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AUSTRIA AND JEWISH CLAIMS COMMITTEE TO RESUME TALKS ON MAY 9

VIENNA, April 28. (JTA) -- Representatives of the Austrian Government and the Jewish Committee for Claims on Austria will resume talks on restitution for victims of the Nazis on May 9, it was announced here today. The government will be conferring with a number of groups interested in restitution during the week of May 5-11.

Jewish circles here are not concerned by the indication in government quarters yesterday that the government sees these talks as "preliminary" in nature. The Jews point out that the claims committee team is not prepared to sign any agreement at that time and that such signature must be by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, presiding officer of the worldwide Jewish committee. It is authoritatively learned that Austrian Chancellor Julius Raab has invited Dr. Goldmann to come to Vienna during the second half of May.

(In New York, it was learned from reliable sources that finalization of the agreement by Dr. Goldmann and his going to Vienna would depend on the nature of the proposals which the Austrian Government makes.)

Meanwhile, Austrian Jewish circles have voiced apprehension over the fate of a clause in the draft of the Austrian state treaty, which may be signed by the four occupation powers this year. Article 38 of that treaty reserves to the Austrian Government the right to demand of Germany the return of property the Nazis took out of Austria to Germany.

A considerable portion of that property consists of Jewish assets, including the contents of safe deposit vaults, insurance policies and special "flight" taxes which Jews paid for the right to emigrate from Nazi Austria. It is estimated that these assets amount to many millions of dollars, far more than the Jewish claims committee is seeking in a lumpsum settlement with the Austrian Government.

U. S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY TERMED UNFAIR TO ISRAEL IN CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, April 28. (JTA) -- A number of Democratic members of the House today took the occasion of Israel's seventh anniversary to demand a change of present policies in the Near East which they described as unfair to Israel, especially the arms aid and defense situation.

Rep. Charles A. Boyle, Illinois, said he was "alarmed at the present policy of the State Department in our present administration in the Arab-Israel controversy--a policy which is clearly and definitely pro-Arab and therefore, necessarily is anti-Israel." Rep. Boyle charged before the House that "the attitude of the present administration ignores the true facts concerning the Arab-Israel situation." He said that "in view of the belligerent statements made by the Arab leaders" the United States "cannot trust the Arabs" to use U.S. munitions granted for the purposes intended by this country.

Rep. Thomas L. Ashley, Ohio, said: "At a time when our own State Department describes as 'impartial' a policy by which free military assistance is given to Iraq while arms are sold to Israel, it is clear that we must reconsider the values upon which free and independent Israel is founded. And certainly we must change our policies to meet a definition of 'impartial' more in keeping with our honest American standards."

Rep. Barratt O'Hara, Illinois, warned the House that "it can happen that guns and ammunition intended for one purpose are put to a quite different use." He said "it is not wise that we should be a party in any way or in any sense to contributing to the great and grave dangers facing Israel in an inflamed area." Another Illinois Democrat, Rep. Sidney Yates, charged that "the policy of our State Department in the Middle East is moving more toward promoting hostility rather than peace."

Other members of the House rose to congratulate Israel on its anniversary. They included 15 Congressmen, from both parties, and represented nearly a dozen states.

EGYPTIAN AND ISRAEL TROOPS EXCHANGE ARTILLERY FIRE AT FRONTIER

TEL AVIV, April 28. (JTA) -- Egyptian troops in the Gaza area opened fire on an Israel patrol today, using mortars and machine guns. Israel artillery replied.

The Arabs opened fire when the patrol, discovering a double landmine, halted and began to dig it up. After the artillery exchange ended, the mines were dismantled, and proved to be Egyptian manufactured. Israel complained to the Mixed Armistice Commission.

U. S. AMBASSADOR REASSURES ISRAEL; SAYS WASHINGTON WATCHES SITUATION

TEL AVIV, April 28. (JTA) -- The United States has not forgotten nor abandoned Israel, U. S. Ambassador Edward B. Lawson told 4,000 persons attending an Independence Day affair at ZOA House here last night. My government Ambassador Lawson continued, "is fully aware of Israel's problems and its anxieties concerning her border security."

