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AUSTRIA DELAYS OFFER ON JEWISH CLAIMS; NOTES GOLDMANN'S PROTEST

VIENNA, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- An Austrian reply to the demand for an acceptable offer on Jewish restitution claims cannot be expected in less than two weeks, a government spokesman declared here today. He was commenting on a statement in Paris yesterday by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, who said the Jewish group will not resume the restitution talks unless Austria makes a reasonable offer.

Meanwhile, the "Kleines Volksblatt," newspaper of the Peoples Party, Chancellor Julius Raab's party, declared today that the Austrian Cabinet has already expressed its willingness to negotiate. So far, the newspaper said, "negotiations" do not exist, there have only been "talks."

Another newspaper which usually reflects Chancellor Raab's opinions, the "Wiener Tageszeitung," insisted that the expression "restitution" is misleading since Austria ceased to exist as a state in 1938 and therefore has no obligation to "restitute anything." The Jewish representatives do not place a high enough value on the fact that the Austrian Government is willing, nevertheless, to grant certain compensation, the newspaper complained.

SOUTH AFRICAN PREMIER ASSURES "FULL AND EQUAL" RIGHTS FOR JEWS

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- "The rights of Jews as full and equal citizens of South Africa with all other sections of the white population remain the same under my government as under all previous governments of the Union," Johannes Gerhardus Strijdom, who recently succeeded Dr. Daniel F. Malan as Prime Minister of South Africa, told Edgar Bernstein, South African correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, in an exclusive interview in the Prime Minister's office in Capetown.

Mr. Bernstein said that the JTA was concerned about reports in certain foreign newspapers which expressed misgivings about the Union Government's attitude to the Jews in South Africa. The JTA would welcome an authoritative statement from the Union's new Premier: What was the attitude of his government to Jewish citizens?

The Premier said: "The reply has been given over and over again. I made this point clear in my radio addresses after assuming office. Our policy is to mete out fair treatment to all sections of the population. No differential treatment will be meted out by my government to Afrikaner, English, Jewish or any other section of the white population. All are full and equal citizens without differentiation."

Asked how this position would be affected if South Africa decided to become a republic in accordance with the ultimate aims of the National Party which Mr. Strijdom heads, the Premier replied: "Establishment of a republic would make

no difference whatsoever to the position. The republic would be a democratic republic with full equality for all citizens.

"I have in any case made it clear," Mr. Strijdom added, "that a republic will not be proclaimed during the life of the present Parliament. The decision to become a republic would only be taken by an adequate majority vote at a referendum or general election. Our program of principles lays down that a republic will only be brought about on the broad basis of the people's will."

The JTA correspondent drew the attention of the Premier to the fact that another matter which gave rise to concern overseas as a result of some foreign press reports was how the "Christian national" concept of the Premier's party would affect the rights of citizens who were not of the Christian faith. What did the concept of Christian nationalism imply and involve?

The Premier said this should be easy for the Jews to understand. "South Africa is a Christian country in the same way as Israel is a Jewish country. Our laws are based on the principles of the Christian faith in the same way as the laws of Israel are based on the Jewish faith. That does not imply suppression of any other religion, nor does it affect the political or other rights of non-Christian citizens. For us as Calvinists, it is a fundamental principle that there will be freedom of religion and equality of all citizens in the state."

Explains Principle of Controlled Immigration; Lauds Israel

Asked the government's attitude to immigration and in the context of this interview the immigration of Jews, the Premier replied: "Our principle is that we must have controlled immigration in accordance with the country's requirements and subject to that condition that we must not have a greater immigration of persons of any particular race than can be absorbed into the existing population without any racial problem arising. This policy has existed for a quarter of a century or more and we have not changed it."

Asked the government's attitude to Israel, Mr. Strijdom replied: "We have relations of mutual friendship with Israel. We were the first country in the Commonwealth to accord full recognition to the State of Israel and we wish Israel well."

To the question whether he thought the establishment of Israel had had a beneficial effect on the general position of the Jews of the world, the Premier replied in the affirmative. "I think that the establishment of an independent Jewish State must have had a tremendous effect for good," he said.

"The unfortunate position in the past was that the Jew was a wanderer on the face of the earth. For others there was a Holland, an England, a France, etc. For the Jew there was no country that was his national home. I think that the establishment of the Jewish State has changed this and raised the status of the Jew both in his own estimation and vis-a-vis other races," Premier Strijdom concluded.

South African Premier Receives Delegation of Jewish Leaders

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Premier Johannes G. Strijdom received a deputation from the Board of South African Jewish Deputies at his office in Capetown yesterday.

The Jewish group included: J. A. Maisels, president of the board; E. J. Horowitz, its chairman, and G. Saron, its general secretary. The deputation explained to the Premier the role of the board as the representative body of the South African Jewish community and outlined the scope of its activities.

