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ISRAEL PROTESTS AGAINST TRIAL OF ISRAEL SOLDIERS IN SYRIA

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Israel protested today to Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, against Syria's decision to try four surviving members of a five-man Israel military patrol captured by the Syrians last December and imprisoned since then. The fifth member of the patrol, Pvt. Uri Han, committed suicide last week in a solitary confinement cell of a prison in Damascus.

Lt. Col. Arieh Shalev, Israel delegate to the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, met with Gen. Burns to press for an emergency session of the MAC to enforce the decision of the MAC that the Israel soldiers be classified as prisoners of war and released immediately. As for trying the men, Col. Shalev said, this would be a violation of the Geneva Convention on the treatment of prisoners of war. The convention only permits their trial if they were captured in civilian clothes or if they attempted to break out of detention.

The UN chairman of the MAC, Col. J. Costanguay, has not acted on the Israel demand for an emergency meeting, pointing out that Syrian opposition has prevented his carrying out an investigation of the conditions under which the men are being held.

Opposes Restriction of Israel's Rights in Demilitarized Zone

In Jerusalem, Dr. Walter Eytan, director general of the Israel Foreign Ministry, informed Gen. Burns today that Israel will oppose any restriction of her rights in the demilitarized zone on the Israel-Syrian frontier. Gen. Burns had recommended a sharing of administrative control in the zone, which lies entirely within Israel territory.

Dr. Eytan pointed out that under the terms of the armistice agreement Israel has attempted to develop the economic resources of the demilitarized zone, but that in 1949 and 1950 Syria took political and military action to prevent such development. Dr. Eytan took issue with Gen. Burns' suggestion that the problem could be solved by a partition of the demilitarized zone.

He termed "unwarranted" Gen. Burns' statement that the principal reason why the MAC's authority is unoperative in the zone is because Israel claims sovereignty and polices parts of the area. Dr. Eytan said that no matter what interpretation is placed on the passages of the armistice pact outlining Israel's rights and status in the zone, it was "clear beyond a doubt" that the agreement confers no rights on Syria in respect to that zone.

Two Jewish tractor operators were found murdered today in fields adjoining the Ajour settlement, south of Jerusalem. The murders occurred near Mevoot Beitair, scene of many recent clashes between Jordanian infiltrators and Israelis. Tracks from the scene of the killings lead to the Jordanian frontier. UN observers are now on the scene. The dead men were identified as Zvi Eidmann and Eliezer Katz, both formerly of Argentina.

ISRAEL URGES U. N. TRUCE CHIEF TO ACT ON RELEASE OF "BAT GALIM"

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18, (JTA) -- Israel today called upon Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, to take the initiative in bringing Israel and Egypt together to discuss practical measures to implement the Security Council's orders in reference to the release of the Bat Galim, the Israel freighter seized by Egypt in Suez waters last September.

Dr. Walter Eytan, director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, summoned Gen. Burns to the Foreign Office and told him that Israel accepts the summation of the Bat Galim case made at the Security Council meeting of January 13--when Sir Leslie Knox Munro of New Zealand, Council president, noted that the majority of the Council felt that the 1951 resolution ordering Egypt to keep the Suez Canal open to Israel shipping was still in force.

Dr. Eytan called Gen. Burns' attention to the fact that in the summation it was stated that he could offer his good offices to help settle the problem in accordance with the Council's instructions. He added that Israel was ready to discuss with Egypt all practical measures for the release of the Bat Galim and its passage through the Suez Canal, since no other arrangement would fit in with the Council's decision of 1951 and with Sir Leslie's summation. He noted that any other solution would also violate the decisions of the Israel-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission.

RUMANIA RELEASES TWO ZIONIST LEADERS; REDUCES THEIR SENTENCES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18, (JTA) -- Two important Rumanian Zionist leaders have been released from prison following a decision by the Rumanian Supreme Court cutting heavy sentences imposed on them by a military tribunal, it was reported here today. They had been convicted of contact with Jewish organizations abroad and with carrying on Zionist activities.

The high court reduced two fifteen-year sentences to ten months each on appeals by the Zionist leaders--Jean Littman and Suzanne Benvenisti. Since both had already served more time in prison than that, they were released immediately. The high court's decision was handed down last Friday.

Authoritative circles here noted with satisfaction that this was the first instance of the Rumanian Supreme Court overruling a military tribunal and materially reducing a sentence imposed by such a court. These same circles were extremely cautious in interpreting the meaning of this action, but when asked whether this might indicate a new approach by the Rumanian Government to the Zionists, said: "We hope so."

