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## JEWS IN TUNIS DISTURBED; SEEK SECURITY MEASURES AGAINST ATTACKS

TUNIS, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Jewish population of this city, deeply disturbed by the continuing attacks of extremists on Jews and on their property, have turned to community leaders with requests for new measures to guarantee the security of the community. A petition to the Bey of Tunis requesting assistance has been drafted and is now being passed around for signatures.

In recent days attacks have been centered on Jews in the shops of the Jewish quarter. Only this weekend four armed Tunisian Moslems forced their way into a Jewish shop. However, a passing Jew seized made an outcry and seized two of them. The others escaped.

## STATE DEPT. SURPRISED BY TURKISH-IRAQI PLEDGE AGAINST ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Official United States sources indicated today that the anti-Israel pledge by Iraq and Turkey in the exchange of letters attached to the Turkish-Iraqi mutual defense treaty came as a surprise to the State Department.

Under this pledge both Turkey and Iraq have obligated themselves "to take measures" to enforce certain resolutions on the Palestine question adopted by the United Nations. The State Department was in consultation today with the Iraqi Embassy here, but no details have yet been made public.

## ISRAEL REPORTS DETERIORATION OF SITUATION ALONG EGYPTIAN FRONTIER

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Grave deterioration of the situation along Israel's Gaza strip border was reported here today by military spokesman, following the murder of Henry Levy of Rehovot this weekend. Infiltrators subsequently attacked an Israel patrol from Yavne in the same area where the murder occurred, the spokesman said.

In other disturbances, three infiltrators were fired on by an Israel patrol while attempting to get back across the border in the Gaza strip. They escaped, leaving behind them various objects stolen in Israel. One armed infiltrator was killed near Yad Mordecai during a clash with an Israel force. A British-made Sten gun was found near his body.

Meanwhile, the Israel Government called last night upon Egypt for "constructive deeds and not mere declarations" to strengthen peace in the Middle East. In an Arabic language broadcast sponsored by the Israel Foreign Ministry, the Israel Government charged that Egypt "maintains with all means at its disposal an atmosphere of tension, hatred and anticipated revenge against Israel."

**AMERICAN JEWISH GIRL SEIZED BY ARABS AT ISRAEL-JORDAN FRONTIER**

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- A 22-year-old American girl who is a dietician at Hadassah Hospital was seized by the Jordanian Arab Legion today at the frontier village of Beit Safaa. She is Grace Shevel, of Chicago, who works at the hospital in addition to attending the Hebrew University.

With two Israelis she visited Beit Safaa. The three were last seen being led off by Arab Legion captors. United States consular authorities said that Miss Shevel probably would be released shortly.

**ERIC JOHNSTON OPTIMISTIC ON ISRAEL-ARAB WATER DEVELOPMENT PLAN**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Ambassador Eric Johnston, President Eisenhower's personal envoy to the Near East, who has just returned from that area where he tried to obtain Arab-Israel agreement to an American scheme for joint regional development of the Jordan River Valley, was in Washington today to report to the President. Mr. Johnston said that he was optimistic that an agreement on the matter was not far away.

(Israel's Ambassador Eban, addressing a joint session of the State of Washington Legislature, praised Ambassador Johnston's endeavors. Mr. Eban, who was escorted into the Legislature at Olympia by the Governor of the state, was given a tremendous ovation by the legislators.)

**PONTIAC OIL CORPORATION TO UNDERTAKE NEW OIL DRILLING IN ISRAEL**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- A decision by the Pontiac Oil Corporation to undertake new drilling in the area north of Haifa and near Beersheba was revealed here by Konrad Stickgold, field manager of the company, on his return from a meeting of the corporation's directors in Paris.

At the same time, it was reported that drilling at Zichron Yaakov is continuing and that it has now reached a depth of 9,500 feet.

**FIVE-DAY CONFERENCE OF COLLECTIVE SETTLEMENTS OPENS IN ISRAEL**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- A national conference of Hakhibutz Hameuchad, the central council of the collective settlement movement of the Achdut Avodah-Poale Zion Party, opened at Givat Brenner last night. The Achdut Avodah split from the Mapam Party some months ago and formed its own party.

The recent splits in the kibbutz movement were denounced by Itzhak Tobenkin, head of the Hakhibutz Hameuchad, as costly to the movement in terms of new members and new settlements. He noted that even veteran members of collective settlements affiliated with the council were "perplexed" by the situation. Mr. Tobenkin also reviewed the world situation, attacking the United States for "war mongering" and hailing the Soviet Union, Communist China and the other Communist states.