In the course of the interview, a number of matters of especial interest to the South African Jewish community were touched upon. The Premier said he believed that relations among the various sections of the European community had improved in recent years and he hoped this position would continue.

OIL DRILLING ABANDONED IN GAZA STRIP; TRACES FOUND IN HAIFA AREA

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Oil drilling at Beerli, in the vicinity of the Gaza strip, was halted today following a negative report on the drilling. The well had been sunk 11,965 feet before the Lapidoth Company decided to abandon it. The company has already begun work on a second hole.

Meanwhile, traces of oil have been found in a well being drilled near Zichron Yaacov, south of Haifa, by Pontiac Petroleum's Ltd. and the Israel Continental Oil Company, according to an announcement by Konrad Shtickgold, who heads the field operations. He said the well, "Carmel Number One," has been sunk to a depth of 8,470 feet after various favorable signs were found, and that at this depth traces of crude oil were found.

Mr. Shtickgold reported that oil geologists had concluded that the oil had escaped from one formation to another and that the oil is present. As a result it is not yet known definitely whether commercial exploitation is possible, pending further geological studies.

SYRIANS FIRE ON JEWISH SETTLEMENTS; NO CASUALTIES REPORTED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Syrians opened fire on the Israel settlement of Sheari Haiyshuv in Upper Galilee near the border, it was reported here today. There were no casualties, according to the report.

A party of Israel children narrowly escaped injury at Kfar Szold, in the Upper Galilee, when Syrian soldiers from positions across the border opened fire today on the settlement.

A fishing boat on Lake Huleh came under Syrian fire today, but again no one was injured. Two Israel farmers were shot at by Egyptians while the farmers were ploughing fields at Nachaloz, near the Gaza strip. Neither was hurt. The three incidents were referred by Israel to the appropriate Mixed Armistice Commissions.

ARMISTICE COMMISSION FINDS JORDAN GUILTY OF WOUNDING ISRAELIS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission today found Jordan guilty of violating the armistice agreement in the wounding of two Israel soldiers in Jerusalem January 21. The MAC called upon Jordan to take effective measures to prevent recurrence of such incidents.

The MAC, which suspended consideration of an Israel complaint in the matter until an authentic map of the Jerusalem no-man's land zone could be flown here from United Nations headquarters in New York, found that the Arab Legion had wounded two Israel soldiers and prevented their receiving first aid in an area which was within Israel territory. The Jordan contention was that the Israelis were in territory where they had no right to be.

ISRAEL ECONOMIC DELEGATION ARRIVES IN TURKEY FOR TRADE TALKS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Four members of an economic delegation, headed by Moshe Bartov, director of the Israel Foreign Ministry's Economic Department, arrived today in Turkey to open trade talks there. They were accompanied by Maurice Fisher, Israel Minister to Turkey, who had just completed five days of consultation with Prime Minister Moshe Sharet. The invitation was widely interpreted by observers here as an indication that the Turks had withstood the latest Arab pressures against Israel directed at them.

Official circles here pointed out that the invitation for economic talks followed the announcement of the impending Turco-Iraqi pact. The pact was the subject of Mr. Fisher's consultations. He was reported to have brought an encouraging report of his interview on that subject with Turkish Premier Adnan Menders and to have allayed Israel fears regarding the new pact.

VATICAN ORGAN CITES POPE'S INTERVENTION FOR PERSECUTED JEWS

ROME, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The activities of the Catholic Church and the Pope in opposing the persecution of the Jews before, during and after World War II are reviewed in Osservatore Romano, official organ of the Vatican, with a view "to counteract criticism of misinformed or badly-intentioned people" who claim that the Vatican had remained aloof to the persecution and slaughter of Jews.

Emphasizing that this was not the case, the Vatican organ, in a special front-page editorial, notes that the Pope had condemned racism when it was adopted by the German Government, and later by the Italian Fascist Government. Still later, the editorial continues, Pope Pius XII intervened with various nations to "save innumerable scores of persecuted human beings, without distinction as to race and religious confession."

After a listing of many instances in which the Pope took a firm stand against racial theories and in defense of Jews, Osservatore Romano recalls that the Pope granted an audience to a Jewish delegation in November, 1945, which came to express its thanks for the aid and protection granted Jews by the Catholic Church.

PRESIDENT OF JEWISH COMMUNITY SAYS SPAIN IS NOT ANTI-SEMITIC

MANILA, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Newspaper accusations in the United States and Britain that Spain has been intolerant of Jews and anti-Semitic were denied here today by Daniel F. Baroukh, president of the Jewish community of Madrid, who is currently in the Philippines.