MIZRACHI AND HAPOEL HAMIZRACHI ANNOUNCE DECISION TO MERGE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18, (JTA) -- The Israel Mizrahi and Hapoel Hamizrachi decided late last night on a merger of the two parties in Israel and in all other countries. In Israel the united party will be known as Hapoel Hamizrachi V'Hamizrachi, while in other countries it will be known as the Mizrahi V'Hapoel Hamizrachi Party.

The united group in Israel will deal with all problems of politics, religion, education and culture on the national and local levels. The Mizrahi labor movement will remain independent only in respect to labor activities and to the settlements established by it.

Throughout the world the merger will be complete on the adult and on the youth level, with the only religious Zionist youth group being the Bnei Akiva. The world movement will be administered by the Mizrahi World Organization.

EISENHOWER NAMES JEWISH LEADER TO HEAD ANTI-BIAS COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, (JTA) -- President Eisenhower today appointed Maxwell Abbell, Chicago Jewish leader, as chairman of a newly-created five-member committee to prevent discrimination in hiring and firing procedures against government workers on a basis of religion, race, or national origin.

The formation of the new committee was announced by the White House today. A Presidential order directed the committee to report directly to the President. The new unit replaces the Civil Service Commission's Fair Employment Board which reported to the Commission.

A White House statement said the committee to be headed by Mr. Abbell, established at a Presidential level, will have increased stature over the old Fair Employment Board. James C. Hagerty, White House Press Secretary, said the "increased stature" would result from the new group reporting directly to Mr. Eisenhower. The Fair Employment Board abolished by today's order was created by President Truman in July, 1948.

Mr. Abbell is a former president of the United Synagogue of America, central organization of the Conservative movement, and is vice-president of the American-Palestine Trading Corp. He supported the candidacy of Mr. Eisenhower in the 1952 election campaign. Other members of the new committee include Archibald J. Carey, Jr., vice-chairman, and J. Ernest Wilkins, Assistant Secretary of Labor; W. Arthur McCoy, Civil Service Commission, and Charles Kendall, general counsel of the Office of Defense Organization.

The executive order extends authority to conduct investigations and advise Mr. Eisenhower on how the various Federal agencies conform to the non-discrimination clause set forth. The order directs all Federal agency heads to carry out the non-discrimination policy within their organizations, appoint an employment policy officer for each Federal Agency, and to report to the Presidential Committee all complaints regarding the Department's action under the policy and disposition of them.

President's Committee Issues Instructions on Racial Complaints

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, (JTA) -- The President's Committee on Government Contracts today issued a booklet containing instructions on procedures for filing complaints where racial discrimination is alleged in work done on Federal contracts.

While emphasizing that the committee expects contractors to comply with the non-discrimination clause in Federal contracts this publication states that it recognizes there will be complaints of violations. The purpose of this publication is to facilitate the handling of any complaints of discrimination which may arise in connection with any Federal activities.

Complaints may be filed in writing with the President's Committee on Government Contracts in Washington by any individual or organization with knowledge of the failure of a contractor to comply with the non-discrimination clause in his contract.

The complaint should include the name and address of the complainant, the name of the contractor, the nature of the alleged discriminatory action and should provide as detailed a description of the circumstances as possible. On receipt of the complaint the President's committee forwards it to the appropriate government contracting agency for investigation and correction of any violations. Both the complainant and the contractor are to be notified on the conclusion of the proceedings.

Ten Bills Against Discrimination to be Presented to Congress

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18, (JTA) -- Calling for "equal treatment, fair play and an end to discrimination against our Americans because of their race, religion, color or national origin," Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today announced he would join with other colleagues in introducing a ten-point legislative program for human rights to the 84th Congress. "We are presenting a series of ten bills in the hope that the Congress will see fit to act on as many of them as can receive support from a majority," Senator Humphrey said.

U. N. BODY TAKES UP REPORT ON DISCRIMINATION IN EMIGRATION

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Another subject of interest to Jewish organizations represented here today came on the agenda of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities when Jose D. Ingles of the Philippines presented a report on discrimination in emigration, immigration and travel. The Jewish groups are particularly interested in this subject because of restrictions on emigration from countries in the Soviet bloc and from Arab states.

