION

JERUSALEM, July 21. (JTA) -- The Israel Government has bluntly rejected Rumanian charges that "thousands" of Jews of Rumanian origin are being prevented by Israel from returning to Rumania, and that a campaign of incitement against Rumania is being carried on in the Jewish State.

This was revealed here today in the Israel Parliament by Premier Moshe Sharett, who said that the reply sent by the Israel Government to the Government of Rumania termed these charges -- contained in a Rumanian note of June 4 -- "devoid of adequate foundation in fact."

The Israeli reply described as "unconvincing" the Rumanian explanation that the more than 100 Jews condemned to long prison terms in Rumania were guilty of espionage. This claim is "unacceptable" to worldwide Jewish opinion, the Israeli note said, asserting that the character of the convicted men and women--who devoted themselves to the ideal of Jewish Statehood in the historic Jewish homeland--completely invalidates the accusation of espionage.

The Premier informed Parliament that Rumania had been told that the Israel Government was unable to infringe upon the principle of freedom of thought and expression upon which the State of Israel is based to suppress spontaneous popular manifestations of national Jewish solidarity with the convicted Rumanian Jewish leaders. Such popular expressions do not interfere with the generally accepted procedure of correct international affairs, Israel stressed.

In its reply, the Israel Government reaffirmed its desire to maintain and develop friendly relations with Rumania. In the view of the Israel Government, it added, the release of the Jewish prisoners and allowing them to proceed to Israel would greatly enhance relations between the two countries. The Israel Government is confident, the note went on, that Rumania would not have reason to regret its generosity and far-sightedness.

In rejecting the Rumanian charges that the Israel Government had prevented thousands of Jews of Rumanian origin from returning to that land, Mr. Sharett told the House, the Israel note had emphasized that no one had been prevented from leaving. The precise number of those who wanted to leave, the note said, was the number who actually left--238.

On the other hand, Israel underlined, tens of thousands of Rumanian Jews have applied to the Rumanian Government for permission to immigrate to Israel, but that wish has not been granted. The Israel Government again appealed to Rumania to permit the emigration of Israel-bound Jews, Mr. Sharett revealed. The Israel note concluded with the statement that "the news of the re-opening of the Rumanian gates for those who are anxious to immigrate to Israel would evoke a most appreciative reaction in Israel and would reverberate throughout the Jewish world."

ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE STARTS SESSION; CHANGES PROCEDURE

JERUSALEM, July 21. (JTA) -- The World Zionist Actions Committee today opened its session here in the presence of all members of the Israeli Cabinet and Parliament. Former Premier David Ben Gurion, who was invited to address the opening session, expressed his regrets by letter, stating that he was unable to attend because he is re-entering a hospital for another health check.

Today's session was devoted entirely to the memory of Dr. Theodor Herzl, founder of the Zionist political movement who died fifty years ago today in Vienna. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, delivered the principal address on Dr. Herzl.

Contrary to past practice, the Actions Committee this time will start its general debate on various problems concerning the world Zionist movement only after resolutions on these problems are introduced by various committees. The committees will be elected tonight, it was indicated.

The national convention of the Progressive Party of Israel concluded today with a decision to expand its executive from 140 members to 179 and to empower this augmented body to decide within a month whether to accept a suggestion by Dr. Nahum Goldmann that the party unite with the General Zionists in a single bloc in Parliament and in the government.

The convention also decided to call a national conference of the party to meet within three months to discuss economic and organizational matters. The party sent greetings to arrested Zionist leaders in Rumania and elsewhere.

BRITAIN KEEPS ISRAEL INFORMED ON SUEZ NEGOTIATIONS WITH EGYPT

LONDON, July 21. (JTA) -- The British Government is considering re-affirming its adherence to the tripartite declaration guaranteeing the borders of Israel and the Arab States, in connection with the current Anglo-Egyptian negotiations for evacuation of the Suez Canal zone and recent threats by Egyptian officials to resume the war against Israel once the British are out of Suez.

This statement was made today in the House of Commons by Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Selwyn Lloyd, in reply to a number of questions on the relationship between Israel and the Anglo-Egyptian talks. Mr. Lloyd told the House that although no formal British-Israel talks had taken place on the Suez situation, Israel had generally been informed of developments in the Anglo-Egyptian negotiations, along with other interested governments.

Mr. Lloyd stressed that the tripartite declaration--by the United States, Britain and France--would be implemented, if the need arose, regardless of the status of the Suez area. He added that Britain sought to maintain good relations with all the states of the Middle East and said that the British Government was attempting to "alleviate" the situation in that region, although he differentiated between what he called active and public attempts to achieve peace. The impression he gave was that the British Government was trying to promote the cause of peace, although not in a public manner.

