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JEW ON TRIAL IN EGYPT BELIEVED TORTURED TO DEATH; NO SUICIDE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The Israel press today advanced the theory that Max Bennett, one of the 13 Jews on trial for "Zionist espionage" in Cairo, did not commit suicide as announced by the Egyptian authorities but was tortured to death by the Egyptians.

Premier Moshe Sharett reported on the Egyptian trials at a meeting here yesterday of the Parliamentary Committee on Security and Foreign Affairs. He also reported on his recent discussions with George Allen, newly-appointed Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, and British Undersecretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Evelyn Shuckburgh.

(In London today, British Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie urged all congregations in Britain to recite a special prayer at next Saturday's services for the safety of "our brethren in Egypt who are on trial." He declared that "we are seized with fear and trepidation at the tidings of their perilous plight.")

Trial of the Jews in Egypt Considered Political Maneuvre

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The trial of the 13 Jews in Egypt on trumped-up charges is nothing but an attempt on the part of the Egyptian Government to divert attention from dissatisfaction prevalent in that country because of the arrest of leading members of the Moslem Brotherhood, the Washington Post says today in an editorial.

"The Cairo Government has raised something of a tempest in the Arab world by its arrests of the leading spirits of the Moslem Brotherhood," the influential newspaper writes. "So there is a necessity to divert attention by acting tough with the Israelis. This view is strengthened by the show trial now going on of 13 Jews in Alexandria under trumped-up charges which, as in the case of the 'Bat Galim,' have been exploded by revelations of forced confessions and torture and, in one case, a suicide."

Speaking of the "Bat Galim," the Israel vessel seized by Egypt, the newspaper says: "The fact that the Egyptians invented all sorts of fairy tales to justify detention argues that they realize they have affronted international law." The editorial emphasized that the Egyptian charges were "exploded" by a United Nations on-the-spot inquiry "yet the Egyptians continue to hold the 'Bat Galim.' In so doing, they are in defiance once again of the United Nations which, through the chairman of the Mixed Armistice Commission, has ordered the release of the detained vessel."

Urging release of the Israel freighter held by Egypt since September 28, the Washington Post said that the United Nations Security Council, "which has now been requested to call an early meeting to consider Egyptian delays and procrastinations and mis-statements, should refuse to abet Egypt's theatrics and its downright defiance of the international community."

TORRENTIAL RAINS FILL ISRAEL DAMS; NEGEV FARMERS JUBILANT

TEL AVIV, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Torrential rains in the Negev Monday filled to the point of overflowing all water impoundment dams in the desert area, the Israel Water Planning Company announced here today.

The Tel Yeruham Dam, which has a capacity of 500,000 cubic metres of water was filled within 90 minutes as swollen streams rushed down from the hills and emptied into the basin. Smaller dams were filled within shorter periods and considerable water was lost.

Negev farmers were jubilant at the timing of the rains, which broke after the winter crop had been sowed. Traffic was disrupted in some areas and several cars full of students on a tour of the Negev were forced to abandon their trip until the floods had subsided.

SECOND GERMAN-BUILT VESSEL LEAVES FOR ISRAEL AS REPARATIONS

HAMBURG, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The 7,000-ton Tappuz, second German vessel built for Israel in Germany under the reparations program, left here today on her maiden voyage to Haifa. The Tappuz--whose name means "citrus"--is a passenger-freighter, with special holds for citrus cargoes.

The captain of the newest Israel merchantman is Ezra Yoran, who commands a 36-man Israel crew. A seaman since the age of 14, he came to Palestine at the age of 20 and served on various ships, most of them British. For the past two and a half years he commanded a smaller vessel.

The vessel will pick up her first cargo here and at Bremen. It will consist of reparations goods--sheet plate, strip steel, steel cables and pipes, machinery, chemicals and other goods. Then she will proceed to Dover to pick up passengers.

Besides the Tappuz, the Germans have already built one ship like her and another is due to be built next year. The Germans will also provide a 4,000-ton cargo vessel and a 9,500-ton passenger vessel with a capacity of 320 passengers--all as part of the reparations program.

