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STATE PHYSICIANS START A SLOW-DOWN IN ISRAEL; SEEK WAGE INCREASE

JERUSALEM, June 20. (JTA) -- Physicians employed by the Israel Government began a slow-down today and members of the academic staff of the Hebrew University are scheduled to strike tomorrow in moves designed to force the government to make good its promises to increase their salaries.

The Cabinet, which discussed the situation at its meeting last night, has decided to accept a report submitted by a parliamentary committee investigating the demands of the physicians. The report, in effect, calls for the introduction of a new wage scale no later than August.

Results of the doctors' slowdown have already been felt in various parts of the country: the Safed Maternity Hospital and a number of clinics have been closed down and service at the government hospital in Jaffa has been restricted. A long meeting today between the representatives of the staff and the administration of the Hebrew University ended without concrete results.

NEW ARAB PROVOCATIONS ON ISRAEL FRONTIERS; U. N. CHIEF BLAMES EGYPT

TEL AVIV, June 20. (JTA) -- Two hand grenades were thrown through the windows of a house near the Jordan border this morning, but miraculously injured no one, it was announced here. The grenades exploded in a room in which three adults and two small girls were sleeping in a house at Neve Yamin, near Kfar Saba.

An army spokesman also revealed that all telephone lines and the water pipeline to Kissufim, an Israel settlement near the Gaza strip border, were severed last night by infiltrators from Egyptian territory. Kissufim is located some two miles from the frontier.

Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, United Nations truce chief, today blamed large concentrations of Arab refugees in the Gaza strip for the current tension along the Israel-Egyptian border. He deplored broadcasts and newspaper articles on either side which incited toward violence or favored solution of the present situation through force. He said that he thought that the friction was caused chiefly by marauding from Arab territory and maneuvers by Israel forces close to the borders.

Gen. Burns forwarded to the Egyptians today an Israel plan for re-establishing security along the Gaza strip border. The plan calls for: the erection of a barrier more than 300 feet wide, mined throughout and laced with barbed wire on both sides of the minefield; the mine barrier would be patrolled by joint military patrols under UN command; regular meetings between local commanders on both sides and direct telephonic communications between the two commanders, and issuance of orders to Egyptian troops not to fire on Israel patrols moving about in Israel territory near the border.

(In London today, the Daily Telegraph reported from Jerusalem that the Israel Cabinet had agreed to a "medium level" conference of Israel and Egyptian officers under the chairmanship of Gen. Burns. This action, the Telegraph said, followed Egyptian rejection of Israel proposals--with the support of the United States and Britain--for high level talks. The parley is expected to discuss Gen. Burns' program for reducing tension and the proposals already put forth by both sides.)

Meanwhile, the Israel-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission censured Israel yesterday for an incident on May 20 when Israelis were charged with firing on Arab shepherds and a flock of sheep inside Egyptian territory in the Gaza strip.

An Egyptian infiltrator from the village of Joulis has been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment after trial on charges of attempted murder, armed robbery and attempting to blow up a building. Sentence was passed by a military tribunal sitting at Kamieh.

The convicted infiltrator was one of a party of five which entered Israel from the Gaza strip last September and carried out a number of attacks. Among the crimes were the wounding of an Israel tractor driver, the blowing up of a house at Moshav Hazev, and the robbery of a number of farmers and burglary of houses in the Rishon le Zion area.

ISRAEL SECURITY IS NATION'S FOREMOST PROBLEM, SAYS BEN GURION

TEL AVIV, June 20. (JTA) -- Israel's security is still the nation's foremost problem, David Ben Gurion said here addressing a Mapai-sponsored meeting of attorneys and other professionals. It was dangerous to think that war cannot break out, the Israel Defense Minister stated.

Ben Gurion called for settlement of the Negev and for the integration of the Israeli people which was characterized as being split into various tribes and landsmanshaften. He also stressed that he favored a better election system to ensure a democratic, stable government for Israel.

Emphasizing that the Israel Defense Army is greatly improved, highly trained and well equipped, he nevertheless went on to say that it was not only the Army which would decide Israel's stand, but rather the nation's total strength, its moral and economic position.

