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## GOLDMANN BLASTS AUSTRIA ON JEWISH CLAIMS; NEGOTIATIONS STYMIED

PARIS, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Profound dissatisfaction with the failure of the Austrian Government to present acceptable proposals for a settlement of Jewish material claims for restitution of property stolen by the Nazi regime, despite many promises to do so, was expressed here today by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Jewish Committee for Claims on Austria, and Dr. Emil Maurer, president of the Union of Austrian Jewish Communities and vice-president of the claims committee.

Speaking at a press conference called after a meeting of the executive board of the claims committee, Dr. Goldmann reviewed the history of the negotiations which have dragged on for more than 18 months. Although on some minor matters some progress has been made, Dr. Goldmann said, fundamentally the negotiations were one uninterrupted series of delaying tactics and promises made but not kept.

On several occasions Chancellor Julius Raab promised he would put forward new proposals, Dr. Goldmann recalled, noting one such instance when in a letter addressed to the claims committee on July 6, 1954, a formal promise was made that by the Fall of 1954 new proposals would be submitted. No such proposals were made, the claims committee head stressed.

### Final Decision of Jewish Claims Committee Due Soon

"As matters stand now, there is no new offer and nothing to negotiate about," Dr. Goldmann declared. "Today's executive board meeting of the claims committee decided to stand on its statement of Nov. 19, 1954 in Washington to the effect that unless a new offer is received the negotiations will not be reopened. The last stage of this chapter has been reached and we will wait for a little while to see if any new offer is forthcoming to serve as a basis for negotiation. If not, the committee will have to make a final decision about the whole issue."

Dr. Goldmann added that the claims committee had authorized him to call another meeting of the committee in the near future to take up the final question concerning the fate of the negotiations.

In reviewing developments concerning the claims talks, Dr. Goldmann emphasized that Chancellor Raab, in a press interview before his departure from the United States last December, announced that within two weeks after his return to Vienna such proposals would be made. "Despite this and other assurances," Dr. Goldmann said, "we have had no word from Chancellor Raab since his communication of July 6, 1954."

"Last week," Dr. Goldmann continued, "the Austrian Government announced that the Cabinet had established a committee of five ministers to deal with this problem. As a matter of fact, such a committee was established in the Summer of 1953 when

negotiations started. The impression made, therefore, that something new had been done to further the negotiations is quite erroneous."

#### Lack of Moral Approach by Austria Cited by Dr. Goldmann

Dr. Goldmann pointed out that during the negotiations, the claims committee had reduced its demands again and again. Nevertheless, as things stood today, there was not even a basis for further negotiations or for any agreement. The main reason for the failure of the talks, in Dr. Goldmann's opinion, is the fact that the Austrian Government did not approach the issue as a moral obligation of the Austrian people and Government to make good at least to a small degree the terrible crimes committed against the hundreds of thousands of Austrian Jews by the Nazi regime in Austria, which was supported and welcomed by a very large part of the Austrian population.

The Austrian Government, Dr. Goldmann added, seems to think that the Jewish organizations are just begging for some money. He underlined the fact that the 22 organizations, which constitute the claims committee, are spending very large sums of money annually for Jewish purposes and the small amount involved in the negotiations with Austria is in itself not of decisive importance.

"We felt that we should give Austria an opportunity to discharge its moral responsibility after what happened during the Nazi period in Austria and the pro-Nazi attitude of millions of Austrians," Dr. Goldmann averred. What the claims committee worked for, he went on, were a series of legislative and administrative measures in order to give some compensation for their tremendous economic losses to the tens of thousands of surviving Jewish victims of Nazi persecution in Austria, individually and without discrimination against those who are not living any longer in Austria.

#### Compares Austria's Stand with Germany's Settlement of Jewish Claims

The claims committee also sought payments to rebuild and equip synagogues and other Jewish communal institutions destroyed by the Nazis, provision for the housing of Jewish victims of persecution, compensation for economic losses not indemnifiable under existing laws, and moral compensation for the large amount of Jewish property which was destroyed or looted and for which no heirs or claimants survived. This compensation would be used exclusively for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution living in Austria or former Austrian Jews living abroad, Dr. Goldmann pointed out.

He rejected the Austrian Government's assertions that the claims committee was not representative enough. He pointed out that the committee consists of 22 of the major Jewish organizations of the free world, representing the overwhelming majority of world Jewry. The committee, he said, has the same structure as the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany which negotiated the Luxemburg agreement with the Federal Republic of Germany, for \$833,000,000. "If the committee was representative enough for the German Government, it could certainly be considered representative by the Austrian Government in a case where the issues at stake are infinitely smaller," he declared.