ISRAEL SEEKS IMPRESSIONS OF BRITISH OFFICIAL ON MIDDLE EAST

LONDON, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- British Undersecretary of State for Middle Eastern Affairs Evelyn Shuckburgh, who recently returned from the Middle East where he went to try to pave the way for a British effort to ease tensions between Israel and the Arab states, received today Israel Ambassador Eliahu Elath. An Israeli Embassy source said that the Ambassador wanted to hear Mr. Shuckburgh's impressions of his visit to Israel.

Foreign Secretary Sir Anthony Eden informed Parliament today that the British Government plans to provide 2,500,000 pounds (\$7,000,000) for the Jordan Government in 1955. This sum, he said, would be broken down as follows: 750,000 pounds would be a grant to cover an anticipated budget deficit in 1955-56; the remainder would be an interest-free loan to be spent in 1955 and 1956 on projects agreed upon by both parties.

ISRAEL PROTESTS TO U. N. AGAINST CIRCULATION OF SYRIAN LETTER

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Mordecai R. Kidron, deputy permanent representative of Israel to the United Nations, sent a letter today to Dr. Charles Malik of Lebanon, this month's president of the Security Council, protesting against circulation among members of the Council of a letter from Syria which accused Israel of "banditry and piracy" in connection with seizure of a Syrian plane. The plane has since been released by Israel.

In Syria's letter, dated Dec. 14, Rafik Asha, Syrian delegate to the UN, had complained to the Security Council about Israel forcing down the Syrian plane and had used sharp language which, according to Mr. Kidron's protest, "is out of place when used by one member of the United Nations with reference to another."

MEMBERS OF NOTORIOUS NAZI GROUP REGAIN CIVIL SERVICE RIGHTS

MUNICH, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Full re-instatement of civil service rights and pension privileges were won by former members of the most notorious section of the Nazi Storm Troop organization--the Storm Troop Chasseurs--under a ruling issued by the Superior Administrative Court at Lueneburg in a test case brought by a one-time leader of this brown-shirted unit.

The ruling was severely criticized by the Sueddeutsche Zeitung here, one of the leading newspapers in Bavaria. The paper pointed out that "while indemnification for Nazi victims is being shamefully sabotaged, the Storm Troop Chasseurs of 1933 are--together with many, very many others of their ilk--rehabilitated and re-instated."

The largest daily paper in South Germany says that the re-instated Chasseurs "belonged to the foulest outcroppings of Nazism; to its worst loudmouths, bruisers and torturers. They treated political prisoners so appallingly that--this was still at the beginning of the Nazi era--even Hitler himself had to take into account foreign protests and to close down one of their camps, Hohenstein Fortress."

PARIS JEWS OPPOSE REMOVAL OF JEWISH REMAINS FROM CITY CEMETERIES

PARIS, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The disinterment and removal of the remains of heirless Jews buried in Paris' municipal cemeteries has caused extreme anxiety among religious groups here. The move, in accordance with a French law of 1924, has been vigorously opposed by the Chevra Kedisha, the Jewish burial society.

The local authorities have ruled that all graves 75 years old or older are considered abandoned unless they are cared for by heirs or by specially authorized parties. A strict interpretation of the law has barred the Chevra Kedisha from acting in behalf of families whose heirs were murdered by the Nazis and thus are heirless. It is feared that as a result of this situation--the absence of heirs or legal representatives--most of the Jewish graves in question will be opened and the land on which they are now located will revert to local authority under the terms of the law.

The disinterred remains are removed to a special section of the Pere Lachaise cemetery in this city, and the sites of the graves are taken over by the municipal authorities.

PERON PRESENTS GOLD MEDAL TO JEW; RECTIFIES INJUSTICE OF 60 YEARS AGO

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- President Peron today granted an audience to Enrique Dickman and presented him with a gold medal from the Buenos Aires Medical School which has been due since 1894.

The medal, which should have been presented to Dr. Dickman when he was graduated from the school with the highest honors, was denied on "social grounds." Dr. Dickman, who yesterday celebrated his 80th birthday, was one of the founders of the Socialist Party in Argentina more than 40 years ago. A special government decree was issued to justify the belated recognition of Dr. Dickman's achievements.

ZIONIST LEADER DIES IN RUMANIAN JAIL; DIRECTED EMIGRATION

MUNICH, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- M. Yampolsky, a leading Jewish communal worker in Rumania arrested for "illegal Zionist activity" three years ago, has died in a Bucharest jail, according to reports received here. He was the last director of the Palestine Emigration Office in the Rumanian capital.

