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KNESSET VOTES CONFIDENCE IN CABINET; HERUTH MOTION REJECTED

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The Israel Government won a confidence vote in Parliament tonight after the rightwing Herut attacked it and introduced a motion of non-confidence. The vote upholding the Sharet Government was 66 for, seven against and 12 abstentions. The leftist Mapam and Achdut Avodah parties and the Communists abstained.

The Herut charged that the government was maintaining a "defeatist" policy, retreating on such political issues as the Bat Galim case and the Syrian capture and detention of five Israel soldiers. During the debate, the parties which later abstained explained that they would not vote with the Herut because they opposed it, although they did not approve of the government policies.

GOLDMANN REPORTS TO JEWISH AGENCY ON RELATIONS WITH NON-ZIONISTS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- The relations between Zionist and non-Zionist groups abroad, especially in the United States, were dwelt upon today by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency, in a report which he made at the opening of the plenary session of the Agency's executive here.

Dr. Goldmann outlined a plan for closer cooperation of all groups desiring to help Israel. He suggested that the Zionist organization be built on a territorial basis with larger representation in the Zionist Actions Committee for organizations from abroad. With regard to the reorganization of the Jewish Agency, he proposed that the American section of the Agency should remain. He also suggested that the number of members on the Agency's executive in Jerusalem should be reduced. At the same time, he urged that the Agency be built about a broad coalition.

"Ways must be sought to include representatives of European and Latin American countries within the Jewish Agency," Dr. Goldmann stated. He recommended that the number of portfolios in the Agency should remain the same, but should be distributed among a smaller number of executive members. The other members of the executive should hold no portfolio, although they should remain as full-fledged members.

Dr. Goldmann also reported on his talks with leaders of the various Zionist groups aimed at the clarification of certain problems within the Zionist organization in preparation for the convocation of the forthcoming World Zionist Congress. His talks concerned the relations between the Zionist organization and the Jewish State.

The Jewish Agency chairman spoke of the necessity to maintain a joint board for the purpose of coordinating the activities of the Jewish Agency and the Israel Government within Israel, and of the need for establishing closer contact between Israel's representatives abroad and the representatives of the Agency.

Dr. Goldmann spoke also of Zionist work in the countries outside of Israel and of the encouragement which must be given the Chalutz movement in these countries and to emigration from these countries to Israel.

EISENHOWER WILL REQUEST AID FOR ISRAEL IN FISCAL YEAR 1956

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower, in his budget message for 1956, today called on Congress to approve a continuation of foreign aid and specified Israel among countries for which he will request funds in the fiscal year 1956. It was indicated that foreign aid will be less than was granted in the previous fiscal year.

The President said: "In the Middle East and Africa, we have provided some grant and loan assistance to promote economic development and political stability, and will request funds to continue this type of assistance in the fiscal year 1956. This assistance has gone to Iraq, Israel, Lebanon, Jordan, Egypt, and Libya."

In a review of international affairs, the President did not refer specifically to Arab-Israel tension but did say that the Executive Department was "placing emphasis on revision of our several international programs to give appropriate attention to the important trouble spots around the world today."

Commenting on the military assistance program, Mr. Eisenhower mentioned the Near East as an area to receive military aid. "Direct forces support will continue to be a significant part of the Mutual Security program for so long as the security of the free world requires that large forces be maintained in Asia and the Near East," he said.

The President expressed confidence that the Emergency Refugee Act of 1953 will be successfully implemented before its expiration date. The Act provides for admission of 214,000 persons beyond the regular immigration quotas before December 31, 1956. Approximately 17,000 visas have been granted to date.

Mr. Eisenhower recommended continued U.S. support of those programs and international agencies through which funds have been made available for relief, rehabilitation, and resettlement of escapees, refugees, and other special groups. These agencies include the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, and the United Nations agencies for Palestine refugees.

JOHNSTON SEES EISENHOWER ON ISRAEL-ARAB WATER COOPERATION PLAN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower gave final instructions today to his special envoy Eric Johnston who will leave by air on January 23 for Israel in pursuit of regional water cooperation between the Arab states and Israel.

Mr. Johnston, who reported to the President at the White House, said that he will spend a week in Israel before proceeding to the Arab states. He will confer with Israel authorities on the morning of January 26. From Israel he will go to Egypt and from there to Jordan. His next stops will be Lebanon, then Syria.

