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## SITUATION ON SYRIAN FRONT TENSE; ISRAELIS RESUME FISHING ON TIBERIAS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The situation along the Syrian-Israel border was described by authoritative sources today as "tense," but without incidents. Israeli fishermen resumed their fishing along the eastern bank of Lake Tiberias and were not disturbed by the Syrians. On the other hand, the Syrians returned to the posts demolished last week by the Israelis in retaliation for Syrian firing at Israeli fishermen.

Reports from Damascus of armed border clashes were denied here today with the explanation that these reports were based on "Syrian nervousness." At the same time, it was reported that an Israeli patrol intercepted a group of infiltrators from Egypt on whom they found 13,000 rounds of nine-millimeter ammunition. Two of the group who were wounded have been placed in an Israel hospital. They were identified as former inhabitants of Jaffa.

Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, addressing a conference of his Mapai party this week-end, said: Since the War of Liberation, Israel has not faced such a severe situation. The balance of forces between Israel and Egypt has entirely changed in both quantity and quality within the past few months. British tanks and Czech arms, planes and ships have given Egypt the advantage on land, sea and air. In this situation, Israel is obliged to make all efforts to acquire arms by all ways and means."

## "BIG THREE" TO SUPPLY ARMS TO MIDDLE EAST FOR DEFENSIVE PURPOSES

PARIS, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The United States, Britain and France will supply arms to the countries of the Middle East "for defensive purposes only," it was stated here today by high official circles. A decision to this effect was reached by the Foreign Minister of three Western countries at their talk here last week on Middle East problems.

Well-informed sources said today that French Foreign Minister Antoine Pinay told Israel's Foreign Minister here yesterday that the Western Powers would not abandon Israel. At the same time he is reported to have hinted to Mr. Sharett that there is no unity among the Western "Big Three" on overall Middle East policy. It is noted here that while Britain's Middle East policy is hinged on the Baghdad Pact, to which she adheres, France remains aloof to the pact.

The French and Israel Foreign Ministers spent more than thirty minutes in discussion of the Arab-Israel problem. Later in the day, M. Pinay saw the ambassadors of six Arab states jointly. He asked Mr. Sharett and the Arabs alike to renounce the use of force in settling their differences. Mr. Sharett explained to Mr. Israel's view of the recent raid into Syria, which he stressed was a purely local incident. At the same time, Mr. Sharett, who was attempting to get a better idea of the Big Three toward the recent Egyptian-Syrian military pact, stressed that the existence of this new Arab alliance made Israel's arms need even more urgent than before.

The French Foreign Ministry has issued a statement here in connection with reports that France had protested to Israel about the Israeli action against Syria. France, the statement said, had not protested, but had, rather, expressed its regret at the incident. Some sources here said today that M. Pinay expressed disapproval of an extremely aggressive statement issued this week-end by the Syrian Embassy in Paris. The Syrian statement said "Israel has no moral personality which is valid internationally. Born out of aggression, she will perish of aggression."

## Egyptian Ships Carry British Arms from Belgian Port

LONDON, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Two Egyptian ships sailed from the Belgian port of Antwerp this week-end with 12 Valentine tanks, 10 Sherman tanks, 26 jeeps and five armored cars, according to reports reaching here. The tanks were imported into Belgium as scrap from British dealers.

According to the reports, 200 tanks, 160 jeeps, 24 Bren carriers and 50 armored cars have left Antwerp in the past four months, bound for unstated destinations in the Middle East. Most of them were British scrap reconditioned by Belgian dealers before resale. British and Belgian authorities are believed to be discussing measures aimed at halting further shipments.

## SECURITY COUNCIL EXPECTS REPORT TODAY ON ISRAEL-SYRIAN CLASH

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The United Nations Security Council is expecting tomorrow a report from UN truce chief Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns on the Israeli raid last week on Syrian outposts in retaliation for the shelling of Israeli fishermen on Lake Tiberias. On this report will depend the Security Council's action on the complaint which Syria brought against Israel.

