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CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEE HEARS PLEA FOR AMERICAN-ISRAEL PACT

WASHINGTON, June 16. (JTA) -- An American-Israel defense agreement was urged today before the House Foreign Affairs Committee by Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, chairman of the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs.

Rabbi Bernstein testified that on a recent trip to Israel he found Israelis "bewildered, not only by our unilateral arms policy, but also by the system of alliances which has been developing in the area, and which we have been encouraging." He said "it is a startling fact that, while most of the countries around Israel are either leagued with each other, or in some way leagued with Western Powers, Israel stands completely alone and has no alliances with anyone."

An American-Israel pact, he stated, "would be the most effective means of achieving stability and peace in the Near East because it would make it clear that we are opposed to renewed fighting and that we want peace." Rabbi Bernstein said that "the Israelis will fight to the last man for their own freedom and to fulfill commitments to the free world." He cautioned that "supplying of arms to any of the Arab countries before they make peace with Israel permits them to draw the inference that we do not regard peace as a prime necessity."

Rabbi Bernstein stressed to the committee that in view of the cut in economic assistance for Israel for the fiscal year 1956 he wanted to emphasize "that Israel still needs our help." He said while Israel has made progress and there is now hope that she can attain economic independence in the foreseeable future, "it would be a mistake and it would undo much of the good that has been done by our aid program if Israel were to be cut prematurely and drastically at this time."

He reported that Israel "has been compelled by Arab intransigence to devote a large part of her budget to defense." He favored economic and technical assistance to the Arab countries, but recorded "strong opposition to any and all programs for military assistance in advance of a peace settlement."

Britain Will Not Offer Formal Treaty to Israel, Minister Says

LONDON, June 16. (JTA) -- The British Government will offer the Israel Government no formal treaty at this time, Anthony Nutting, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, told the House of Commons last night. He also asserted that the balance of forces presently stationed along Israel's frontiers do not constitute a danger to Israel.

"We want to get stability first, then guarantee it," Mr. Nutting told the House. "We will not enter into a formal commitment to perpetuate the present instability," he added.

In a reply to critics of the Tripartite Declaration, who had earlier called for the declaration's conversion into a formal treaty guaranteeing Israel's security, Mr. Nutting said that the Tripartite Declaration served its purpose since it was made in 1950 in that no attempt has been made by either side to alter the demarcation lines by force.

There have been "unfortunate incidents," he admitted, but "we will do everything" to bring the parties to a meeting under Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, UN truce chief, to discuss the "regrettable" frontier situation. "We will continue to do all we can to bring about a wider settlement of these problems," Mr. Nutting pledged.

U. N. TRUCE BODY TAKES "SERIOUS VIEW" OF NEW GAZA INCIDENT

JERUSALEM, June 16. (JTA) -- United Nations truce headquarters here has taken a "serious view" of the seizure of an Egyptian military jeep in the demilitarized zone near Auja yesterday, according to a communique issued last night. The communique blamed Israel settlement members for removing the jeep and called upon the Israel authorities to return the vehicle.

The Israel Foreign Office, meanwhile, took exception to the issuance of the UN communique, noting that only two weeks ago an Israel car was attacked and forcibly taken over the border by Egyptian armed forces and the UN made no public statement about the matter. The Foreign Office also pointed out that the Egyptians were in the demilitarized zone under a special agreement, not under the terms of the armistice pact, and

that they were obligated to use certain approaches and were not allowed freedom of movement in the area. Until an examination ascertains whether the jeep was entitled to be where it was seized, the vehicle will remain detained, the statement added.

The incident developed yesterday when an Egyptian sergeant drove the jeep to the scene of a meeting of UN, Israel and Egyptian liaison personnel working on a border demarcation problem. The sergeant, without permission, entered the area looking for the Egyptian officer. The Israel liaison officer ordered him off the scene, whereupon the UN officer decided to recall the entire party. At this point the settlers intervened and seized the jeep.

(The Israel-Egypt Mixed Armistice Commission has reminded Egypt that its military outposts along the Gaza frontier must not open fire "upon anybody in the demilitarized zone unless attacked or in legitimate defense." This information came here today in a cable to United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold from Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, Chief of Staff of the UN Truce Supervision Organization. Gen. Burns' cable confirmed previous reports of a resolution adopted by the MAC this week condemning Egypt for a "flagrant" armistice agreement violation committed on May 18.)

GEN. BURNS TO BE RE-APPOINTED AS UNITED NATIONS TRUCE CHIEF

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., June 16. (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization in Palestine, will continue in his post beyond the June 30 deadline for his year's appointment, according to UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold. Efforts to arrange high level talks between Egypt and Israel are "a matter for daily consideration" and this is no time to take Gen. Burns away from that work, Mr. Hammarskjold declared at a press conference here today.

The Secretary General was asked whether he contemplated re-appointing or replacing Gen. Burns, who assumed the post in July, 1954. Mr. Hammarskjold had previously pointed out that such an appointment is for a year's duration but that there is no hard and fast rule about the length of tenure. "This would be a rather curious moment for a change," he said. "There certainly will not be any change in the next few weeks. The present circumstances are such that a change would not be indicative of wisdom."

Asked whether Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., American delegate and this month's president of the Security Council, had alerted him about the possibility that a Security Council meeting might be held next week in San Francisco, where the UN is commemorating its 10th anniversary, Mr. Hammarskjold said that the Secretariat had made no plans for such a meeting on the Coast. However, he pointed out, an emergency meeting would be feasible if an emergency developed, since all the members of the Council will be together in San Francisco.

EISENHOWER GREETES Z. O. A.; STRESSES U.S. FRIENDSHIP FOR ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, June 16. (JTA) -- The Government of the United States "attaches great value to its firm friendship with Israel and seeks the establishment of an enduring peace in the Middle East," President Eisenhower emphasized in a message to the 58th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America which opened here today. The convention will last four days.

Addressing his message to Mortimer May, ZOA president, President Eisenhower said: "Our government attaches great value to its firm friendship with Israel and seeks the establishment of an enduring peace in the Middle East. This peace can be achieved only through patient and conciliatory examination of the problems which exist in the area, and through the development of understanding among its peoples. We in America can make an important contribution to the cause of peace by urging such consideration and forbearance."

Other expressions of support came in messages from chairman Paul M. Butler of the Democratic National Committee; Rep. Joseph W. Martin, Jr., Republican leader of the House of Representatives, and Rep. John W. McCormack, Democratic Majority leader. Mr. Butler expressed the Democratic Party's policy toward Israel by reaffirming the pro-Israel pledge of the 1952 Democratic platform. He cited the record of the Democratic Party while in office in support of Israel.

Z. O. A. President Stresses Need to Assure Israel's Security

Mr. May, addressing the opening session of the convention, stressed that increased efforts will be made by the ZOA in the direction of helping to assure Israel's security. "We shall continue to urge our government to make the most determined efforts to bring about negotiations between Israel and the Arab states," the ZOA president said. He reported that the ZOA now has a membership total which exceeds last year's figures and represents a reversal of the trend of yearly decline which had been in effect since the establishment of the state.

The ZOA president made a detailed review of the organization in all phases of Zionist endeavor with special emphasis on public relations "recognizing this as the most vital area of the American Zionist activity." He said that "the steady deterioration of Israel's position on the international scene has made this phase of our work an imperative necessity."

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, addressing the session, said that normalization of East-West relationships could improve the international position of Israel. "If the approaching conference of the Big Powers in Geneva will succeed in reducing tensions and the dangers of an all-out war between the free world and the Communist world, the need for wooing the Arab states to line up on one side or the other will be greatly diminished," he stated.

Dr. Silver said that a pact linking the United States with Israel should be "viewed on its own merits, as an instrumentality for strengthening American interests and the interests of the free world generally, in that strategically vital part of the world, and for restoring the military balance which recent Western policy in that region has tilted in favor of the Arabs."