A plea that the study of religious discrimination, if it is undertaken by the Subcommittee, focus sharply on the specific religious aspect of denial of rights, was made before the Subcommittee by Moses Moskowitz, representative of the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations. He backed in principle the suggested study of religious discrimination proposed by Justice Philip Halpern, American expert on the Subcommittee.

Mr. Moskowitz warned, however, that specific practices of specific religious groups must be examined from the viewpoint of discrimination. He pointed to the need to watch whether Jews are prohibited from practicing their slaughtering rites. He also warned that in some instances discrimination which appears to be motivated by religious prejudice may in fact be due to other causes, such as racial or political persecution.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES URGED TO RE-EXAMINE THEIR CAMPAIGN METHODS

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Intense interest in developing plans to conduct more effective Jewish community campaigns in 1955 was shown here by 160 delegates from 19 cities who attended the annual assembly of the Western States Region of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

Representing communities in ten Western states and Western Canada, the delegates adopted resolutions urging communities to re-examine their campaign structures and techniques and take effective steps to strengthen central community organizations; establish effective policies for dealing with independent appeals; and develop planned programs for recruiting and training new leadership.

They also reaffirmed the action of the national General Assembly in calling on the United States Government to "refrain from arming the Arab states and to take measures to promote peace in the Middle East." Howard W. Pesky, Oakland, was re-elected president of the Western States Region at the concluding session of the three-day conference.

Albert Abrahamson, professor of economics at Bowdoin College, Maine, and Arnold Gurin of New York, director of field service for the CJFWP, were the principal speakers. Professor Abrahamson presented an analysis of the current situation in Israel. He reviewed the new problems of defense and immigration confronting Israel as well as the progress made in its economic program.

Arnold Gurin, who served as consultant at a special "clinic" on campaign problems, analyzed recent developments nationally and stressed the need for strengthening central community organizations to meet Jewish philanthropic needs. The delegates developed concrete guides for improved operations.

AMBASSADOR EBAN TO EXPRESS ISRAEL'S APPRECIATION TO WARBURG

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban will be among the principal speakers at the testimonial dinner which will be tendered to Edward M. M. Warburg, president of the United Jewish Appeal, this Saturday, it was announced here today. The other noted speakers will include Paul G. Hoffman, former Administrator of Marshall Plan aid; Senator Herbert H. Lehman, and Louis Brandeis.

ANTI-SEMITISM NEGLIGIBLE IN LATIN AMERICA, JEWISH LEADER REPORTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 18, (JTA) -- With a few exceptions, anti-Semitism is now a negligible factor in the Latin American countries, Aron Neumann, editor and publisher of "Aonde Vamos," widely-read Jewish weekly magazine published in Portuguese in Rio de Janeiro, declared here today upon his arrival in the United States.

Mr. Neumann stressed, however, that certain Arab groups in Latin America, backed by elements from abroad, are attempting to foment anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism and to poison the friendly relations that have existed between Jews and Arabs locally for many years.

Active in the Zionist movement in Brazil, Mr. Neumann asserted the 800,000 Jews in the countries of Latin America are anxious to maintain close contact with the Jewish communities in the United States and Israel. He said that many good Jewish schools can be found in the Latin American countries, but they suffer from a lack of teachers and textbooks. There is a need for the establishment of a Jewish teachers seminary in Latin America, or even a Jewish university, to provide teachers and intellectual workers for the Jewish communities, he emphasized.

Deeply interested in cementing unity among all the Jewish communities in Latin America, Mr. Neumann is now promoting a plan for issuing a special Spanish edition of his weekly for distribution in all 20 Latin American countries. The Spanish editions would reflect the life of the Jews in these countries. It is in this connection that he visited a number of countries en route from Brazil to the United States. While in New York he secured the cooperation of "Newsweek," one of the largest American weekly magazines, to help him get acquainted with the intricacies of a modern publication.

During his stay in this country, Mr. Neumann will confer with prominent Zionist and non-Zionist leaders and will visit Jewish institutions. "The majority of the Jews in the Latin American countries," he said, "have strong Zionist feelings and are attached to Israel not by philanthropic contributions alone. In most of the countries, the economic situation of the Jews is very satisfactory, he reported.

PERON RECEIVES ISRAEL DIPLOMATS; REITERATES PRO-ISRAEL STAND

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 18, (JTA) -- Moshe Tov, Israel Ambassador Extraordinary, was received in audience today by President Juan Peron. Mr. Tov, who was accompanied by Dr. Arieh Kubovi, Israel Minister to Argentina, conveyed to General Peron the personal greetings of President Itzhak Ben Zvi and Premier Moshe Sharett.