The chances for success, said Mr. Johnston, were "about the same." He said his attitude on departure is one of "restrained optimism" and that there is "some reason for some hope." He stressed that he will do his best to bring about an agreement although he said he may not be able to do it on this trip. This is his third visit to the Near East on this mission.

Ambassador Johnston said that since his last trip in July new surveys have been reported and that "now we can talk completely factually." The new information, he stated, indicated slightly more water. The principle points which remain to argue were listed by Mr. Johnston to include the questions of the amount of water to be divided, the selection of a neutral authority to oversee water delivery, the question of storage and what the states can do with the water.

Before calling at the White House today, Dr. Johnston consulted with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, Foreign Operations Administrator Harold E. Stassen, members of the Senate and House Foreign Affairs Committees, and the Ambassadors of the states involved, including the Ambassador of Israel. The main goal of the plan, he said, is to work toward Arab-Israel peace by developing water and power which would help put back on the land Arab refugees now in refugee camps.

ISRAEL CABINET DISCUSSES SITUATION ON SYRIAN FRONTIER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 17, (JTA) -- Israel will reject any division of administrative authority in the demilitarized zone along the Israel-Syrian border, such as proposed by Gen. E. L. M. Burns, United Nations truce supervisor, it was learned here after last night's meeting of the Israel Cabinet.

The Cabinet heard reports on the situation along the Syrian frontier, including the capture and imprisonment of a five-man military patrol, one of whose members committed suicide in a Damascus prison last week. The Ministers also discussed Gen. Burns' proposal to divide the demilitarized zone between Israel and Syria and the Security Council's discussion of the Israel complaint on the Egyptian seizure of the Bat Galim.

The Israel view of the Burns plan is that it will not agree to any proposal which will put Syrians in administrative control of the demilitarized zone, no matter how temporary the control is. At present, Israel administers the zone alone, since none of the demilitarized area lies within Syria. At present, any dispute about the zone is discussed between Israel representatives and the UN chairman of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission. The reason for such a special set-up is to exclude Syria, which is represented on the full MAC, from a voice in the administration of the zone.

The Israel view is that Gen. Burns' proposal disregards the special nature of the zone and the special nature of the set-up for handling problems in the area. The special committee was provided for in the Israel-Syrian armistice agreement.

Israel Charges Syrian Troops with Provocative Acts

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17, (JTA) -- Syrian troops along the Israel-Syrian border have been responsible for a number of provocative acts this week-end against Israel territory and Israelis, an Israel military spokesman charged here last night.

The spokesman revealed that beginning with Friday, Syrian troops have: attempted to kidnap a member of Kibbutz Szold; fired on an Israel vessel on Lake Huleh; fired on a shepherd tending a flock of sheep belonging to Kibbutz Gonen, and fired on fishing boats belonging to Kibbutz Gonen. The kidnapping was foiled by the arrival of armed settlers and the indiscriminate shooting caused no casualties. Israel has complained about each of these incidents to the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission.

AMBASSADOR EBAN CONFERS WITH EISENHOWER'S AIDE ON ATOMIC ENERGY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 17, (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban has conferred with Moorhead Patterson, President Eisenhower's special representative on peaceful uses of atomic energy. It is presumed here that the matters discussed included Israel's participation in the international atomic energy agency and in the worldwide conference envisaged by the recent United Nations resolution on that subject, as well as opportunities for nuclear training of Israel researchers in this country.

The Israel Embassy had no official comment on the conference, but the attitude of United States officials was said to have been very cooperative. Ambassador Eban was accompanied at the conference by Reuven Shiloh, Minister Plenipotentiary, and Dr. Victor Salkind, the Embassy's scientific attache. Also present at the conference were officials of the State Department.

10,000 PARTICIPATE IN PILGRIMAGE TO MAIMONIDES' TOMB

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17, (JTA) -- The first mass observance of "Rambam Year" was marked today when more than 10,000 persons participated in a pilgrimage to the tomb of Rabbi Moses Ben Maimon, medieval Jewish philosopher-scientist, in Tiberias. Present at the tomb were Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog, members of the Cabinet, and of Parliament. The entire city of Tiberias was decked out for the event.

U.S. PROPOSES WORLDWIDE STUDY OF RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 17. (JTA) -- A proposal that the United Nations undertake, for the first time in world history, a comprehensive study of discrimination against religious rights and practices of all peoples, was made here today by Justice Philip Halpern, United States expert on the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

The subcommission, a unit of the Commission on Human Rights, has been meeting here for the last two weeks. Justice Halpern, an associate justice of the Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court and a member of the national boards of the Jewish Welfare Board and the Joint Defense Appeal, is one of the 12 experts from as many countries who make up the subcommission.