The U. S. recognizes "Israel's pressing need for security measures which will effectively dissipate the dark sense of isolation. He added that he was supremely confident that those problems are on the way to a solution. Finally he expressed the hope that "Israel will live forever in freedom and independence and will grow old along with us."

A replica of the American Liberty Bell was presented to the city of Jerusalem today as a gift from friends of Israel in Philadelphia, home of the symbol of American freedom. Among those present at the ceremony were: Walter Phillips, representing the City of Philadelphia; Gov. G. Mennen Williams of Michigan, a representative of the United States Embassy; a delegation from the American Israel Society which came to Israel to participate in the Independence Day celebrations and Speaker of the Knesset Joseph Sprinzak, who accepted the Liberty Bell replica.

Walt Whitman Library Presented to Hebrew University

Gov. Williams of Michigan presented a Walt Whitman Library to the Hebrew University today at a ceremony at the University. The library was donated by Charles E. Feinberg of Detroit. It consists of a large number of Whitman works, including first editions and 53 laminated plaques on which are mounted facsimile manuscripts of Whitman works; photographs and title pages of various editions. Whitman's works have been translated into Hebrew by many writers.

Israel Minister for Education Prof. Ben Zion Dinur awarded yesterday ten "Israel Independence Prizes" in various fields of study to 12 different scholars. Three scientists shared one of the prizes which are awarded annually on Israel's Independence Day. Each prize carries a cash stipend of 1,000 pounds. They were awarded to:

Prof. Itzhak Heinman, for Jewish studies; Dr. Ephraim Auerbach, for Jewish studies; Zalman Shneur, for literature, the late Prof. Itzhak Lamdan, for literature, Prof. Moshe Fekete, for the exact sciences; Prof. M. Shapiro, for medicine; Dr. Shoshanah Hestrin, for medicine; Prof. I. Reichert, Dr. A. Bentor and Akiva Furman, jointly for the natural sciences; Nathaniel Hochburg, for agriculture and Mrs. Sarah Schatz, for art.

INTERNATIONAL MIGRATION PARLEY ELECTS ISRAELI AS CHAIRMAN

GENEVA, April 28. (JTA) -- The Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration opened a ten-day session of its 26-nation council here yesterday with the election of Hanan Cidor, Israel representative, as chairman of the session.

Accepting the election as an "anniversary present," Mr. Cidor explained that yesterday was Israel Independence Day and drew a parallel between the development of Israel, "the smallest member state," and the United States, "our biggest and most powerful" member state, noting that the common factors were independence and development through immigration, pioneering and land settlement.

Rep. Francis Walter, co-author of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act and a member of the American delegation, spoke against lower immigrant barriers and insisted that ICEM's 1955 target--the movement of over 143,000 persons from Europe was "too closely tied" to the United States Refugee Relief Act of 1953. He also expressed the fear that the ICEM's plans would be increasingly dependent on the U. S. capacity to absorb immigrants, "pointing out that one of the objectives of the organization was to "open new areas" for Europe's surplus population.

DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS AT RESORTS SCORED AT A D. L. COMMENT ON

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- The policy of resorts and hotels which bar Jews during the vacation season but seek their patronage during slack periods, was denounced here today as "dollar discrimination" by Judge David A. Rose of Boston, addressing the first-day session of the 42nd annual meeting of the Black South Atlantic Detachment League at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. He said it is a long standing practice to many vacation spots to pursue a sanctimonious policy of acquiring legitimate business in the slack season."

Arnold Forster, civil rights director of the League, listed Maine and Florida as the two states where resort discrimination is most flagrant. However, in the State of Washington, said Mr. Forster, an ADL survey shows that not one of the state's principal vacation hotels practiced religious discrimination.

Deputy Mayor Henry Epstein of New York reported to the delegates on the League's increased use of scientific research to evaluate the fitness and public acceptability of its educational materials. He said that the League had published and distributed more than 2,000,000 copies of periodicals and pamphlets during the past year.

ANTI-JEWISH BIAS STILL EXISTS IN RURAL AREAS, SURVEYS SHOW

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- The results of two long-term sociological studies probing public attitudes toward Jews in rural areas and in "middle towns"--U.S. cities of 25,000 to 100,000 population--were released by Benjamin R. Epstein, national director of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, in connection with the 42nd annual meeting of the ADL which opened today at the Waldorf Astoria.

