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## JOYOUS MOOD MARKS CELEBRATION OF SEVENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, April 26. (JTA) -- Israel began celebrating tonight the seventh anniversary of its independence in a mood of gaiety and with definite hopes for brighter economic aspects. Street dancing started early this evening and continued far into the night.

Streets in all cities and settlements were decorated today in preparation for the celebrations and the blue-white Israel flag fluttered from windows of almost every house in the country. An optimistic note was sounded in the Independence Day radio broadcasts and statements by Premier Moshe Sharett and other members of the Cabinet.

Israel President Itzhak Ben Zvi, in an Independence Day message to the nation, as well as to the Jews of the world, emphasized the difficulties which the country faced in the course of last year and outlined the problems which Israel will meet in its eighth year, upon which it is entering. The two major problems facing the country, he said, are the arrival of more immigrants in Israel and their absorption.

The President expressed regret that during the past year no improvement in Israel's security situation had taken place. The danger from the neighboring Arab countries has not diminished, he stated, adding that although the road to an Arab-Israel peace is still a long one, Israel hopes that peace will nevertheless be achieved.

### Thousands Attend Torch-Lightning Ceremony at Mt. Herzl

Independence Day was launched with a ceremony atop Mt. Herzl where Speaker of the Knesset Joseph Sprinzak lit a torch signalling to inhabitants of the entire Jerusalem area that the celebration was begun. The statement by President Ben Zvi and one by Premier Moshe Sharett were broadcast to the nation later in the evening. The torch-lighting ceremony on Mt. Herzl was attended by thousands of people including leaders of the government, Jewish Agency and members of the diplomatic corps.

Sirens sounded at 7 A. M. today in Jerusalem, announcing the official beginning of Remembrance Day, which is marked the day before Independence Day. Candles were lit and special prayers were recited in synagogues throughout the country. All flags over government buildings were lowered to half-mast and a special memorial torch lighted in the square opposite Jerusalem's City Hall was guarded by a special unit of veterans.

This afternoon, a special memorial and wreath laying ceremony took place at the main military cemetery atop Mt. Herzl. Later a special religious service, arranged by the Ministry for Religion, was held in the national cemetery on Mt. Zion. Other services were held in all cemeteries and in the schools where pupils heard a special commemorative broadcast by Education Minister Ben Zion Dinur.

Reviewing the passing-out parade of the first graduating class at the Israel Command and Staff college, Defense Minister David Ben Gurion told the officers that Israel has the best and most efficient army in the Middle East. The parade, one of the introductory events of Independence Day, was also reviewed and addressed by Premier Moshe Sharett and the Army Chief of Staff, Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan.

In a special order of the day, Gen. Dayan paid tribute to those soldiers who gave up their lives for Israel's liberation and in guarding its borders against aggression. For the first time, he revealed that a total of 6,000 men and women had died in the War of Liberation against invading the Arab states.

### New York Mayor Proclaims Israel Independence Week

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- In an impressive ceremony in the City Hall, Mayor Robert F. Wagner today proclaimed this week as Israel Independence Week in honor of Israel's seventh birthday tomorrow. Present at the ceremony at which the proclamation was issued were officials of the American Zionist Council and Miss Yael Sharett, daughter of Premier Moshe Sharett, who is a student in the United States.

(In Washington, many leading American personalities today paid tribute to Israel on its seventh anniversary at a dinner sponsored by the America-Israel society. The society is a non-profit, non-political association dedicated to mutual understanding between the peoples of the U.S. and of Israel through cultural means. Details of the dinner will be reported in tomorrow's Bulletin.)

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA) -- Israel, as she begins her eighth year, may be in grave danger of being forced back to a period of tent cities and unemployed immigrants unless American Jews can provide increased financial support for resettling the growing influx of impoverished newcomers from North Africa. Dr. Giora Josephthal, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, warned here today. He spoke at an all-Zionist planning conference, sponsored jointly by the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal, its major beneficiary.

