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U.N. ASSEMBLY OPENS TODAY; ARAB ATTACKS ON ISRAEL EXPECTED

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 20. (JTA) -- With Israel and the Middle East in general figuring only obliquely on its 67-point agenda, the General Assembly of the United Nations convenes here tomorrow for its ninth session. Yet the Israel-Arab issue, which took up so much of the Security Council's time and energy during the last year, is on the minds of dozens of delegates here today.

No one, least of all Israel, is overlooking the fact that through one avenue or another the Israel-Arab conflict may take the center of the stage here any day within the next twelve weeks of the General Assembly's meeting. The anti-Israel statement issued by the representatives of eight Arab countries in London over the last week-end is considered here an indication that the Arab group will attempt to use the General Assembly as a forum for attacking Israel.

Elimination of the Arab-Israel conflict from the Assembly agenda was maneuvered by the Western Powers in an effort to avoid heated discussions similar to those held at the Security Council early this year. However, at the beginning of each session of the Assembly there is a general debate in which the heads of delegations express the views of their governments on problems which interest them most. Thus, the Arab delegates will, in all likelihood, use this opportunity to start their blasts against Israel.

In United Nations circles the likelihood was not precluded that the Arab delegations would, at the last minute, insist on inclusion in the agenda of certain anti-Israel issues in which they are primarily interested. The Israel delegation is, naturally, prepared for any development.

Security Council to Report on Unsettled Arab-Israel Issues

Immediately after the conclusion of the general debate, there will be a report from the Security Council, which also provides an opportunity for the Arab delegates to express their views on issues with which the Security Council has dealt. Similarly, they will be able to sound off on the "unfinished business" of the Security Council which includes such issues as the Jordan and Israel complaints and counter-complaints, the Syrian-Israel dispute over the Bnot Yaacov hydro-electric project and others.

The report of the director of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, the 18th item on the Assembly's agenda, will also open up a possibility for the Arab delegates to indulge in lengthy attacks on Israel. Then too, there is

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the demand of the Arab League countries that some official documents of the General Assembly be translated into the Arabic language. The Arab delegations are also interested in the Morocco and Tunisian questions.

The Israeli delegation here is headed again by Abba S. Eban, who in addition to being Ambassador to Washington, is also Israel's officially designated permanent delegate to the United Nations. It is understood that Mr. Eban may spend more time in the near future in Washington than he has in the past during General Assembly sessions. When Mr. Eban is not here, the chairmanship of the Israel delegation will be assumed by one of the alternate delegates, Michael Comay, Ambassador to Ottawa.

Other members of the delegation are: Maurice Fischer, Mordecai Kidron, Mrs. Zena Harman, Arthur Liveran, Joshua Justman, Michael Pragai, Meir Meyer, Moshe Ofer, and Ovidio Gondi. There are four other regular representatives here from Israel. They are: Izhar Harari, a member of the Israel Parliament; David Hacothen, Minister to Rangoon; Dr. Jacob Robinson; and Moshe Tov, head of the Latin American department of the Israel Foreign Ministry.

BEN GURION SCORES U. N. TRUCE CHIEF'S VIEWS ON ARMY MANEUVERS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Ex-Premier David Ben Gurion today challenged Gen. E. L. M. Burns, United Nations truce supervision chief, on the UN's jurisdiction over the location of army maneuvers. Gen. Burns, in his first report to United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold last week, expressed the opinion that Israel army maneuvers near the Jordan border had, presumably, "caused tensions."

"The UN representative in Israel," declared Mr. Ben Gurion, addressing a special conference of the Mapai Party Council at Rehovoth, "has nothing to say about where the Israel Army can maneuver. He is not to interfere in what we are doing within our borders. The world should understand and recognize that Israel's sovereignty is like any other nation's. No exterior force," Mr. Ben Gurion said, "Arab or other, would shape Israel's fate, which can rely only on our internal and military strength."

Replying to a recent claim by Egypt's Prime Minister Gamel Abdel Nasser that the Negev desert region of Israel will have to be given up sooner or later because it splits an "Arab" region, Mr. Ben Gurion said: "These claims do not cause fears among us. But they are unsettling, and do cause anxieties among our settlers. Therefore, the settlers in the Negev must be distributed, if necessary, with a strong hand."