The two groups of studies, each a continuing research project begun several years ago, find that Jews are successfully integrated in the community life of smaller urban areas--except on the "social contact" level where discrimination by Gentiles and withdrawal by Jews remains an accepted, if sensitive, practice. But rural dwellers, with few opportunities for face-to-face contact, are much more unfavorably prejudiced and show a widespread acceptance of common myths and stereotypes about Jews.

The rural studies, subsidized in part by the ADL, were conducted at Michigan State College where they were directed by Drs. W. B. Brookover and J. B. Holland of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. Their findings disclosed that however extreme our rural notions of what Jews are like, there is little active discrimination towards Jews and fewer opportunities to express such hostility. This was not interpreted to mean that a greater influx of Jews in rural areas would result in greater discrimination toward them. Instead, Mr. Epstein in his report on the studies characterized rural prejudice as "fear of the unseen and unheard" and listed these findings:

1. While more than one-half of the persons interviewed in a rural sampling were opposed to Jews moving in, whatever favorable attitudes they did express were reserved for Jewish families living in their own county.

2. Among rural dwellers who have had some contact with Jews, many more described such contact as "pleasant" rather than "unpleasant." Rural dwellers also expressed disapproval of "foreigners"--yet accepted with cordiality the entry of displaced persons as farm workers in their region.

Persons Aged 26 to 40 Indulge Least in Anti-Semitism

Another poll found rural dwellers in Southern and Midwest states more hostile than those in the North and East. This poll also showed that rural anti-Semitism was least indulged in by persons between 26 and 40 years of age. The "middle town" studies of smaller communities whose population is from one to three percent Jewish, found that Jews in such areas form a separate community, not in the physical sense of living in a single part of town, but in that they have a shared culture and heritage, a sense of psychological unity and an established organizational and leadership structure of their own.

This self-identity does not exclude them from the life of the general community, except in the area of "social relationships" with non-Jews which remains on a restricted basis. Thus, the study discloses, communities that score low on social acceptability of Jews, score high on Jewish participation in community affairs. The "middle town" studies, directed by Dr. John F. Deane of Cornell University, also reported:

1. Jews in smaller communities are in a sound economic position and there are relatively few areas of economic life from which they are excluded. There are exceptions: if the town's economic power rests in the hands of an historically entrenched old guard, Jewish participation is almost non-existent in prominent locally-owned industries and in local banking, finance and law firms which draw their business from these industries. Also, there are few Jews in the labor force and, therefore, few in labor union leadership.

2. Jews play a minor role in local politics. Here, the anti-Semitic factor is not to be discounted in the party councils that select candidates. Only when the Jewish population becomes large enough are these anti-Semitic tendencies outweighed by practical political considerations.

3. Jews in smaller towns are more likely to be "joiners." This was pointed up in the sampling of an upstate New York town where 90 percent belonged to some organization. Contacts between Jews and Gentiles come in lodge organizations and civic, charitable and business groups. On the whole, these contacts are pleasant and comfortable, only occasionally disturbed by feelings of social distance or anti-Semitism.

4. Intimate social friendships, however, are limited. Most Jews in "middle town" seem to have all-Jewish social circles. In one special sampling, this was true for 85 out of 150 families.

One conclusion of this study was that it is the absence of contact opportunities between Gentiles and Jews more than anti-Semitic prejudice that places a serious limitation on the formation of mixed friendships. Jews who socialize with Gentiles express more friendly feelings toward them, but avoidance patterns tend to develop and there are rebuffs which make a Jew feel ill at ease."

MIAMI JEWISH HOSPITAL GETS \$250,000 GRANT FROM WOLFSON FOUNDATION

MIAMI, April 28. (JTA) -- A grant of \$250,000 to Mount Sinai Hospital here has been announced by the Wolfson Family Foundation of Jacksonville--one of 26 such grants totaling \$1,000,000 announced by the Foundation. Other Miami area grants included \$50,000 to the Greater Miami Jewish Federation and \$25,000 to Temple Israel of Miami.

