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JEWISH AGENCY GETS SPECIAL STATUS IN ISRAEL; PACT SIGNED

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- An agreement establishing a special status for the Jewish Agency in its activities in Israel was formally signed today between the Israel Government and the Jewish Agency in the presence of members of the Cabinet and of the Agency's executive. The ceremony took place in the chamber where the Israel Cabinet usually holds its meetings.

Signing for the Israel Government was Moshe Sharett, while Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Berl Locker, co-chairmen of the Jewish Agency executive, signed for the Agency. The agreement became effective immediately. A letter attached to the agreement provides that the chairman of the Jewish Agency shall hold the rank of Minister. Other members of the Agency executive will have the same rank as members of the Israel Parliament.

Under the provisions of the agreement, the Jewish Agency is entitled to carry on immigration, absorption and colonization work, as well as to establish new industrial enterprises in Israel and to enlarge old ones. It can also act to attract private investment from abroad to Israel. The government will provide the Agency with certain facilities, which are yet to be worked out as part of the agreement. Both the Israel Government and the Jewish Agency will have equal representation on a coordinating board which will deal with immigration and absorption problems.

Jewish Agency Deficit Discussed at Action Committee

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency deficit during the first nine months of the current year was 9,000,000 Israeli pounds, Dr. G. Josephthal, treasurer, reported today at the meeting of the World Zionist Actions Committee. He added that 2,500,000 pounds of the deficit was covered by long-term loans.

Zalman Shazar, head of the education department of the Jewish Agency, reported that approximately 70 percent of the Jewish youth in countries outside of Israel barely know the Hebrew alphabet. He described the difficulties in the field of promoting Jewish education abroad, pointing out that in 22 countries there is an acute shortage of teachers.

Touching upon the situation in the countries behind the Iron Curtain, he said that in the Soviet Union alone there are today about 400,000 Jewish youths barred from any kind of Jewish teaching. In the Western Hemisphere, he reported, Mexico is the most promising country, since 85 percent of the Jewish children there receive a Jewish education.

Mr. Shazar estimated that 75 percent of all the Jewish children in the United States do not receive any kind of Jewish education. His report made a strong impression on the members of the Actions Committee.

U.S. JEWS MUST FIND THEIR OWN WAY TO ZIONISM, DR. GOLDMANN SAYS

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- American Jews must be allowed to find their own way to acceptance of the full Zionist program, Dr. Nahum Goldmann told the Zionist Actions Committee today. Prompting will not help to speed up the process, he stated. He pointed out that American Jewry is entirely different in its outlook, form of life and communal structure from the Jews of Europe.

Berl Locker, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive in Jerusalem, maintained that it is a Zionist duty to push American Jewry along the road of accepting the Zionist program, no matter how unpopular such a course might be. Judith Epstein, Hadassah leader, said Zionism could become a profound instrument not only for Israel but also for American Jewry, were it given a new meaning. The United States, she said, is a great melting pot and the present American way of life does not admit cultural pluralities.

Mrs. Epstein told the Actions Committee that the fight for Israel is now being carried on in the United States by all elements of American Jewry, except the American Council for Judaism. Israel, she declared, has given American Jews a new sense of dignity which was heretofore unknown to them.

Mortimer May, president of the Zionist Organization of America, said the existence of Israel is of importance to all of world Jewry. If the Jewish State were to fall, world Jewry would fall, he stated. Rabbi M. Kirshblum, American Mizrahi leader, urged Israeli leaders to adopt a more positive attitude toward Jewish communities outside of Israel by recognizing the advances they have made in Jewish life instead of constantly criticizing them.

Rabbi Irving Miller, ZOA leader, reported on the work of the American Zionist Council. He opposed the contention that the American Zionist movement would become stronger by the merging of all Zionist groups in the country into one territorial federation.

Dr. Goldmann Honored in Israel on His 60th Birthday

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann's 60th birthday was celebrated here last night at a gala function sponsored jointly by the Jewish Agency, World Jewish Congress and World Confederation of General Zionists. The three hundred guests at the birthday party included notables in all walks of life in Israel and top figures in the Zionist movement, including members of the Agency, Israel Cabinet and Knesset.

Berl Locker, Agency co-chairman with Dr. Goldmann, who opened the celebration, announced that the Jewish National Fund had decided to plant a forest in Israel in Dr. Goldmann's name, and that Mexican Jewry had already contributed a sum of money to pay for the planting of the first 1,000 saplings.

Among the other speakers at the dinner were Premier Moshe Sharett, members of his Cabinet and Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the World Confederation of General Zionists. The Premier urged Dr. Goldmann to settle in Israel permanently and take up his "rightful place" in Israeli life.

Dr. Goldmann, replying, expressed pride in the unity achieved within the Jewish nation, despite the failure of various parties to agree and the tendency of each to go its own way. The dinner was ended with the playing of Hatikvah, the national anthem.

