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KNESSET VOTES CONFIDENCE IN SHARETT GOVT.: DEFEATS COMMUNISTS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5 (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament voted confidence in the Sharett government last night after a demand by the Communist Party for a vote of no confidence. The ballot revealed 69 deputies supporting the government, 10 against and seven abstaining. Under the Knesset's rules any deputy or any party may force a confidence vote by simply asking for it.

The Communist deputies charged that in a recent speech in Tel Aviv, Minister of Defense Pinchas Lavon had called the Arab minority in the country a "fifth column" and had called for an immediate "preventative war" by Israel against the Arab states. They also charged that Mr. Lavon had said that Israel must double its defense budget.

Mr. Lavon denied all charges. He said that he had declared that Israel, unlike any other state in the world, was surrounded by enemies who "morning and night repeat that they are preparing for a second round" of warfare, yet obtain arms and economic assistance abroad. Mr. Lavon said that he had stressed in his earlier speech that in these circumstances Israel must always be prepared to defend itself against all possible attacks.

He also denied advocating doubling the defense budget, emphasizing that such a demand would be irresponsible since Israel never could raise such a budget. The present defense budget of the state, he said, is 12 to 15 percent of the total national income, and doubling the budget would force the collapse of the Israel economy.

The Herut announced that despite the fact that it was critical of Mr. Lavon, it would not vote for the Communist motion. A similar declaration was made by the Achdut Avoda-Poale Zion Party. The Mapam abstained.

ISRAEL OPPOSES PLACING "BAT GALIM" UNDER ARMISTICE COMMISSION

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 5 (JTA) -- Israel will not accept the proposal made yesterday by the Egyptian delegate at the United Nations that the Israel vessel "Bat Galim," seized by Egypt while entering the Suez Canal, should be placed in charge of a subcommittee of the Israel-Egyptian Armistice Commission, a spokesman for the Israel delegation indicated here today.

"It is evident that this proposal in its present form does not carry us any further," the spokesman said. "Indeed, it does not appear susceptible of implementation because the Mixed Armistice Commission cannot discuss the release of the Bat Galim separate from its crew for the same reason that it refused to take part in the release of the crew separately from the ship, namely, that it cannot be involved in an evasion of the 1951 resolution which the UN Security Council adopted on the Suez issue."

ISRAEL SUPPLY CONVOY FOR MT. SCOPUS TURNED BACK BY JORDAN

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The fortnightly Israel supply convoy for guards atop Mt. Scopus was turned back today after the Jordanian troops controlling the access road to the height refused to let the convoy through unless cans of meat were opened for their inspection.

The demand for the opening of the meat cans was in violation of the general procedure, and the Israelis refused to agree to it. The United Nations observers accompanying the supply train tried for several hours to convince the Jordanians to let the convoy through, but failed. The Israel convoy returned to its base and Israel officials will take up the matter with Gen. E. L. M. Burns, UN truce supervisor.

TOP OFFICERS OF ISRAEL ARMY COMPLETE PARATROOP COURSES

TEL AVIV, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, Chief of Staff of the Israel Army, and other top officers of the armed forces were awarded paratroop wings yesterday following the completion of a special course in guerrilla and commando tactics required for a "officers of combat units."

After the ceremony at the army base, instructors expressed satisfaction with the progress of the entire class, including the "aged" cadets. The special courses were introduced to improve officers' leadership abilities.

U.S. ORTHODOX JEWS URGED NOT TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Orthodox Jews in America were today asked to call off their demonstrations against the Israel Government following a conference here between Orthodox leaders and Mordecai Namir, secretary general of the Histadrut.

Present at the parley were Rabbi M. Shenberg, of the Neturei Karta sect in Israel, and a Mr. Zofman, an Orthodox leader in the United States. They discussed the situation which developed after the opening of a playground and club by a Labor group on the edge of the Mea Shearim quarter, in which many Neturei Karta members live. Afterwards, the request to call off demonstrations was cabled to the U.S. by Mr. Zofman.

