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BOMB DEMOLISHES JEWISH HOME IN CASABLANCA; NO ONE INJURED

CASABLANCA, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- A powerful bomb today destroyed an apartment inhabited by a Jewish family in this city. Although the apartment was a shambles no one was injured.

One theory expressed here is that the bomb was not intended for the Jewish family, but for the Moslem landlord who lives on the floor above the Jews. He is a member of the Casablanca municipal council.

JEWS WATCH TALKS IN PARIS; FATE OF TUNISIAN JEWRY INVOLVED

PARIS, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Interested Jewish circles here were watching the talks today between French Premier-designate Antoine Pinay and Tunisian Premier Tahar ben Ammar, trying to establish how the Jewish position in Tunisia would shape up under plans for the future of that North African country being worked out by the two Premiers.

The Jewish point of view was made clear to the French Government when the Cabinet was headed by Pierre Mendes-France. Tunisia's Jews would like to have certain guarantees incorporated in any reforms agreed upon by France and Tunis. They are particularly interested in the principle of full equality of rights, without distinction on grounds of religion. They seek equality in government aid to religious institutions, in welfare assistance, in the right to hold public office and in elections to Tunisian Government bodies.

These demands had also been presented to the French authorities by American and other Jewish leaders interested in the fate of Tunisian Jewry. They requested that assurances to this effect be incorporated in the conventions which had been formulated under M. Mendes-France by French and Tunisian representatives as the basis for the new regime in Tunisia. They also wanted such assurances included in any Tunisian constitution that would be drawn up.

Whether these demands will have to be repeated to the new head of the French Cabinet is uppermost in the minds of leaders of Jewish groups here. Meanwhile, the Tunisian Premier left Paris today for Tunis to inform the Bey of Tunis about his talks with M. Pinay.

ISRAEL SEVERS CONTACT WITH EGYPT; AREA COMMANDERS QUIT TALKS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Contact between Israelis and Egyptians was completely severed today when Israel broke off talks between local area commanders of the two states in the Gaza area "for the time being."

For the second time in a week, the Israel delegates to the Israel-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission today refused to come to a scheduled meeting of the MAC. The Israelis informed Gen. E. L. M. Burns, UN truce chief, that the execution of two Jews in Cairo had created an atmosphere which was "not propitious" for meetings.

ISRAEL FINANCE MINISTER PRESENTS BUDGET; LAUDS U. S. JEWRY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Finance Minister Levi Eshkol presented his ordinary budget calling for an expenditure of 631,000,000 pounds and a development budget of 195,000,000 pounds for the fiscal year 1955 to a session of Parliament last night. At the same time, the Finance Minister presented one of the most optimistic analyses of the Israel economy yet placed before Parliament.

Mr. Eshkol reported that Israel's adverse trade balance had been cut by 10 percent last year, that Israel's currency had been stabilized to such an extent that her credit had jumped on the world markets, that national income rose to such a point that Israel became the 13th nation in order of per capita income, forging ahead of such industrial countries as Austria, Italy, Ireland, Greece, Turkey and Japan and that the cost of living had remained constant.

The basic reasons for the giant strides made by the Israel economy, Mr. Eshkol said, were the consolidation loan raised by American Jewish communities, bond sales in the United States, German reparations and a near-doubling in exports at the same time that imports were kept almost at the same level as 1953.

Speaking of the consolidation loan, bond sales and contributions throughout the United Jewish Appeal, he asserted that they bore witness to the devotion and concern of American Jews for the welfare of Israel. The consolidation loan, he said, had permitted Israel to cut its short-term indebtedness from \$73,000,000 to \$34,000,000. The bond drive had brought in \$40,000,000 in 1954, bringing its full total in sales to \$180,000,000. As of the end of December, 1954, Germany had made payments to Israel totalling the equivalent of \$199,000,000, he said.

Last year Israel's exports increased 47.6 percent over those of 1953 while imports only moved up by 2.6 percent, Mr. Eshkol reported. One-third of the currency in circulation was now backed by gold or foreign currencies and the per capita national income was 843 pounds as compared to 666 pounds in 1953. While the government's fiscal policy had strengthened its banks and held prices, unemployment and taxes had dropped, he said.

More than one-third of the development budget, 67,000,000 pounds, has been allocated to agricultural improvements, the Finance Minister told Parliament, while 17,000,000 pounds has been earmarked for industry, 15,000,000 pounds for the development of electric power, 20,000,000 pounds for transportation expansion and 18,000,000 pounds for housing.

LEBANESE ENVOY CONFERS WITH DULLES; SEEKS TO COUNTER ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Lebanese Ambassador Charles Malik today discussed the Near Eastern situation with special reference to the Iraqi-Turkish pact with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. It is believed that Mr. Malik sought to counter recent Israel viewpoints presented here in Israel's discussion with the State Department on security matters.

