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FLOOD CAUSES HEAVY DAMAGE IN ISRAEL; ARMY CONDUCTS RESCUE WORK

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Israel Army units swung into action today in rescue operations in the flooded areas around Tel Aviv and in carrying aid to residents in the immigrant camps and maabarot in central Israel suffering from flood conditions caused by torrential rains.

In one Tel Aviv suburb, the Israel Navy provided motorboats and crews to transport residents of houses isolated by the flood waters.

Reports of flood damage were coming in today from many parts of the country except the northernmost settlements and the Negev, the southern desert. The Tel Aviv area and central Israel, however, were hardest hit. Farmers who had welcomed the heavy rains earlier in the week, expressed fear today that the continuing downpour would do heavy damage. Many reported flooded fields.

Traffic around Tel Aviv was almost brought to a standstill by flood waters. Municipal workers, aided by the police, the fire department, Army units and volunteer workers, were engaged in evacuating women and children from flooded districts of the city.

The Tel Aviv municipal authorities issued an appeal today for gifts of blankets and clothing for the evacuees, stressing the special need for warm clothing for the children.

EGYPT'S MOVE ON RELEASE OF "BAT GALIM" WATCHED IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Israel diplomatic sources in Washington today were without information on reports that the Israel freighter, "Bat Galim" will be released by Egypt provided it sails toward the Red Sea rather than the Mediterranean so that it does not pass through the Suez Canal.

State Department sources made known that confirmation has been received that Egypt is willing to release the ship but only on condition that it does not use the Suez Canal for the completion of its voyage. When seized, the ship was bound north through the Canal, steaming for Haifa, its home port. Word has been received in government circles that Egypt is willing to release the "Bat Galim" crew but no information is available as to the proposed time of release.

Speculation exists here as to whether the Israel crew will be returned to the "Bat Galim" or if a crew made up of other nationalities will be put aboard. The Egyptian intention is that the ship make its way back to Israel, not through the short Suez waterway but instead through the Red Sea, Indian Ocean, around the Cape of Good Hope, and through the Atlantic to Gibraltar where it could enter the Mediterranean. It is believed that Israel would object to this, maintaining as before that Israel ships have a right, in accord with a United Nations resolution and international agreements, to use the Suez Canal.

ISRAEL ELIMINATED FROM ASIAN-AFRICAN PARLEY UNDER PRESSURE

LONDON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Israel is the only Middle Eastern state which will not be invited to the conference of Asian and African nations to be held in Bandung, Indonesia, next April, according to the decision reached yesterday by the Prime Ministers of the Colombo powers at their meeting in Jakarta.

The five powers are India, Pakistan, Ceylon, Indonesia and Burma. They decided to invite 30 nations, comprising more than half the world's population, to the conference to promote good will, consider mutual problems and review the position of the Asian and African peoples in the world today.

According to information received here, the decision not to invite Israel came at the end of a long and acrimonious debate in which Prime Minister U Nu of Burma insisted strongly on a bid to Israel, against the opposition of Prime Minister Mohammed Ali of Pakistan and Prime Minister Dr. Sastroamidjojo of Indonesia.

The issue was settled when the Pakistan representative reported that none of the Arab States would attend the conference if Israel were seated and a primary objective of the conference - "extending the area of peace" - would thus be defeated. In the face of this, U Nu had to yield.

JORDAN TO PERMIT NETUREI KARTA MEMBERS TO MOVE TO OLD CITY

LONDON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Jordan will permit members of the extreme Orthodox Neturei Karta group in Israel to move to the Old City of Jerusalem, the Damascus Radio reported today.

The Arab broadcast claimed that several hundred Neturei Karta members have been in communication with Jordanian authorities with a view to secure permission for moving from the Israel section of Jerusalem to the Jordan-held section. It added that the Jordan Government has decided to grant such permission.

ISRAEL PERMITS SYRIAN PLANES TO FLY OVER ITS TERRITORY

LONDON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The Israel Government has "conditionally agreed" to permit Syrian passenger airlines to fly over Israel territory, the Times of London reported today.

Israel fighter planes forced down a Syrian plane earlier this month when it violated Israel air space but the plane, with its crew and passengers, was later released. The Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission refused this week to censure Israel for the action.