A meeting of the Security Council to deal with Syria's complaint will be held on Thursday, after the members of the Council have studied Gen. Burns' report. The Syrian delegation here is demanding economic sanctions against Israel and the expulsion of the Jewish State from UN membership. However, this demand - voiced last Friday by the head of the Syrian delegation at a Security Council session - is not being taken seriously by most of the delegations here. However, ten of the 11 members of the Security Council "deplored" Israel's action against Syria in their statements at the Security Council meeting.

In replying to the Syrian delegate, Ambassador Abba Eban, head of the Israel delegation, told the Council that Israel intends to carry out all armistice obligations, but "on the understanding that the other side is also prepared to observe such a policy." Israel is prepared further to help ease all tensions but she will insist on her "sovereignty and her rights," Mr. Eban persisted.

"The Arab states," Mr. Eban said "must understand that they have a simple duty and interest in leaving Israel alone. Leave us alone on land and sea; on the frontiers and in the hinterland; in the Gulf of Akaba, on Lake Tiberias, and on its shores; in the pursuit of our commerce and in the cultivation of our lands. If you will not advance towards an affirmative and constructive relationship, then at the very best accept a situation in which we leave each other alone."

## U.S. AND BRITAIN OFFER EGYPT \$70,000,000 TO START BUILDING OF DAM

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Egyptian Finance Minister Abdel Moneim el Kaissouni was en route from here to Egypt today with an offer from the United States and Britain to help finance the \$1,300,000,000 "High Dam" at Aswan on the Nile. The two governments offered Mr. Kaissouni an initial grant of \$70,000,000 to start work on the project, which will take 15 years to complete.

The Egyptian Government has yet to accept the Western offer, which is conditioned upon a commitment that all contracts on the dam shall be let on a competitive basis, that the Egyptian Government will concentrate its internal resources on the project and that steps shall be taken to prevent further Egyptian currency inflation.

Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser's decision on acceptance will be made after Mr. Kaissouni arrives home. The latter will stop off for several days in London before going to Cairo. The initial grants would be made in the form of \$56,000,000 in cash from the United States and \$14,000,000 in blocked sterling from England.

Meanwhile, the United States Government has agreed to give Egypt 80,000 tons of wheat and is making arrangements to give her an additional 70,000 tons in a few days. The wheat will be paid for in local currency, which will then be used to assist the national economic development of Egypt.

## LEADERS OF AMERICAN JEWRY TO CONFER IN WASHINGTON ON MIDDLE EAST

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Delegations representing the constituents of 16 major American Jewish organizations and Jewish communities at large will meet in Washington next January 17 and 18 to confer on the "situation of extreme gravity" which has developed in the Near East as a result of Soviet arms shipments to Arab countries.

In an announcement of the conference today, the presidents of the organizations warned that current developments in the Near East "constitute a direct threat to the interests of the United States and all free nations, and a peril to Israel's existence."

"It is essential that the issues involving America's stake in the Near East and Israel's future be put before our fellow countrymen in their proper perspective by American Jewry," the announcement said. "America must pursue a realistic policy based on her most vital interests, consistent with the cause of peace and mindful of the security of her friends in the Near East." The announcement of the conference was signed by the following:

American Jewish Congress, Dr. Israel Goldstein; American Trade Union Council for Labor Israel, Joseph Breslaw; American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs, Rabbi Philip Bernstein; American Zionist Council, Rabbi Irving Miller; B'nai B'rith, Philip M. Klutznick; Central Committee Labor Zionist Organization of America, Dr. Herman Seidel; Hadassah, Mrs. Rebecca Shulman; Jewish Agency, Dr. Nahum Goldmann; Jewish Labor Committee, Adolph Held; Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Reuben Kaminsky; Mizrahi Organization of America, Rabbi Max Kirshblum; National Community Relations Advisory Council, Bernard H. Trager; Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath; Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, Moses J. Feuerstein; United Synagogue of America, Charles Rosengarten; Zionist Organization of America, Mortimer May.