World Zionist Congress to Be Held in August 1955

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- The next World Zionist Congress will be held during the first half of August 1955, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, announced here today.

ISRAEL DEMANDS ARMS FROM U.S. ON EQUAL BASIS WITH EGYPT

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- If the United States arms Egypt it must provide Israel with an equal quantity of weapons, Dr. Walter Eytan, director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, demanded on a broadcast last night over Kol Zion, the Israel Government station.

The Western Powers' declaration guaranteeing the balance of power in the Middle East lost its validity the moment the United States decided to strengthen Iraq without strengthening Israel adequately, Dr. Eytan declared. Now when the U.S. is planning to strengthen Egypt there "isn't much sense" to guaranteeing Israel on paper--"if one of the mightiest of Western Powers acts contrary to its earlier declaration, why should Israel rely on a new declaration?" he queried.

Dr. Eytan noted that while the U.S. might be quite sincere in wishing to arm Egypt so it could defend the Suez Canal zone after the British withdraw, the Egyptians want arms to renew the war with Israel. He underscored the fact the Col. Gamal Abdul Nasser, Egypt's Premier, recently referred to Israel as Egypt's "Number One enemy."

JORDANIANS SEEK TO INFILTRATE ISRAEL SETTLEMENT; KILL GUARD

TEL AVIV, July 26. (JTA) -- Reuben Kirkin, an Israeli settler of Beit Gan in Lower Galilee--one of the first Jewish settlements in that district--was killed last night by Arab infiltrators, believed to be Jordanians.

According to a report issued by an Israeli military spokesman here this morning, a group of infiltrators attempted to penetrate Beit Gan when they were intercepted by the settlement's watchman. An exchange of fire ensued, during which Kirkin was killed.

An Israeli Arab shepherd with 100 goats was kidnapped yesterday by Lebanese customs police, while 500 meters inside Israeli territory. A complaint was filed today by Israel with the Israeli-Lebanon Mixed Armistice Commission. The Israel complaint demands that the Commission order the immediate return of the shepherd and the flock.

ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF VISITS U.S. AIR FORCE BASE

PENSACOLA, FLA. July 26. (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, Chief of Staff of the Israel Defense Forces, today visited Eglin Air Force Base. He was accompanied by Lt. Col. M. Koll-Nesher, air attache of the Israel Embassy, and other Israel officers. At Eglin Field the Israelis viewed equipment and methods used.

The party leaves tomorrow for Atlanta, Ga. From there it will proceed to Knoxville, Tenn., to see the T. V. A. On Thursday the party will arrive at Fort Knox, Ky., and will be accommodated at quarters on the post. From Fort Knox the next stop will be Fort Sill, artillery training center.

(In Israel, French Embassy sources confirmed today reports that the French Government has invited Gen. Dayan to pay an official visit to France en route to Israel at the conclusion of his current visit to the United States. The sources said that during his three-day stay in France, Gen. Dayan will be a guest of the French Army Chief of Staff.)

3,500 EX-NAZIS DEMAND "COMPENSATION"; WERE INTERNED BY BRITAIN

BONN, July 26. (JTA) -- About 3,500 former Nazis, once interned in British camps in Northern Germany, today demanded "compensation for injustice." The claim was put forward by speakers of the "Association for the Interests of Those Wronged by Denazification."

GERMAN PARLIAMENT GETS FIRST REGULATION TO INDEMNIFICATION LAW

BOCCN, July 26. (JTA) -- The first of the several implementation regulations to the Federal Indemnification Law for the compensation of individual claimants came before Parliament today, a full year after the law itself was passed.

Although procrastination has kept the law a dead letter and even a dead-weight, it is not yet certain whether this first implementation regulation will enter into force on its target date of October 1. The Federal Council, Upper House of the West German Parliament, today stipulated certain minor changes. If these are not accepted by the Ministry of Finance, no further action can be taken for months, since parliament has already adjourned for the eight-week summer recess.

The new regulation deals only with a narrow field, that of pensions for the widows and immediate dependents of Nazi victims whose death is indisputably and directly due to persecution. Eligible are widows until they remarry, widowers unable to maintain themselves, children while attending school, and in certain specified cases orphaned grandchildren or indigent grandparents. If the applicant earns more than \$35 a month, payments will be reduced or cut off.

The pension is predicated on the hypothetical assumption that the deceased held a German civil service position in a grade comparable to his actual social and economic status. The complex pension formula says in effect that the dependents of the Nazi victim are at most entitled to two-thirds of what the German state would pay to an equivalent civil servant if the latter had suffered a fatal accident in line of duty. Minimum rates, for those meeting the numerous restrictive requirements, have been set at \$48 a month for the widow, half that amount for a full orphan and less than that for half-orphans.

