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MOROCCAN NATIONALISTS ISSUE STATEMENT ASSURING JEWS OF EQUAL RIGHTS

NEW YORK, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The Moroccan Office of Information and Documentation here issued a statement to the press today on behalf of the Istiqlal Party of Morocco saying that "there is no justification for the fear that in an independent Morocco the Jews would suffer from discrimination of any form." The statement, signed by Ahmed Balafrej, secretary general of the Istiqlal Party, reads:

"In an attempt to discredit the national movement of Morocco, French colonial circles have accused the Moslem population of anti-Semitic sentiments towards the Jews. As a matter of fact, no specifically Jewish problem exists in Morocco, where Jewish and Moslem communities have existed side by side for centuries in mutual tolerance, respect and understanding. Both are victims of a colonial regime which has ruled their country since 1912; both are struggling and making sacrifices to bring about their common national aspirations.

"There is no justification for the fear that in an independent Morocco the Jews would suffer from discrimination in any form. Jewish Moroccans will be citizens equal both in law and in fact with Moslems. They will enjoy the same rights and will be under the same obligations; their religious liberty will remain untouched. The greatest service that can be rendered them is to help them do away with the colonial regime which has exploited and repressed them. Morocco is their country, its freedom is their freedom; who helps the Jewish Moroccans helps Moroccan independence," the statement concludes.

Claims "Jewish Moroccans" Enjoy Equality Since 15th Century

Simultaneously, the Moroccan Office of Information and Documentation issued another statement reviewing the rights of the Jews in Morocco. The statement, issued under the title "Background on the Situation of Jewish Moroccans," reads:

"The Jews, who found refuge in Morocco from Spanish persecution in the fifteenth century, have never lived in inequality. They have always had complete freedom of worship and independence within their communities regarding courts of justice, police, synagogues, parochial education and the administration of public benefit funds. Never have restrictions of any sort been placed upon them. The right to practice their professions and to engage in commerce, both at home and abroad, was always assured them; at a time when anti-Semitism was widespread all over Europe, theirs was a privileged position. Moreover, they were under the special protection of the Sultan, which even today remains the highest distinction a Moroccan can attain. It is noteworthy that Europeans who have wanted to travel freely and with ease in Morocco have disguised themselves as Jews to pass protected and unobserved.

"Of extreme significance is the Decree of February 5, 1864, issued by His Majesty Mohammed IV: 'It is our order that all Jews residing in our Empire, regardless of the situation in which the Almighty has placed them, should be treated by our governors, administrators and other subjects in conformity with strict justice; that before our courts of justice they should be on an equal basis with any other person; that not even the slightest injustice may be done them, nor any unmerited treatment accorded them. Neither the authorities nor any other person shall do any harm to Jews, either to their person or their property. . . Because such an injustice is an injustice in the Heavens and we cannot under any circumstances prejudice their rights or those of any other person; our dignity is opposed with all its might to such proceedings. In our eyes, all men have an equal right to ask for justice. . .'

"Under the Petain regime in 1941 and 1942, Jewish Moroccans did not suffer from the discriminatory Nazi laws, the now exiled Sultan, Mohammed V, being persistently opposed to such proceedings. In turn, the Jewish Moroccans have repeatedly expressed their gratitude for his forceful democratic stand. Jewish Moroccans live side by side with their Moslem countrymen in the same towns, in the same houses, in the same apartments. They are in constant social and commercial contact with each other, carrying on their affairs as true partners.

"Colonial propaganda based on the 'divide and rule' principle has failed completely to create the myth of Moslem-Jewish animosity in Morocco, just as it has failed to create that of Arab-Berber differences. Discrimination in Morocco since 1912 is

directed against both Jews and Moslems. Neither have civil or political rights, a voice in the government or justice before the law; the French schools and hospitals, although paid for by the Moroccans, are closed to both Moslems and Jews. The administration is impartial in its dislike of Moroccans, whatever their faith; in short, both Jews and Moslems are in the same boat, subject to racial discrimination and colonial repression," the statement asserts.