In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Sr. Baroukh noted that two years ago he was granted an audience by the Spanish Chief of State, the first such interview granted a Jew in Spain in 450 years. He said he came away from the meeting "impressed" with Gen. Franco's words and message to the people of Israel.

Sr. Baroukh recalled that two years ago the Spanish Government gave its permission for the holding of public High Holiday services in a Madrid hotel and that a Spanish Government representative attended the services, as did leading Spanish Catholics, representatives of the American embassy and American Jews. In a reference to the refusal to grant a permit to hold similar services in a Madrid hotel this past Rosh Hashanah, Sr. Baroukh said a mistake was committed by his secretary in Sr. Baroukh's absence.

The head of the Spanish Jewish community stressed that during the Nazi regime many Jews were saved by being admitted to Spain. He listed various other gestures by the Spanish Government toward the facilitating of religious services and instruction, and acknowledged its presentation of a "magnificent collection of books" for the projected Sephardic Library in Jerusalem. Sr. Baroukh said that there are now 35,000 Jews in Spain.

GERMAN LEADERS ESTABLISH COMMITTEE TO AID NAZI VICTIMS ABROAD

BONN, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- A "Relief Committee for Victims of National Socialism Abroad" has been founded here, primarily to raise funds for a home that a group of Jewish and non-Jewish refugees from Nazism, who have not managed to adjust to French life, would like to build in Paris.

The committee is headed by Professor Franz Boehm, former chief of the German delegation to the reparations negotiations with Israel at The Hague. Other prominent members who lent their names to the undertaking are the floorleaders of the Christian Democratic Union and of the Free Democratic Party, Heinrich von Brentano and Dr. Thomas Dehler, as well as the president and vice-president of the Bundestag, Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier and Prof. Carlo Schmid.

OTTO WARBURG CLAIMS HE DISCOVERED SECRET OF CANCER

BERLIN, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Prof. Otto H. Warburg, 71, winner of the Nobel Prize for Medicine in 1931, reports in a German scientific journal today that he has solved the bitterly-disputed question as to the origin of cancer. For a quarter century he has directed the Institute for Cell Physiology in the Dahlem section of Berlin, formerly known as the Kaiser Wilhelm Institute. In 1948-49 he carried out researches in the United States.

According to the famed biochemist and physiologist, who has studied the processes of living cells for more than three decades and is considered the world's foremost authority on the subject, cancer does not develop through outside causative agents such as viruses. It sets in when a cell does not absorb enough oxygen, so that its normal "breathing" is chronically impaired. His findings, he believes, show the way toward future prevention of the disease.

Final proof of his thesis was furnished recently, he indicates, when American researchers Harry Goldblatt and Gladys Cameron, the latter a biologist connected with New York University, were able to induce tumors artificially by impairing the "breathing" of healthy cells. Dr. Goldblatt, a distinguished pathologist born at Muscatine, Iowa, in 1891, is on the staff of the Institute for Medical Research at Cedars of Lebanon Hospital in Los Angeles.

Prof. Warburg, a doctor of both chemistry and medicine, remained in Berlin throughout the Nazi regime, escaping the more truculent measures of persecution because of his half-Jewish descent.

JEWS IN BUENOS AIRES CLOSE STORES IN PROTEST AGAINST CAIRO HANGING

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Jews throughout Argentina expressed their sorrow and anger today at the hanging of two Jews in Cairo last week. Their sentiments were expressed at public meetings and in their closing down their shops.

In Buenos Aires, the Jewish shops were closed two hours in order to bring home to the Argentine people their feelings of sorrow and solidarity with their fellow Jews abroad. In other cities, including Eva Peron City and Bahia Blanca, public protest meetings were held.

DULUTH PASSES ORDINANCE OUTLAWING DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

DULUTH, Minn., Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The city council of Duluth has passed a Fair Employment Practices ordinance which will take effect within 30 days. The vote within the council was four to one. Representatives of Jewish community organizations had pressed for passage of the measure.

Under the terms of the ordinance, Duluth's Mayor George D. Johnson will appoint a five-member commission to hear complaints of violations and to prosecute valid cases. The ordinance outlaws job discrimination by employers, employment agencies and labor unions under penalty of fine and imprisonment.

JAMES ROSENBERG DONATES 24 PAINTINGS TO HOSPITALS; IS HONORED

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- James N. Rosenberg, noted Jewish leader and artist, gave 24 landscapes he painted of the Adirondacks to the United Hospital Fund's "Art for Hospitals" program at a ceremony here yesterday.

The paintings will be exhibited to the public for a week and then will be hung in wards, clinics and waiting rooms of four New York hospitals. The program is being carried out in line with the latest views of medical authorities that pleasant, familiar and cheerful paintings help patients recover more quickly.