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ISRAEL CABINET DISCUSSES CAIRO VERDICT; PROTEST MEETINGS HELD

JERUSALEM, Jan. 30. (JTA)-- The Israel Cabinet today discussed the verdict issued by the Egyptian military court in Cairo sentencing two Jews to death and six others to long terms of imprisonment on charges of "spying" for Israel.

Protest meetings against the Cairo verdict were held today in all parts of Israel, with speakers calling on the Egyptian Government to commute the sentences and not to increase further the tension between Israel and Egypt.

A public defense committee organized in behalf of the Jewish defendants last month, and composed of representatives of every shade of political opinion in Israel, issued a statement today calling the Cairo sentences "vindictive" and labeling them "a travesty on justice." These "inflammatory sentences" will have an effect on the Israel and Egyptian peoples which will be "felt for many a long year," the statement said.

Asserting that the ruling regime, headed by Premier Gamel Nasser, bears the "gravest responsibility" for the trial and for any blood spilled under his orders, the defense committee urged Col. Nasser to "show wisdom and mercy alike by commuting these cruel sentences which, if carried out, must redound to the everlasting shame of his government and his country."

(In Paris, the executive committee of the World Jewish Congress asked Egypt to commute the death sentences of the two convicted men. In Rome, the Union of Jewish Communities and Rabbinical Council issued an appeal to the Italian people requesting intervention "in the most appropriate forms with those on whose final decision the destiny of life or death for two human beings depends.")

U.S. Taking "Appropriate Action" on Cairo Sentences

WASHINGTON, Jan. 30. (JTA)-- A State Department spokesman stated today that the trial of the Jews in Cairo and the sentences announced in connection therewith is a matter of internal Egyptian legal process on which the U.S. Government has no comment. "I might add, however," said the spokesman, "that we have given the subject careful thought and have taken that action which we consider to be appropriate under the circumstances." No indication was given as to what the "action" mentioned may have been.

(A number of Latin American diplomats at the United Nations were understood to have informed Omar Loutfi, acting chairman of the Egyptian delegation, that the South Americans are shocked by the sentences against the Jews in Cairo and hope the death sentences, at least, will be commuted.)

GOLDMANN GIVES ONE-WEEK WARNING TO AUSTRIA ON JEWISH CLAIMS

PARIS, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- Unless the Austrian Government makes an adequate offer to the Committee on Jewish Claims on Austria in settlement of world Jewish restitution demands before the February 7th meeting of the Jewish claims conference here, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the conference, will recommend that the Austro-Jewish talks be broken off by the Jews.

Dr. Goldmann, who is also president of the World Jewish Congress, told this to the three-day meeting here this week-end of the WJC executive. "We have reached the stage," he continued, "where we may very soon consider it undignified to continue negotiations with the Austrian Government. These negotiations up to now have not been among the most successful efforts of the Jewish people after the tragedy of World War II. When they are discontinued, however, they will no doubt, bring to a close one of the most deplorable chapters in the history of postwar Austria.

Dr. Noah Barou, chairman of the WJC European executive, suggested that the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, which is receiving the Germany reparations payments on behalf of world Jewry, establish a set of principles to determine future allocations by the conference and the preparation of suitable work not necessarily covered in fund applications to the conference. He suggested that planning for work outside of that which was suggested by applicant organizations might be particularly suitable in the cultural field.

This suggestion was followed by a lengthy debate on the allocation of conference funds for long-range projects versus short term relief; on the development of a system of priority among Jewish organizations operating in the cultural, relief, rehabilitation and social fields, as well as on the problems of centralized fund distribution involving national and international bodies.

At last night's session of the Congress executive, the body unanimously adopted a resolution opposing the scheme for reforming the calendar by un-fixing the Sabbath, as proposed to the United Nations by India. The resolution, referring to the Sabbath as a "fundamental institution of Judaism," instructed the WJC representatives at the UN to oppose any calendar reform proposal which interrupts the sequence of the seven-day week.

Austrian Cabinet to Meet Tomorrow on Jewish Demands

VIENNA, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- The Austrian Cabinet will meet February 1 to discuss the entire situation concerning future negotiations on the question of restitution, it was announced here today. Informed quarters expressed the belief that the meeting would answer Dr. Nahum Goldmann's statement and outline new offers to re-open negotiations.

An Austrian Government spokesman, meanwhile, criticized Dr. Goldmann and expressed the hope that the Jewish claims conference meeting on February 7 would not heed his proposal to discontinue negotiations with Austria if a government proposal is not made by that date.