He pointed out that the claims committee has been recognized by the three Western Powers occupying Austria and that the Jews of Austria are represented on the committee by the Union of Jewish Communities of Austria. Dr. Emil Maurer, the Union's president, is a vice president of the claims committee executive board, Dr. Goldmann noted.

Dr. Maurer, speaking at the press conference, reaffirmed the full solidarity of Austrian Jews with the efforts of the Jewish communities throughout the world to secure a small measure of compensation for the survivors of Nazi brutality wherever they may now be. "As a citizen of Austria, I feel particularly aggrieved by the lack of understanding which the Austrian Government has displayed in these negotiations," he said. "I deplore especially the efforts being made by Austrian officials to separate the Jews residing in Austria from the efforts being made by the Jewish organizations outside Austria."

TWO MORE TRIALS OF JEWS PLANNED IN CAIRO; 83 JEWS INVOLVED

LONDON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Cairo's public prosecutions officer, Abdel Moneim Hamzawi, has decided to commit 77 Jews for trial before a criminal court on charges of forging official documents, the Jewish Observer reports from Cairo. Among the accused, according to the report, is Anel Mesih Beshaim, an elder of the Jewish quarter, and his assistant, both of whom are charged with forging birth certificates so that they could visit Israel in 1946.

The Cairo radio, meanwhile, announced today that the Egyptian Supreme Military Court will shortly begin the trial of six more Jews. The radio report said that the trial would be presided over by Brigadier Fuad Digwy, who conducted the "Zionist spy ring" trial. The six have been under arrest since last October.

ATTACKS ON JEWS IN TUNIS CONTINUE; ARE CONDEMNED BY NATIONALISTS

TUNIS, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Despite special police measures, attacks on Jews in Tunis continue. These attacks, which take place in the old Jewish quarter, consist of beatings with no attempt at robbery. The pattern of these crimes is considered extremely significant to observers here who fear that they may be harbingers of wider anti-Jewish violence.

The Arab daily "Assabah," newspaper of the Neo-Destour--nationalist--Party condemned today attacks on Jewish shops and Jews by Moslem students and Arab bands which have been invading the Jewish quarter of this city. The newspaper editorially emphasized that "Tunisian Jews are brothers of Tunisians of other faiths."

The latest incident, which drew fire from "Assabah," was a foray by a group of Moslem religious students against Jewish shops in a bazaar area. The Jews resisted the attack and drove off the students.

At the same time, the Arabic daily "Azzoura," which follows the line of the fanatical Moslem Brotherhood, carried a fresh attack on Israel today. It was particularly vicious in its attacks on Jews and Christians who had appealed for clemency in the Cairo executions and who had later protested the hanging.

A new Jewish community and educational center was opened here yesterday at a ceremony attended by representatives of the Bey of Tunis, the French Resident General, other French and Tunisian authorities and Jewish communal leaders, including representatives of the Joint Distribution Committee, which gave financial aid toward the building of the center. The edifice contains a kindergarten and other classrooms where instruction will be given in French, Arabic and Hebrew, a medical clinic and meeting rooms. Henry Levy, JDC director in Tunis, Tunisian Grand Rabbi David Bambaron and Charles Haddad, president of the Tunis Community Council, spoke at the ceremonies.

BOMB HURLED AT JEWISH STORE IN CASABLANCA; FAILS TO EXPLODE

CASABLANCA, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Youssef Kakaon, Jewish proprietor of a grocery shop in the Medina area of this city, narrowly escaped death when a bomb hurled at the front of his shop failed to explode. Kakaon had received a letter in badly written French a few days before the bomb was thrown, in which he was "forbidden" to sell French goods.

996 JEWS FROM NORTH AFRICA ARRIVE IN ISRAEL; SENT TO VILLAGES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- A party of 996 North African Jews, including a large number of children and young people, arrived in Israel today aboard the S.S. Jerusalem. They were immediately sent to villages prepared for them in Galilee, the Jerusalem corridor and the new Lachish development area southwest of Jerusalem.

## U.S. ASKED TO INCLUDE ISRAEL IN REGIONAL DEFENSE PLANNING

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Secretary of State John Foster Dulles was asked today for "an expression from the Administration to the effect that Israel is being included in our regional defense planning." The request was made by Congressman James Roosevelt, of California, in a letter to Mr. Dulles.

