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SYRIAN PLANE, ALL PASSENGERS, RELEASED BY ISRAEL; LEAVES FOR CAIRO

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The Syrian passenger plane forced down Sunday for violating Israel air space was released today and took off for Cairo, its original destination, with the Captain and remaining four crewmen and passengers who had not been released earlier.

The plane was released after the Israel authorities and United Nations observers had completed their inquiries among the passengers and crew. The pilot, a Greek national, had been freed earlier but preferred to remain in Tel Aviv until his plane was released. It was en route from Damascus to Syria when Israel fighter planes forced it to land at Lydda after it crossed Israel territory reportedly in the vicinity of Acre.

The plane originally carried five crewmen and five passengers. One passenger, an American, was released Sunday after he identified himself. Two Egyptian nationals and two Syrian nationals were released yesterday and turned over to their respective governments in the Gaza area and on the Israel-Syrian frontier yesterday.

CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATS IN MIDDLE EAST OPENS TODAY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- A conference of United States diplomats in the Near East will open in Damascus tomorrow with George V. Allen, newly-appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, in attendance.

State Department sources made known today that Mr. Allen will hear reports by various ambassadors in order to become acquainted at first-hand with problems within the region. Mr. Allen will fly to Washington immediately after the conference and is expected here on December 20.

The Beirut radio today quoted the Damascus press as expressing satisfaction that the site of the meeting gave the Arabs a chance to familiarize the new Assistant Secretary of State with their point of view and provided an opportunity for him to see "the indignation of the Arab public opinion at the American policy in the Near East." The radio also announced that the Syrian Government has decided to establish "a chain of military settlements along the border with Israel to check Zionist expansionism."

ISRAEL DEPUTY MINISTER WAIVES IMMUNITY TO FACE COURT TRIAL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Rabbi Shlomo Rosenberg, Deputy Minister of Welfare, waived today his Parliamentary immunity to enable the Attorney General to file an action against him alleging breach of the foreign currency regulations. The charge specifies that Rabbi Rosenberg violated the law when he transferred certain monies from Switzerland to a Mizrahi institution in Israel.

SHARETT CHARGES EGYPT WITH TORTURING JEWS NOW ON TRIAL IN CAIRO

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Premier Moshe Sharett, speaking in the name of the Israel Government, protested last night the use of "medieval" methods of torture to force confessions of guilt from the 13 Egyptian Jews now standing trial in Cairo on charges of espionage and terrorism on behalf of Israel.

Speaking in the Israel Parliament, Mr. Sharett noted that the trial before Egypt's highest military tribunal had caused a "storm of indignation" in Israel and among the Jews of the world and "must arouse the concern and anxiety of all who seek justice and peace." He cited the statement in court by Victorine Nino, one of the defendants, to the effect that she had been tortured during the preliminary investigations and forced to admit crimes of which she was not guilty.

"The Israel Government rejects emphatically the fantastic libels included in the charge sheet which accuse the Israel authorities of the commission of outrages and infernal plots against the security and international relations of Egypt," the Premier stated.

In a reference to the "Jews falsely charged with such heinous crimes," Mr. Sharett called them "victims of an implacable hostility against Israel and the Jewish people." If their "crime is Zionism and a devotion toward Israel, this is a crime of which a multitude of Jews all over the world are guilty," he continued.

"We do not believe that the Egyptian authorities should have any interest whatever in taking Jewish blood upon their hands. We call upon all who uphold peace and stability in human relations between peoples to prevent this dangerous miscarriage of justice," he concluded.

Tel Aviv Synagogues to Pray for Safety of the Egyptian Jews

TEL AVIV, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The Tel Aviv Chief Rabbinate called on all synagogues in the city to introduce special prayers for the safety of the 13 Egyptian Jews on trial for their lives in Cairo on charges of alleged espionage. The prayers will be recited during the regular morning services.

Meanwhile, the inhabitants of two settlements in the Southern Negev have gone on partial hunger strikes in protest against the trial of the Egyptian Jews and are holding special prayer sessions for the safety of the 13.

ISRAEL PRESIDENT IS 70; LEAVES JERUSALEM TO AVOID CELEBRATIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- President Itzhak Ben Zvi went on leave to an undisclosed place today to avoid elaborate public celebrations of his 70th birthday.

Nonetheless, the Israel press and radio have carried long articles summing up Mr. Ben Zvi's work in the scholarly and political fields. The Jewish Agency paid formal tribute to President Ben Zvi and messages have arrived at the President's residence from persons and organizations in all parts of the world.