The spokesman was unable to give any indication whether the government will make a new proposal by that date. The government coalition parties have not discussed the matter in any detail or agreed on any proposal. There are only minor inter-party contacts on this question now and the issue remains largely in the hands of the Ministry of Finance.

Meanwhile, the neo-Nazi League of Independents has placarded the city with invitations to a league meeting under the slogan, "Hunger Pensions and Jewish Demands."

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE CHARGES RUSSIA PERSECUTES JEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 30, (JTA) -- Soviet Russia was charged today with persecuting 2,500,000 Jews and with eradicating Jewish communal and religious life, in a resolution adopted at the concluding session of the 48th annual meeting of the American Jewish Committee, held at the Hotel Roosevelt here. Irving M. Engel was re-elected president of the AJC.

The resolution demanded that the Government of the USSR end its policy of suppressing Jewish and communal life; release all Jewish leaders jailed because of their communal activities; return deported Jews to their homes, and permit freedom of religious worship and education.

The session also adopted a statement declaring that "despite some slight improvement of Arab-Israel relations, the refusal of the Arab countries to recognize Israel is a reality and the continuation of the Arab blockade and boycott still threaten the peace and stability of the area."

Declaring that the primary needs of the Near East are economic aid, technical assistance, improvement of education and general raising of living standards, the AJC statement welcomed the U. S. Government's recent decision to review its Near East policy and added that "this review will result in firmer territorial guarantees, a policy of non-discrimination among the various Near East countries in regard to arms, and an emphasis on developing economic prosperity and social well-being in all these countries."

Other important actions taken by the more than 500 leaders of American Jewry at the final session were resolutions which:

1. Called for the prompt establishment of an impartial Presidential commission of distinguished citizens to re-examine the entire loyalty-security program.

2. Asked Congress to make major revisions in the Refugee Relief Act of 1953 and the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act in line with the recommendations of President Eisenhower's State of the Union message.

3. Roundly condemned the Austrian Government for delaying indemnification of Austrian victims of Nazi persecution and breaking promises during negotiations, and called upon the Austrian Government to produce new proposals to settle all claims.

4. Endorsed five major proposals recently submitted by AJC officers to the Governments of the United States, France, and Tunisia, and which were designed to insure equal rights for all inhabitants of Tunisia and Morocco regardless of religion or origin.

5. Called upon the West German Government to speed up its program of indemnifying individual victims of Nazism, and

6. Urged that the West German Army be placed under democratic civilian control and suggested that voluntary democratic groups in the United States explore a program of cooperation with similar groups in Germany to strengthen democracy in that country.

Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president of the AJC, reported to the meeting that "prejudice against religious, ethnic and racial groups, has been diminishing in this country. This is occurring in spite of the fact that during the past year, at least, there has been a perceptible increase in the activities and literature of organized hate groups, including those which aim to promote anti-Semitism in the United States."

Beside Mr. Engel, other officials named at today's session were: Judge Simon H. Rifkind, chairman of the AJC national executive committee; Ralph E. Samuel, chairman of the administrative committee, and Fred Lazarus, Jr., chairman of the new national advisory council. Judge Learned Hand was presented with the AJC American Liberties Medallion for "exceptional advancement of the principle of human liberty." The presentation was made last night by Judge Joseph Proskauer, honorary president of the Committee.

\$6,187,000 IN ISRAEL BONDS SOLD AT PARLEY INAUGURATING 1955 DRIVE

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Jan. 30. (JTA) -- Sales of \$6,187,000 in Israel bonds were announced here today at the closing session of the International Mobilization Conference for Israel inaugurating the 1955 campaign for Israel bonds in 27 countries on three continents. More than 800 delegates from Western Europe, Latin America, the United States and Canada attended the three-day gathering.

Julian B. Venesky, chairman of the executive committee of the Israel Bond Organization, announced the inauguration of a national citizens committee to enlist participation of Christians in the Israel bond effort. He reported the Irish Republic had just authorized the sale of Israel bonds. Of the \$6,187,000 in Israel bonds sold today, \$3,700,000 was paid in cash and \$2,487,000 represented subscriptions to be paid in full within the next few weeks.