After Mr. Tobenkin's address, a general debate was opened during which problems facing the collective settlement movement in terms of the social structure of the settlements and political ideology will be hammered out. The delegates will also lay plans for further development of their settlements and for improving security arrangements. The parley is expected to last five days.

**U.S. GOVERNMENT AUTHORIZES \$3,638,762 IN MACHINERY FOR ISRAEL**

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Foreign Operations Administration today announced an authorization for Israel of machinery and industrial supplies totaling \$3,638,762.

## GERMAN PARLIAMENT ESTABLISHES SPECIAL INDEMNIFICATION COMMITTEE

BONN, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Two proven friends of adequate indemnification for individual victims of Nazism, Dr. Otto-Heinrich Greve of the Social Democratic Party and Prof. Franz Boehm of the Christian Democratic Union, have been chosen for the top positions of the newly-created Bundestag Committee On Indemnification Matters.

Dr. Greve, the committee chairman, is a 47-year-old attorney who as a student battled the rising Nazi tide in the ranks of the militantly republican "Reichsbanner" organization and served as a leader of the youth movement of the liberal German Democratic Party, later renamed "German State Party." He carved out a career for himself as an industrial executive when he, although a doctor of law, was not admitted to the bar during the Nazi regime.

Professor Boehm was elected to the Committee's deputy chairmanship two days after his sixtieth birthday. A specialist in cartel law whose academic career was cut short by the Nazis, he headed the German delegation to the reparations negotiations with Israel at The Hague in 1952 and last year visited the Jewish state. He is a dauntless fighter for the redressing of Nazi injustice and his party's foremost expert on the complexities of indemnification legislation.

The Social Democratic members of the 17-man committee include Jeanette Wolff, one of the most active Jewish communal workers in Germany who was herself dragged through Nazi jails and concentration camps for many years, and Jakob Altmaier, the only other Bundestag deputy to identify himself with the Jewish community. All bills dealing with compensation and restitution will in the future be discussed by this committee and then, with its recommendations, go directly to the floor of the House.

## ELDERLY JEWS IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA ROUNDED UP; SENT TO INSTITUTION

MUNICH, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Reports reaching here from Czechoslovakia say that authorities in the counties of Liberec and Podebrady rounded up 64 elderly Jewish pensioners, ranging in age from 68 to 87, and transported them to the Jewish old-age home at Marianske Lazne, formerly known as Marienbad, without even notifying the management of the institution.

Ever since the home was transferred to Marianske Lazne from Prague not long ago, it has been so overcrowded that two residents had to share a single bed, the report says. In spite of freezing winter weather, the management had no recourse but to accommodate the new arrivals on straw pallets in drafty corridors. Requests for enlarging the home have been turned down by the government, the report states.

## JEWSH LABOR COMMITTEE URGES RECALL OF BERLIN SYMPHONY CONDUCTOR

NEW YORK, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Jewish Labor Committee, representing more than a half-million Jewish workers in the AFL and CIO, and the New York City CIO Council denounced today the appearance of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in this country under the direction of Herbert von Karajan, a former member of the Nazi party.

The two labor groups called upon the West German Government to demonstrate its "announced fidelity to democracy by immediately recalling von Karajan and other members of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra who have been affiliated with the Nazis." The joint statement also called upon "those whose consciences revolt against attendance at a concert under the baton of such a man" to exercise "their principles by remaining away."

**WORLD ORT UNION ADOPTS \$3,768,000 BUDGET FOR 1955 ACTIVITIES**

GENEVA, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- A 1955 budget of \$3,768,000 for the activities of the World ORT Union was adopted at a meeting of the organization's executive in Paris, it was announced here today. Last year, the ORT spent \$3,202,000 on its worldwide network of schools and training centers.

Dr. Aron Syngalowski reported that as a result of the new agreement he had negotiated with the Joint Distribution, the ORT would receive from the JDC \$1,390,000 for 1955, as compared to \$1,250,000 last year. The Women's American ORT is expected to contribute some \$400,000 toward the current year's budget. In countries where the ORT maintains trade schools, it raised a total of \$1,238,000 last year, and anticipates an income of \$1,430,000 this year.

In a report on the organization's activities in 1954, Dr. Syngalowski stated that 18,323 students had attended ORT schools in various countries, a gain of 1,200 over 1953. He noted that the new school year began with a total student registration of 11,035, which taxed the facilities of most of the ORT institutions. He also outlined a series of problems facing the Union this year. The executive thanked him, Dr. William Haber, president of the American ORT, and JDC officials for their joint work on the budgetary agreement.