NEW U. S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL WILL ASSUME HIS POST NEXT MONTH

WASHINGTON, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- The departure of Ambassador Edward B. Lawson for Israel will be postponed until the first or second week of October, the State Department made known today.

The State Department, meanwhile, officially denied that the delay had anything to do with the question of Mr. Lawson presenting his credentials in Jerusalem. The postponement of Ambassador Lawson's departure was caused by his hospitalization for a slight operation, the State Department said. Mr. Lawson had expected to leave Washington this week-end.

DRILLING FOR OIL TO BEGIN AT ZICHRON YAACOV COLONY IN ISRAEL TODAY

TEL AVIV, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Zichron Yaacov, one of the oldest settlements in Israel, will tomorrow become the site of a new oil drilling project.

The colony, which was founded with the support of Baron Edmond de Rothschild and has produced Israel's famous Carmel Wines, is considered one of the likely places for oil to be found in Israel. A drilling rig has already been set up next to the colony's granary.

U.S. JEWS BLESSED IN ISRAEL; RABBIS HOLD TERCENTENARY SERVICES

JERUSALEM, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Rabbis throughout Israel, led by Chief Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog, yesterday devoted sermons to the American Jewish Tercentenary. At a service in Jeshurin Synagogue here, attended by Israel President Itzhak Ben Zvi, Dr. Herzog pronounced a benediction on all the people of the United States.

In his sermon, Dr. Herzog noted that this was an occasion for the entire House of Israel, not just American Jewry, to celebrate. He reminded American Jews that while they continue their loyal devotion to their country they should also be devoted to Israel's revival as the "miracle of this generation which is a manifestation of part of God's plan in history."

He recalled the contributions of the United States to the world, asserting that but for America there would be no Jewish State today. He recalled too the contributions of American Jewry's efforts in behalf of needy Jews of the world through such organizations as the Joint Distribution Committee, and its work for Israel. He expressed the hope that large numbers of Jews from the United States would settle in Israel.

Reviewing briefly the history of the United States, Rabbi Herzog observed that no one could have prophesied, when the Mayflower sailed, that a new chapter was being opened not only in world history but also in the history of the Jewish people. "There were no Jews on that boat," he said. "But there were on it men and women whom the Talmudic sages would have described as the pious of the gentile nations, men and women who carried with them into the new country ideals of the Hebrew prophets and the principles of the righteous law of Moses."

MAPAI TO REQUEST CHANGE IN ELECTION SYSTEM TO KNESSET

TEL AVIV, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- A proposal to try to have the next elections to Israel's Parliament--scheduled for the summer of 1955--held on a direct-constituency basis, instead of the present proportional representation basis, was adopted here today at a meeting of the Mapai Party's Central Committee. The vote was 52 to 6, with 17 abstentions.

Mapai's decision called for an attempt to change the election system before the next national balloting and, if that fails, to make this issue the main plank in the party's election platform.

Ex-Premier David Ben Gurion proposed the introduction of a regional election system, declaring that, under the present election procedures, party fractions are encouraged. He was supported in his suggestion by Prime Minister Moshe Sharett.

MAPAM PARTY ADOPTS NEW CONSTITUTION; ABOLISHES FACTIONS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- The Mapam Party, left Socialist party, decided today to end the existence of all factions within the party. Two such factions broke with the party in the last year.

At the first meeting of the Mapam Council since the L'Achduth Avodah group split away from the party, the party adopted a new constitution doing away with factions. A special Arab group within the party will also be abolished and the Arabs will remain as individual members of the party, just as the Jews.

ISRAEL EDITOR GETS VISA TO VISIT SOVIET UNION; LEAVING SOON

TEL AVIV, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Chaim Shurer, editor-in-chief of Davar, the Histadrut daily here, will shortly leave for a visit to the Soviet Union, he revealed today. Mr. Shurer, a leader of the Socialist Mapai Party, recently applied for and received a visa from the Soviet legation here.

RUMANIA SENTENCES EMPLOYEE OF ISRAEL LEGATION TO 15 YEARS IN JAIL

TEL AVIV, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- An Israeli legation employee at Bucharest, David Blumenthal, has been sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment by a Rumanian court which convicted him of "military espionage," and trying to cross the border illegally, according to a Bucharest report reaching here today.

Blumenthal was also accused of attempting to use the Israel legation's diplomatic mail for personal matters, the report stated. The legation employee is 34 years old. His wife, the report said, was pregnant when he was convicted, and collapsed as a result of his sentence, losing the baby.