ORTHODOX LEADERS SEEK TO RESTORE RELIGIOUS BLOC IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Leaders of Orthodox groups in Israel met here today and decided to issue an appeal to their respective groups to restore the Religious Bloc in the Jewish State, which until its dissolution was composed of the Mizrachi, Hapoel Hamizrachi, Agudas Israel and Agudah Laborite Party.

Participating in the meeting were L.M. Lewin, Agudah leader in Israel; Benjamin Mintz, leader of the Agudah laborites in Israel, and A. L. Gelman, leader of the Mizrachi Party in Israel--all of whom are now visiting the United States. American leaders of the Orthodox groups were also present.

ARMING OF ARABS WOULD NOT SOLVE MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS, ENVOY SAYS

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Arming of the Arab states cannot further "a positive and constructive solution of Middle East problems," Dr. Ezra Yoran, new Minister of Israel to the Netherlands, said here today.

He told the 52nd annual convention of the Dutch Zionist Association that Israel would continue to protest against Egypt's closure of the Suez Canal to Israel shipping and against the trial of the 12 remaining Jews in the Cairo espionage case.

JEWS IN BERLIN MUST PAY TAX TO JEWISH COMMUNITY, COURT RULES

BERLIN, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The local Administrative Court has in an important decision confirmed that all residents of Berlin who list themselves as Jews are automatically members of the Jewish Community and can be compelled to pay the "religious tax" collected by it.

In contrast to countries of the West with stricter separation of church and state, membership in a church or in the Jewish Community has always been mandatory in Germany for all those born into a particular faith, or who belonged to it prior to moving to another city. Withdrawal is possible only by filing with the clerk of the court a formal declaration that one hereby resigns from a given church or Jewish Community.

In 1938, Hitler stripped all Jewish Communities of their status as corporations under public law. In consequence, and because of the abnormal conditions of the postwar era, it has been disputed whether affiliation to the local Jewish Community is still mandatory for Jews having their habitual residence in a German city. The requirement is in practice often disregarded, but the principle is of importance to the Jewish Communities not only due to its religious and administrative significance, but also because the German tax collector levies a certain surtax on income tax payments, and turns over the proceeds to the Jewish Community of which the taxpayer is a member.

In the present test case, a Jew who had returned to Berlin from a country of emigration refused to pay the "religious tax" on the grounds that he had not registered as a member of the Jewish Community, that the Community had not in any case regained its status as a corporation under public law, that the sociological structure of the Community's membership had undergone major changes and that mandatory membership was unconstitutional. On all four points, the Administrative Court ruled against him and for the Community.

SELECTION OFFICE IN MOROCCO SPEEDS UP JEWISH EMIGRATION

PARIS, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Establishment of an immigrant selection office in Morocco composed of representatives of the Jewish Agency and the Israel Ministry of Health has speeded up the processing of prospective immigrants, it was revealed here today.

Dr. Eliezer Mattan, the Health Ministry's representative in the Casablanca office, said here today that nearly 4,000 persons a month are being found fit for immigration into Israel by this office.

The new setup, he said, permits a more complete examination and preparation of entire families for emigration to Israel. This eliminates to a great extent the possibility of creating additional economic burdens for Israel by the admission of persons unable to adapt themselves to living and working conditions there, he said.

With the exception of mental ailments, Dr. Mattan said, the selection office regards illness with a "certain amount of leniency." He noted that immigrants were leaving for Israel at the rate of 2,000 a month in the order of their inscription on the waiting lists, but warned that political and economic conditions in Morocco could greatly increase emigration demands at any moment and confront the Jewish Agency with a problem to be met on an emergency basis.

CHIEF RABBI OF AMSTERDAM OPPOSES LIFTING OF BAN ON SPINOZA

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Dr. Samuel Rodrigues Pereira, Chief Rabbi of the Amsterdam Sephardic community, made it clear today that he saw no reason why the excommunication decree passed on Baruch Spinoza, the famed Dutch Jewish philosopher, 300 years ago, should be revoked.

A lifting of the excommunication of Spinoza was proposed recently by David Ben Gurion, former Premier of Israel, but Dr. Pereira said today he saw no reason for such an action. Spinoza's ideas, he said, were completely "non-Jewish."

I.T.A. FORMS NATIONAL CABINET; WILL START ITS 1955 DRIVE IN FEBRUARY

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Formation by the United Jewish Appeal of a National Campaign Cabinet made up of 53 business, professional, religious and philanthropic leaders who will help plan and direct the UJA 1955 campaign for \$99,521,275, was announced today by Samuel H. Daroff of Philadelphia, chairman of the Cabinet for the third year in succession. The forthcoming nationwide drive will be launched Sunday, February 27, at a National Inaugural Conference in Miami Beach, Fla.