Dr. Josephthal stressed that Israel, during the past seven years, has registered "extremely significant advances in all areas of the economy." He said "agricultural production has increased by almost 125 percent since 1948 and the cultivated area throughout the country has more than doubled to reach approximately 925,000 acres this year." The population in transit camps and reception centers has been reduced from a peak of 250,000 to about 70,000 now in transition camps. "There are no longer any tent cities."

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, told the conference that "Israel and the democratic ideal might have suffered terrible setbacks in the past seven years had it not been for the steadfast support given to both by American Jews." He reported that, in the seven years of Israel's existence, American Jews had made it possible for the UJA to allocate close to \$500,000,000 for programs that "have helped Israel to transform hundreds of thousands of lives and thousands of years of changeless neglect."

The UJA executive head warned that "a retreat now to the camps of yesterday would not only impair Israel's economic health but, in disarming Israel economically, might possibly invite a re-invigorated attack by its neighbors." Dewey D. Stone, national chairman of the United Israel Appeal and a chairman of the UJA campaign, stressed that this year "the UJA can halt and even reverse the recent downward trends in our fund-raising experience."

#### Dr. Goldmann Scores Bandung Anti-Israel Resolution

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, in a political statement referring to the recent Bandung resolution endorsing the demands of the Arab states, declared that "one might have expected that states that had only just obtained their sovereignty would be less ready to accept their face value the cliches of Arab League propaganda."

Terming the Bandung conference in this respect "disconcerting" and the demands of the Arab states "untenable," Dr. Goldmann expressed the view that it does not speak well for the moral climate in the world today that these nations adopted this resolution, that the history created by Israel in the past seven years be cancelled out and replaced by history as the Arab League would like to write it. The Jewish Agency chairman called upon friends of Israel "to elucidate more vigorously Israel's case and to stand behind Israel financially and morally so that she can weather the present crisis."

The assembled delegates, representing about a million Zionists in this country, adopted a proclamation. Recognizing that the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel Appeal "are the main channels of philanthropic aid to the people of Israel, providing funds for the immigration and resettlement of the newcomers, the housing of the homeless, and the cultivation of the desert," the proclamation urged that "priority be given to the UJA through the following means:

1. The establishment of a National Zionist Liaison Committee, representing all the Zionist organizations, to work closely with the United Jewish Appeal in recruiting full-scale Zionist manpower for the UJA.
2. Every Zionist organization shall direct its chapters to name chairmen and committees whose specific job will be the promotion of the UJA campaign within Zionist ranks and the establishment of effective liaison with the local welfare funds.
3. Every Zionist chapter on local and community levels will designate a particular period of time best suited for the local campaign in which the membership would direct all of its energies and activities in behalf of the UJA campaign effort.

#### COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM SEES SECURE ISRAEL AS AIM OF UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, April 26 (JTA) -- All American citizens, whatever their religion, need a stable Israel, at peace with equally stable Arab neighbors -- as part of the free world. Clarence L. Coleman, Jr., of Chicago, new president of the American Council for Judaism, declared at a press conference here today.

Mr. Coleman described his statement as a consistent development of one of the Council's basic principles. He stressed that Americans of the Jewish faith have the same objectives for United States foreign policy as those of American citizens of other faiths. "The fact is," Mr. Coleman declared, "that the United States Government and all its citizens, whatever their religion, want Israel to become an integral part of the free world. Every American wants a strong ally in Israel, as he wants strong allies in England, France and all the Middle Eastern countries."

MUNICH, April 26 (JTA) - Rabbi Aron Ohrenstein, a controversial figure in the Jewish community and in Bavarian restitution circles, was cleared by a local German court late yesterday of having been involved in a blackmail and smuggling ring. The prosecutor had asked a two-year sentence and a heavy fine.

The case involved a gang which had smuggled huge quantities of food and other hard-to-obtain articles into Germany in 1949 and 1950. The goods were admitted duty-free because they were consigned to a non-existent charity organization. The goods included 200,000 pounds of chocolate, 100,000 pounds of coffee, 140,000 pounds of cocoa, 14,000 pairs of nylon stockings and other items.

