



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

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## FRENCH AUTHORITIES IN MOROCCO TAKE STEPS TO PROTECT JEWS

ALGIERS, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- Francis Lacoste, French Resident-General in Morocco, today expressed his "deep regret" over the pogrom which cost six Jewish lives last week at Petitjean.

He assured Jewish leaders that he will "put into effect all steps possible in order to prevent Jews and other sections of our population from coming to harm as a result of the propaganda let loose here in consequence of the campaign of hatred launched by extremists."

These assurances were wired by him to Benjamin Heller, president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Algeria, and Jacques Lazarus, head of the World Jewish Congress North African bureau. The Jewish leaders had telegraphed M. Lacoste, after last week's pogrom, expressing "deep emotion and shock over the outrageous murders."

M. Lacoste was urged by them to take "all measures insuring the efficient protection of Moroccan subjects of Jewish origin." They also requested him to take steps leading to the "arrest and just punishment of the instigators and executors of the massacre."

(The New York Times today compares the assurances given by the new Premier of Tunis, that there will be no abuse of Tunisia's Jewish population, with the anti-Jewish riots in Morocco. Pointing out that no such assurances came from the Moslems in Morocco, the Times editorial says: "It will be necessary for France, in whatever steps are taken to find a better *modus vivendi* with the Moroccans, to see to it that minority groups are safe-guarded there also.")

## Tunisian Jews Seek Guarantees Against Discrimination

TUNES, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- Representatives of Jewish organizations today continued their talks here with political leaders to make sure that there will be no discrimination against Jews in the new convention now being drawn for limited internal autonomy for this French protectorate. There are 80,000 native Jews in Tunisia.

There are general guarantees on the law books here now, securing equal rights for Jews. An 1857 treaty asserts that "no distinction is to be made between Tunisian Moslems and Tunisian Jews." Article 86 of the Tunisian Constitution of 1861 provides that "all subjects of the Tunisian regency of whatever religion have the right to complete security of person, property and honor."

There have, however, been instances of legislative discrimination against Jews. A 1937 reform law admitting Tunisians to governmental posts, theretofore reserved for Frenchmen only, states that those positions should be open to Tunisian Moslems only. The Jewish community is now seeking guarantees against further discrimination of that kind in the future, under the new regime.

U.S. TRYING TO REDUCE AID TO ISRAEL, OFFICIAL TELLS SENATE BODY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- The United States is "trying to pursue a downward course in economic assistance to Israel," the Senate Appropriations Committee was told by a high official of the Foreign Operations Administration. He is Norman S. Paul, Near Eastern Regional Director of the Foreign Operations Administration.

Mr. Paul told the Committee that the Israelis have made "quite a remarkable recovery economically" due to their own effort, and also due to the aid they received from the United States Government and from American Jewry as well as from Jewish communities in other countries.

The Senate Committee made it known yesterday that it had voted to accept the House-recommended figure of \$115,000,000 in economic aid for the Near East. This sum includes an undetermined amount for Israel, estimated at \$40,000,000 or less.

Arthur Z. Gardiner, chief politico-economic adviser of the Near Eastern Division of the State Department, testifying before the Committee, implied that Walter Clay Lowdermilk, noted American authority on soil erosion, is favoring Israel for personal gain. Sen. Everett Dirksen, of Illinois, asked if Ambassador Eric Johnston's Jordan development program followed "the basic pattern set out by Lowdermilk in his books many years ago." Mr. Gardiner replied:

"Lowdermilk, sir, was an employee of the Jewish Agency, and later of the Israelis, and his task was to find out how much water could be brought to Jewish territory to serve Jewish needs. Now, such a project cannot be carried out to the full and do justice to Arab needs."

Elsewhere in his testimony before the Committee, Mr. Gardiner said the State Department felt Ambassador Johnston, in his water development negotiations, "was very close to agreement on the Arab side, but that the negotiations with Israel may prove to be more difficult."

Mr. Gardiner told of the State Department's "genuine concern" over the Arab refugee problem. He said, "I do not think that those who were interested in establishing Israel over the past 30 years, in Congress and elsewhere, can now wash their hands of this problem. This (Arab refugee problem) is one of the results of the establishment of Israel."

BRIGHTER VIEW ON ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC SITUATION TAKEN IN BRITAIN

DERBY, England, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- Commercial circles in Great Britain have been taking a brighter view of the economic situation in Israel recently, according to Mordechai Hazith, first secretary of the Israel Embassy in this country. "There is a feeling here," he declared in an address today before a Joint Palestine Appeal reception, "that the Israel economic situation has eased somewhat."

The brighter outlook, he said, has been brought about by these factors: 1. The government's anti-inflation policy, which is now showing results; 2. The fact that some of the development projects initiated since the establishment of the State are now beginning to bear fruit; 3. The German reparations agreement has, to a certain extent, alleviated the problem of foreign currency; 4. The success with which the short-term indebtedness has been transformed into long-term loans, thanks to the generosity of many Jewish communities in the United States; and 5. The punctuality with which the Israel Treasury has repaid its various debts.