6,000 JEWISH IMMIGRANTS EXPECTED TO ENTER UNITED STATES IN 1955

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- About 6,000 Jewish immigrants will enter the United States in 1955, it was estimated here today by the New York Association for New Americans. The great majority are expected to settle in New York City and it is anticipated that 80 percent of them will be in need of NYANA aid.

"Some of them," says a NYANA report, "can be served simply by providing the guidance which will orient them to their new surroundings. Others will need assistance in locating homes and jobs. But inevitably there will be a 'hard core,' numbering several hundred families, that will be dependent upon NYANA month after month, until rehabilitation is accomplished."

During 1955 NYANA's family service department is expected to provide services to some 820 individual families, representing about 2,450 men, women and children. An increase is anticipated in the caseload of this department for the year as compared with 1954 because a larger number of new arrivals is expected to present complex problems.

The vocational services department, in turn, is expected to provide guidance, employment and rehabilitative services to approximately 2,300 individual immigrants during 1955. It is hoped that the labor market will be favorable so that most of the immigrants may quickly become self-supporting.

\$1,138,275 Sought by NYANA to Aid Immigrants in New York

During 1954, NYANA, which receives its funds from the United Jewish Appeal, expended about \$978,600 for its operations, of which \$757,380 was used for NYANA's own services and \$221,220 for subventions to other local agencies. NYANA's needs for 1955 are estimated at \$1,138,275. Of this sum, \$920,975 is expected to cover the agency's own services and \$217,300 represents grants to other local agencies. These agencies provide technical immigration and naturalization services, which include counsel on problems relating to deportation, alien registration, change of status and preparation for American citizenship.

"During the five and one-half years of NYANA's existence it has helped more than 53,000 newcomers to become part of America," the report stresses. "In 1955 there must be no lessening of the sense of urgency which guides the approach to the problem of Jewish immigration to America merely because the number of immigrants is not as great as it was when the D. P. camps were being emptied. The human problems of today's immigrant are, if possible, even more acute than those during the period of mass immigration."

ESHKOL HONORED IN NEW YORK; REPORTS ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- "Advances are being made in all phases of Israel's economy despite Arab efforts to strangle our economic life" and to convert the current "cold war into a shooting war through night raids, border attacks, robbery and infiltration," Levi Eshkol, Israel's Finance Minister, said tonight, at a dinner in his honor at the Waldorf Astoria sponsored by the New York Committee for State of Israel Bonds.

"The hostility of the Arabs has made our path harder," he said. "When they brandish their swords, we must be prepared to defend ourselves. In self-defense, we become involved in military expenditures which are a drain on our Treasury, so that we do not have sufficient funds left for our vital program of economic development."

"It is this situation which heightens the importance of the State of Israel Bonds, not only for maintaining our economic progress, but for our very survival, which cannot be possible without a solid and smoothly functioning economy."

20,000 NEW YORKERS TO ATTEND CHANUKAH FESTIVAL FOR ISRAEL TONIGHT

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- More than 20,000 persons will participate in New York's third annual Chanukah Festival for Israel to be held tomorrow evening at Madison Square Garden. The Festival, which will commemorate the victory over oppression won by Judah Maccabee and the people of Israel 2,000 years ago, will bring to a climax New York's 1954 campaign in behalf of the State of Israel Development Bond drive.

Levi Eshkol, Minister of Finance of the State of Israel, will be a principal speaker at the ceremonies, which will also pay a special tribute to Theodor Herzl, the father of political Zionism, on the 50th anniversary of his death. The tribute to Herzl will be contained in a new drama, "The Great Dreamer, by the playwright and poet, Norman Rosten, which will relate how the famed Dreyfus case in France stirred Herzl to action in launching his crusade for the founding of a Jewish State.

COLORADO GROUP SEEKS BI-PARTISAN SUPPORT FOR FAIR EMPLOYMENT

DENVER, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The Colorado Committee for Equal Opportunities launched a campaign this week to line up bi-partisan support for amendments to the State Fair Employment Practices legislation which would give it more teeth.