FAIR EMPLOYMENT PRACTICES LAW BECOMES EFFECTIVE IN MINNESOTA

ST. PAUL, Minn., April 28. (JTA) -- Governor Orville L. Freeman has signed a bill providing for a Fair Employment Practices Act in Minnesota, following its passage by the Senate by a 49-10 vote. The bill passed by the Senate, which differed in two respects from that passed by the House, was finally concurred in by the House.

The new law provides for a nine-member commission to rule on grievances against employers, employment agencies, labor unions or other employes on grounds of discrimination. It also sets up a twelve-member review panel. Final recourse would be to district court under provisions of the new law.

ISRAEL MINISTER TO URUGUAY PRESENTS CREDENTIALS IN MONTEVIDEO

MONTEVIDEO, April 28. (JTA) -- Israel's new Minister to Uruguay, Matatiah Hines, presented his credentials here to Luis Battle Berres, President of the National Government Council, in the presence of Foreign Minister Santiago Rompani and other high Uruguayan officials.

Mr. Hines was accorded military honors and an ovation by a large crowd of persons who also witnessed the credentials ceremony. Sr. Battle Berres expressed his thanks for the good wishes of Israel President Itzhak Ben Zvi which were conveyed to him, adding that Uruguay had friendly feelings for Israel. Mr. Hines stressed that the opening of an Israel Legation in Uruguay was expressive of Israel's appreciation for Uruguay's cooperation in the past, and wishes for even closer relations in the future.

EXPANSION OF ORT PROGRAM IN ISRAEL ANNOUNCED BY DR. SYNGALOWSKI

TEL AVIV, April 28. (JTA) -- The ORT program in Israel will shortly expand in two directions, Dr. Aron Syngalowski, chairman of the World ORT Union, declared here today prior to returning to Geneva. Dr. Syngalowski had conferred here with Israel ORT leaders.

He revealed that the first direction of expansion included the establishment of two new schools for training construction and textile workers in advanced techniques and the establishment of ten schools for training immigrant youth in special skills needed in new settlements. The second new development, the ORT leader revealed, was the planned establishment of five schools in yeshivot for the training of printers, electricians and carpenters.

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS WORKERS TO AFFILIATE WITH N. C. J. C. S.

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- The Association of Jewish Community Relations Workers, at its fifth annual meeting, voted today to affiliate with the National Conference of Jewish Communal Service. Dr. Walter A. Lurie of New York was unanimously elected president of the Association, succeeding Dr. S. Andhil Fineberg of New York, who had served for three successive terms.

The decision to affiliate with the conference was taken at the conclusion of a session on relationships between Jewish community relations work and other fields of Jewish communal service. A proposed draft of a statement on professional standards was adopted as a working paper and the committee that prepared it was instructed to present a revised draft to the next annual meeting.

JEWISH LEADERS ATTEND FUNERAL SERVICES FOR DR. BERNHARD KAHN

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- Leaders from all walks of Jewish life attended the funeral services today for Dr. Bernhard Kahn, vice-chairman and former European director of the Joint Distribution Committee, who died this week at the age of 79. He was eulogized by Paul Baerwald, JDC honorary chairman, and Dr. Jonah B. Wise, vice-chairman.

Statements mourning the death of Dr. Kahn were issued by all major Jewish organizations, including the JDC, United Jewish Appeal, Palestine Economic Corporation, Jewish Agency, ORT, OSE and other institutions and organizations with whom Dr. Kahn had been closely associated. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency, said:

"The passing of Dr. Bernhard Kahn has aroused profound sorrow throughout the Jewish world. Dr. Kahn was a member of the Jewish Agency executive from 1929-1931. He served for many years as European representative of the Joint Distribution Committee and had been, throughout his lifetime, one of the foremost social workers in European Jewry. He possessed deep understanding, and was a brilliant administrator with a deep sense of social responsibility, inspired by profound sympathy for the sufferings of his fellow Jews. His most lasting contribution was the saving of Jews from the clutches of Nazism during the horrible decade."

K. LEITES, JEWISH SCHOLAR, DIES IN NEW YORK; EMIGRATED FROM RUSSIA

NEW YORK, April 29. (JTA) -- Dr. Konstantin Leites, prominent Jewish scholar who left Russia after the Communist Revolution and came to the United States in 1941 from Europe, where he had been associated with the ORT, died here at the age of 73.