SOVIET PRESS PUBLISHES ISRAEL EMBASSY DENIAL ON U.S. PACT

NEW YORK, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- The New York Times reports today from Moscow that the Izvestia, leading Soviet Government newspaper, yesterday published a formal denial by the Israel Embassy there of a report printed Aug. 3 alleging that Israel had proposed a mutual defense pact with the U.S. Izvestia's report about the defense pact was contained in a Tass dispatch from Tel Aviv.

"Publication of this denial of the Tass report by Izvestia was regarded as unusual since the Soviet press very rarely publishes repudiations of its own reports," the Times correspondent emphasizes.

## U.N. TRUCE CHIEF PRESENTS REPORT ON JERUSALEM'S "SMALL WAR"

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Aug. 10. (JTA) -- What is regarded here as the last report to be submitted by Maj. Gen. Vagn Bennike as chief of staff of the UN truce supervision organization in Palestine was circulated to member governments today. The report deals with the "small war" in Jerusalem which took place between June 30 and July 2.

At the end of his report, Gen. Bennike says that he intended to hold conversations with Jordan and Israel for the discussion of practical measures to prevent the recurrence of bloodshed. "I shall approach the two governments," he writes, "to ascertain what steps can be taken to prepare such discussion; and, since my mission as Chief of Staff is coming to an end, the manner in which the mission of my successor can best be facilitated in this connection."

Gen. Bennike gives the reason for his refusal to find either party guilty of starting the shooting in Jerusalem in this document. He stresses "the want of concrete evidence of advance preparation for an attack by either side."

## 9,000 TONS OF SOVIET CRUDE OIL ARRIVES IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- A transport of 9,000 tons of Russian crude oil arrived in Haifa harbor today on the Italian tanker "Giacomo Matteotti." The tanker has been chartered to deliver 100,000 tons of the oil contracted for between the USSR and Israel.

The Russians figured in the news here today also in the completion of ceremonies whereby Moscow's former Minister, Alexander Abramov, became formally his country's envoy plenipotentiary here. Mr. Abramov presented his new credentials to President Itzhak Ben Zvi.

## JEWISH GROUPS IN U. S. TO GET \$3,000,000 IN HEIRLESS PROPERTY

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- A conference committee of the House and Senate is processing a bill which would make available to Jewish organizations up to \$3,000,000 in heirless German Jewish property now held in the United States by the Alien Property Custodian.

The bill would empower the President to designate certain organizations to act as heirs, and to use the funds for the benefit of persecutees of Jewish faith. Certain safeguards are established. There is a limit placed upon the amount of property which may be turned over. That limit is \$3,000,000.

In explaining the bill, Rep. Arthur G. Klein said "many of these people whose property was taken from them" died during the pending of legal proceedings and could not get their money or property returned. Their heirs were entitled to it, he explained; Hitler's extermination of Jews wiped out so many family groups that no heirs were left in numerous cases. Therefore the property is still being held, and it is this property, or up to \$3,000,000 worth of it, which will now go to appropriate Jewish organizations.

## Eisenhower Opposes Return of Seized German Assets

At the same time, it became known here today that President Eisenhower has notified Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of Germany that the White House does not back a bill now pending in Congress to return to their former owners assets seized from German individuals or firms during World War II.

Sen. Everett M. Dirksen is sponsor of the bill, which would return at least \$450,000,000 worth of such assets to those who owned the property when the U. S. A. and the Nazi regime went to war. The bill stands little chance of passage at this session of Congress.

J.T.A. REJECTS CHARGES BY REPUBLICAN PARTY OFFICIAL

NEW YORK, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has rejected, as "completely unsubstantiated," sweeping charges made against it by Bernard Katzen, consultant on Jewish affairs to the Republican National Committee, Louis P. Rocker, president of the JTA, announced today.

"The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has no axe to grind," Mr. Rocker told the Republican official. "Its policy since its inception in 1917 has been, and will continue to be, to present the news honestly and impartially to the best of its ability, to seek out and report faithfully and accurately all information on current developments of concern to the Jewish community and to provide the community with the facts on which to base judgments and decisions."

In a letter to Dr. George S. Wise, chairman of the JTA board, which he released to the press before it was delivered to the JTA, Mr. Katzen complained of the "obviously partisan nature of the reports disseminated by your agency." He said he was "aware of the duty of news agencies to keep the public alert as to the doings of the government and of men in public life," adding that "however, when the picture is always one-sided, then it ceases to be faithful reporting and turns into partisan agitation and propaganda."

Mr. Katzen conceded that he was not submitting a "bill of particulars illustrative of this point, although I assure you of my ability to do so." He asserted that "any unbiased reader of these reports must be aware of it. Not only are the reports one-sided, but very often distorted with half truths and editorialized with uncalled for interpretations and comments."