Several others among the ten defendants in the case were given suspended sentences; other members of the ring had fled abroad. Among the accused were Prince Hans of Lichtenstein and Johann Bouillon, former Bavarian secretary of the respected Workers Welfare Association.

Dr. Ohrenstein testified that he had intervened in behalf of the promoters of the scheme and had certified lists of alleged recipients of "food packages," unaware that there was anything wrong with the organization. He stressed that he had acted in good faith throughout.

Among the witnesses testifying against Dr. Ohrenstein was Dr. Julius Spanier, former president of the Munich Jewish Community. After a lengthy controversy in the community lasting a number of years, beginning with charges levelled against Dr. Ohrenstein as an alleged accomplice in the death of the late Philip Auerbach, one-time head of the Bavarian Restitution Office, Dr. Ohrenstein was officially removed as Chief Rabbi of Munich by the community some six months ago. However, he has refused to recognize the legality of the community's action and maintains that he is still Chief Rabbi.

#### NAZI GROUPS SCORE GAINS IN PROVINCIAL ELECTIONS IN LOWER SAXONY

HANOVER, April 26 (JTA) - Known Nazis were elected to office and nearly-overt Nazi groups scored gains in this week-end's state elections in Lower Saxony Province, it became known here today as final results were announced.

The nearly-open neo-Nazi German Reich Party attracted 127,000 votes, increased its percentage of the total vote from 2.2 four years ago to 3.8 and increased the number of seats in the provincial parliament from two to six.

The far right German Party, which took over the membership and in many cases the candidates of the Socialist Reich Party, dissolved by the Bonn Government as unconstitutional, increased its share of the total vote to 12.4 and the number of its parliamentary seats to 20. It was this party's Berlin branch which held an election rally some months back at which several anti-Semitic incidents occurred.

The Free Democratic Party, a member of the governmental coalition in Bonn, is completely dominated in Lower Saxony by former Hitler Youth leaders and like-minded Nazi elements. It obtained 7.9 percent of all the votes and 12 seats. In all the Lower Saxony legislature has 161 seats.

While this line-up of ultra-nationalist and Nazi leaders is heavy, there is one bright spot in the picture - the absence of the Socialist Reich Party which four years ago obtained 11 percent of the votes. Since then the party was banned.

The German Reich Party although the possessor of only six seats, may yet become an important political factor in Lower Saxony despite the fact that two years ago the Adenauer Government tried to ban it. This may come about because of the failure of any of the other coalitions to gain an absolute majority. Every one of the six successful candidates of this party is a militant Nazi, including the former Nazi Minister-President of Oldenburg. Its principal speaker in the election campaign was Col. H. Rudolf, wartime flying ace and an unreconstructed Nazi.

#### HIGH GERMAN OFFICIAL RETURNS TO BONN; ABANDONED PLAN TO VISIT ISRAEL

BONN, April 26 (JTA) - Dr. Willy Albert Fetter, head of the Middle Eastern Section of the German Federal Republic's Press and Information Agency, has returned here without visiting Israel, Egypt or Jordan, due to a last-minute switch in plans. He had originally been expected to proceed to Jerusalem from Iran last week.

Dr. Fetter's plans had caused widespread interest since he would have been the first West German government official to visit Israel in connection with his duties, although it had been planned that he would enter Israel on an ordinary visit and not on a diplomatic one.

#### JEWISH PARLEY IN ITALY TO DISCUSS DISTRIBUTION OF GERMAN REPARATIONS

ROME, April 26 (JTA) - The problem of distributing funds assigned to Italian Jewry from German reparations monies by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany will be discussed at a conference convoked by the Union of Italian Jewish Communities. Each local community president has been asked to attend the parley.

## SEN. NEUBERGER LAUDS ISRAEL'S DEMOCRATIC IDEALS; ADDRESSES U. J. A.

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- Senator Richard L. Neuberger of Oregon asserted tonight that "development of Israel opens a fertile new field for extending the 'sphere of influence' for both democratic ideals and the benefits of Western technology" throughout the Middle East. He addressed 400 guests attending a United Jewish Appeal campaign dinner sponsored by the New York Council of the National Jewish Welfare Board at which pledges of \$750,000 to the 1955 New York UJA drive were announced.