ISRAEL SIGNS PACT WITH U.S. ON PURCHASE OF SURPLUS COMMODITIES

WASHINGTON, June 20. (JTA) -- Israel signed an agreement with the United States Government to purchase \$3,600,000 in U.S. surplus agricultural commodities under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954. Repayment will be in Israel pounds. The agreement covers 22,000 tons of wheat, 40,000 tons of feed grain, and transportation thereof.

The purchase will meet the emergency created by drought conditions in Israel and crop failure. It brings to a total of \$13 million the sum of purchases in this category in the fiscal year. Ambassador Abba Eban signed on behalf of Israel with John D. Jernegan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, affixing his signature for the State Department. Mr. Eban paid tribute to the American assistance program.

NEW YORK MAYOR HONORED IN ISRAEL; RECEIVES BAR-ILAN DEGREE

TEL AVIV, June 20. (JTA) -- New York's Mayor Robert F. Wagner became the first recipient today of an honorary degree from Bar-Ilan University, the American-sponsored Mizrahi university which will open its doors to its first students this Fall. In Jerusalem, later, he visited the Hebrew University where president Benjamin Mazar presented him with a copy of the famed Dead Sea Scrolls, which include the Book of Isaiah.

In Jerusalem he was received by President Itzhak Ben Zvi and lunched with Premier Moshe Sharett. He was also received by Chief Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog and participated in the cornerstone-laying ceremony for the World Academy for Higher Jewish Studies on a site opposite Mt. Herzl.

Mayor Wagner, Premier Sharett, Chief Rabbi Herzog and American Ambassador Edward B. Lawson addressed the ceremony. Mayor Wagner pointed out the role of the United States in giving haven to Jews fleeing persecution and discrimination and lauded Israel's progress in science.

Yesterday Mayor Wagner, who completes his four-day tour of Israel Wednesday, was the guest of the Haifa municipality and was escorted through the city and its environs by Mayor Abba Khoushi who also awarded him a key to the city at a short City Hall ceremony. Later, Mayor Wagner attended the dedication of the Robert F. Wagner tree nursery near Haifa, a project sponsored in his honor by the Bnai Zion order of New York. During a visit to Nazareth yesterday, the Wagner party picnicked in a wood named for the late Sen. Robert F. Wagner, his father, who was one of the leading spirits in the American Christian Zionist movement in the U.S.

ISRAEL CABINET APPROVES ELECTION OF SEPHARDIC CHIEF RABBI

JERUSALEM, June 20. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet approved last night the draft of a bill validating the election of Sephardic Chief Rabbi Itzhak Nissim. The measure, designed to be submitted to Parliament today, would redeem a government pledge made last week after the Supreme Court, acting on the suit of a private individual, ruled that the election of the Sephardic Chief Rabbi was invalid owing to election irregularities.

The Israel Parliament passed a bill empowering the Israel Electric Corporation to float an issue of stock with a value of 20 million pounds. The corporation is controlled by the government.

JEWS IN TUNISIA REJECT MOSLEM DEMAND TO GIVE UP FRENCH CITIZENSHIP

TUNIS, June 20. (JTA) -- Tunisian Jews who have French nationality status have refused a demand from a Moslem nationalist committee that they give up their French citizenship as part of a nationalist campaign for "reinstatement of our ancient nationality."

There are some 30,000 Jews who have French nationality status and, it is understood, some of them believe that retention of French nationality represents their only protection against possible future excesses. The Moslem committee which seeks annulment of French citizenship for Tunisians was set up with the support of Habib Bourguiba, Tunisian nationalist leader, who upon his return to this country from exile last month said that Tunisian Jews would be given full equality with Moslems.

ORDINATION OF WOMEN AS RABBIS PROPOSED AT REFORM CONVENTION

ASBURY PARK, N. J., June 20. (JTA) -- The ordination of women as rabbis, a departure from Jewish tradition, was proposed here tonight by Dr. Barnett R. Brickner, of Cleveland, in his presidential address, which opened the 66th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis.

Adoption of the recommendation, which surprised most of the 400 rabbis attending the four-day gathering, would constitute a complete innovation in Jewish practice, even for Reform or Liberal Judaism which the conference represents. Rabbi Brickner asserted, however, that nothing in Reform prohibits the acceptance of his plan.