Rep. Roosevelt also called for a termination of arms shipments to Iraq. However, he made it known that he felt if the shipments were to be continued, "it is difficult to see how we can justify the exclusion of Israel fighting forces from our program." He asked Secretary Dulles to suspend further arms shipments to the Arabs until they agree to the machinery of negotiation with Israel and agree to call off boycotts and blockades.

The Congressman said a clearer program in the Near East was required and that the course which the U.S. Government is now pursuing may have the "appearance of coolness towards Israel and may be interpreted in the Arab world in a manner opposed to the best interest of peace and cooperation." He expressed the conviction that the present State Department policy "will neither strengthen our defenses in the area nor will it win us new friends."

## U.S. ASKED NOT TO HELP ARABS TO SET UP "RING OF IRON" AROUND ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The charge that the "great democracies pledged to Israel's support are being drawn into that Arab conspiracy to draw an iron ring about Israel" was voiced here last night by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the executive committee of the Zionist Organization of America and member of the Jewish Agency executive, addressing a ZOA meeting at the Statler Hotel.

"At times it looks as if our own government is lending its influence unwittingly to this conspiracy," he said. He warned Washington that the "Middle East cannot be defended against Communist expansion merely by a vast system of 'maginot' lines in modern form."

Jacques Torczyner, national chairman of the ZOA world Zionist affairs committee, in his address said that "Israel's enemies are not in error when they direct their heaviest bombardments at the Zionist movement. The Arab League and its propagandists know that we are determined to frustrate their schemes. The American Friends of the Middle East also have no doubts on this score."

The meeting unanimously adopted a resolution condemning the "Egyptian Government for its inhuman act in hastily executing the unjust death sentence imposed on two Jews by Egypt's military court." At the same time, the resolution commended the U.S. Government for its efforts to avert the tragedy in Egypt and its dire consequences in the tense Middle East. In paying no heed to our government's interventions, Egypt has given further evidence of its contempt for American opinion and democratic concepts. We urge our Government to consider this behavior carefully in relation to future American policy in the Middle East," the resolution concluded.

## Damascus Radio Attacks Eisenhower's Middle East Water Plan

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The Damascus radio broadcast to Europe an attack against the mission of President Eisenhower's special envoy, Eric Johnston, who is seeking to bring about regional water cooperation in the Middle East, it was reported here. The broadcast was in the English language.

The broadcast said that "under the guise of a purely technical report, the Johnston plan conceals in reality a political program for a partial if not a complete solution of the Palestine problem." It was stressed that the Arabs feel that a political solution must precede an economic one.

U. S. OFFICIAL ADDRESSES ANTI-ZIONIST GROUP; BLAMES ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Concessions by Israel to the Arabs were urged today as a step toward Middle Eastern peace by Mrs. Hiram Houghton, Assistant Director of the U.S. Foreign Operations Administration.

Mrs. Houghton, who returned last month from an inspection of the Arab refugee camps, indicated to a luncheon of the "American Friends of the Middle East" that the brunt of responsibility for resolving regional tension and the Arab refugee problem rests with Israel. She said the attitude of the Arabs would change only when Israel makes "gestures of goodwill and peace."

Among these "gestures" she listed the reconsideration of Israel's territorial boundaries, return of those Arab refugees who wish to go back to Israel, compensation to Arab refugees for property, and the internationalization of Jerusalem.

Hope was expressed by Mrs. Houghton that after Israel gave in on these points the Arab governments would lift their embargoes and "co-existence" would ensue with a lessening of tension. She said the border incidents were caused when Arabs see their own fields and seek to recover personal property.

The words "resettlement" and "integration" were "despised" by the refugees, Mrs. Houghton asserted. She said it was "sad" that Arab refugee children were being taught in a spirit of hate to prepare to return Israel "even if it means declaration of war." She stressed that much hate existed not only against Israel but also the United States. It was "sad," too, she said, that Lebanon has given refugees neither the right to work nor citizenship and to various degrees other Arab states denied refugees such rights.

Syrian Ambassador Farid Zeineddine introduced Mrs. Houghton and lauded her for her work. Her address was recorded by the U.S. Information Agency for broadcast by the Voice of America to the Near East. The audience included mainly Arab diplomats, State Department and government officials, and supporters of the Arab cause.