Mr. Daroff stated that "the organization of this 53-man campaign high command now gives the United Jewish Appeal the largest and strongest cabinet since this leadership body was brought into existence in 1949." The noted Philadelphia Jewish leader, who is honorary president of the Allied Jewish Appeal of that city, pointed out that "members of the new cabinet are in all cases leaders of UJA-affiliated campaigns in their home cities."

"They represent virtually every important campaign area in the country," he noted, "and are men who have helped to raise millions of dollars in their own communities for the financing of overseas, national and local causes. The United Jewish Appeal is fortunate in having them at its top level to help share in the planning, direction and leadership of its 1955 campaign."

Mr. Daroff pointed out that the early completion of the 1955 Cabinet, in addition to the action of the UJA's annual conference earlier this month in electing a full body of national officers, has cleared the way "for an earlier effort than usual to raise the sums the United Jewish Appeal so urgently requires."

Mr. Daroff and the 53 members of his Cabinet will assist UJA general chairman William Rosenwald of New York, and the other national officers, who are: Edward M.M. Warburg, president; Rabbi Jonah B. Wise of New York and Dewey D. Stone, Brockton, Mass., national chairmen; Morris W. Berinstein, Syracuse, N.Y.; Joseph Heltzman, Detroit, Mich.; Sol Luckman, Cincinnati, Ohio, and Jack D. Weiler, national campaign chairmen; I. Edwin Goldwasser and Jacob Sincoff, both of New York, national co-treasurers; Mrs. Hal Horne, New York, chairman of the National Women's Division, and Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice-chairman.

ISRAEL BOND DRIVE FOR 1955 TO BE LAUNCHED AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The 1955 campaign for State of Israel Development Bonds will be launched at a National Mobilization Conference to be held the last week-end in January, it was announced today by Samuel Rothberg, national chairman of the Israel Bond Organization. Sessions of the Conference will be held on Saturday evening, January 29 and Sunday, January 30 at the Hotel Fontainebleau in Miami Beach, Florida.

Mr. Rothberg stressed that the purpose of the conference will be the development of a program of action which will include launching the 1955 campaign for the sale of Israel Development Bonds as well as re-enrolling trustees, Guardians of Israel, and national sponsors for 1955. Those who purchase \$10,000 in Israel Development Bonds each year become trustees; those who purchase \$1,000 become Guardians of Israel, while women who purchase \$1,000 become national sponsors.

Final plans for the National Mobilization Conference, Mr. Rothberg indicated, will be developed at a meeting of the National Board of Governors of the Israel Bond Organization, to be held at the Savoy-Plaza Hotel in New York City on Saturday evening, January 8 and Sunday, January 9.

JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL TO BE ESTABLISHED IN CALGARY

CALGARY, Alberta, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A temporary board of directors representing 17 Jewish organizations of Calgary has been elected following a decision to establish a Jewish Community Council here. The board will proceed with establishment of the council and will seek the adherence of the Jewish organizations to the new body.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS TO HOLD PLENARY SESSION IN PARIS

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress will hold a plenary meeting of its executive in Paris from January 27 to January 30, Abraham S. Hyman, WJC administrative director, announced here today. The forthcoming conference is the agency's first major meeting since the WJC Third Plenary Assembly, held in Geneva in the summer of 1953.

More than 60 members of the WJC executive, representing Jewish communities throughout the world, are expected to attend the Paris parley, which will be devoted to studying international political, cultural, organizational and United Nations problems affecting the Jewish people. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, WJC president, will preside at the sessions, which are scheduled to be held in the UNESCO building.

NEW ZIONIST STUDENT ORGANIZATION TO BE ESTABLISHED IN UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A four-day convention of about 300 Zionist students from 60 colleges and universities concluded here today with resolutions calling for the promotion of Hebrew language, the establishment of projects to benefit Israel culturally and economically and the creation of an educational program to combat Arab propaganda in American schools of higher learning.

The convention also decided to establish a new and permanent Zionist student organization in this country and to develop a Zionist education program among Jewish students on college campuses. Another resolution adopted by the delegates urged the encouragement of migration to Israel. The convention was held under the auspices of the American Zionist Council.