The conference was stimulated in its final action by a cable from Prime Minister Moshe Sharett, who characterized it as "another decisive step forward in Israel's progress towards economic independence." Calling attention to the fact that "far reaching political developments are under way throughout the Middle East," Mr. Sharett said; "Our means towards self-sufficiency are compounded of investment capital, unremitting toil and effective production. With tools provided by Israel Bond dollars, the people of Israel will do their share in agriculture, in industry and in development of the country's resources."

Addressing the conference last night, Reuven Shiloah, Minister Plenipotentiary of Israel in the United States, said that economic strengthening of Israel is vital to help the Jewish State overcome the hostility of the Arab states manifested through intense boycott, blockade and renewed threats of aggression.

Mr. Shiloah emphasized the strategic importance of the Israel bond campaign to help Israel "meet the crucial economic test. Every new road, every additional acre irrigated, every new industrial plant constructed, any new natural resources discovered and exploited lessen the danger of aggression," he said.

Third of Israel's Development Budget Met with Bonds

Israel bond national chairman Samuel Rothberg reported that one-third of Israel's development budget was being met with Israel bond funds. Making known for the first time a report based on three fiscal years from April 1, 1951, to March 31, 1954, Mr. Rothberg said Israel bonds provided \$120,132,348 out of a total budget of \$359,777,000, representing 33.3 percent. This does not include bonds sold after March, 1954, as well as some sold before that date, but not allocated by that time. Total Israel bond sales through the end of 1954 reached \$177,552,450.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the executive of the Zionist Organization of America and member of the Jewish Agency executive, reported a new mounting wave of immigration to Israel from countries, especially in North Africa, where the position of the Jews is becoming increasingly precarious. He stressed the fact that the Jewish Agency, which organizes immigration, and Israel bonds, which provide capital for the expansion of the economy, supplement each other in providing for these immigrants. He said that the Israel bond drive occupies "high priority" in the Zionist program and pledged continued support of the Zionist movement "for this great and far-flung effort."

Samuel Rothberg was re-elected United States chairman of Israel bonds; Rudolf G. Sonneborn, president; Henry Montor, chief executive officer, and Julian B. Venesky, chairman of the executive committee. Other 1955 Israel bond chairmen are Paul Philippson, Belgium; Eduard Spier, Holland; Victor Loeb, Switzerland; Osias Frey, Luxemburg.

A Central American Committee for Israel bonds was formed at the parley, with Simon Feldman of Mexico as chairman and Adolph H. Kates of Cuba and Ernesto Liebes of San Salvador as co-chairmen.

HADASSAH OPENS FOUR-DAY CONFERENCE; ANNOUNCES RESEARCH PROJECT

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- A four-day conference of the Hadassah opened here today with an announcement by Mrs. Rebecca Shulman, president, that the organization has decided to establish a \$25,000 Historical Research Project for "a study of the basic ideas, ideals and values of the Jewish historical experience and their relevance to contemporary life in the United States."

"The project will involve outstanding scholars and educators on three continents and will disseminate a knowledge of Jewish history and tradition and of its significance for the enrichment of Jewish life in the United States," Mrs. Shulman said in her opening address.

Mrs. Benjamin Gottesman, chairman of Hadassah's education program in this country, reported that more than 20,000 Hadassah members have already been enrolled in special Hadassah-sponsored courses for the study of the Hebrew language. She estimated that this figure would be trebled in the coming year.

Mrs. Shulman, announcing the project, revealed that the following scholars have been named to work on it: Dr. Yehezkel Kaufmann, Professor of Bible at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem; Dr. Ralph Marcus, Professor of Hellenistic literature at the Oriental Institute of the University of Chicago; Dr. Gerson D. Cohen, newly appointed Librarian of The Jewish Theological Seminary of New York; Dr. Abraham Halkin, Professor of Jewish history in the College of the City of New York; Dr. Cecil Roth, Professor of Jewish history at Oxford University; Dr. Salo W. Baron, Professor of Jewish history, literature and institutions at Columbia University, and Leo W. Schwarz, historian and critic, editor of the Rinehart Anthology series on Jewish history and literature.

ISRAELIS RETAIN CONFIDENCE IN U.S. GOODWILL, MRS. HALPRIN REPORTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- "Notwithstanding irritation, keen disappointment and strong concern over America's arms policy, Israelis retain their confidence in America's essential goodwill, and irritation does not eclipse or reduce their profound appreciation of America's efforts, through Point Four and in other ways, to assist the development of the new state," Mrs. Rose Halprin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency executive here, declared today upon her return from the recent plenary session of the Agency in Jerusalem.