BEN GURION URGES FORMATION OF NEW YOUTH MOVEMENT IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, July 21. (JTA) -- Former Premier David Ben Gurion called last night for the formation of a new youth movement in Israel to establish, on a non-political basis, settlements in the Negev and in the border areas. Speaking at a youth rally in Beersheba, Mr. Ben Gurion also called for the establishment of laboratories and other technical facilities in the Negev and other developing areas.

The ex-Premier asked that the new settlements be established by young men and women between 20 and 30 years of age, composed of 20 percent of Israeli-born youths and 80 percent of recent immigrants. An eleven-member committee was named at the rally to initiate the movement, which Mr. Ben Gurion called "Israel's Young Guard."

U. N. TRUCE CHIEF PLANS "INTENSIVE TALKS" WITH ISRAEL AND JORDAN

JERUSALEM, July 21. (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. Vagn Bennike, United Nations truce chief in Palestine, plans to initiate "intensive talks" with Israel and Jordan aimed at reducing tensions and preventing the recurrence of further incidents, the UN press officer told a news conference today.

The officer noted that Gen. Bennike had informed both parties that the UN's efforts would be directed primarily at solving problems and reducing tension rather than at condemning either side. He reiterated Gen. Bennike's pleas for greater cooperation of both sides with the Mixed Armistice Commission to prevent further violence.

The press officer professed complete ignorance of Israel's charges--made to the UN and publicized throughout the world--that Jordan had permitted the desecration of the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, which is now in Jordan possession. He was "surprised" to hear of such accusations, he said, adding that he had never seen the charges nor the Israeli photographs of damage to the cemetery which had been sent the UN.

Meanwhile, in Tel Aviv an Israel military spokesman announced that one Israel soldier had been wounded seriously when Jordanians had fired across the border at an Israel patrol in the Beit Neballa area.

Israelis Disappointed in U. N. Failure to Effect Peace

JERUSALEM, July 21. (JTA) -- The feeling of deep faith and confidence in the United Nations which was felt by all sections of the Israeli people after the formation of the Jewish State has given way to disappointment and "even pessimism" over the UN's failure to bring about peace between Israel and the Arab states, a report prepared for the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace declared today.

The report, written by a special study group headed by Hebrew University president Prof. Benjamin Mazur, said that the factors making for the change in attitude among Israelis included the manner in which the UN observers carried out their functions and the UN's tolerance of the Arab States' conversion of its forum into a platform for abuse of Israel and attacks on the very existence of the Jewish State.

Syria Complains to U. N. Against Israel's "Planned" Action

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. July 21. (JTA) -- The charge that Israel is "attempting" to resume canal digging in the demilitarized zone of the Israeli-Syrian border was made in a memorandum submitted yesterday to the Security Council by the Syrian delegation at the United Nations. The work was halted temporarily last October.

The Syrian delegation did not ask for any action on the part of the Security Council. The memorandum merely said that "there are signs of intense activity" on the part of Israel outside the demilitarized zone and that Syria would not consider herself responsible for the "inevitable consequences of any resumption of work in the demilitarized zone."

ISRAEL MINISTER FAVORS COMPLETE FREEDOM FOR NON-HEBREW PRESS

TEL AVIV, July 21. (JTA) -- Interior Minister Israel Rokach favors complete freedom of publication for newspapers and periodicals in languages other than Hebrew, and opposes any measures which may limit non-Hebrew publications, he told a press conference.

The Minister expressed the hope that the new generation would be completely Hebrew-speaking and, therefore, would have no need for a foreign language press. Of the 242 dailies, weeklies, monthlies and quarterlies published in Israel, 96 are in some language other than Hebrew.

SYRIA PROTESTS TO GERMANY ON REPARATIONS DELIVERIES TO ISRAEL

BONN, July 21. (JTA) -- The Syrian Government has delivered a second protest to the Bonn Government against its reparations deliveries to Israel, it was learned here today. The note to the Foreign Office said that it was a protest in behalf of the Arab League as well as the Syrian Government.

This note draws the attention of the West German Government to a number of specific reparations shipments which Syria contends could be used to equip an Israel armaments industry. It is understood that the German Government has denied this charge, stressing that under the latest reparations shipment schedule agricultural machinery has first priority and that in any case none of the materials shipped to Israel is suitable for armaments production.

Diplomatic circles here believe that the Syrian note was dispatched in preparation for a meeting of the Arab League's economic council which opened yesterday in Cairo to consider the problem of Israel reparations receipts in relation to the efficacy of the Arab boycott program.

Commenting on reports that the German Government received a note earlier this month from the Arab League in reference to possible German-Israel diplomatic relations, a German Foreign Office spokesman explained that since there are no diplomatic relations between Bonn and the Arab League no formal note could have been or was received. A communication, however, has admittedly been received, although its nature has not been made public.