J. D. C. ANNIVERSARY MARKED IN ISRAEL; U. S. AMBASSADOR LAUDS ITS WORK

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The 40th anniversary of the Joint Distribution Committee was marked here last night at a function sponsored by the Mifal Hatorah, central organization of some 50 yeshivot and other religious institutions throughout Israel. The affair, attended by American Ambassador Edward B. Lawson, members of the Cabinet and Parliament, Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog and some 200 rabbis, was held at ZOA House.

Minister of Religion Moshe Shapira hailed the JDC for "safeguarding the nation's faith" by aiding scholars and religious students. He specifically thanked Charles Passman, JDC director in Israel, for the agency's aid to religious institutions. Ambassador Lawson, who addressed the function, said that American Jewry can be proud of the JDC's humanitarian activities which, he stressed, also saved the Jewish nation's spiritual treasures.

A message to the meeting from Israel President Ben Zvi expressed appreciation for the JDC's activities during the last generation. "The JDC not only saved one hundred thousand Jews during the Nazi campaign of extermination, but it also helped the survival of the nation's spirit," the President's message stated.

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF SWEDEN MARKS MAIMONIDES ANNIVERSARY

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Sweden will begin a national observance of the 750th anniversary of the death of Maimonides, the medieval Jewish philosopher-scientist, under a program sponsored by the Jewish Agency. The Agency will sponsor, among other activities, a month-long tour of Swedish communities by Amsterdam Rabbi Z. B. Benedikt, an expert on the Rambam.

**RABBIS HIT ORTHODOX PROTEST MEETING AGAINST ISRAEL IN NEW YORK**

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Severe criticism of a meeting held here yesterday protesting against the Israel Government for alleged "persecution and maltreatment" of religious Jews in Israel, was voiced here today by the National Committee For Traditional Judaism, rabbinical affiliate of the Mizrahi Organization of America, which represents 400 rabbis in the United States.

Similar criticism was voiced by the Hapoel Hamizrachi of America, the religious labor Zionist organization. The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, which represents Orthodox synagogues in this country for 56 years, disassociated itself from the group which sponsored the protest meeting under the name of the United Orthodox Jewish Congregations and Organizations. The Union warned that it may take legal action to prevent the use of any name that may be confused in the minds of the public with its own.

The meeting, which was attended by about 3,500 persons, was marked by fist fights and general disorder, including catcalls and the throwing of leaflets into the air. It brought police and firemen to the hall. Because of the age of some of the fighters, no one was arrested. During the meeting an anonymous phone call to the police brought 20 members of the bomb squad to the building, but no explosives were found. Resolutions adopted at the meeting called on the Israel Government to "stop planning to uproot Judaism from the Holy Land, stop beating up rabbis, imprisoning and torturing religious Jews, desecrating synagogues and forcing immorality upon the populace."

In criticizing the meeting, the Mizrahi rabbi said that the charges enumerated in the resolution "are false and sheer fantasy and deserve to be treated as such." Rabbi Jacob Levinson, chairman of the National Committee for Traditional Judaism, declared that the "so-called United Orthodox Jewish Congregations and Organizations of America," which sponsored the protest meeting, "represents a group of extremists which has been officially repudiated by all American traditional rabbinical and lay Orthodox organizations. We profoundly regret the unseemly behavior of the insignificant but vociferous minority which gathered in the Manhattan Center Sunday to make a series of wholly preposterous charges against the State of Israel," the statement declared.

The statement of the Hapoel Hamizrachi said: "It is unfortunate that self-appointed, irresponsible elements such as these have chosen to arouse American public feeling against Israel and her institutions at a time when the Jewish world has been plunged into deep mourning over the cold-blooded execution by the Egyptian Government of two Jews falsely accused of espionage."

**MELVIN BLOCK NAMED CHAIRMAN OF JOINT DEFENSE APPEAL FOR 1955**

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The appointment of Melvin A. Block as national chairman of the 1955 Joint Defense Appeal was announced here yesterday. The JDA, fund-raising arm of the American Jewish Committee and Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, is seeking \$5,000,000 this year, half of which is to be raised in New York.

**FRIEDMAN-LEVOV, FOUNDER OF FIRST HEBREW OPERA, DIES IN ISRAEL**

HAIFA, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Arich Friedmann-Levov, founder of the first Hebrew opera company and a leading musical pedagogue, died here today. He was 71. He was also a founder and director of the Music Institute of Haifa. His widow is a sister of former Premier David Ben-Gurion.