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## EGYPTIANS OPEN FIRE ON ISRAEL FRONTIER; BATTLE LASTS SEVERAL HOURS

TEL AVIV, May 19. (JTA) -- A several-hour long exchange of fire took place along the Auja el Hafir area of the Egyptian-Israeli border today. The battle was started when Egyptians opened fire on the Israel settlement of Givat Rachel. There were no Israel casualties reported.

This Egyptian attack came on the heels of an Israel retaliatory raid on a military post along the Gaza strip border in the Kissufim area last midnight. The Israel raid, which was officially announced by a military spokesman here, was a reply to the mining of an Israel patrol vehicle Tuesday, which resulted in three Israel officers killed and two wounded. Earlier Tuesday another patrol in the same area had discovered and dismantled another Egyptian landmine.

The Israel military spokesman said that an Israel force attacked the Egyptian post--the largest in the area--sent its defenders flying in retreat and then blasted it to rubble. The Israel force returned to base without having suffered any casualties.

The Egyptians complained to the Israel-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission. Today, they refused to attend a meeting of United Nations truce supervisor Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns and an Israel and Egyptian military official scheduled to consider Gen. Burns' proposal for easing Gaza border tension. This mirrored a similar refusal by Israel yesterday to attend such a meeting after the mining of the patrol car.

A statement issued by Gen. Burns from his headquarters in Jerusalem yesterday after the Israelis informed him of their refusal to attend the three-sided conference appealed to Israel to return to the negotiations. Voicing the hope that the talks would be resumed, he said: "Deplorable as the loss of life in such incidents is, it would be unfortunate if either party should determine to break off negotiations because of them. Unless the parties try to improve the situation in this way, it is very possible that it will deteriorate still further."

## EGYPT REJECTS U. N. OFFER FOR DIRECT TALKS WITH ISRAEL IN PARIS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., May 19. (JTA) -- In line with the general world trend to resolve deep differences by discussions "at the summit," Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold was reported here today to have attempted to get Israel and Egypt together at a high level conference in Paris next week. However, according to the report here, Egypt has refused Mr. Hammarskjold's attempt to bring about face-to-face talks with Israel.

Mr. Hammarskjold is leaving for Paris Saturday in connection with his duties of organizing the conference on peaceful uses of atomic energy to be held in Geneva in August. It is understood that he was anxious to discuss the Israel-Arab conflicts with Egyptian and Israel officials "above the ambassadorial level."

At a press conference here today, Mr. Hammarskjold, while disclosing nothing about his reported high level move, did discuss the Israel-Arab conflicts and declared that there were "some hopes" in regard to that area of world tension.

"For weeks we have done whatever possible," he said, "through Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, the chief of our supervisory staff in Palestine, to improve the situation there. The outlook is good, and there are some hopes but of course there are also incidents, frequent incidents which may result in the loss of a life here or a life there, but always in the loss of lives that are precious and that cannot be measured in quantitative terms.

"We are trying to reach at least a temporary solution there. We cannot let the situation slip back to where it was a couple of months ago. I assure you that from our side nothing has been left undone that can be done and that nothing will be left undone."

In answer to another question, Mr. Hammarskjold expressed the hope that some way will be found to implement one of the recent recommendations by Gen. Burns for the erection of a barbed wire at least along certain sections of the border between Israel and the Egyptian-held Gaza strip.

The Secretary General said as yet he has nothing further to report on the possible extension of Gen. Burns' tenure beyond the June 30 expiration of the Chief of Staff's one-year appointment.

### BRITAIN TO MOVE ITS JERUSALEM CONSULATE TO ISRAEL SECTION

JERUSALEM, May 19. (JTA) -- Britain will move its consulate from the Old City of Jerusalem to the new city, it was learned here today. The move was interpreted here as an indication of British de facto recognition of Jerusalem as Israel's capital. In the past the British have only maintained a consular agency in Jewish Jerusalem.

### FIFTEEN ELDERLY SOVIET JEWS RE-UNITED WITH FAMILIES IN ISRAEL

LONDON, May 19. (JTA) -- Fifteen elderly Jewish men and women from Czernowitz arrived in Tel Aviv by air yesterday to be re-united with sons and daughters they had not seen for years, it was reported here today by the London press.