The President reiterated his expressions of friendship for the State of Israel. Angel Borlenghi, Acting Foreign Minister of Argentina, who was present during the meeting, informed Mr. Tov of President Peron's decision to plant a grove of trees along the road to Buenos Aires' airport in honor of the late Chaim Weizmann, first President of Israel.

JEWS IN ECUADOR THANK DELEGATE TO U. N. FOR HIS INTERVENTION

QUITO, Ecuador, Jan. 18, (JTA) -- A delegation of Ecuadorean Jews visited Dr. José Vicente Trujillo, Ecuador's delegate to the United Nations, today to thank him for his recent intervention with the Egyptian UN delegate in behalf of the 12 Egyptian Jews tried in Cairo on charges of "espionage" for Israel.

Dr. Trujillo, who undertook the approach on behalf of all the Latin American delegates without official instructions from his government, told the Jewish delegation that he was happy to intervene in behalf of justice. The delegation included Bela Fisch, Kurt Lenk and Dr. Sigfrido Schwind.

NEW YORK MAYOR INVITED TO INAUGURATE "NEW YORK BLVD" IN NATHANYA

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Mayor Robert Wagner today became an "honorary patron" of the Second World Assembly of Jewish Choirs which is scheduled to open in Israel on August 5, 1955, during a reception for Mayor Oved Ben Ami of Nathanya, Israel, held at New York's City Hall.

Mayor Ben Ami, who is chairman of the executive committee of the World Zimriya, sponsors of the choir assembly, presented Mayor Wagner with an illuminated edition of King Solomon's "Song of Songs" which was printed in Israel. The New York Mayor acknowledged "with gratitude" an invitation from Mayor Ben Ami to attend the choir festival in Israel during August, as well as a mayor-to-mayor invitation to participate in the inauguration of "New York Boulevard" which is scheduled to take place in Nathanya at the same time as the music assembly.

Aaron Z. Propes, executive director of the World Song Festival, told Mayor Wagner that "fifteen choirs numbering about 500 voices will represent the American Jewish community at the festival." He added that March 1 has been set as the deadline for the registration of choir delegates.

ISRAEL SENDS TORAH TO SEPHARDIC JEWS IN MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA

MONTGOMERY, Ala., Jan. 18. (JTA) -- In response to a request from the Jewish community here the Israel Government has presented a "Sefer Torah" which, like the majority of Montgomery's Sephardic Jews, originated on the island of Rhodes, in the Dodecanese.

Mordecai Shalev, Second Secretary of the Israel Embassy in Washington, came to Montgomery to present the scroll on behalf of Israel. Rhodes was once the seat of a flourishing Jewish community, most of whose members left during the Mussolini regime. Some of the Torah scrolls were taken to Israel for safekeeping. When the Jews left Rhodes, a considerable number made their way to the United States and took up residence in Montgomery, capital of Alabama.

"HERZL SABBATH" SET FOR FEB. 12 IN U.S.; RABBIS TO DEVOTE SERMONS

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The American Zionist Council and the Jewish Agency today designated Saturday, February 12, Herzl Sabbath, as part of a worldwide commemoration of the death of Theodor Herzl, founder of modern Zionism, fifty years ago.

Mrs. Rose Halprin, chairman of the joint Herzl committee of the two organizations, said that rabbis of 2,200 congregations throughout the United States have been requested to devote their sermons on that day to Dr. Herzl and to arrange special events by their Hebrew schools and adult education groups.

JOSEPH HEFTMAN, ISRAEL EDITOR AND GENERAL ZIONIST LEADER, DEAD

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Joseph Heftman, editor of the daily newspaper, "Haboker," and a member of the General Zionist Party's executive council, died here last night following a heart attack. He was 67.

Mr. Heftman, who was born in Poland, was a leader of Polish Jewry before coming to Israel, serving on the Warsaw Jewish Community Council. In Palestine he was elected the first secretary general of the Vaad Leumi in 1924. In recent years he was chairman of the Israel Journalists Association.

Thousands of persons participated in the funeral which took place today. Chief Rabbi I. J. Unterman of Tel Aviv delivered the eulogy. The speakers included Salman Bazar, member of the Jewish Agency executive; Mayor A. Levanon of Tel Aviv and Dr. Peretz Bernstein, member of the Israel Cabinet and leader of the General Zionist Party.