The Lebanese envoy said later that the mission of Presidential envoy Eric Johnston was among the topics discussed. Mr. Johnston is in the Near East seeking Arab-Israel agreement on regional water development.

ISRAEL GETS FIFTH TRAWLER FROM GERMANY UNDER REPARATIONS PACT

FRANKFURT, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The fifth of eight fishing trawlers for which orders were placed in Germany by Israel under the reparations agreement has left Rotterdam for Israel. The newest trawler, "Lamercahv," was built in Walsum, in the Ruhr.

Equipped with the latest electronic devices which help fishermen locate schools of fish, the trawler will be assigned to bring sea food to Israel's tables from Elath in the Red Sea and ports on the Mediterranean coast.

CAIRO VERDICTS ON JEWS CLASH WITH TRIAL RECORDS, BALDWIN REPORTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The hanging of two Jews in Cairo on charges of "espionage and sabotage" was motivated by political considerations and bore no relationship to the evidence in the case, Roger Baldwin, chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man, said today at a press conference here.

He virtually accused "high officials" of the Egyptian Government of lying to him when they gave him assurances that "extreme penalties" would not be imposed upon any of the 12 Jewish defendants tried by a military court on accusations of "Zionist espionage and sabotage." Mr. Baldwin had an interview with Egyptian Premier-dictator Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, and the latter, according to Mr. Baldwin, "expressed moderate views entirely understanding of human rights."

"All assurances given me when I left a week before the sentences were announced indicated an attitude that would avoid such extreme penalties as would increase tensions or impair the position of Jewish and Arab minorities. In the light of those assurances, the death sentences appeared a shocking reversal. No serious acts of espionage or sabotage were committed. The activities were childish and irrational," Mr. Baldwin stated.

"The wide range of sentences" imposed - from death to seven years' imprisonment - "does not square with the trial records," he continued. He placed the responsibility of the severity of the sentences squarely on Premier Nasser, who approved the sentences before they were publicly announced and who, according to Mr. Baldwin, "may have increased or lessened" the terms imposed upon the prisoners.

Hopes for Less Severity at Forthcoming Trial of More Jews

The chairman of the International League for the Rights of Man expressed the hope that as a result of world reaction to the executions and the severe sentences, the Egyptian Government would be less likely to resort to such severity when seven more Jews come up for trial in March before the same military court that convicted the first batch of Jewish defendants.

Of the seven whose trial will open next month, six are French nationals and one is a Greek citizen. All seven are accused of being in contact with a "foreign political party," presumably the Communist Party of France.

Mr. Baldwin said that the International League for the Rights of Man, which he represented on his Middle East trip as chairman of the organization, does not intend to bring the case of the Jews being persecuted in Egypt to the United Nations. The League is an accredited organization recognized by the UN.

Jews in Australia Hold Protest Meeting Against Cairo Verdicts

MELBOURNE, Australia, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The "judicial murder" of two Jews hanged in Egypt last week as "Zionist spies" was denounced here today at a huge public meeting called by Jewish organizations in this city.

The meeting condemned the "inquisition" methods used against the accused Jews tried by an Egyptian military court and deplored the entire trial as a "trumped-up proceeding" to provoke the Egyptian people against the Jews. Democratic governments and organizations were urged to put an end to the persecution of Jews in Egypt and other Arab nations. At the same time, the meeting expressed concern over the Anglo-American policy of arming the Arab states.

TEL AVIV, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Memorial meetings for the two Jews hanged in Cairo were held today in many settlements throughout Israel. The Mapai central committee made arrangements for such services in 20 affiliated kibbutzim.

PROF. EINSTEIN REPORTED REFUSING GIFT FROM BERLIN MUNICIPALITY

LONDON, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Professor Albert Einstein has refused to accept a gift from the West Berlin City Assembly, the Daily Express reports here today from Berlin.

Asserting that the world famous scientist "has made it clear that he wants nothing more to do with Berlin, where he was born 76 years ago," the Daily Express says that the parcel was returned with the words, "not accepted" written across it.

GERMAN WHO HELPED RESCUE DANISH JEWS NAMED ENVOY TO DENMARK

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The German diplomat who a dozen years ago alerted the Danish resistance movement about the Gestapo's intention of arresting all Jews, and deporting them to German concentration camps, is returning here this month as West Germany's newly-appointed Ambassador to Denmark.

George Ferdinand Duckwitz, now commercial attache of the German diplomatic mission in Helsinki, was a 33-year-old merchant-marine specialist at the Copenhagen Nazi Embassy in 1943. When he heard that all Jews were to be rounded up in the early morning hours of October 2, he passed the word to the Danish underground. Its leaders, prominent among whom is the current Premier, Hans Hedtoft, were able to swing into action before the Gestapo struck. With the active and gallant support of hundreds of Danes, 6,500 Jews out of 7,000 were spirited away to safety in Sweden.