GERMANY WILL EXPEDITE PAYMENTS ON JEWISH COMPENSATION CLAIMS

BONN, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- West German Minister of Finance Fritz Schaeffer has assured Dr. Bruno Weil, president of the New York "Axis Victims League," that advance payments on the compensation claims of former German Jews will be expedited, it was learned here today.

Dr. Weil, a prominent Berlin attorney prior to the Nazi regime, has for some time pleaded with German governmental quarters for redress of the inadequacies of indemnification legislation dealing with Jews who were formerly self-employed. Some 900 Jews of German origin, who fall within these categories, signed an appeal prepared by him, which in the form of a petition to the German Government makes specific recommendations on ways and means of improving the handling of indemnification for individual applicants.

This petition he recently submitted to Federal President Theodor Heuss in a special audience. Additional signatures, which were collected in the meantime, he has handed to Herr Schaeffer, who said that he looked forward to the possibility of making advance payments under the Federal Indemnification Law to individual applicants, beginning next month. Although the law is more than a year old, practically no payments have as yet been made under its provisions.

NEW GERMAN REGULATIONS PERMIT TRANSFER OF INDEMNIFICATION FUNDS

FRANKFURT, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Jews now living in most countries outside Germany whose businesses or real estate in Germany have been returned to them or who receive indemnification payments from the German Government may from now on transfer to countries outside Germany profits, rents, indemnification monies or the proceeds of the sale of their property.

This new state of affairs follows the easing of most of the fiscal regulations which placed such monies in blocked accounts or made payment in "blocked marks" which could only be transferred to specific countries and in specific amounts. Special licenses or permits for transferring such funds are no longer required.

Regulations governing transfers to the dollar area, however, remain in force--including the transfer of specific amounts. Only pensions may be transferred directly to dollar area countries.

BIROBJIDJAN REPORTED TO HAVE 62 YIDDISH SCHOOLS, TWO COLLEGES

TEL AVIV, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- There are 52 Yiddish public schools in Birobidjan, 10 secondary schools, and two Yiddish technical colleges, according to a report that reached here today. The report came from an Israeli women's delegation now touring the Soviet Union. The delegation was given details about Jewish cultural and economic conditions at the Birobidjan Pavilion of the Moscow Agricultural Exhibition.

In addition to the Yiddish schools, members of the delegation reporting here declared, Birobidjan presumably has a Yiddish faculty at Chabarovsk University, and several movie houses running Yiddish films. There are also reportedly 52 Jewish "kolchoz" organizations, four "Sovchoz," and 11 tractor stations in Birobidjan.

JEWISH GROUPS HAIL PLEDGE TO BAR BIGOTRY IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

NEW YORK, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Six major Jewish organizations and 33 Jewish community councils in all parts of the country today issued a statement hailing the fair campaign practices code put forward last week by the Fair Campaign Practices Committee, commending the Democratic and Republican national chairmen on their pledges to observe the code, and urging all candidates for public office to sign and adhere to this pledge.

The statement was released by the National Community Relations Advisory Council, which is the joint policy-forming and coordinating body for the American Jewish Congress, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, United Synagogue of America and of the 33 community councils.

"We are especially gratified to find in the code to which the national chairmen of the two major parties have subscribed a condemnation of appeals to prejudice based on race, creed or national origin," the statement said.

"Perhaps no other single abuse of campaign practice strikes more deeply at the fundamentals of our traditions of political equality than the deliberate exploitation of such prejudices. For this divides when union is so sorely needed; spreads hate and mutual mistrust when the nation stands in need of amity and mutual acceptance," the statement emphasized.

CONNECTICUT JEWS ASK BAN ON BIAS IN BUSINESS SCHOOLS

HARTFORD, Conn., Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Recommendations for tightening up Connecticut's civil rights legislation were submitted here by the Connecticut Jewish Community Relations Council to the Connecticut Commission on Civil Rights. The State body is holding hearings on civil rights questions preparatory to making proposals for action by the next session of the State Legislature.

The Jewish group asked strengthening of the present Fair Employment Practices Act and the Public Accommodations Act. It also urged new legislation against discrimination in vocational and business schools. It endorsed proposals for studies to eliminate discrimination in private housing.