Sen. Neuberger told the guests that Israel's progress in making Western democratic ideals work in the Middle East and bringing modern technology and living standards to that backward but crucially important area will have a powerful influence on the peoples of neighboring Arab lands. "Israel, by example, can have great influence in supplanting the archaic remnants of ancient cultures, the barriers to progress in nearby areas," he said. "Israel's advance should be considered as an expedition into new frontiers. As Israel enjoys new successes, its progress will stimulate the attention of neighbors. Just as a stone dropped into a quiet pool sends waves to the outermost edges, so will Israel's efforts to provide decent living standards provoke duplicate action."

In urging wholehearted support of the United Jewish Appeal, Sen. Neuberger compared Israel's present position and potentialities to those of the United States in its frontier era 150 years ago. Recalling that there were many who despaired of successful development of the American frontier, he declared: "It takes men of foresight and faith to rise above false prophecies whether they concern Israel or the vast open spaces of the American West."

## \$1,750,000 IN ISRAEL BONDS SOLD AT DE SAPIO DINNER IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- Carmine G. De Sapio, New York Secretary of State, was honored last night at a testimonial dinner that provided \$1,750,000 in State of Israel Bonds for the industrial and agricultural development of Israel. More than 2,000 persons participated in the tribute to Mr. De Sapio, who received the State of Israel Bond Organization's Distinguished Leadership Award, a gold map of Israel.

Mayor Wagner, who was one of the principal speakers, called for "re-affirmation" of American friendship and interest in the future of Israel. Mr. De Sapio joined with Mayor Wagner in calling for the strengthening of Israel, "a stalwart supporter in a cold war which has the entire world gripped in the agony of fear." He deplored the shipment of arms to Arab nations as a threat not only to Israel but to America's security. Other speakers included Avraham Harman, Israeli consul general in New York; Jacob M. Arvey, Chicago Democratic leader, and Ira Guilden, chairman of the Greater New York committee for Israel bonds.

## S. SHRAGAI, IMMIGRATION HEAD OF JEWISH AGENCY, ARRIVES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- S. Z. Shragai, member of the Jewish Agency executive, arrived here today aboard the Queen Mary. He will spend a month in the United States, visiting Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago, Omaha and Los Angeles, under the auspices of the American Zionist Council.

During his stay in this country, Mr. Shragai, who heads the Agency's immigration department, will participate in meetings at the Jewish Agency headquarters in this city on Israel's skilled manpower needs and on ways and means of attracting middle class immigrants from the U.S. to Israel.

## JEWISH MEMBER OF NETHERLANDS GOVT. DECORATED BY QUEEN JULIANA

THE HAGUE, April 26. (JTA) -- Dr. Raymond H. Post, a Jew who is Minister for Dutch Guiana at The Hague, has been named a Knight of the Order of the Dutch Lion by Queen Juliana.

## DR. BERNHARD KAHN, J. D. C. LEADER, DIES IN NEW YORK; WAS 7

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- Dr. Bernhard Kahn, a vice chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, who devoted more than 50 years of his life to welfare and relief activities on behalf of needy Jews overseas, died today in White Plains Hospital. He was 79. Funeral services will be held Thursday afternoon in New York.

Dr. Kahn was born in Oscarshamn, Sweden. He began his career of service in 1904 when he became secretary general of the Hilfsverein der Deutschen Juden. In 1921 he became head of the refugee department of the JDC, and from 1924 to 1939 he served as JDC European director. In 1939 when the advance of Nazism and the outbreak of World War II drove him to the United States he was elected honorary chairman of the JDC European Council, a post which he held until 1950 when he was elected a JDC vice-chairman.

He was a member of the board of directors of the Palestine Economic Corporation, Palestine Foundation Fund and the Haffkine Foundation, a vocational training institution. He also served as chairman of the advisory council of OSE from 1945, and as executive member of the Jewish Agency from 1929-31.