The CCEO was instrumental in securing passage of the state's first FEP legislation in 1950. Legislation now being drafted for submission to the State Legislature next month would: 1. Establish the Governor's Human Relations Commission as an autonomous unit within the State Industrial Commission, with responsibility for directing the FEP office; 2. Re-define the term "public employer" to include companies working on state contracts; 3. Bar discrimination against women.

The equal opportunities group has set limited objectives in the belief that FEP here has to be strengthened step-by-step. At present, they do not believe passage could be secured for legislation extending FEP to private business.

JEWS VOLUNTEER TO REPLACE CHRISTIANS IN USO WORK ON CHRISTMAS

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Reciprocating for courtesies shown them at the Jewish New Year and Day of Atonement, USO volunteers of the Jewish faith will take over the Christmas eve and Christmas Day program responsibilities of their Christian co-workers at USO clubs to permit the latter to attend services and spend the holiday with their families, the National Jewish Welfare Board reported today.

Jewish GI's will pinch-hit on Christmas for Christian men in the armed forces who are going home or visiting adjacent communities, where JWB groups have planned home hospitality and a variety of social events. Hundreds of gifts have been sent overseas by JWB Serve-A groups. In the United States, JWB committees will supplement stocks of holiday presents shipped to their localities by Serve-A Committee with ample supplies of their own.

JEWS STUDENTS IN CALIFORNIA OFFER PRAYERS FOR POPE'S RECOVERY

SAN FRANCISCO, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The Jewish community on the campus of the University of California offered prayers for the recovery of Pope Pius XII at a special service, the San Francisco Jewish Community Bulletin reported. The prayers were part of the traditional religious service conducted by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at the Hillel chapel.

JEWISH GROUPS IN SO. AFRICA HONOR SIMON KUPER FOR HIS LEADERSHIP

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Appreciation of the devoted service which Simon M. Kuper, chairman of the South African Zionist Federation, has rendered South African Jewry was expressed this week at meetings of the executive councils of the Zionist Federation and the Board of Deputies, at which presentations were made to him and Mrs. Kuper on the occasion of their silver wedding anniversary.

Born in Johannesburg in 1906, Simon Kuper has been a leading figure in communal work for many years. A barrister by profession, his legal prowess won him elevation to King's Counsel in 1946. Active in Zionist work from his student days, he served as chairman of the S. A. Youth Council, then as chairman of various committees on the Executive Council of the S. A. Zionist Federation, and was elected vice-chairman of the Federation.

Active at the same time in the work of the S. A. Jewish Board of Deputies, he became chairman of the Board in 1944 and proved to be one of the outstanding incumbents of that position in the period he held it, from 1944 to 1949. In 1950 he was elected chairman of the S. A. Zionist Federation, a position to which he has continually been re-elected since.

PHIL LOWN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN ASSN. FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Phil W. Lown of West Newton, Mass., was elected president of the American Association for Jewish Education at its annual meeting at the Commodore Hotel here. He succeeds Harry Starr of New York who served as president of the AAJE for three years.

The newly-elected president, who recently was awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws from the University of Maine, is also chairman of the Friends of Hillel. The American Association for Jewish Education was organized in 1939 and is a national service agency for coordination, promotion and research in American Jewish education.

JUDGE PROSKAUER HONORED BY NEW YORK YM-YWHA; BUST UNVEILED

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- A plaque honoring Judge Joseph M. Proskauer, president of the YM-YWHA of this city from 1926-31, was unveiled last night at the Lexington Avenue Y building whose erection Judge Proskauer helped plan and build.

In unveiling the bust of Judge Proskauer, Frank L. Weil, another former president, said: "Every brick, every stone, every wall, every room of this building is a monument to Judge Proskauer, far more than this plaque which we are unveiling tonight can be. He conceived this building. He was largely responsible for raising the funds for it; he gave it life and leadership."

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF PHILADELPHIA JEWISH CHARITIES RETIRES

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Miss Frances N. Harrison, executive director of the Federation of Jewish Charities of this city, plans to retire at the end of May, 1955, it was announced here by Bernard L. Frankel, president of the Federation.

Miss Harrison has held the post for the last six years and has been in a top administrative position with the Federation for the last 15 years. Mr. Frankel said the Federation's board had accepted her decision reluctantly.