ISRAEL OPPOSES TRADE BOYCOTTS; STRESSES VIEW AT U. N. ASSEMBLY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Israel delegate Mordecai Kidron told the General Assembly today that Israel is not satisfied with some economic studies worked up by the UN Economic and Social Council, because they do not display a sense of urgency which the problems under study deserve.

During the discussion of a resolution dealing with methods of encouraging full employment and international trade, Mr. Kidron said Israel had an "intimate acquaintance" with trade boycotts and discrimination in the Middle East and opposes them. These blockades cause political tension and human distress, he said.

STATE DEPT. WATCHES FATE OF JEWS IN NORTH AFRICA, ENGEL SAYS

NEW YORK, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The State Department is displaying an active interest in the situation of the Jews in Morocco and Tunisia, it was reported here today by Irving M. Engel, president of the American Jewish Committee, at a press conference at which he reported his impressions as a member of the special delegation which the AJC recently sent to North Africa.

Mr. Engel revealed that the delegation, which was composed of himself, Jacob Blaustein and Dr. John Slawson, conferred with the State Department following its return from North Africa. He also stated that the AJC was asked by the State Department to submit any further information it may receive on the situation of the Jews in Morocco and Tunisia.

Emphasizing that any outbreak of civil war among the moderate and extremist Moslem leaders in North Africa will endanger the position of the Jews there, especially in Morocco, Mr. Engel warned against "extravagant" propaganda by Jewish groups in this country and in Israel to present matters as if the Jews of North Africa are about to be annihilated. He admitted that danger exists for the Jews in Morocco, but said that the French authorities are watching the situation and that such danger does not exist, so far, in the larger cities.

Outlining the attitude of the American Jewish Committee toward the North African situation, Mr. Engel said that the AJC advocates the emigration to Israel only of those North African Jews who wish to do so. These Jews, he emphasized, should be permitted to transfer their property from Morocco, Tunis and Algiers. Those Jews who wish to remain where they now live must be given equal rights, which they do not now have, especially in Morocco where Jews compose the only minority group which does not enjoy citizenship status and are considered merely "protegees" of the local Moslem Sultan.

Explains Difficulties of Moroccan Jews; Hopes for New Status

The major obstacle to the granting of full legal equality to the 240,000 native Jews of Morocco is the fact that Morocco is now a theocratic state, Mr. Engel pointed out, in which religious and temporal powers are combined in one source of authority. This means, for example, the AJC leader explained, that the native Moroccan Jew is now judged by Moslem religious law, except in certain special cases dealing with marriage, divorce and inheritance--and Moslem religious law does not even recognize the oath of a Jew as being valid.

By law as well as custom, therefore, the Jew in Morocco is now discriminated against, Mr. Engel reported. He is excluded from positions in the Moslem government hierarchy, and from the Moroccan judiciary. "It is inconceivable to us that, in this 20th century, such a situation should be permitted to continue," declared the AJC leader.

"Both as Jews and as U.S. citizens, interested in the promotion of democracy, it is our hope that Morocco will adopt a secular rather than theocratic form of government. If, however, Morocco is to continue to be organized largely into religious communities then the future reforms should guarantee equality for the different religious communities, including the Jewish one. Thus, the Jewish community ought to be represented on all government bodies, so it may have a voice in the shaping of the future," Mr. Engel stated.

SENIOR GERMAN OFFICIAL DISCHARGED FOR ANTI-JEWISH REMARKS

BONN, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Heinz Diestelmann, editor-in-chief of the news monitoring department of the West German Government Press and Information Office, has been discharged for "anti-Semitic utterances," the office announced yesterday. Herr Diestelmann reportedly told a Jewish newspaperman that "today, Jews have no chances of getting jobs with German newspapers." This is the first case of a senior Bonn official being removed from office for such cause.

ALLIES ANNOUNCE CHRISTMAS AMNESTY FOR NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

BONN, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The Allied High Commissioners announced today an annual Christmas amnesty for Nazi war criminals still held in Allied prisons but so many have already been released ahead of the expiration of their terms that few will benefit this Christmas. Those remaining in custody number approximately 170.

Those whose sentences expire shortly after Christmas will be released Thursday. West German authorities and newspapers have been campaigning for the Allies to free all remaining Nazis in custody before Germany becomes a defense partner of the Western democracies. Only about 90 Nazi criminals remain in U.S. custody.