Mrs. Halprin reported that negotiations with the Zionist parties revealed that there is considerable unanimity on the major tasks confronting the movement, that partisan interests have been surrendered to the overriding need for increased effort in the educational and cultural fields and in attracting to Israel western manpower with its great variety of professional skills and technical know-how. There is agreement also on the need for increased collaboration with the non-Zionist segments who are already an important factor in the work for Israel, she concluded.

"FRIENDS OF MIDDLE EAST" ENDORSE U.S. POLICY OF ARMING ARABS

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- A resolution endorsing the present policy of the U. S. Government of providing arms and economic aid to countries in the Middle East under the terms of the Mutual Security Act was adopted here yesterday at the closing session of the American Friends of the Middle East, an organization known for its pro-Arab and anti-Israel views.

Congressman James P. Richards, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, who was one of the principal speakers at the two-day conference, defended the policy of sending American arms to the Arab countries. His allusions to Zionists as "foreign propagandists" were cheered by the 200 delegates and guests, who included diplomatic representatives of practically every Arab country. George V. Allen, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, who was another of the speakers, refrained from touching on political subjects.

ST. PAUL JEWISH FUND AND COUNCIL REQUESTED TO RESCIND SANCTIONS

ST. PAUL, Minn., Jan. 30. (JTA) -- A resolution requesting the board of directors of the United Jewish Fund and Council here to rescind its program of sanctions against community leaders whose contributions are considered inadequate was adopted by the Inter-Agency Committee of St. Paul, composed of delegates from 39 Jewish organizations.

The resolution, which was adopted with one dissenting vote, said some contributors to the fund considered the principle of sanctions against community leaders whose giving is inadequate as "a blot on the community." Reasons for requesting the sanction revocation advanced in addresses in favor of the resolution were that the principle of sanctions would discourage leadership in various groups; that it created dissension in the community, and that it had failed to prove itself an effective fund raising method. It was also contended that removal of the sanctions program would pave the way for "all-out effort" in future fund raising campaigns.

REFORM CONGREGATION WINS CASE AGAINST VILLAGE AUTHORITIES

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- A Reform congregation at nearby Sands Point, Long Island, has won a clear victory in its fight to open a synagogue in that village, despite obstacles put in its path by the village authorities.

The village board withdrew this week-end regulations setting height, parking space and other requirements for the use of buildings for religious purposes which were passed shortly after the congregation, the Sands Point Community Synagogue, signed an option to buy an estate last Summer. An appeal to the courts by the synagogue was dismissed on technical grounds, but a second suit is pending and will not be dropped, according to the attorney for the congregation, until an occupancy permit is actually issued by the village authorities.

BENJAMIN BROWDY HONORED; FOREST IN HIS NAME TO BE PLANTED IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- A "Benjamin G. Browdy Forest" will be planted in Israel in honor of the former president of the Zionist Organization of America, it was announced here tonight at a testimonial dinner marking Mr. Browdy's 60th birthday. A certificate from the Jewish National Fund designating the "Benjamin G. Browdy Forest" was presented to Mr. Browdy as the 1,000 guests at the dinner applauded. Mayor Robert F. Wagner was the chief speaker at the affair.

Mr. Browdy, in an address, criticized the American arming of the Arab states, pointing out that this may lead to Israel once again becoming a battlefield. Noting that the United States second shipment to Iraq may include heavy artillery and jet aircraft, Mr. Browdy declared: "The only use Iraq and the other Arab states could possibly make of American heavy artillery and jet planes is to send them against little Israel."

HORVITZ ELECTED PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL ACADEMY OF ARBITRATORS

BOSTON, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- Aaron Horvitz of New York was elected president of the National Academy of Arbitrators at the academy's annual meeting here last night. Mr. Horvitz has served as a member of the President's Atomic Energy Labor Relations Panel as well as a number of other Presidential emergency boards in important disputes.

REMAINS OF BARON ROTHSCHILD BURIED AT VIENNA JEWISH CEMETERY

VIENNA, Jan. 30. (JTA) -- The remains of Baron Louis Rothschild, who died in Jamaica, B. W. I. on January 12, were buried in the family's section of the Vienna cemetery today. The funeral was attended by hundreds of persons, including members of the family, diplomats and leading figures in Vienna, as well as Jewish community personalities headed by H. Felsberg, vice-president of the Vienna Jewish Community Council. Vienna Chief Rabbi M. Eisenberg conducted the services.