GERMANY TO ISSUE POSTAGE STAMP HONORING JEWISH WOMAN LEADER

BONN, July 21. (JTA) -- In honor of Bertha Pappenheim, the German Jewish social worker who fifty years ago founded the National Association of Jewish Women, the West German Federal Republic will issue a special postage stamp in the fall, it was learned here today.

Upon the suggestion of the Central Welfare Agency of the Jews in Germany, which is a constituent member of the coordinating committee formed by the major German social work agencies, a recommendation to that effect has been submitted to the postal administration. The latter had asked the coordinating committee for suggestions.

Bertha Pappenheim, who was born at Vienna in 1859 and died near Frankfurt in 1936, was a pioneering organizer in many fields of Jewish social and educational endeavor. In the sphere of general social work, she took a leading part in the rehabilitation of delinquent girls and in combatting the white slave trade.

RABBINICAL CONVENTION DENOUNCES "IRON CURTAIN" COUNTRIES

DETROIT, July 21. (JTA) -- A resolution denouncing the governments of the Soviet Union and the other countries behind the Iron Curtain for "the continued enslavement of the Jews" in these Communist countries was adopted here last night at the annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America, an Orthodox group.

Another resolution appealed to the Arab countries to conclude peace with Israel and accept the pattern and framework of democratic institutions which Israel has established. The convention also adopted a resolution urging the United States to continue its grants-in-aid for Israel.

The delegates heard a report from the commission which the Council sent to Israel several months ago to study religious problems there. The report dealt with the various controversial issues between the religious Jews and the Israel Government and emphasized that "there exists a truce now which leaves the hope that ultimately a closer understanding between the religious groups and the government will develop, as well as unity within the various religious groups themselves."

IMPRESSIVE JERUSALEM CEREMONY MARKS START OF "HERZL YEAR"

JERUSALEM, July 21. (JTA) -- Herzl Year, the year of the commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the death of Theodor Herzl, founder of modern Zionism, was ushered in here last night at a ceremony in front of the Herzl Tomb.

Present at the ceremony were the President and Premier of Israel, members of the government and Parliament and a host of others including two lone survivors among the band of pioneers who organized the first Zionist Congress with Dr. Herzl in Basle in 1897. The two surviving colleagues of Dr. Herzl are Prof. Joseph Klausner and Meyer Ebner.

The short ceremony featured prayers for the dead, the reading of selected psalms and selections from Dr. Herzl's diary and representative addresses. Afterwards, the President of Israel, Itzhak Ben Zvi, led a processional past the tomb. He was followed by members of the Cabinet, deputies of Parliament and members of the Jewish Agency and of the Zionist Actions Committee.

Platoons representing various arms of the Israel defense forces presented arms as the national and Zionist flags were hoisted over the tomb. The grave site was covered with a veritable forest of Zionist flags carried by representatives of youth organizations and youth groups played band selections and choirs sang throughout an hour-long musical program.

"Herzl Year" to Start in Canada in November

MONTREAL, July 21. (JTA) -- Allan Broffman, national chairman of the Herzl Year Committee of the United Zionist Council of Canada, issued a proclamation today designating, in the name of Canadian Jewry, November 2, 1954 as the beginning of Herzl Year in this country.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD REGISTERS SILVER'S ATTACK ON REP. BOLTON

WASHINGTON, July 21. (JTA) -- Rep. George H. Bender, Ohio Republican, has taken an unusual step in inserting in the Congressional Record a recent address by Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver containing criticism of Rep. Frances P. Bolton, Republican Congresswoman representing Cleveland, for following an anti-Israel propaganda line.

Dr. Silver originally delivered his address before the recent convention of the Zionist Organization of America. He described Rep. Bolton, chairman of the Near Eastern Subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as a "ready mouthpiece in the House of Representatives for all pro-Arab propaganda." Rep. Bolton's activities were described as "strongly reminiscent of anti-Zionist propaganda antedating the establishment of the State."

Rabbi Silver found it "strange" that while Rep. Bolton made numerous allegations against Israel and the Israeli people she "had nothing to say about Arab boycotts and blockades which are seriously retarding the economic development of the entire Near East." What blindsides these people develop," said Rabbi Silver, "when they come to ride a hobby or a lobby and what dangerously unreliable guides they become for American foreign policy."

HABIMAH GOES TO PARIS TO PARTICIPATE IN CULTURAL FESTIVAL

TEL AVIV, July 21. (JTA) -- The world-famed Habimah troupe of Israel left today for Paris where the group will participate in an international cultural festival sponsored by the city of Paris. The Habimah will present a number of plays from its Hebrew repertoire at the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre.