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AMERICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY OBSERVED IN ISRAEL; U.S. AID LAUDED

JERUSALEM, July 4. (JTA) -- American Independence Day was observed here today with speeches emphasizing American-Israel friendship and the aid which the Jewish State is receiving from American Jowry and the United States Government.

Tedd Kollek, General Director at the Premier's office who is in charge of the American grant-in-aid received by Israel, said that "the prudent and honest manner in which Israel has utilized American aid has won this country a great deal of goodwill in the United States."

Mr. Kollek had high praise for American experts and the staff of the United States Operations Mission which, he said, advised and helped Israel in nearly every sphere of economic activity. He declared that American experts who visited here have become among the best of Israel's goodwill ambassadors upon their return home, and he expersed Israel's deep gratitude to these Americans.

The high Israel official stated that, in the last four years, U.S. grants-in-aid to Israel have totalled \$226,000,000. These funds, he said, had been matched by Israeli "counterpart" allocations aggregating 237,000,000 Israeli pounds. American aid, he said, amounted to 23 percent of Israel's total foreign currency budget in the fiscal year 1952-53, and to 12 percent during fiscal year 1953-54, aiding materially toward Israel's economic stability and independence.

AUSTRIAN CABINET TO DISCUSS TODAY AGREEMENT ON JEWISH CLAIMS

VIENNA, July 4. (JTA) -- Nehemiah Robinson, head of the Jewish delegation in the reparations talks with the Austrian Government, refused this week-end to speculate on rumors appearing in the Austrian press that the talks had ended in complete agreement. He did, however, express the hope that agreement would be reached and added that he expects a decision by the middle of this week.

At the same time, however, the chief of the Federal Information Service here confirmed that agreement in principle had been reached, but declined to reveal complete details. He said that the matter will come before the Cabinet Council tomorrow. He also confirmed reports to the effect that the Government had agreed to establish a special fund solely for the benefit of Austrian and former Austrian Jews now living abroad. This would be done, he said, by the extension of present Austrian legislation, in an amount which was termed satisfactory to the Jewish negotiators.

He also said that the Austrians had offered \$200,000 for the restoration and reconstruction of damaged synagogues and Jewish cemeteries, a proposal to which the Jewish team, he added, had agreed. The spokesman also asserted that since Article 26 of the Austrian State Treaty obliges the Government to establish funds, made up of heirless unclaimed property, to be distributed among Nazi victims, the Government had agreed in principle that proceeds of former Jewish unclaimed property will be distributed to needy Jews in the Vienna community, who do not benefit under present laws.

ISRAEL TAKES STEPS TO ESTABLISH CLAIMS OF JEWS WHO LEFT IRAQ

JERUSALEM, July 4. (JTA) -- Preliminary steps toward establishment of claims of Jews here who emigrated from Iraq, leaving holdings valued at many millions of pounds sterling in their old homes, were taken here today by Prime Minister Moshe Sharett.

The Jews with claims against Iraqi holdings—including real property and frozen bank accounts—are among the 100,000 Iraqi Jews who came here in special airlifts in 1953, bringing their entire families with them. Mr. Sharett appointed a special Public Committee to aid the Iraqi emigrants in recovering their abandoned assets. The committee consists chiefly of banking and legal experts.

U.S. CITIZENS TO GET ISRAELI VISAS UPON REACHING ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 4. (JTA) -- American tourists wishing to visit Israel will no longer need to obtain Israeli visas in the United States. The Cabinet decided today that visas will be granted to tourists here on arrival--and gratis. The new decree will go into effect as soon as it is published in the Official Cazette, probably this week.

U.S. BACKS GEN. BURNS AS TRUCE CHIEF; EGYPT SEEKS HIS WITHDRAWAL

WASHINGTON, July 4. (JTA) -- State Department circles today indicated that the United States Government has complete confidence in Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, United Nations truce chief in Palestine, who is now trying to bring Israel and Egypt together on steps to relax the tension in the Gaza area.

The reaffirmation of U.S. support of Gen. Burns was expressed while Egypt is seeking to have Gen. Burns replaced. Members of the American delegation to the United Nations have emphasized that they see no reason why Gen. Burns should not be continued in his present position, and UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold had made it clear that he intends to retain Gen. Burns.

Meanwhile, the Israel-Egyptian talks at Gaza, held under the chairmanship of Gen. Burns, are in suspension. They were held for two days last week but it is not certain whether they will resume on Wednesday as scheduled. Egypt's Foreign Minister, Mahmoud Fawzi, was asked over a coast-to-coast radio-television broadcast yesterday whether he had requested that the Canadian government withdraw Gen. Burns. He gave an answer which was taken by correspondents who questioned him over the air as a virtual admission that he had done exactly that.

Reports of reactions of Western diplomats in Cairo and Jerusalem were to the effect that the West "deplored" Egypt's efforts to oust Gen. Burns. While the Cairo press was attacking the UN truce chief as being "pro-Israel," Big Three diplomats in both the Egyptian and Israel capitals were reported convinced that Gen. Burns has been impartial and that he was still the best possible go-between.

Israel Charges Egypt with Unwillingness to Relax Border Tension

JERUSALEM, July 4. (JTA) -- Egypt's {atest aggressions along the Gaza Strip, placed in perspective against Egypt's "uncooperative" attitude in the Gaza border talks under the chairmanship of Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, were viewed by the Foreign Ministry's spokesman here today as "particularly ominous."

Two anti-vehicle mines were discovered by Israel troops Friday along the Israel army routine patrol route close to the border, near Kissufim. A group of Egyptians was seen at about the same time in a gully nearby, but the infiltrators retreated when challenged by the Israel patrol.

In view of the fact that Egypt's representatives in the Gaza conversations under Gen. Burns "maintained stubbornness through two full days," the Ministry spokesman declared, the mine-laying incidents proved Egypt's continuing unwillingness to pacify the Gaza border as requested by the United Nation Security Council. The Gaza talks were begun on direct orders of the Security Council.

UNITED NATIONS' REPORT REVEALS ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 4. (ITA) -- Israel has made tremendous strides in every phase of economic activity since the State was established, and the plans for the future call for stupendous expenditures, including nearly two and a half billion dollars in foreign currency plus investments imaccal currency totalling more than a billion Israeli pounds.

These were among the facts and figures revealed here today by a comprehensive report issued by the UN's Department of Economic and Social Affairs. It is a report glowing with statistical material showing that Israel is a dynamic economic entity recording genuine progress despite an increase in population that grew through immigration totaling 680;000mewcomers between May, 1948 and December, 1954.

Israel's total national income, at current prices, tripled between 1950 and 1953, going from 337,000,000 Israeli pounds in 1950 to 1,050,000,000 in 1953; and there was a further rise of 30 percent in 1954. Much of this increase was due to a rise in prices. However, even discounting that price rise, there is still shown a 42 percent inational income increase over the years 1950-1953, and a 15 percent increase in 1954. Total gross investments, the report declares, "was at a very high level," equalling about 45 percent of the national income in 1950, but declining gradually to 30 percent in 1954.

Role of Aid from U.S. Govt. and American Jewry Emphasized

Foreign grants in aid, and foreign investments, especially from the United States, illareal Bond loans and contributions from Mawish organizations abroad have played a vital part in the Israeli economy and are depended upon to continue to play their determinant role, the report shows. Of a total of \$140,000,000 worth of bond investments for the entire Middle East, in the Years 1944-1953, 90 percent - or approximately \$126,000,000 - was in the nature of Israel Bonds. Of a total of \$533,000,000 of "institutional remitances" to the entire Middle East during those same years, over 90 percent - or well over \$480,000,000 - came from American givers to Jewish institutions in Israel. Even in governmental aid from the United States, Israel did not fare badly by comparison with the rest of the Middle East, the report states.

EISENHOWER URGED TO RAISE PROBLEM OF JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM RUSSIA

HURLEYVILLE, N.Y., July 4. (JTA) -- An appeal to President Eisenhower to bring up, at the forthcoming "summit" meeting in Geneva, the proplem of Jewish emigration from Soviet Russia and the satellite countries, was voiced here today by Dr. Bernard Bergman, newly-elected president of Hapoel Hamizrachi, the Religious Labor Zionist Organization of America, at the concluding session of the four-day annual convention of the organization.

"With the Big Four meeting in Geneva, on July 18th, President Eisenhower must not be unmindful of the fact that this conference will be sure to evoke new hope for personal_sal_vation in the minds and hearts of millions beyond the Iron Curtain, "Dr. Bergman declared in his acceptance address. "Among them will be some three million Jews, whose one mighty prayer - when will the time come for us as it did for our forebearers in Egypt, to come forth to the Promised_Land?-is still unanswered."

The over 500 delegates attending the convention called for a defense agreement between Israel and the United States as a logical expression of American-Israel friendship and as the most effective means of achieving stability and peace in the Near East. The delegates also asked for suspension of military grants to the Arab states, pending progress toward a settlement, and for efforts by the U.S. Government to encourage direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states to end tension and to promote a peace settlement.

The convention also resolved to urge its members to make plans for eventual settlement in Israel. It assailed the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism as "vindictive stand petty-minded." At the same time it called upon the Jewish Agency and the Israel government to give the right to religious immigrants to live in religious settlements.

J. D. C. GRANTS \$500,000 FOR SOCIAL WORK TRAINING IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, July 4. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee announced today a grant of \$500,000 over a five-year period for the development of social work training facilities in the state of Israel. The grant, according to Edward M. M. Warburg, JDC chairman, is to be made in commemoration of the completion of 40 years of JDC relief, reconstruction and resettlement activity on behalf of needy Jews overseas.

The expansion of existing social service training facilities in Israel, Mr. Warburg indicated, is to be carried out in cooperation with the Hebrew University and the Israel Ministry of Welfare. The JDC decision to grant \$500,000 for this expansion follows a series of preliminary discussions between representatives of the JDC and the interested Israeli organizations. During these discussions, agreement was wached in principle on the contemplated expansion, including a decision that the expanded social service training facilities would be established within the framework of the Hebrew University.

Further discussions to prepare the way for the opening of these expanded facilities will be held in September. Actual teaching under the new auspices is scheduled to begin before October 1956. It is on this basis that the JDC appropriation has been made, Mr. Warburg added, pointing out that the program is designed to help overcome the critical shortage of Israel personnel adequately trained in modern service and social welfare techniques.

"Throughout JDC's history, we have constantly set ourselves the goal, not only of meeting emergency situations, but of preparing overseas Jewish communities as quickly as possible for the day when they can assume full responsibility for their own assistance programs without outside aid, "Mr. Warburg said, "Today, nearly all welfare agencies in Israel, governmental and voluntary alike, are in serious need of such trained social work specialists as group workers, caseworkers, and medical and psychiatric social workers. This new JDC grant will, we hope, lay the basis for an important permanent contribution to the health and welfare of Israel's population."

WORLD ORT NAMES OFFICERS; WILL HOLD NEXT CONGRESS IN ISRAEL

GENEVA, July 4. (JTA) -- The World ORT Union, which last week concluded its world congress here, has named its new officers. They are: Sen. Herbert Lehman, honorary president; Prof., William Haber, president of the central council; and Dr. Aron Syngalowski, president of the executive committee.

In addition, there are six vice-presidents, including Armand Brunschwig, of Geneva; Renzo Levi, of Rome; Abel Shaban, of Johannesburg; J. Shapiro, of Tel Aviv; Mrs. L. Kaphan, of New York; and M. J. Hochman, also of New York. The next ORT congress will be held in Jerusalem in 1959.

CONGRESS OF SCANDINAVIAN JEWISH YOUTH OPENS IN STOCKHOLM

STOCKHOLM, July 4. (JTA) -- The 13th annual congress of the Scandinavian Jewish Youth Federation opened here today to discuss various subjects concerning Jewish life in the Smandinavian countries. In his opening address, Leon Brod, president, declared that the Federation is today the largest Jewish organization in Scandinavia.