LONDON PARLEY CONCLUDES WITH PROGRAM TO BOLSTER JEWISH LIFE

LONDON, June 16. (JTA) -- The five-day Consultative Conference of Jewish Organizations concluded here today with the adoption of a broad program designed to bolster Jewish religious, cultural and educational life in West European countries, to check the growing incidence of intermarriage and conversions and to increase vigilance against the revival of overt anti-Semitism.

The conference expressed the hope that Israel will shortly succeed in winning a peace, and will continue to develop and prosper as a strong stable democratic society. It emphasized that it would be tragic if mass emigration of Jews results from the current precarious situation in French Morocco. It also appealed to the governments of the Communist countries to restore to Jewish citizens true freedom of worship, the right to re-open their schools, the opportunity to use their language and press and to carry on other distinctive cultural activities.

The conference requested that the U.N. Human Rights Commission hold public hearings on its covenants and that European non-governmental organizations be given the opportunity to participate in the work of those councils in Europe concerned with the enforcement of human rights.

Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee, addressing the closing session, said that funds received by various communities in Europe from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany should not substitute for local fund-raising; nor should it reduce the obligations of others for continued contributions and assistance.

An ambitious exchange program between the Jewish communities of Western Europe and the United States was proposed at the conference by John Slawson, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee. The plan included the granting of scholarships to European theological students for study in American seminaries and the training of European social and communal workers in American institutions. The plan also calls for an interchange of information on fighting anti-Semitism, as well as inter-faith activities.

Irving M. Engel, president of the American Jewish Committee, told the conference that "Nazi-minded elements in West Europe have stolen a leaf from the methods of like-minded people in the United States." Although organized anti-Semitic activity presents no real threat to the security of West European Jewry, he said, "there is a new kind of fifth column in the war of ideas." Anti-Semites, Mr. Engel charged, including former Nazis, are infiltrating long-established organizations and "sowing seeds of hatred under a mantle of respectability." Such infiltration, he warned, has occurred on both sides of the Atlantic.

ARAB PROPAGANDA IN U. S. EVOKES CONCERN AT N. C. R. A. C. PARLEY

ATLANTIC CITY, June 16. (JTA) -- Deep concern over the character and extent of pro-Arab anti-Israel propaganda in this country was expressed by many speakers at the plenary session of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, which opened at the Shelburne Hotel here today. The session, top policy-forming body of the NCRAC, which continues through Sunday, heard reports of recent activities of pro-Arab propagandists from cities in various parts of the nation, and went on record as being outraged by the distortions and the anti-Semitic overtones of much of their material.

The plenary session reaffirmed the policy of the NCRAC and its constituent organizations to do all in their power to counter the Arab propaganda and interpret the role of Israel "among the democratic nations of the world, and particularly in regard to the real issues involved in the critical Near East area," working toward this end in collaboration "with the organizations primarily responsible."

More than 100 delegates from the six national organizations and 33 community relations councils comprising the NCRAC are participating in the plenary session.

ZIONIST LABOR ORDER OPENS THREE-DAY PARLEY ON JEWISH PROBLEMS

HIGHLAND MILLS, N. Y., June 16. (JTA) -- A three-day national conference of the Farband - Labor Zionist Order opened here today to discuss various problems concerning Jewish life in the United States and mobilization of aid for Israel. Principal speakers will be Meyer L. Brown and Louis Segal, president and general secretary of the organization, respectively.

CALIFORNIA SCHOOLS ORDERED NOT TO USE BIBLE FOR RELIGIOUS AIMS

LOS ANGELES, June 16. (JTA) -- Attorney General Edmund G. Brown ruled today that the Bible may not be used in California public schools for religious purposes. In a long awaited decision, Brown held that the use of the Bible in classroom exercises "might well amount to sectarian instruction." The Bible may be used, he said, for reference, literary, historical or other non-religious purposes.

SPANISH EMBASSY EXPLAINS BARRING OF ISRAEL FROM OLYMPIC GAMES

WASHINGTON, June 16. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Spanish Embassy said today that the Arab viewpoint was a factor in Spain's decision to bar Israel from the forthcoming Mediterranean Olympic Games at Barcelona.