For years, the report says, they had persistently written to Marshal Stalin, Marshal Voroshilov and later Premier Malenkov, asking permission to join their families in Israel. Nothing happened until last Saturday when police in Czernowitz called them in and collected their photographs. "Two days later they were called again and handed their passports, exit permits, transit visas, and Israel destination visas, all arranged in Moscow the day before. In three hours they had sold their belongings and took the train to Vienna" from where they flew, the report concludes.

### ISRAEL PRESIDENT GREETED BY ITALIAN OFFICIALS AT NAPLES

ROME, May 19. (JTA) -- Israel President Itzhak Ben Zvi received local Italian officials and representatives of Italian Jewry aboard the vessel Negbah when it arrived in Naples harbor today. The President, who is on a Mediterranean cruise, has not left the Israel vessel at any port of call.

Rome Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff invited the President to visit "Europe's oldest Jewish community where the Arch of Titus reminds humanity of Israel's fall and rebirth." Dr. Giorgio Zevi, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, greeted President Ben Zvi in the name of Italian Jewry.

In a brief address to the Italian civil and military officials and to the Italian Jewish leaders, the President stressed the traditional friendship between Israel and Italy and noted that the Mediterranean Sea "is our common border." He expressed the belief that economic and cultural bonds between the two states would be strengthened. The shipboard reception was covered by Italian television and radio facilities.

### ISRAEL TO COMPLAIN AGAINST U. N. BODY'S YIELDING TO ARAB PRESSURE

MEXICO CITY, May 19. (JTA) -- Israel will raise the question of its isolation from the regional medical efforts of the World Health Organization, a United Nations affiliate, at an early meeting of the eighth session of the WHO Assembly, which opened here Tuesday. Israel's delegation to the session declared today.

The delegation, consisting of Dr. Hans Bettsch, director general of the Israel Health Ministry, and Arthur Liveran, member of the Israel delegation to the UN, noted that under the pressure of Arab League states' refusal to permit Israelis to attend WHO regional functions on Arab soil the UN body had placed Israel in the European region, divorced from the health problems of its Middle East locale and from coordinated efforts to deal with such problems. This action, taken as a temporary expedient at the last annual session of the WHO Assembly has not worked out and must be changed, the Israelis declared.

### ISRAEL CABINET, PARLIAMENT MEMBERS PAY HOMAGE TO PROF. EINSTEIN

JERUSALEM, May 19. (JTA) -- Premier Moshe Sharett, his Cabinet Ministers, deputies in Parliament and members of the faculty of the Hebrew University paid homage last night to the memory of Dr. Albert Einstein at a meeting held at the University.

The chief speakers were Minister of Education Ben Zion Dinur who spoke on "Einstein as man and Jew," and Prof. Giulio Racah, of the University's department of theoretical physics, who spoke on Dr. Einstein's scientific achievements.

### ISRAEL PRESENTS SCIENTIFIC PAPERS TO U. S. PARLEY ON ATOM ENERGY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. May 19. (JTA) -- Israel has presented six scientific papers to the United Nations Conference on Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy which will be held in Geneva for two weeks beginning August 8. A total of 794 papers have been presented to date.

### MEAT PRODUCED IN ISRAEL WILL NO LONGER BE RATIONED

JERUSALEM, May 19. (JTA) -- Meat produced in Israel will shortly be taken off the list of rationed items, Minister of Trade and Commerce Dr. Peretz Bernstein announced here today. However, he said, meat imported from abroad will continue to be rationed.

He revealed that some 50,000 tourists are expected to visit Israel before the year ends. It is anticipated that they will bring in revenue of about \$12.5 million, 25 percent above last year's total.

## GERMAN COURT HEARS TESTIMONY ON GASSING OF JEWS IN CAMPS

FRANKFURT, May 19 (JTA) -- Both SS technicians and concentration camp survivors confirmed before a local court that vast numbers of Jews were put to death with potassium cyanide at the Nazi annihilation camp at Auschwitz and that they saw Dr. Gerhard Peters' special brand of potassium cyanide in the camp. The defense and the judge made much of the fact, however, that the witnesses had not seen the special Peters' brand being used in the gas chambers.