Quotes Jewish Leader on Stand of Moroccan Jewry

Claiming that an anti-Jewish campaign was initiated in Morocco recently by "the French colonists," the statement says: "The Jews of Morocco share the same hopes and national aspirations as the Moslems. They stand firm in their advocacy of the return of their Sultan, Mohammed ben Youssef, who, during the darkest and most crucial hours in the history of the Jews and of the world, remained steadfast in their defense. In 1951, when General Juin threatened to depose him, Jewish Moroccans decreed a general prayer on behalf of the Sovereign. Representatives of the Jewish community are among the members of the delegations who have gone to Paris and Rabat to demand the return of the Sultan."

The statement concludes with quotations from an article by a prominent Jewish leader in Morocco, Meyer Toledano, published in "Maroc Presse" on July 22, 1955. This article, the Moroccan Office of Information and Documentation says, "expresses the sentiments" of the Moroccan Jews. It is quoted as follows:

"The Moroccan Jews have anxiously followed the trend of Moroccan affairs since 1950. They love their country and are grieved to see it troubled. Quiet and apparently indifferent, they are nevertheless disturbed by the daily events between the French and the Moroccans. The Moroccan Jews know that their ancestors, exiled from Spain, found refuge in this country in the fifteenth century. They also know that their life in Morocco has been generally untroubled. In comparison with the fate of the Jews in Europe during the Middle Ages, the Moroccan Jews did not suffer because of their faith; in fact, it has been respected by the Moslems.

"They also know that in 1940-1942 the Moslems made no attempt to harm them or even to deprive them of their property, refusing to take advantage of the anti-Semitic decrees of the Vichy government. The Moslems could have harmed them without fear of punishment. The banishment of the Sultan in August, 1953, marked, for them, a day of mourning. The Jews of Morocco are convinced of the necessity of ties between France and Morocco, but they are likewise convinced that the Moroccan people have now come of age and are ready to conduct their own affairs."

NEW KNESSET HOLDS FIRST SESSION; RE-ELECTS SPRINZAK AS SPEAKER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The members of the third Israel Parliament were sworn in today by President Itzhak Ben Zvi while cheering crowds surrounded the building. Shortly afterwards, Joseph Sprinzak was re-elected Speaker of the Knesset. He was the only man nominated and received a unanimous vote, with only the Communist deputies abstaining. After the election of Mr. Sprinzak, Premier Moshe Sharett informed the Knesset that his government was resigning.

The House also named eight Deputy Speakers, each representing a different major party. Then the session adjourned to be recalled either tomorrow or Wednesday. The decision on the timing of the next meeting was left to a temporary "arrangements committee."

Tomorrow, President Ben Zvi will begin his consultations with the representatives of various parties, looking toward the formation of a new Cabinet. First he will consult with Mapai Party leaders and, later in the day, with members of the religious parties. It is expected that this series of consultations will consume two days.

Since it is clear, however, that the President will first ask David Ben Gurion, Mapai leader, to form a government, Mr. Ben Gurion will actually begin his negotiations with various party leaders while the President is still going through the formalities. Observers here believe that Mr. Ben Gurion faces a difficult task in forming a new coalition--a job which may take him from four to six weeks.

The President arrived at the Knesset promptly at 4 P. M. accompanied by the Chief of Protocol and his military and civilian aides. Outside, a happy crowd cheered as he passed into the building between military and police guard units who presented arms. Inside, the deputies rose to their feet as the cheering and playing of bands announced that the President was approaching the chamber.

In a brief speech, the President took leave of the members of the old Knesset, in which he had served before his election to the Presidency. He spoke of Israel as the "sole island of stable democracy in the turbulent sea of the Middle East." He referred to the recent Geneva conference of the Big Four as a "rapprochement not witnessed since the Second World War" and predicted it would bring peace "to the world and to us." His best wish for the new Parliament was the hope that it would speedily name a stable government. Then, as the clerk of the House read off their names, he swore in each deputy.