The spokesman indicated that Spain felt the Arab countries might not wish to participate if Israel were admitted. He said that "the Spanish Government has looked at Israel with good eyes" but charged that Israel has failed to grant full diplomatic recognition to Spain and has otherwise indicated "unfriendliness."

(In New York yesterday, Col. Harry D. Henschel, chairman of the United States Committee for Sports in Israel and chairman of the U.S. Olympic Basketball Committee, scored the International Olympic Committee's rejection of Israel's appeal against Spain's ban on its participation in Barcelona games next month. Speaking of the IOC action in Paris last Monday, Col. Henschel said it "makes a mockery of all the beautiful ideals that the Olympics represent." He revealed that Avery Brundage, head of the IOC, had previously promised U.S. Olympic committee officials that he would aid Israel.)

IMPORTANCE OF HEBREW STRESSED BY JEWISH LEADERS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, June 16. (JTA) -- "Hebrew is indispensable as a means of giving the Jew, wherever he resides, a feeling of continuity with the Jewish past and of unity with the entire Jewish people," Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, founder of the Reconstructionist movement, declared here at the annual dinner of Hadoar, the only Hebrew weekly in the United States.

Mrs. Rose Halprin, acting head of the Jewish Agency in the United States, declared that a knowledge of Hebrew was important for the survival of the Jews as a people. Now that Hebrew has become a living tongue in Israel, "Jews outside Israel have the greatest opportunity in many centuries to make Hebrew their second language," Mrs. Halprin said. She noted that the Zionist movement, "appreciating the survivalist importance of Hebrew, has made the renaissance, study and acquisition of Hebrew one of its cardinal objectives."

Other speakers included Prof. Israel Efros, chairman of the Hebrew Department of Hunter College, and Dr. Simon Federbush, head of the education department of the World Jewish Congress. All speakers lauded the role of Hadoar in spreading a knowledge of Hebrew in the American Jewish community.

DANIEL ROSS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN FRIENDS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, June 16. (JTA) -- Daniel G. Ross, noted New York attorney, was elected president of the American Friends of the Hebrew University at the annual meeting of the membership held yesterday. Mr. Ross succeeds Dr. George S. Wise, who served as president for the past four years. Dr. Wise will continue as an honorary president and chairman of the national council and as chairman of the board of governors of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

Other communal leaders elected to offices are: James Marshall, chairman of the board and Joseph M. Mazer, associate chairman of the board; honorary presidents, in addition to Dr. Wise, include Justice Felix Frankfurter, Mrs. Felix M. Warburg, and Dr. Israel S. Wechsler. Mr. Ross has given many years of service to the furtherance of positive Jewish living in America. He is chairman of the national planning committee of the Jewish Theological Seminary and a member of its board of directors and co-chairman of the national council of the United HIAS Service as well as vice-president of the Reconstructionist Foundation.

IRVING KATCHER ELECTED GRAND MASTER OF BRITH ABRAHAM

KIAMESHA LAKE, N. Y., June 16. (JTA) -- Irving Katcher, member of the administrative committee of the American Jewish Congress, was elected grand master of Brith Abraham, at the conclusion of the four-day convention here of the national fraternal order. Former Magistrate Adolph Stern of New York City was re-elected a sixth time as grand secretary.

DR. NATHAN REDCLIFFE SALAMAN, JEWISH LEADER, DIES IN ENGLAND

LONDON, June 16. (JTA) -- Dr. Nathan Redcliffe Salaman, renowned nutrition expert and Jewish communal leader, died here at the age of 80. Dr. Salaman came from a family long established in this country. He was at one time director of the Potato Virus Research Center at Cambridge, and was a vice-president of the National Institute of Agricultural Botany. He was also a Fellow of the Royal Horticultural Society. Dr. Salaman was active in the Zionist movement in England during its formative years, serving as president of the Zionist federation in 1907.