"We feel," he declared, "that such a partisan attitude is not only incompatible with the principles of a free press and American journalistic traditions, but is also harmful to the interests of the American Jewish community and the related purposes which you claim to serve."

"The fact that the Jewish Telegraphic Agency enjoys the financial support of a number of Jewish national organizations and fund-raising institutions, including many local welfare funds, I believe, places an additional responsibility on this agency, lest its behavior be laid at the door of these organizations," he asserted.

JTA President Says Charges Are Assault on Freedom of Press

Mr. Rocker, in his reply, told Mr. Katzen that "the management of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has full confidence in the integrity and sincerity of its staff" and in its loyalty to JTA policy and "the principles of a free and honorable journalism." He declared that "we must flatly reject your sweeping and completely unsubstantiated denunciation."

He added however, that if "you will submit specific complaints and the supporting evidence, you may be assured that our board of directors will give them proper attention." Mr. Rocker also communicated the text of the statement he had issued previously to newspapers asking for comment on the Katzen charges. In that statement, he declared:

"Mr. Katzen's attack on the Jewish Telegraphic Agency is a shocking assault on freedom of the press. As such, it will be resisted to the limit by JTA with, I am confident, the full support of the American Jewish press and community."

"Mr. Katzen's implied threat that national and local Jewish organizations will be held responsible for the activities of JTA is unprecedented in American political affairs. It will not deter JTA from doing its job to the best of its ability."

CZECHOSLOVAK COMMUNIST ORGAN ATTACKS J. T. A.; DISLIKES ITS REPORTS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- The Czechoslovakian Communist publication "Vestník" has attacked the Jewish Telegraphic Agency because of dispatches depicting the circumstances of Jewry behind the Iron Curtain. Accusing the JTA of "lying" about Communist anti-Zionism, the Red periodical said "the Jewish Telegraphic Agency seems to specialize in this sort of mendacious reporting."

U.S.N.A. AND HIAS TO MERGE THIS MONTH; FINAL PLANS APPROVED

NEW YORK, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- The United Service for New Americans, major Jewish resettlement agency in America, and the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, 70-year-old Jewish migration agency, are scheduled to be merged August 24 into a single national and international Jewish migration and resettlement agency, to be called "United HIAS Service, Inc." This was announced today by an Interim Committee arranging the final details of the consolidation, which will include the overseas migration services of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Last week the memberships of both organizations unanimously approved the consolidation plans, which have been in the process of formulation for nearly two years. All that remains to be accomplished before the board of directors meets on August 24 are formal legal steps, which are expected to be completed within a week or 10 days.

Following the approval of the merger plans by both organizations last week, an Interim Committee was convened to administer the affairs of the two organizations until the first meeting of the new board. The committee is composed of five members of USNA, and a similar number from HIAS, under the chairmanship of Edwin Rosenberg, Jewish communal leader, who acted as chairman of the group which negotiated the merger.

The Interim Committee announced, following its initial meeting, that, at the first meeting of the board of United HIAS Service, Inc., the structure and staffing of the new agency will be disclosed. The committee stated that world headquarters of the consolidated organization will be at 425 Lafayette Street, New York. The United HIAS Service, Inc. was planned to accord with the desires of the Jewish community at large to eliminate duplication and overlapping in the migration field.

MONTREAL JEWISH SURGEON PERFORMS UNIQUE HEART OPERATION

TORONTO, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- A delicate heart operation performed by a Montreal Jewish surgeon has saved the life of a man who might otherwise have lived only for a few months longer, the Toronto Star reports. The operation was performed by Dr. Arthur Vineberg, at the Jewish General Hospital in Montreal.

The patient, Horace W. Watkins, 52, a General Electric plant inspector, said today that he is feeling fit and hopeful for another 20 years of life. Dr. Vineberg grafted a piece of the omentum - vascular tissue forming part of the apron in the stomach covering various organs - over the heart muscle in order to supplement the blood supply of the heart. Mr. Watkins, who has been hit by three severe heart attacks in the last two years, was suffering from coronary insufficiency, as the degenerating heart muscle was unable to fulfill its job.

Before the operation, he says, he was unable to walk the 40 yards from his home to the corner. Now, although he realizes "it will be at least two months before the grafted substance has completely taken hold," he can walk up and down outside his house, climb the stairs without difficulty and can't wait to get back to his fishing and hunting, the Toronto Star says.

ISRAEL ENVOY DECORATED IN FRANCE; SERVED IN ARMY DURING WAR

PARIS, Aug. 10. (JTA) -- Maurice Fischer, Israel Ambassador to Turkey, and formerly his country's Ambassador here, today was promoted to the rank of Officer of the Legion of Honor of France. He had been previously a member of the Legion of Honor. His promotion is for "military services rendered the Republic." During World War II, Mr. Fischer was an officer in the French army. He is visiting here this week.