All German promises to the contrary notwithstanding additional implementation regulations desperately needed for carrying out the Federal Indemnification Law will not be introduced in parliament before the fall. The Federal Council has appealed to Finance Minister Fritz Schaeffer to expedite the drafting of these regulations.

GESTAPO CHIEF WHO SENT 13,000 JEWS TO DEATH GETS MILD SENTENCE

COLOGNE, July 26. (JTA) -- Dr. Emanuel Schaefer, former SS brigadier and Gestapo chief of this city, convicted of responsibility for deporting Cologne's 13,000 Jews to their deaths during the Nazi regime, received today what amounts to a three-month jail sentence. Only about 300 of the 13,000 Jews deported from Cologne to the death camps in Eastern Europe between 1942 and 1944 survived.

Sentence, as a result of Schaefer's being found guilty by the local Court of Assizes, was passed today by Presiding Justice Schwengers. The judge formally sentenced the former Gestapo general to a year of hard labor. Then Justice Schwengers combined nine months of the sentence with another prison term previously imposed against Schaefer in such a way that the "net" increase for the Cologne crime will be only ninety days.

The previous sentence given Schaefer was for various crimes he committed while heading the Nazi Security Service in Yugoslavia. There, according to the charges, he was responsible for the slaughter of some 6,000 Jewish women and children at the Semlin internment camp near Belgrade. After ordering these 6,000 killed, he had telegraphed to his superiors in Berlin: "Serbia is now cleansed of Jews." For that crime, Schaefer was sentenced to six and a half years in prison.

YUGOSLAV JEWS RAISE FUNDS FOR "MARTYRS FOREST" IN ISRAEL

LONDON, July 26. (JTA) -- Intensification of fund-raising among Jews in Yugoslavia in behalf of the planting of trees in the Martyrs Forest in Israel was reported here today in a communication from the Federation of Jewish Communities of Yugoslavia.

The report said that some 3,000,000 dinars had been raised throughout Yugoslavia for the planting of 10,000 trees. This represents one-half of the pledge of Yugoslavian Jews. Funds for 40,000 more trees will be raised by Jews of Yugoslav origin now living in the United States and Israel. The report stressed that in one town where only 17 Jews still live, 450,000 dinars was raised for this purpose, some 30,000 from non-Jews.

The Jewish communities of Yugoslavia plan to send a special message and gift to the Jews of the United States to mark the tercentenary of Jewish settlement in the U.S.

PRESIDENT OF ALLIANCE ISRAELITE HONORED BY ISRAEL GOVERNMENT

PARIS, July 26. (JTA) -- At an impressive ceremony at Alliance Israelite headquarters here attended by a large number of French Jewish leaders, Israel Ambassador Jacob Tzur presented Prof. Rene Cassin, president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle, with a certificate of his inscription in the Golden Book of the Jewish National Fund, as a token of gratitude for his "participation in the great work which made the creation of the State of Israel possible."

Prof. Cassin, who heads the highest administrative court in France and is also vice-chairman of the United Nations Committee on Human Rights, replying to Ambassador Tzur, stressed the pioneering role played by the founders of the Alliance. As an example he cited the work of the Alliance Agricultural School, Mikveh Israel, near Jaffa, and stated that it was in an Alliance school that Eliezer Ben Yehuda, the father of modern Hebrew, started his career. The president of the Alliance expressed his great happiness at having contributed to the rebirth of a great state.

HABIMAH TROUPE PLAYS IN PARIS; THEATRE IS OVERCROWDED

PARIS, July 26. (JTA) -- Habimah Theatre of Tel Aviv played to a "standing room only" audience in the Sarah Bernhardt Theatre here last night, performing H. Leivik's classic play, "The Golem," as the culminating feature of the three-month "Festival of Dramatic Art" organized by the City of Paris.

Critics and members of the audience cheered the performance, recalling the players for seven curtain calls. A large section of the diplomatic corps attended.

GRT TRAINS 600 IN HOLLAND FOR EMIGRATION AND NEW OCCUPATIONS

AMSTERDAM, July 26. (JTA) -- More than 600 persons attended various GRT courses in Holland last year to either prepare themselves for emigration or to retrain themselves in new occupations when they failed to find work in their old fields, the annual report of the GRT movement in Holland revealed today. The GRT offered 19 different courses during the past year.

DUTCH ZIONISTS PROTEST DESECRATION OF MT. OLIVES CEMETERY

THE HAGUE, July 26. (JTA) -- The Dutch Zionist Association protested to the United Nations today the desecration of the ancient Jewish cemetery on the Mount of Olives, now in Jordan-held territory. The association urged the UN to investigate and to demand the punishment of those responsible for the violation of the last resting place of "many outstanding Jewish teachers and scholars."