CORSI NAMED AS AID TO DULLES; WILL HELP IN IMMIGRATION MATTERS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Edward Corsi, who served in 1933 and 1934 as Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, was today appointed special assistant to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles to help administer the Refugee Relief Act of 1953.

According to reliable information, Mr. Corsi will work with State Department Security Officer Scott McLeod whose handling of the refugee problem has been severely criticized. The appointment was seen here today as an indication that the State Department is taking steps to meet criticism from members of Congress who have objected to the manner in which the Refugee Relief Act has been applied.

COLOMBIA SIGNS INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION ON STATELESS PERSONS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Colombia today became the 15th country to sign the convention relating to the status of stateless persons. Misael Pastrana, Colombia's alternative representative to the United Nations, signed for his government at a brief ceremony this morning in the office of Constantin Stavropoulos, principal director of the UN legal department.

The convention accords an internationally recognized juridical status to an individual who has no link of nationality with any state and only on this ground. It differs from the refugee convention in that the latter benefits only those stateless persons who also belong to certain well-defined categories of refugees.

This convention will come into force on the 90th day following the day of deposit of the sixth instrument of ratification or accession. Those countries which have previously signed the convention, are: Belgium, Brazil, Costa Rica, Denmark, Ecuador, El Salvador, Federal Republic of Germany, Guatemala, Honduras, Israel, Italy, Liechtenstein, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom and Vatican City.

PROBLEM OF MULTIPLE JEWISH DRIVES TO BE STUDIED IN MILWAUKEE

MILWAUKEE, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The Milwaukee Jewish Welfare Fund has established a special committee to study the problem created here by multiple fund campaigns which, according to a Federation financial report, siphoned off \$1,200,000 in capital and current operations campaigns in this city in 1953.

The multiple campaigns, some of them conducted without clearance from the welfare fund, are considered one of the major reasons for the diminishing returns in the all-community, one fund annual campaign. The committee will seek to acquaint the Jewish community with the problem, to make remedial recommendations and to work out adequate methods of control.

"ZIMRIYA" ESTABLISHES FOUR PRIZES FOR MUSICAL COMPOSITIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The "Hazamir," Israel music organization which is organizing the Second World Assembly of Jewish Choirs to be held in Israel during the month of July, 1955, today announced four prizes for musical compositions to be submitted by January 15, in connection with the Zimriya, the Song of Festival, during the Assembly in which 3,000 chorists from more than 10 countries will participate. The United States will be represented by 15 choirs numbering about 500 voices.

The prizes announced today will be given for the best compositions on the following themes: 1. Jerusalem; 2. The Establishment of Israel; 3. Ingathering of the Exiles; 4. Land Redemption. The first theme carries a prize of 500 Israeli pounds, while the other three carry an award of 300 pounds each.

Harry Coopersmith, director of the Music Department of the Jewish Education Committee of New York, has been appointed chairman of the choir conductors group for the American Zimriya. The committee which he heads is to pass on the qualifications of non-professional Jewish choirs in the United States and Canada entering the Song Festival. Mr. Coopersmith is a member of the faculty of the School of Sacred Music in New York and is a pioneer of Jewish choral music.

BRAZILIAN ENVOY TO ISRAEL PRESENTS CREDENTIALS TO PRESIDENT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Nelson Tabajara de Oliveira, new Brazilian Ambassador to Israel, today presented his credentials here to President Hachak Ben Zvi.

President Ben Zvi told the Brazilian envoy that "having a group of Brazilians among us gives us great satisfaction." He recalled the fact that the President of Brazil visited Israel a few years ago, and expressed the hope that Israeli-Brazilian relations in the future will embrace not only the cultural but also the economic spheres.

JEWISH WOMAN HONORED IN ITALY; IS DEAN OF ITALIAN HIGH SCHOOL

ROME, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Prof. Dora Weiss-Levi, well known Italian Jewish educator, today was awarded the honorary title of "Dame of the Italian Republic" by President Luigi Einaudi. Dr. Weiss-Levi is dean of the "Guiseppe Mazzini" State High School, and is also a member of the advisory board of the Jewish High School here.

DR. JULIAN MORGENSTERN HONORED BY H. U. C. ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

CINCINNATI, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The Alumni Association of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion dedicated a chapel window yesterday in honor of Dr. Julian Morgenstern. Dr. Morgenstern was president of the institution from 1921 to 1947, and has since served as president emeritus. He is an outstanding biblical authority.