Dr. Peters, an authority on the production of insecticides, managed the "German Corporation for Vermin Extermination" (DEGESCH) during the war and furnished the Auschwitz SS sufficient "Zyklon B" gas crystals to asphyxiate millions of human beings. He is on trial for the seventh time in seven years, charged with aiding and abetting murder in 300,000 cases, but continues at liberty as a management executive in a Cologne subsidiary of the IG-Farben chemical empire.

A Jewish pharmacist from Munich, Dr. Fritz Strauch, told the court how he had arrived at Auschwitz one September night in 1943. On the railroad platform, a "selection" took place - healthy men in the middle, the sick and elderly to the right, women and children to the left - among them his own wife. The prisoners on the left and on the right were put to death in the gas chambers within ten minutes, he later learnt. He was assigned to the camp pharmacy where he remained until Auschwitz was evacuated in January of 1945.

Dr. Strauch thought he recognized Peters as a repeated Auschwitz visitor, but refused to take an oath on this point after eleven years. Among the court exhibits, he identified a "Zyklon B" can as the same type that was stored in the Auschwitz pharmacy, frequently withdrawn by SS men and then replaced by new shipments received from the DEGESCH plant. Yet, when pressed by defense counsel to state whether he could positively state that the "Zyklon B" cans were used for the gasings, he was forced to acknowledge that he had not, of course, seen the gas chambers in actual operation.

Another witness had watched them in operation. A German political prisoner held at Auschwitz, one Roehner, was an electrician by trade and one day, while working on cables nearby, observed Jewish inmates being herded into the "small crematorium" (which was later enclosed by a brick wall to prevent such peeping). He saw an SS man pouring the contents of potassium cyanide cans into a receptacle above the ceiling. Out of the corner of his eye he watched, horrified, as the pulverized crystals were sprayed into the room through shower-type nozzles and how, a few moments later, everyone in the room choked and writhed in the agony of death. But he, too, could not swear that the cans he had seen being emptied were Dr. Peters' "Zyklon B" cans.

A third witness, one Dr. Muench, an SS physician who behaved decently and was for that reason acquitted by a Polish crimes court at Cracow. He served at Auschwitz as a sanitation expert, charged with halting the spread of typhus. In obvious distress, he recalled the summer of 1943: "Gasings upon gasings. Once we had 10,000 people gassed in one night. The hot night; the quantity of hard liquor I drank so as to be able to stand it, the terrible smell, believe it only lasted five minutes, from the moment when the door clanged shut until the suction pumps and ventilators began whirring." He thought that Dr. Peters' "Zyklon B" had been used.

## MOVEMENT FOR "CHRISTIAN" AMENDMENT OF CONSTITUTION REVIVED

WASHINGTON, May 19, (JTA) -- A proposal that "the authority and law of Jesus Christ" be expressly proclaimed in an amendment to the United States Constitution has been revived and will soon be re-introduced in Congress. This was made known today by the Rev. A. J. McFarland, of Pittsburgh, Pa., executive secretary of the "Christian Amendment Movement."

Activity is under way here to line up a group of sponsors in the House of Representatives. The proposed amendment may be simultaneously reintroduced in the Senate. Leading the sponsoring group is Rep. Robert D. Harrison, Nebraska Republican, who introduced it in the last Congressional session as a companion bill to a similar measure sponsored in the Senate by Sen. Ralph Flanders, Vermont Republican.

A Senate subcommittee held hearings last year on the Flanders resolution. Jewish groups strongly objected to the proposed legislation, expressing belief that it would violate American principles regarding separation of church and state and would create, in effect, a class of "second class citizens." The subcommittee voted to table the bill and did not report it to the Senate floor. Sen. Flanders said that he would not reintroduce it.

Rev. McFarland, an ordained minister of the Reformed Presbyterian Church, has spent 13 years leading the movement to amend the Constitution. He maintains that the amendment would "remedy a defect in the Constitution" because he feels the Constitution should state that this nation "devoutly recognizes the law and authority of Jesus Christ, Saviour and ruler of nations, through whom are bestowed the blessings of Almighty God."