Meanwhile, Israel police have once again arrested Rabbi Amram Blau, Neturei Karta leader, and seven of his followers when they again attempted to demonstrate in front of the club. The ultra-Orthodox Neturei Karta has insisted on removal of the club on the grounds that the activities fostered by the Labor group would tend to "corrupt" Orthodox youth.

KNESSET LEADER CONFERS WITH STATE DEPT. ON U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- George Flesch, member of the Israel Parliament, and chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the General Zionist Party, met yesterday at the State Department with John D. Jerhoggan, Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

In the lengthy conversation, various international problems were discussed pertaining to the situation in the Middle East and with specific reference to American-Israel relations.

LADEJINSKY NAMED TO POST IN FOREIGN OPERATIONS ADMINISTRATION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The Foreign Operations Administration announced today that it has hired Wolf Ladejinsky, fired as a "security risk" by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra T. Benson from his post as agricultural attache at the U. S. Embassy in Tokyo. Mr. Ladejinsky will do a land reform job in Viet Nam for the FOA.

Harold E. Stassen, director of the FOA, said that the FOA had been interested in Ladejinsky's land reform work in Japan, and had now reviewed his security file and found him eligible for certification and security and loyalty pursuant to the President's executive order" and the Mutual Security Act of 1954.

(The American Jewish Congress today issued a statement stating that the appointment of Mr. Ladejinsky to a post in the FOA "deserves earnest commendation." However, the statement emphasized that while this appointment "rectifies a serious injustice to an individual, it does not lessen by an iota the need for a thorough overhaul of the entire Federal employe security program.")

300 GROUPS APPLY FOR FUNDS TO CONFERENCE ON JEWISH CLAIMS

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Jewish organizations numbering more than 300 and operating in 29 countries throughout the world have filed requests with the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany for funds to carry on relief and rehabilitation activities among Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, the Claims Conference announced here today.

The Claims Conference reported that the total allocation requests for relief and rehabilitation activities for 1955 exceed \$45,000,000. This is five times greater than the \$9-10,000,000 which is expected to be available for allocation this year for the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of Nazi victims outside of Israel. In 1954 the Conference allocated \$9,000,000 for these purposes.

Of the applications filed, organizations have requested a total of \$30,000,000 for material relief and rehabilitation throughout the world, three-fourths of it for use in European countries. The remaining \$15,000,000 is requested on behalf of Jewish cultural rehabilitation which includes projects for education, research and publication and the salvage of intellectual and cultural treasures destroyed by the Third Reich.

Final decisions relating to the Conference allocations for 1955 will be made by the board of directors at its meetings during the first week of February. Organizations operating in the following countries have filed applications: Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Great Britain, Greece, Holland, Italy, Norway, Portugal, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Canada, United States, Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Uruguay, Union of South Africa, Tunis, Algeria, Australia and The Philippines.

ITALIAN PENAL CODE TO OUTLAW RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS INCITEMENT

ROME, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The new Italian penal code, now in the drafting process, will contain clauses defining as crimes any acts or propaganda instigating racial or religious hatred, the Italian Ministry of Justice has informed the Union of Italian Jewish Communities.

Three old synagogue buildings in this country - two of them in Padua and one in Trino Vercellese - are being moved to Israel because the houses of worship are no longer being used by decimated Jewish communities. A similar transfer was effected recently for the old synagogue in Conegliano Veneto. When it was found that there was no longer a Jewish community existing in the latter town, the synagogue was moved to Jerusalem, where it is now in daily use.

TURKEY PROSECUTES NEWSPAPER FOR INCITEMENT AGAINST JEWS

ISTANBUL, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The public prosecutor of Canakkale has filed a libel suit against the Turkish daily newspaper "Anafartalar" for having published two violently anti-Semitic editorials.

The incident developed over the refusal of a Jew in Canakkale to permit the erection of a statue of Kemal Ataturk, founder and first president of the Turkish Republic, on his land. The newspaper then attacked all Jews, concluding with a threat that "the Turkish people could be more cruel than the Germans against the Jews."

Leaders of the Jewish community of Canakkale, fearing that the editorials might provoke a public reaction, appealed to the city's mayor. He assigned a police patrol to the Jewish quarter, and the public prosecutor was called into the picture. Upon application from the Jewish community, the prosecutor filed his suit against the newspaper. The trial is scheduled to open January 16, and it is expected that the newspaper will be suspended and its editor punished for the editorials.