Justice Halpern's report, submitted this morning, took its place as the most controversial item thus far reached on the subcommission's agenda. In diplomatic but firm language, A. A. Fomin, the Soviet expert on the body, attacked portions of Justice Halpern's report. Mr. Fomin objected particularly to references made by the American jurist to the need for investigating countries where "militant atheism" tries to discriminate against religious practices, and lands where "ideological opposition" attempts to suppress all religions.

Mr. Fomin centered his fire on one paragraph in the Halpern report which suggests that a full study of religious discrimination might avail itself of testimony from "escapees."

The Halpern report as a whole was heartily approved by the experts from the Western countries. However, two of them--Prof. C. Richard Hicocks of Britain and Pierre Chatenet of France--tried to bridge the chasm between the Soviet and the American experts by hinting that the "escapee" proposal might be dropped without harming the intentions voiced by the American.

Anti-Shechita Legislation Criticized at U. N. by Agudah Leader

One section of Justice Halpern's report elicited particularly warm interest among the representatives of a number of Jewish non-governmental organizations attending the subcommission's sessions. That section would authorize a study of discriminatory practices in some countries which charge that certain religious practices are contrary to "public safety, order, health or morals." The Jewish representatives saw in this section a study aimed at prohibition of Jewish ritual slaughter--shechita--in some countries.

One of the first speakers supporting the Halpern allusion to anti-shechita legislation was Dr. Isaac Lewin, representative of the Agudas Israel World Organization. Dr. Lewin pointed out that the Nazis started out by prohibiting Jewish ritual slaughter--only to end up slaughtering Jews. He insisted that "to prohibit shechita is equivalent to cruelly depriving religious Jews of meat." He urged the subcommission to adopt the Halpern report.

Among other fundamental freedoms of importance to Jews under discussion before the subcommission--in addition to the freedom to practice shechita--is the freedom to emigrate from countries where Jews are virtual prisoners. When the subcommission reaches a report dealing with emigration and immigration, it is expected that representatives of Jewish organizations will insist on naming some of the Arab countries and countries in the Soviet bloc, especially Rumania.

Among representatives of Jewish organizations at the session, beside the Agudah, are the World Jewish Congress; Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations--a trinational group representing the American Jewish Committee, Anglo-Jewish Association and Alliance Israelite Universelle; and Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations--composed of the B'nai B'rith, Board of Deputies of British Jews and South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

JEWISH STUDENTS IN TUNIS URGED TO SUPPORT MOSLEM DEMANDS

TUNIS, Jan. 17, (JTA) -- The General Union of Tunisian Students called on Jewish students here today to support their Moslem colleagues "in the interests of the Tunisian nation and its youth."

Habib Bourguiba, leader of the nationalist Neo-Destour Party, received a delegation of Jewish students here with whom he discussed the political situation. He assured them that an independent Tunisia would not countenance discrimination among citizens of various faiths.

NEW SHECHITA BILL IN BRITAIN MAY DEPRIVE JEWS OF KOSHER MEAT

LONDON, Jan. 17, (JTA) -- The Jewish population of Britain may be without kosher meat if a bill to change the manner of slaughtering animals is passed next April when the measure is scheduled to receive its second reading in Parliament. Dr. Abraham Cohen, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, stressed today.

Speaking at a meeting of the Board, Dr. Cohen noted that the bill would require that the animal be stunned before slaughter, a procedure which would violate Jewish law and render the animal useless as food for Orthodox Jews. Both Dr. Cohen and E. Zeitlyn, chairman of the Board's shechita committee, called the present threat to Jewish ritual slaughter more menacing than previous forms of anti-shechita agitation.

Dr. Cohen underlined that such a precedent in Britain might have worldwide repercussions. The British Government's outlawing of Jewish ritual slaughter methods would certainly be regarded as a precedent by other countries, he predicted.

POLISH GOVERNMENT WILL PERMIT EMIGRATION OF JEWS, ENVOY SAYS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 17, (JTA) -- The Polish authorities will give sympathetic consideration to the request of any Jews who want to leave Poland to be reunited with members of their family or who want to go to the Jewish State for spiritual reasons, Z. Wolniak, the new Polish Minister to Israel, declared here last night.