CAMPAIGN AGAINST LAG IN INDEMNIFICATION CONTINUES IN GERMANY

MUNICH, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The Suddeutsche Zeitung, leading Bavarian newspaper, continued today its expose of the lagging of the German restitution program for victims of Nazis while former Nazis or their dependents are recipients of regular government benefits, such as pensions.

The newspaper cited such cases as the wife of an imprisoned Nazi receiving a regular pension from the government while the widow of a Jew murdered by the Gestapo in a Latvian ghetto receives nothing. The newspaper, which together with the Bavarian Radio recently began making public many such contrasts, contends that these incidents reveal a trend in official restitution policy.

GERMAN MINISTRY PROPOSES PENSIONS FOR JEWISH UNIVERSITY LECTURERS

BONN, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- In a draft amendment to the law dealing with the payment of pensions to civil servants dismissed by the Nazis for racial, religious or political reasons, the Ministry of the Interior has suggested that certain benefits if that law be extended to former German university lecturers and professors who were not in a technical sense members of the German civil service, and are therefore not at present entitled to indemnification.

Full and associate professors have always been covered by the law, but not the subordinate grades of professors and lecturers. This state of affairs has proved injurious to German prestige, says the government, in view of the fact that the latter group includes Jewish scholars who have in the meantime distinguished themselves in other countries. The government draft of the amendment has been transmitted to the Federal Council for consideration.

NAZI ACTOR WHO PLAYED ANTI-SEMITIC ROLES GETS TOP STAGE AWARD

VIENNA, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The "Iffland Ring," for the past century the highest distinction to which a German-language actor can aspire, was conferred upon Werner Krauss, at a ceremony here, after he had been selected by a vote of the "Cartel Association of German-Speaking Members of the Stage."

The award to the Nazi actor who played in "Jew Sues" is considered particularly offensive because the previous holder of the "Iffland Ring" was Albert Bassermann, who had expressly refused to pass it on to Krauss. A German of upright character and great dignity, Herr Bassermann spurned the most tempting offers made to him by Propaganda Minister Josef Goebbels and went into exile during the Hitler-regime, as a gesture of protest against Nazism and of loyalty to his Jewish wife.

Krauss, on the other hand, did not lift a finger on behalf of his own Jewish ex-wife when she was deported and killed by the Nazis. Within six months after Hitler took over, he accepted the deputy presidency of the newly-created Nazi Theater Chamber. Within a year, he was the first actor upon whom Goering bestowed a Nazi title. When Goebbels produced "Jew Sues," the film designed to smother any German compunctions at the time when the deportation of Germany's Jews to the death camps was in full swing, Krauss played five Jewish roles in the production.

JEWISH PARLEY REACHES CONCLUSIONS ON METHODS OF FIGHTING BIGOTRY

ATLANTIC CITY, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Law and educational activities are both necessary in the promotion of equality of rights and opportunities for all, regardless of race, religion, national origin or ancestry, it was established at a special conference of 75 social scientists, lawyers and Jewish community leaders held here under the auspices of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, the coordinating body of a number of Jewish groups in the field of combatting anti-Semitism.

Addressing the three-day conference, Irving Kane, NCRAC leader, said: "At one time, recourse to law was contrasted with education as an instrument of social change. It is now generally recognized that they are not only compatible, but actually are complementary approaches. A concrete proposal for a legislative change or a specific court action provides an effective focus for public education and interpretation. Laws once enacted, or a decision rendered, becomes educational in itself."

Bernard H. Trager, NCRAC chairman, said that the purpose of the conference was to develop recommendations that would stand as guides to the national and local Jewish community relations agencies and to the committees of the NCRAC that continuously plan joint programs and coordinate the work of the agencies. Will Maslow, national director of the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress, enumerated as some "fruits of the legal technique:"

1. Fair employment practice laws in twelve states and more than thirty cities.
2. Fair educational practice laws in three states.
3. Enforcement of many dead-letter civil rights laws by administrative commissions against discrimination.
4. Prohibition of discrimination in public or quasi-public housing projects in many states.
5. Outlawing of segregated public education by the Supreme Court.
6. Prohibition of legal enforcement of restrictive real estate covenants.
7. Protection of rights of free speech, publication and assembly.