**JEWS IN SWEDEN PLEDGE \$900,000 AT U. I. A. DINNER IN STOCKHOLM**

STOCKHOLM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Sums totalling 4,500,000 crowns (approximately \$900,000) were pledged here last night at a dinner opening the United Israel Appeal campaign for 1955 in Sweden. This is the tenth annual UIA dinner.

Dr. Abraham Nissan, Israel's Minister to Sweden, outlined Israel's situation in the political field and its progress in the economic field. He reported that Israel's exports to Scandinavia had risen from the equivalent of \$7,000,000 in 1952 to \$17,000,000 in 1954. He also paid tribute to the Jewish National Fund, Israel Fund and Women's International Zionist Organization, which together raise 1,000,000 crowns annually for Israel.

**I. D. C. HONORS SHOLEM ASCH; PRESENTS HIM WITH CITATION AS FOUNDER**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Sholem Asch, noted Jewish author, was honored today as a founder of the Joint Distribution Committee at a ceremony at a Malben institution at Nathanya. Present at the ceremony were many prominent persons, including Moses W. Beckelman, the JDC's European director.

Mr. Asch was presented with a citation, one of 18 awarded to founders of the JDC which this year marks its 40th anniversary. Since Mr. Asch was not in the United States when the citations were given the other founders, this ceremony was held at a Malben home, which is supported by the JDC. Mr. Beckelman, one of the chief speakers at the ceremony, described JDC's worldwide activities and the growth of Malben in this country during the five years since it was established.

**B'NAI B'RITH MEMBERS IN ISRAEL HOLD NATIONAL CONFERENCE**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- A national conference of B'nai B'rith members in Israel was held in Gedera at which major problems facing the fraternal organization in this country were discussed. David Ben Gurion, who was scheduled to address the parley, withdrew at the last moment, explaining that his sudden decision to rejoin the Cabinet, as Defense Minister, had made it impossible for him to attend.

**SETTLEMENT OF 500 U.S. JEWISH FAMILIES ON ISRAEL FARMS IS PLANNED**

NEW YORK, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- A plan to settle 500 American Jewish families as farmers in cooperative smallholders' settlements in Israel was adopted here at a conference of the "Haikar Haoved in America," an organization promoting the settlement of American Jews on cooperative farms established specially for Americans desiring to live on the land in Israel.

The conference emphasized the need for forming local Haikar Haoved committees in the larger Jewish centers in the United States. It was reported at the conference that requests for information have been received by Haikar Haoved headquarters in New York from Jews in 120 cities in this country.

A progress report on "Orot," the first American Jewish cooperative settlement in Israel, was presented at the conference. It was emphasized that none of the settlers thinks of returning to the United States and that all of them have adjusted themselves well to farm life.

**TOURIST SEASON STARTS IN ISRAEL; 500 VISITORS LAND FOR TWO-DAY TOUR**

TEL AVIV, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Israel tourist season was off to a flying start today when 500 visitors on a world cruise landed for a two-day visit of historic sites and more modern places of interest and entertainment.

Tourist officials announced today that Bedouins from the Negev and Israel Druze and Circassians will participate in the "Adloyada," the national Purim carnival which will be held in Tel Aviv next week. The Bedouins, mounted on horses and camels, will be led by their own sheiks in parades. The Druze and Circassians, also in national costumes, will perform Oriental dances at the huge spectacle which in past years was a tourist attraction. This is the first "Adloyada" since the war, when the festival was suspended.

**ISRAEL SHIPPING COMPANY ANNOUNCES DIVIDEND FOR AMERICAN INVESTORS**

NEW YORK, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Zim Israel Navigation Company of Haifa has announced the payment of an interim dividend of seven percent for 1954 on its participating preference shares, all of which are held by Americans, it was reported today by the American-Israel Shipping Company, representatives of Zim in the United States. This is the third dividend paid on these shares to date.

The American stockholders in Zim are organized in the Israel Maritime Company, Inc., of New York, an affiliate of AMPAL - American Israel Trading Corporation. The Zim Israel Navigation Company, founded in 1945 by the Jewish Agency and Histadrut, the Israel labor federation, operates a fleet of more than 30 freighters and passenger liners in regular service to four continents.

**JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY ANNOUNCES CONTEST FOR U.S. STUDENTS**

NEW YORK, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Historical Society announced today that a new contest for students of American colleges and universities, both undergraduate and graduate, will be sponsored by the Society this year. The essays must deal with a subject related to American Jewish history. Prizes totalling \$1,000 have been made available by Louis M. Rabinowitz, noted Jewish philanthropist.

The Society announced today that Jewish History Week will be observed this year from April 17-23. All congregations, schools for young people and adults, community centers, and all other groups interested in the preservation of Jewish culture were urged to join in this year's celebration.