Meanwhile, reflecting the anxiety of all Turkish Jews over these developments, the Turkish Grand Rabbinate has called the attention of the national government to the incident. The national authorities are reported to have taken a serious view of the situation.

SOVIET LEADER INVOLVED IN "DOCTOR'S PLOT" GETS IMPORTANT POST

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Semyon D. Ignatiev, former secretary of the Central Committee of the Communist Party in the USSR, who was ousted from that post in April, 1953, for his part in the "doctor's plot" frame-up, is now head of the Communist Party in the Bashkir region, in the Urals, it was revealed in the latest copy of Pravda, received here today from Moscow.

The Moscow paper carries an article by Mr. Ignatiev indicating that major oil discoveries and oil production increases in Bashkir promise to make that region the largest single source of Soviet petroleum next year. Mr. Ignatiev was apparently rehabilitated last year when he assumed the post he now holds.

PRAGUE JEWISH POPULATION DWINDLES; ONLY 1,850 JEWS REGISTERED

MUNICH, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The number of Jews registered with the ancient Prague Community, which was 36,000 in 1939 and 6,100 after the end of the Nazi occupation, is now down to 1,850, according to a report received by Radio Free Europe here.

Of the Jews who managed to remain in Prague throughout the Nazi holocaust, or who had returned there, some 2,000 were able to leave for other countries in the first few postwar years. Then the newly-established Communist regime put a virtual end to legal emigration.

In connection with the Slansky trial, many Jews were arrested and it is believed that more than 300 of them are still in jail. Subsequently, the residents of the old age home and other Jewish individuals were forcibly moved to the provinces. The inverted age structure, with its heavy preponderance of elderly people, accounts for many deaths and few births. Government employees shun identification with Jewish life. Due to all these reasons, the community's membership rolls listed only 1,863 names as of last May, the report said.

JEWS IN ITALY ASKED FOR MATERIAL ON ANTI-NAZI RESISTANCE

ROME, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The Jewish Community of Rome today invited all Rome Jews to turn over any documentary material they may possess illustrating the underground resistance to the Nazis and Fascists during World War II. The material will be turned over to a new museum devoted to the history of the liberation movement.

J. D. C. TO GIVE ORT \$1,390,000 IN 1955; NEW PACT ANNOUNCED

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee will provide \$1,390,000 during 1955 for the work of the ORT, principal agency offering vocational training to Jews overseas, under an agreement reached today by the two organizations.

The cost of vocational training programs conducted by ORT during the coming year in Europe, Israel, North Africa and other countries will be \$3,600,000. Under the terms of today's agreement, ORT will provide from other sources the difference between the amount granted by JDC and the total sum required.

The pact envisages substantially increased ORT activities in Morocco, Tunisia and Algeria to allow for an increase in enrollment at trade education centers in these countries to over 3,000 during 1955. Cooperation between ORT and JDC dates back to the 1920's.

Signing the agreement for the two agencies were Dr. Aron Syngalowski and Dr. William Haber, representing ORT, and Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the JDC. Dr. Syngalowski is chairman of the executive committee of the World ORT Union and Dr. Haber is president of the American ORT Federation.

The agreement stipulates that ORT will not conduct any independent fund-raising campaigns in the United States, but will continue its membership activities. Under similar annual agreements since 1947, JDC has provided ORT with \$10,550,000.

Other provisions of the agreement stipulate that the bulk of JDC-supported vocational training activities overseas will be carried out by ORT. JDC will continue to subsidize other economic reconstruction efforts, including loan funds, sheltered workshops and other activities not embraced by the ORT program.

AMERICAN FUND DINNER YIELDS \$200,000 FOR ISRAEL INSTITUTIONS

NEW YORK, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- A \$100 a plate dinner arranged by the American Fund for Israel Institutions tonight yielded over \$200,000 in the Fund's current drive for \$1,857,000. The dinner was given at the Waldorf Astoria in honor of Spyros P. Skouras, president of Twentieth Century Fox Film Corporation. The AFII supports and maintains a broad network of cultural, educational and artistic institutions in Israel.