The rabbi did not ask immediate action on his plan. He asked that a committee be appointed to report at the next convention. But he did not disguise his general approval of the idea, asserting that women "have a special spiritual fitness to be rabbis, and I believe that many women would be attracted to this calling."

In advancing his proposal, Rabbi Brickner cited similar moves by "many Protestant denominations." He said "the Harvard University Theological School will now ordain women, and the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church just recently broke a 167-year-old tradition by voting to ordain women as ministers."

Another reason for the novel idea which the speaker mentioned was the current scarcity of rabbis, as reported by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, indicating that in the last decade new Reform temples are being created at the rate of 30 a year. Immediate endorsement of Rabbi Brickner's idea came from the president of the Union, parent body of American Reform temples, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath. "Even our sages would sanction it if they were alive in this age of complete equality of women," Dr. Eisendrath said.

Referring to the present age as one of "flux" and "transition," Dr. Brickner called upon his colleagues to give greater support to the United Nations and pleaded with the American Government to expand its foreign aid program and to conclude a defense agreement with the State of Israel.

In discussing the relations between the United States and Israel, Dr. Brickner expressed the hope that the U. S. "will do all in its power to persuade the Arab states to meet with Israel," and urged the withholding of arms to Arabs until they agree to peace negotiations. Rabbi Brickner praised two recent moves by Reform organizations to establish outposts in Israel. The Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion is building a branch in Jerusalem, and the union of congregations has offered to aid in the establishment of a Liberal congregation in Israel.

Concerning the leaders of the American Council of Judaism, a group strongly opposed to Zionism, the rabbi said: "They do no justice to democracy and reveal little faith in the integrity and wisdom of the American people if they really believe that the American people will think them less American because Israel has come into existence." Observed the rabbi: "What is good for Israel is good for America, and vice versa."

N. C. R. A. C. ADOPTS RECOMMENDATIONS FOR JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS

ATLANTIC CITY, June 20. (JTA) -- Opposition to all forms of religious teaching in the public schools - other than such teaching about the role of religion in the history of mankind as may be intrinsic to regular subject matter being studied - was expressed in a statement adopted here last night at the closing meeting of the annual plenary session of the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

The session, which concluded four days of meetings, also adopted unanimously a comprehensive set of recommendations for Jewish community relations programs for the year 1955-56. Intended as guides to all Jewish community relations agencies, these recommendations stressed particularly the need to support full racial integration in the public schools in the spirit of the recent United States Supreme Court decrees, and the elimination of segregation of housing and other aspects of community life. Bernhard H. Trager of Bridgeport, Conn., was unanimously re-elected chairman for a third successive term.

The resolutions adopted by the plenary session called for intensification of efforts to safeguard civil liberties; urged the establishment of a bi-partisan commission to study the government's security-loyalty program; pledged support for desegregation of the public schools; pledged energetic efforts toward the elimination of all forms of discrimination; called for elimination of the racial origins quota system from American immigration policy; pledged support for the United Nations; commended the President on his opposition to the Bricker Amendment.

The resolutions also called for U.S. ratification of the UN Genocide Convention and U.S. support for human rights conventions; urged the creation of new community relations councils where needed; expressed regret that some Jewish community relations agencies are not cooperating in joint coordinating processes, and pledged to continue to strive for inclusiveness in this process.

Other officers elected: Judge Isaac Pach of Los Angeles, David L. Ullman of Philadelphia, and Lewis H. Weinstein of Boston, vice-chairmen; Louis Feinmark of New Haven, treasurer; and Julian A. Kiser of Indianapolis, secretary.

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF ISRAEL DECIDES TO BROADEN ITS PROGRAM

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA) -- Initial steps in broadening the American Friends of Israel as "an active organization concerned with Israel affairs" were taken at a meeting in New York this week, it was announced today by Rudolf G. Sonneborn, president of American Friends of Israel. The announcement said that the meeting was attended by communal leaders from various parts of the country prominently identified with American activities for Israel and that a message expressing appreciation for the services of the group in session was received from Prime Minister Moshe Sharett of Israel.