HITLER'S SAYINGS PERPETUATED IN CALENDAR PUBLISHED IN GERMANY

FRANKFURT, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Quotations from Adolf Hitler are being spread throughout Germany in a calendar published by a German business firm. The calendar, distributed by Poerringer and Schindler of Zweibruecken, contains a quotation by a well known personality for each day of the year. Hitler is among the authors quoted.

A film on the life of Walther Rathenau, Jewish Foreign Minister of the Weimar Republic who was murdered by Nazi thugs on the streets of Berlin in 1922, has been assigned to two script writers, one of whom was implicated in the assassination. The firm which is shooting the film, Arca Film Company, has hired writer Ernst von Salomon, onetime member of the pre-Nazi "Freikorps" who served a five-year term as an accessory in Rathenau's murder. Von Salomon recently drew criticism in the United States when his anti-American, nationalist "Fragenbogen" was published in an English translation.

U. S. RADIO IN EUROPE BROADCASTS REPORT ON JEWS IN POLAND

MUNICH, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Yiddish is the language of instruction in nine elementary and three high schools in Poland, but their textbooks are filled with Communist propaganda that exerts considerable influence on the minds of the youngsters, it was reported here today by a refugee interviewed on Radio Free Europe, the American radio station that broadcasts to the satellite states of the Soviet bloc.

Daily services are being held in Lodz and Wroclaw, the former German city of Breslau, he said, whereas the synagogue in Warsaw opens its doors only on the Sabbath. While kosher butcher shops still exist in the centers of Jewish settlement, their number is dwindling.

All cultural affairs, as well as old age homes and orphanages, are run by the Communist-directed "Jewish Cultural and Social Union." Its literary magazine "Yiddische Shriften" has a circulation of 5,000. Four times a week it publishes a Yiddish paper, the "Folksstimme." One of the most meritorious institutions left in Poland, the Jewish Historical Institute at Warsaw, employs a staff of 18.

SHEKEL CAMPAIGN OPENS IN U.S.; ZIONIST GROUPS ISSUE PROCLAMATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The traditional Shekel campaign, a primary election which will determine representation of Zionist groups from all part of the world at the forthcoming 24th World Zionist Congress, was officially opened today in the United States with a proclamation issued by the 12 Zionist organizations functioning in this country. The Congress is scheduled to take place this year in Jerusalem.

The proclamation points out that the "establishment of Israel was the first step toward the fulfillment of the historic aspirations of the Jewish People," and calls upon American Jews to accept continuing responsibility for the "consolidation of the State, the settlement and reclamation of the land, the fullest development of Israel's resources."

"Israel's security and economic stability," the proclamation says, "must yet be achieved and peace with her neighbors must still be attained." It urges the generation of Jews who participated in the establishment of the State itself, to "take part in determining the policies of the movement with regard to Israel as well as Jewish life elsewhere, by acquiring the Shekel."

BEN TOUSTER ELECTED FIRST PRESIDENT OF "UNITED HIAS SERVICE"

NEW YORK, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- Ben Touster, Jewish communal leader, was today elected to the first full term as president of United HIAS Service, the recently-created Jewish international migration agency. Carlos Israels, New York attorney, was elected chairman of the executive committee. He succeeds Walter Bieringer of Boston.

When United HIAS Service was created last August, through the merger of the Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society, United Service for New Americans and the migration services of the Joint Distribution Committee, Mr. Touster was designated to act as president until elections to be held at the first meeting of the board of directors following the first annual meeting of the organization. The annual meeting was held last Sunday.

SEMINARY IN MEXICO TO TRAIN JEWISH TEACHERS FOR LATIN AMERICA

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The Yiddish-Hebrew Teachers Seminary of this city has been reorganized to train teachers for Jewish schools in all Latin American countries.

The united campaign for local and world Jewish organizations has agreed to cover the entire budget of the seminary. Teachers and students from all four of Mexico's Jewish schools attend the seminary.

ARGENTINA ALLOTS IMPORT LICENSES FOR ISRAEL PRODUCTS

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- The Central Bank of Argentina has allotted import licenses for a number of Israel products, it was reported here today. The items listed included glaziers diamonds, pencils, books and sundry chemical substances and watches.

HAMBURG UNIVERSITY COMMEMORATES PROF. ERNST CASSIRER

HAMBURG, Feb. 9. (JTA) -- A memorial meeting for Ernst Cassirer, the Jewish philosopher and disciple of Hermann Cohen who taught at Hamburg University from 1919 to 1934 and served as its president in 1929-30, was held in the university auditorium here. He lectured at Yale and in Britain after leaving Hitler Germany.