ST. PAUL TO HOLD PUBLIC HEARINGS ON FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES

ST. PAUL, Minn., Sept. 20. (JTA) -- A fair employment practices ordinance, introduced in the St. Paul City Council last week, was referred today to the Corporation Council for preliminary study. Public hearings on the measure are scheduled to be held soon.

The bill is supported by civic groups and leading businessmen of the city. Mayor Joseph E. Dillon and a number of members of the City Council have already taken a position in favor of fair employment practices legislation. Similar legislation already exists in 12 states and more than 30 cities throughout the country.

EDMONTON MUNICIPALITY RESPECTS JEWISH PLEA; CHANGES ORDINANCE

EDMONTON, Alberta, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- The City Council of this city, out of consideration for the religious practices of local Jewish merchants, has adopted a city ordinance permitting retail stores to remain open late on Thursday evenings instead of Friday evenings as originally planned.

The decision was taken as a result of a request to this effect by a committee of clergymen of the three major faiths who told the city authorities that permitting the stores to remain open Friday evenings would either cause a drop in synagogue attendance because Jewish merchants would keep their stores open late on Friday to compete with non-Jewish retailers or would cause Jewish shopkeepers to suffer serious financial losses.

CANADIAN JEW APPOINTED DEPUTY MINISTER FOR DEFENSE PRODUCTION

OTTAWA, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- The appointment of David A. Golden, 34, to the post of Deputy Minister for Defense Production was announced here. The young Montreal-born lawyer is the first Canadian Jew to be appointed to such a high rank. He is a former Rhodes scholar and was imprisoned by the Japanese during the war.

BOSTON JEWS START TERCENTENARY CELEBRATION; PROGRESS HAILED

BOSTON, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- The progress of American Jewry is the "dramatic cavalcade of all time," Lt. Gov. Sumner G. Whittier declared yesterday during exercises at historic Faneuil Hall here marking the beginning of Boston Jewry's celebration of the American Jewish Tercentenary.

Another speaker, Municipal Judge Jennie L. Barron, said that "despite social ostracism, tyrants and dictators, the Jews have survived because of their burning passion for freedom and equality for all races."

MONUMENT FOR JEWS ANNIHILATED BY NAZIS DEDICATED IN BUFFALO

BUFFALO, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- A monument consecrating the last resting place of several bars of soap made from the remains of Jews cremated by the Nazis was dedicated at a public ceremony at Pine Hill Cemetery here yesterday. The bars of soap, brought to the United States after the war, were buried at the cemetery in 1947.

The dedicatory address was made by Justice Philip Halpern of the New York State Supreme Court, who was recently a member of the Genocide Conference of the United Nations, representing the United States. The Buffalo Board of Rabbis initiated plans for the monument and sponsored the dedication exercises.

HEBREW COURSES FOR U.S. ORTHODOX JEWS TO BE CONDUCTED IN NEGEV

NEW YORK, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- The first "Ulpan," intensive Hebrew language courses for foreigners, to be conducted at an agricultural settlement of the religious movement in Israel, opens on November 1 at Kibbutz Saad, in the northern Negev, it was announced here today by the Jewish Agency.

The Agency's Aliyah Department, which handles the registration of Americans for all "Ulpanim," reports that the courses at Kibbutz Saad have been arranged in response to requests from American Orthodox Jews who want to study Hebrew in Israel. Kibbutz Saad, established eight years ago, belongs to the Hapoel Hamizrachi, religious-labor Zionist movement. Its membership is made up of Americans, South Africans and Israelis.

"Ulpan" courses for Americans are sponsored by the Jewish Agency and the Israel Ministry of Education. The courses are of six months' duration and are open to persons between 18 and 35, in good health. Room, board and tuition are free but students are required to work half days for the settlement to meet expenses. Special residential "Ulpanim" for tourists in Israel are held throughout the year at comfortable resort hotels. A fee of about \$300 per person covers room, board and tuition for five months.

LILLIAN HELD, WIFE OF ADOLPH HELD, DIES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Sept. 20. (JTA) -- Lilian Michaels Held, wife of Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, died this morning after a long illness.

After the first World War she went with her husband to Warsaw, where he was in charge of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society office there. As a volunteer she organized a system whereby Jewish children who were orphaned during the war were sent to live with relatives in the United States. She organized the Milk and Egg League of the City of Hope, in Los Angeles.

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