Ambassador Abba Eban of Israel, who was one of the principal speakers, emphasized that despite serious tensions in the Middle East, Israel was determined to consolidate its position as a democratic nation in that strategic area of the world. He said there were no indications at the present time of any diminution in Arab hostility toward Israel, and asserted that the Jewish State will develop "its culture and its institutions, safeguard its security and its honor within the framework of this hostility."

Fund vice-president Fredric R. Mann, who recently returned from Israel, in a report on the work of the Fund, stated: "The need for making life in Israel complete, for the bolstering of its morale and for the desire to weld the population into a homogeneous whole - all these are possible through the development of culture, education and the arts as fostered by the American Fund."

Mr. Skouras was presented with two silver cups, designed and handmade by the artists of the Bezalel School, Jerusalem, a beneficiary of the American Fund. "In profound gratitude for his inspiring leadership on behalf of the cultural and artistic growth of Israel and for his deep understanding that the strength of a free civilization must be preserved and replenished by the enrichment of the mind and the spirit."

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS SEEKS CONSTITUTIONAL CHANGES IN QUEBEC

MONTREAL, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress has called for major constitutional changes in the Province of Quebec which would give Jews a voice in the administration of education and which would provide for legislation outlawing discrimination in various fields. They were submitted in a memorandum to the Royal Commission of Inquiry on Constitutional Problems of the Province of Quebec, and will be followed by an appearance of a CJC delegation before the Commission.

On the question of discrimination, the CJC memorandum urged legislation barring discrimination in employment, housing and public accommodations, although it noted that such a legislative program would have to be accompanied by an educational campaign to be effective. It referred to the successful use of anti-discrimination legislation in parts of the United States and Canada, as an argument for enactment of such measures in Quebec.

In the field of education, the memorandum noted that Jewish taxpayers have not the right to act in administrative or advisory capacities in the education of their children, nor have they a voice in the distribution of school-tax funds. It asked that Jews be given the right to act within the administrative set-up which receives tax funds. In this province the government turns over school funds to parochial schools which provide public education.

DR. OPPENHEIMER SCORES IMMIGRATION LAWS; CALLS THEM "GROTESQUE"

NEW YORK, Jan. 3. (JTA) -- The immigration regulations of the McCarran-Walter Act were termed last night "fantastic and grotesque" by Dr. J. Robert Oppenheimer, noted atomic scientist and director of the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J. He pointed out that under these regulations, "perhaps not even" Prof. Albert Einstein could have been admitted to the United States. He expressed these views in a television interview with Edward R. Murrow.

Dr. Oppenheimer said that, in addition to being ashamed by Europe's contempt, "we are rightly ashamed that we can't hold congresses in this country, that we can't, often don't, let people go to congresses where they're most wanted." The scientist pressed strongly for free communication between men instead of barriers that barred exchanges of knowledge.

PERON NAMES ARGENTINE JEWISH LEADER TO DIPLOMATIC POST

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 5. (JTA) -- On instructions from President Peron, Dr. Ezequiel Jabotinsky, head of the pro-Peronist Organizacion Israelita Argentina, has been named to a diplomatic post in the Argentine foreign service. Although Dr. Jabotinsky's appointment to a specific post has not yet been announced, he has been given a commission as Minister Plenipotentiary and Envoy Extraordinary.

Dr. Jabotinsky, a 36-year-old lawyer, has been active in Jewish matters and last year travelled to Germany to help select 100 Jewish families from the DP camp at Foehrenwald, near Munich, for immigration to Argentina. Prior to his sailing, he had obtained from President Peron the necessary visas for admission of the Jewish BPs.

NEW YORK GOVERNOR SEEKS WIDER POWERS FOR ANTI-BIAS COMMISSION

ALBANY, N. Y., Jan. 5. (JTA) -- Governor Averell Harriman, in his first message today to the New York State Legislature, urged that the State Commission Against Discrimination be given the power to initiate investigations. The commission is now permitted to act only when complaints are filed.