Both legislative campaigns and litigations may yield indirect, as well as direct gains, Mr. Maslow declared, in the form of greater public understanding and changed attitudes. "Litigation," he said, "can also be an educational device. The effort to persuade the Federal Communications Commission to revoke the radio licences of George A. Richards, who instructed his news commentators to slant radio broadcasts against Jews, did not succeed, but the ensuing publicity sensitized the entire broadcasting industry to its obligations and the dangers involved in not fulfilling them."

Dr. Isidor Chein, professor of psychology at New York University, gave "A Social Scientist's View of the Use of Law and Legislation for the Advancement of Community Relations Objectives." Dr. Chein emphasized the impact of law on the psychology of the individual. He pointed out that laws on civil rights reflect ideals that are held by all Americans, and that even bigots may be influenced by them to change their attitudes. He urged that more research be done on the effect of law and legal actions on the actual status of minority groups and on changes in attitudes.

GERMAN OBSERVER AT UNITED NATIONS GETS RANK OF AMBASSADOR

BONN, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Dr. Hans Riesser, West German Consul-General in New York, has been granted the personal rank of Ambassador in his capacity as observer of the Federal Republic at the United Nations.

Dr. Riesser, who is expected to be retired early next year, was removed from the German diplomatic service during the Hitler regime because, although not himself of the Jewish faith, he is a descendant of the famed pioneer of Jewish emancipation in Germany, Hamburg attorney Gabriel Riesser.

ITALY STARTS RECORDING JEWISH MELODIES IN DISSOLVED COMMUNITIES

ROME, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- In a project directed by Dr. Leo Levi, the Italian National Center for Studies of Popular Music has begun recording traditional Jewish folk melodies as they have developed in different Italian Jewish communities.

The program calls for the recording of some 500 songs, many of which must be saved soon since the communities in which they developed have already been dissolved or face liquidation due to a shortage of members. This conscious attempt to save a portion of Jewish culture has already brought about the recording of ritual themes and festive music from more than a dozen cities.

DR. BEIN, ISRAEL AUTHOR, ARRIVES IN U.S. ON RESEARCH MISSION

NEW YORK, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Dr. Alexander Bein, Israel author and one of the outstanding living authorities on the life and letters of Theodor Herzl, has arrived in this country in connection with Herzl Year and to do research for the expansion of Zionist archives in Israel.

Dr. Bein, since 1936 the assistant director of the Central Zionist Archives of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, was invited to the United States by the Agency in New York. While here, he will scour various American collections and archives where much valuable and hitherto unpublished material exists relating to Zionist history and Herzl. He plans to study the organization and administration of archives in this country. He will also lecture.

HARRY K. WOLFF, B'NAI B'RITH LEADER, HONORED IN SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The B'nai B'rith President's Medal for Humanitarianism, the second to be awarded in the order's 111-year-old history, was presented here today to Harry K. Wolff on the occasion of his 75th birthday. Mr. Wolff, a vice president of B'nai B'rith and a member of the organization for 52 years, is a prominent attorney and civic leader of the West Coast city. Philip M. Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith, bestowed the medal in person at a testimonial dinner arranged in Mr. Wolff's honor.

Mr. Wolff has also been active in civic affairs. He has played a major role in almost every Jewish communal endeavor in the San Francisco area, having been president of the Hebrew Free Loan Association of San Francisco, director of the budget committee of the Jewish National Fund of San Francisco, president of the local Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society of America, and vice-president of the national organization. He was president of the Agudath Zion Chapter of San Francisco, and for three years was vice-president of Congregation Sherith Israel. He has been practicing law in the state of California for half a century and was admitted to the Supreme Court of the United States 25 years ago.

DR. MAURICE JACOBS GETS GOLD MEDAL FOR INTERFRATERNITY WORK

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- Dr. Maurice Jacobs, active in Jewish education in Philadelphia, has been awarded the Gold Medal of the National Interfraternity Conference. Dr. Jacobs, a past chairman of the NIC, is the first Jew to ever receive the Gold Medal.

The inscription on the medal reads: "Honor Service Fraternity presented by the National Interfraternity Conference to Maurice Jacobs for distinguished service to youth through the American College Fraternity."

JEWISH WOMEN PRESENT HAND-PAINTED PLATES TO MRS. EISENHOWER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 14. (JTA) -- The Sisterhood of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue of New York today presented Mrs. Dwight Eisenhower with a set of six hand-painted commemorative service plates. The White House presentation was made in the name of the oldest Jewish congregation in America, in connection with the current tercentenary celebration of American Jewry.