Mr. Wolniak made his remarks at a reception given in his honor by the Israel-Polish Friendship League. The Minister also said that Jews helped build up the new Poland. He was welcomed to Israel on behalf of the League by Anselm Reiss, president of the group and a member of the Israel executive of the World Jewish Congress.

RECOVERY OF HEIRLESS PROPERTY NEARS COMPLETION IN U.S. ZONE

FRANKFURT, Jan. 17, (JTA) -- Headquarters in Germany of the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, which since its establishment in 1948 were located in Nuremberg, have been moved to Frankfurt.

The only other West German branch office, in Mannheim, will be closed in March. This means that the JRSO, formed with Allied approval by the major Jewish world organizations so as to recover all heirless Jewish assets, and incorporated in New York, has concluded the bulk of its activities in the American Zone. Cases still pending are not expected to yield revenue in excess of \$250,000.

RABBI JACOB KAPLAN ELECTED GRAND RABBI OF FRANCE

PARIS, Jan. 17, (JTA) -- Rabbi Jacob Kaplan was elected Grand Rabbi of France here last night at a meeting of the Consistoire called especially for the purpose of electing a successor to the late Grand Rabbi Isaac Schwartz, who died in July 1952. Rabbi Kaplan has been Acting Grand Rabbi of France since the vacancy of the post and is also Grand Rabbi of Paris.

SOBELOFF URGES MAXIMUM SUPPORT TO JEWISH FEDERATIONS

CHICAGO, Jan. 17. (JTA) -- American Jews were urged by Simon E. Sobeloff, Solicitor General of the United States, to give maximum support to the work of the Jewish Federations which, he said, were "the expression of a spirit that we rightly think of as Jewish but which has become part of the tradition we hold in common with our Christian neighbors." He spoke at the 55th annual meeting of the Jewish Federation of Chicago.

"The question," he said, "is sometimes raised, why have separate Jewish charities? Those who ask this overlook the fact that traditionally in this country certain social services, notably hospitals and educational institutions, have been developed under sectarian sponsorship. Moreover, there are certain distinctive Jewish needs. When approached for distinctly Jewish purposes such as Jewish education or aid to Israel the same people are likely to raise the question whether, being Americans, we are morally bound to these causes--indeed, a few are beset by doubts whether our American loyalty does not conflict.

"American loyalty, Mr. Sobeloff pointed out, "does not demand of Americans that they shall suppress the natural promptings of their hearts in philanthropy or in cultural or religious affiliations or activity. Nationalism, as America defines it, is not like that of the totalitarian regimes. American nationalism makes its demands of complete political loyalty, which we meet willingly in common with our fellow citizens. American patriotism, however, does not seek to stifle diversities in religion or the associated diversities in ancestral traditions and group living."

The U.S. Solicitor General emphasized that "no Jew is really secure if he finds it necessary to look over his shoulder, as it were, to see whether his Jewishness is showing; if he has to say to himself, 'Now, you are being too Jewish.' He is truly secure if he feels entirely free in regard to his Jewishness and takes it in his stride with no more embarrassment or trepidation than a Methodist feels, or a Quaker. A man is free inwardly as well as outwardly when he feels that he can be himself without fear or apology and without need to deny his identity or to camouflage it or distort it to please his neighbors," Mr. Sobeloff said.

Advocates "Comprehensive and Dynamic" Jewish Life

Mr. Sobeloff expressed the conviction that if Jews in the United States are to achieve the full measure of their possibilities, they must envisage a community interest that is "comprehensive and dynamic. "Fund raising for overseas has indeed an important claim upon us, for what happens to Jews abroad may, as we have unhappily experienced, directly affect us here. But no one has the right, on the other hand, to behave as though foreign aid does not in the final analysis depend on the soundness and vigor of our American communities," he stated, "These are the source from which all our causes are nourished.

"Likewise within our borders, man does not live by bread alone, but neither can he live without bread. Important as Jewish education is--and I have devoted much effort to promote it--it is no substitute for the due support of our programs for family welfare, for aid to dependent children, for care of the aged, for vocational guidance of our youth. A wholesome community takes account of them all, and the statesmanlike member of a Jewish community knows that none of them is superfluous," Mr. Sobeloff declared.

Speaking concretely of the role of the Jewish Federations in American Jewish life, the Solicitor General said: "Federations could be established and grow in strength only because those who created them wanted to find, and succeeded in finding, a basis of unity for important and concrete objectives among a highly diversified Jewish population, differing in time of immigration, in the extent of Americanization, in religious views, and in social and economic interests."