## JEWISH SOCIAL WORKERS CONVENTION OPENS TODAY; 1,200 ATTEND

ATLANTIC CITY, May 19. (JTA) -- A message of greeting from President Eisenhower was received today by the National Conference of Jewish Communal Service which opens its 57th annual meeting tomorrow at the Ambassador Hotel here. More than 1,200 Jewish social workers, educators and communal workers will attend the week-long parley, at which various problems concerning Jewish communal work will be discussed.

Dr. Horace M. Kallen, Professor of Social Philosophy and Emeritus Professor of the Graduate Faculty of the New School for Social Research, former professor at Harvard University, will open the meeting with an address on "Factors Influencing the Development of Jewish Communal Institutions in the 4th Century of Jewish life in America." Dr. Kallen's keynote is in consonance with the conference's 1955 theme: "On the Threshold of the Fourth Century of Jewish life in America - Retrospect and Prospect." Dr. Maurice B. Hexter, executive vice-president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, will continue Dr. Kallen's theme with a discussion on "Assessing Jewish Communal Institutions Required for the 4th Century of the American Jewish Community."

## THREE-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON JEWISH EDUCATION OPENS

ATLANTIC CITY, May 19. (JTA) -- The 29th annual conference of the National Council for Jewish Education opened here today to discuss problems concerning Jewish education in this country. The three-day conference will receive a report from Prof. Oscar I. Janowsky on a study of Jewish education in America which was made under his chairmanship.

Principals of schools, bureau directors, school supervisors and teachers in higher Jewish education will discuss problems in their specialized areas. Evaluation and needs in textbooks, criteria for accrediting schools and the problems of secondary and adult education will be considered. Professional problems facing Jewish educators, including a national pension plan, a code of practice, the setting up of regional organizations, and the creation of a coordinating body for agencies concerned with the Jewish education profession will also be considered.

## LANDING OF FIRST JEWS WILL BE COMMEMORATED TODAY IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, May 19. (JTA) -- The landing of the first group of Jewish settlers in New Amsterdam will be marked in bronze and granite tomorrow when a commemorative plaque and flagpole will be dedicated at the Battery in New York City, under the auspices of the New York Joint Legislative Committee for the American Jewish Tercentenary. Judge Joseph M. Proskauer is chairman of the committee, by appointment of the Governor of New York. Governor Averell Harriman will officially present the plaque and flagpole to the City of New York.

The bronze commemorative plaque will be set in a granite base nearly seven feet high. Out of this base will rise the flag staff, 72 feet high, on which the American flag will be raised and lowered daily following the dedication. The inscription on the plaque will read: "Erected by the State of New York to honor the memory of the twenty-three men, women and children who landed in September 1654 and founded the first Jewish Community in North America."

## B'NAI B'RITH SEEKS INCREASE IN MEMBERS; PLANS 62 NEW LODGES

NEW YORK, May 19. (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith will seek to increase its membership to half a million men and women, it was announced by Bernard Roman, chairman of the B'nai B'rith national membership campaign cabinet, at a three-day meeting held here at the Belmont Plaza Hotel. Current membership of B'nai B'rith totals 350,000 men, women and youth in 33 countries.

B'nai B'rith leaders from seven districts covering the United States and Canada pledged themselves to enroll 62 new lodges during 1955-56, most of them in new suburban areas. Mrs. William Rabkin of this city, on behalf of the B'nai B'rith Women, said that at least 25,000 women would be added during the 1955 membership campaign.

## ISRAELI WINS AMERICAN FELLOWSHIP FOR YEAR'S STUDY AT M. I. T.

HAIFA, May 19. (JTA) -- Israel Feldman, who will this year graduate from the Israel Technion's Faculty of Electrical Engineering, has been selected as the first winner of the Cooper Fellowship for a year of study in the School of Industrial Management at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He will begin his studies at M. I. T. this autumn.

The fellowship, which has been established by Benjamin Cooper, noted New York industrialist, provides for round trip transportation, tuition at M. I. T., and maintenance expense. Cash value of the scholarship is over \$3,000. Additional scholarship winners, selected from among Technion graduates, will be chosen in the future. The purpose of the plan is to provide promising young Israeli engineers with training and experience in business management to help the country's industrial growth.