ISRAEL SCIENTISTS ADDRESS "ATOMS-FOR-PEACE" PARLEY IN GENEVA TODAY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Two more scientific papers will be delivered by Israel scholars tomorrow at the International Conference on the Peaceful Uses of Atomic Energy being conducted by the United Nations at Geneva.

Dr. B. Shapiro and G. Rose will deliver a paper on the application of radioactive substances in the study of adipose tissue metabolism. Both scientists are members of the faculty of the Department of Biochemistry at the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem.

Drs. I. Dostrovsky and Y. Lehrer, the former of the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovoth and the latter representing the Israel Atomic Energy Commission, will read a paper on "The Design of Isotope Separation Plants," which encompasses a number of highly technical formulae dealing with the basic design for the use of the distillation process.

The Israel team has one more paper to deliver before the conference ends this week. On Friday a report will be given on another phase of Israel's work in atomic energy by Dr. Harry H. Lipkin of the Weizmann Institute of Science and Dr. R. Thieberger of the Israel Atomic Commission.

U.S. TO DISREGARD ARAB OPPOSITION TO JOHNSTON'S MIDDLE EAST VISIT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- State Department sources today termed the rumor that the Jordan Government will ask President Eisenhower's special envoy to the Middle East, Eric Johnston, to again postpone his visit to the region until September, "a straw in the wind."

According to State Department sources, Ambassador Johnston is determined to arrive in the Arab-Israel area next week to present the American-sponsored regional water scheme. He will visit the Arab states first and then Israel.

Doris Fleson, Washington columnist now visiting the Arab countries, reports today from Beirut that "some quarters" there say that the Johnston water development plan is "doomed" and that Ambassador Johnston is coming to the Middle East "only to inter it decently."

ARAB STUDENTS IN U.S. ORDERED TO ENGAGE IN ANTI-ISRAEL PROPAGANDA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Arab students in the United States are directed by the Arab League to actively participate in anti-Israel propaganda in this country, a broadcast from Cairo monitored here revealed today.

The Egyptian broadcast disclosed that the students have been supplied with anti-Zionist literature and that they are constantly being furnished "with information required to combat Zionism." The students are also requested to deliver anti-Zionist lectures outside of the universities in which they study, as well as to place pro-Arab and anti-Israel articles in the American press.

UNITED NATIONS HOLDS PARLEY IN SYRIA; IGNORES ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Although Israel is directly concerned with the problem of controlling desert locusts it has not been invited to a series of UN Food and Agriculture Organization meetings on the subject, because the sessions are being held in Damascus, Syria, it was revealed here this week-end.

The FOA disclosed that the Arab League had been invited to send an observer to the sessions, which are planning both next year's program against the pests and longrange plans for fighting the locust plagues which infest the Arabian Peninsula.

RELEASE OF ARRESTED ISRAEL MAPAM LEADER SOUGHT IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA

LONDON, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- New efforts are being made to secure the freedom of Mordecai Oren, Israel Mapam leader who was implicated in the Slansky trial in Prague and sentenced to a long prison term, it was reported here today by the "Jewish Vanguard," mouthpiece of the Poale Zion organization in this country.

The publication reported that Mrs. Oren will shortly leave Israel for Europe in an attempt to enlist the support of left Socialist parties in a campaign to secure her husband's release. It is understood, the Jewish Vanguard said, that a number of promises have recently been made by leading Communists that Oren's case would receive "favorable consideration" by the Czechoslovak authorities.

20,000 ASIAN JEWS, AND EUROPEAN JEWS, REPORTED LIVING IN TASHKENT

NEW YORK, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- About 20,000 Asian Jews currently reside in the city of Tashkent, the capital of Soviet Asia, it is reported today from Tashkent by the New York Times. The report adds that "several thousand" Jews who were evacuated to Tashkent during World War II also remained in the city. There are three or four synagogues in the city, the correspondent reports.

DELEGATION OF TOP U.S. TRADE UNION LEADERS LEAVES TODAY FOR ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- A joint AFL-CIO delegation of nine top trade union leaders will leave the U.S. by plane tomorrow for a ten-day visit to Israel. Their trip is sponsored by the American Christian Palestine Committee and by the National Committee for Labor Israel. On arrival they will be guests of the Histadrut, Israel's Federation of Labor.

This group is the second joint AFL-CIO delegation to visit Israel as guests of the labor movement. While in Israel, the party will inspect trade union activities, labor management relations, and welfare work done by Histadrut. They will be met in Tel Aviv by Moshe Bar-Tal, Histadrut's representative in New York who is now in Israel.

Walter Reuther, president of CIO, and Joseph Biernie, president of the Communication Workers of America, will go to Israel in time to attend opening day ceremonies on Labor Day of the Philip Murray Memorial Center at Elath, on the Red Sea. The CIO's Philip Murray Memorial Foundation contributed \$100,000 toward the construction of this Culture Center, and Histadrut in Israel shared in the cost of construction with a similar amount. Reuther and Biernie will be accompanied by Judge Simon Sobeloff, U.S. Solicitor General and Governor Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland, who have been invited by CIO to make the trip and witness the ceremonies.

The five AFL delegates leaving tomorrow are: Anthony Ballerini, business representative, Lodge 1327, International Association of Machinists; Roy M. Brown, general vice-president, International Association of Machinists; George Cavender, president, Colorado Federation of Labor; Harold J. Gibbons, secretary-treasurer, Local 688, International Brotherhood of Teamsters, St. Louis, Missouri, and E.H. Williams, president, Louisiana State Federation of Labor. The four CIO delegates are: Joseph Appelbaum, vice-president, Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers; Jacob Clayman, secretary-treasurer, Ohio CIO Council; James Robb, director, District 30, United Steelworkers of America; and Frank Winn, public relations director of the United Auto Workers.

"ZIMRYIA" FESTIVAL OPENS IN JERUSALEM; CHOIRS FROM U.S. PARTICIPATE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- An international Zimryia--song festival--opened formally here last night with 1,500 Jewish singers from virtually every country in the world participating. In addition to choirs from the United States and many other Western countries, choirs from Turkey and Yugoslavia are at the festival. Israel is represented by six choirs.

Present at the formal opening were President Itzhak Ben Zvi, Premier Moshe Sharett and Speaker of the Knesset Joseph Sprinzak. The conductors of the various groups were honored at a luncheon yesterday. A preview concert was given by the singers in Tel Aviv last week.

WORLD CONGRESS OF JEWISH STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS OPENS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The eleventh world congress of Jewish student organizations opened here today with 25 representatives of student groups in 13 countries, including Germany, joining eight representatives of Israel groups.

The congress is scheduled to consider and act on a number of organizational problems as well as plans for promoting closer contact among the various student organizations. The delegates to the congress represent groups with a total membership in excess of 250,000.

SO. AFRICAN TREASURY PERMITS MORE MONEY TO BE SENT TO ISRAEL

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The South African Treasury increased by 100,000 pounds (\$280,000) the amount of foreign currency which the South African Jewish Appeal and the South African Zionist Federation was able to send Israel in the six-month period which ended in June. Jack Hersov, chairman of the Appeal, told the Appeal's annual meeting here today.

He revealed that the government had also given the organizations permission to continue purchasing for export to Israel goods which are in surplus supply here. Mr. Hersov expressed the organization's appreciation to the government for its "sympathetic understanding." It was also reported to the meeting that from the beginning of 1954 to the present the Appeal had sent to Israel 1,200 cases of used garments, footwear and household linens.

CONGRESS OF ZIONIST GROUPS IN CHILE OPENS IN SANTIAGO

SANTIAGO, Chile, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The 36th annual congress of Zionist organizations in Chile opened here last night with the participation of 200 delegates representing various Zionist groups in the country. Principal speakers at the opening session included Matias Schapiro, president of the Zionist Federation, and Dr. Arie Kubovy, Israel's Minister to Chile.