FLORIDA GOVERNOR SIGNS BILL ENDING BIAS IN RESORT ADVERTISING

MIAMI, July 4. (JTA) -- Governor LeRoy Collins signed into law an anti-discriminatory advertising bill passed by the State Legislature earlier this year, putting an end to religious discrimination in resort advertising.

The new law prohibits hotels and resorts from advertising that a prospective guest "is not welcome, or is objectionable or is not acceptable because of his religion." Violators are guilty of a misdemeanor, subject to a fine of \$500 and a 90-day prison term. The need for such legislation was expressed by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith, following a 1953 survey conducted by its Miami office, which showed a widespread use of anti-Jewish phraseology in tourist advertising throughout the state.

NEW YORK GOVERNOR REPORTS PROGRESS IN FIGHT AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

NEW YORK, July 4. (JTA) -- New York State has made progress in its campaign to eliminate racial and religious discrimination, but "continuous efforts" are necessary to maintain the State's record in that field, Governor Averell Harriman declared today.

Gov. Harriman and Ward B. Arbury, of Buffalo, chairman of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination, appeared on a television program marking the commission's tenth anniversary. "Our practices," said Mr. Harriman, "do not measure up to our principles. We have no reason for complacency. But I believe we can feel confident that we have set our feet on the right path--toward equal rights and equal opportunity for all."

LADEJINSKY SATISFIED WITH SECRETARY BENSON'S ACT OF RETRACTION

WASHINGTON, July 4. (JTA) -- Satisfaction with the fact that the Department of Agriculture has now expunged from its record the "security risk" charges made against him last December by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson was expressed today by Wolf Ladejinsky, Jewish agronomist.

Mr. Ladejinsky was dropped from the Agriculture Department as a result of those charges, but was hired by another government agency, the Foreign Operations Administration, and sent to Saigon to act as land adviser to the Free Vietnam government. During the height of the Ladejinsky furore last December, an Assistant Secretary of Agriculture made public an anti-Semitic attack against Mr. Ladejinsky by a White Russian emigre in Connecticut.

U.S. EDUCATORS AND STUDENTS LEAVE FOR SUMMER STUDY IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, July 4. (JTA) -- Seventy-two college students and 36 Hebrew educators left today for a summer study tour in Israel. The study tour was arranged jointly by the Jewish Agency and the American Association for Jewish Education. The students' group tour is under the auspices of the Jewish Agency.

Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency, announced that several hundred religious leaders, educators, social workers, and students of high school age, will participate in a variety of seminars to be held under its auspices in Israel this summer. These seminars, she said, help to further cultural understanding between the two democracies.

U.S. CHESS STAR REFUSES TO PLAY ON SABBATH IN MOSCOW; DELAYS GAME

NEW YORK, July 4. (JTA) -- Samuel Reshevsky, star of the United States chess team playing the Russian champions in Moscow, has not only toppled the Soviet ace, Mikhail Botvinik, but has also taught the Russians a lesson in Sabbath observance.

While the U.S. team seems hopelessly defeated thus far--the total scores standing ll to 3 in favor of the Russians--Reshevsky's playing against Botvinik has been the highlight of the Moscow matches. Both of these leading players are Jews.

Reshevsky had refused, last Friday, to start a new game, according to a report from Moscow in the New York Times, because he would have had to continue the game on Saturday--and he insisted on observing the Jewish Sabbath even in Moscow. He played Botvinik again on Sunday. The three games played between Reshevsky and Botvinik so far, ended with draws in the first and third games, and a victory for the American Jew in the second. The two will play again tomorrow, but Botvinik can do no more than tie the series, even if he wins tomorrow's game.

CAMPAIGN FOR SALE OF ISRAEL BONDS TO BE LAUNCHED IN IRELAND

NEW YORK, July 4. (JTA) -- A campaign organization is now being set up for the sale of State of Israel Development Bonds in Ireland, it was announced here today by Abraham Feinberg, president of the State of Israel Bond Organization. Ireland thus becomes the 28th country to participate in the mobilization of investment capital for Israel's economic development. "We are deeply grateful to the Government of the Irish Free State for its cooperation in making possible the sale of Sente of Israel Bonds in Ireland," Mr. Feinberg said.