A committee was appointed to determine the program of the organization. It comprises Ira Guilden, New York; Joel Gross, Newark; Lawrence G. Laskey, Boston; Melvin Dubinsky, St. Louis; Julian B. Venezky, Peoria, Illinois; Louis H. Boyar, Los Angeles; with Rudolf G. Sonneborn, president, and Henry Montor, secretary, as ex-officio members of the committee. Others, in addition to the members of the committee, who joined the board of trustees, the governing body of American Friends of Israel, include: Jake Sher, Miami; I. E. Goldwasser, New York; Sam Genel, Philadelphia; David Uchill, New York; Samuel Rothberg, Peoria; David Kluger, New York; Harry Seeve, New York; William Ginsburg, Rutland, Vt.; Jack Slavitt, Newark; Charles J. Rosenbloom, Pittsburgh, and Philip W. Lown, Boston.

JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS PLEDGE INCREASED SUPPORT TO U. J. A.

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA) -- Increased support for the United Jewish Appeal was pledged here yesterday at the annual meeting of the UJA Council of Jewish Organizations, attended by more than 2,000 delegates.

William Rosenwald, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, who was the principal speaker at the gathering, called for "unremitting effort behind the 1955 UJA campaign" in order to help the people of Israel and save Jewish lives in other countries. He hailed the opening of the new Yarkin-Negev pipeline in Israel as "a great engineering miracle" that will make productive 70,000 more acres of land in Israel and enable that many more families to settle there.

U. S. DELEGATION LEAVES FOR 75TH ANNIVERSARY WORLD ORT CONGRESS

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA) -- Dr. William Haber, president of American ORT Federation, announced today that the 60,000 members of ORT in this country would be represented by a delegation of 20 at the international Congress of ORT which opens June 25th in Geneva. The world congress of ORT will celebrate the organization's 75th founding.

Dr. Haber recalled that the first ORT representatives came to America 33 years ago with an appeal for the distressed Jews of Eastern Europe. "American ORT is now an integral part of American Jewish communal life," he said. "American Jewry is a partner in the overseas network of vocational training programs through the financial support of the Joint Distribution Committee, out of funds made available by the United Jewish Appeal. We go to this Congress heartened in the assurance of the understanding and generosity of American Jewry."

EDWARD NORMAN DEAD; FOUNDED AMERICAN FUND FOR ISRAEL INSTITUTIONS

NEW YORK, June 20. (JTA) -- Edward A. Norman, 55, president and founder of the American Fund for Israel Institutions, died in New Canaan, Conn., today. An eminent New York philanthropist, Mr. Norman was also president and founder of the Group Farming Research Institute, secretary of the American Jewish Committee, trustee of Mt. Sinai Hospital, member of the board of directors of the American Friends of the Hebrew University and a member of the board of the Palestine Economic Corporation.

Born in Chicago, Mr. Norman was a graduate of Harvard University and served as a Lieutenant Commander in the United States Navy during World War II. Mr. Norman's most active interest was with the American Fund for Israel Institutions, which he founded in 1941 in support of many of the leading educational and cultural organizations in Israel. He was president since its founding.

During several trips to Palestine in the early '30's, Mr. Norman became interested in Jewish settlements in that country and particularly in a number of cultural and educational institutions. In the U.S. he joined several committees organized on behalf of these institutions. Concerned with the many separate campaigns then being conducted in behalf of Palestine institutions, he began, during 1939 and 1940, to enlist the aid of a number of eminent civic leaders to found a single, federated agency for all these institutions. As a result the American Fund was organized in 1941 and Mr. Norman was elected president.

SHMUEL ELIASHIV, FORMER ISRAEL MINISTER TO MOSCOW, DIES

TEL AVIV, June 20. (JTA) -- Shmuel Eliashiv, one-time Israel Minister to Moscow, died at Beilinson Hospital today. He was 56. Mr. Eliashiv, who served as deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry since his retirement as Minister to Moscow last year, also served as Israel Minister to Prague and Budapest. A Socialist Zionist, he was active in Lithuania before the war, serving as director of the Jewish National Fund there and in the Jewish Agency's Palestine Office in Kaunas.