U. J. A. ADOPTS \$105, 000, 000 GOAL; WILL SEEK MORE FOR ITS SPECIAL FUND

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The 18th annual national conference of the United Jewish Appeal concluded here last night with the adoption of a regular nationwide goal of \$105, 000, 000 for 1956 and a resolution to press forward vigorously with the simultaneous raising of the extraordinary Special Fund originally set at \$25, 000, 000 but opened up at the conference to make way for the raising of the greatest possible amount, in the light of Israel's growing economic needs.

The 1, 400 delegates from all parts of the country re-elected William Rosenwald general chairman of the UJA for the second year in succession. Edward M. M. Warburg was renamed president and Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman was re-elected executive vice-chairman.

Mrs. Golda Myerson, Minister of Labor in the Government of Israel and the principal speaker at last night's final session, scored Egyptian Premier Nasser's "accumulation of arms while setting up a smokescreen of talk about peace." She said: "In Jerusalem, we see no single reason why Mr. Nasser's protestations regarding his desire for peace should be taken at their face value," she declared. When we see Nasser accumulating arms," Mrs. Myerson stated, "we in Israel can only come to the conclusion that one and one equals two."

With respect to Israel's policies and actions, Mrs. Myerson declared: "I challenge anybody anywhere to prove one single instance of Israel aggression against its Arab neighbors. I am speaking of any act taken on the initiative of the Israel Government without provocation. There have been acts of retaliation, but that is because we have the audacity to believe that Israeli blood is as important as the blood of anyone else."

Mrs. Myerson called upon the delegates to assure the success of the United Jewish Appeal's twofold efforts in 1956, asserting that "aid today for programs of immigration and settlement is more necessary than ever before in view of the fact that our own slender resources are not enough to cope with both this and the threat to our independence and freedom."

1955 Brought Halt to Downward Trend in Giving, Rosenwald Reports

Mr. Rosenwald, in a keynote address that brought an assessment of this year's campaign, told the delegates that "1955 brought a halt to the downward trend in giving" and lauded American Jews for what he described as their "magnificent response to the UJA in an hour of mounting tension and danger for Jews in many areas." He pointed out that "for the first time since 1948, the United Jewish Appeal will be able to appropriate to the United Israel Appeal and to the Joint Distribution Committee, its two main agencies, more money from the proceeds of its current campaign than from the previous year's campaign."

Rabbi Friedman told the final session that "withering of the Geneva spirit" has been caused in large part by Soviet action in sponsoring the arming of Egypt. "Not only must the free world rally to the support of Israel," he declared, "but Jews especially must understand and respond to the fact that Israel is beleaguered and endangered." He emphasized that "the UJA's task with respect to Israel is to help it keep its gates open and to assist it in the absorption of all who are brought from lands of danger so that it can go forward in strength to meet whatever tests lie ahead."

Dewey D. Stone, national chairman of the United Israel Appeal, in outlining the 1956 budgetary requirements of the UJA constituent agencies, told the delegates that the people of Israel "today live in the pincer of two emergencies, the Communist-Egyptian threat to their survival, and the mass inflow of Jewish immigrants from North Africa." In spite of this "threat to their existence," he stressed, "Israel's people are determined that 45, 000 Jews from North Africa shall be taken in during 1956." The main way in which American Jews can help, he emphasized, is to provide all the funds for immigration so that Israel's people can be relieved of this financial burden as "they gird themselves" for possible attack and aggression.

Joseph Meyerhoff of Baltimore, Md., and Fred Forman of Rochester, N. Y., were named chairman and vice-chairman, respectively, of the UJA's top level National Campaign Cabinet. Samuel H. Daroff of Philadelphia, the outgoing chairman of the Cabinet, was elected as one of the UJA's seven national chairmen and cited in a distinctive award for his "inspiring leadership" of the Cabinet in the past three years. Mr. Stone and Rabbi Jonah B. Wise of New York, vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, and another of the UJA constituent organizations, were re-elected national chairmen representing their respective agencies.

Also returned to office as UJA national chairmen were Morris W. Berinstein of Syracuse, N. Y., Joseph Holtzman of Detroit, Sol Luckman of Cincinnati, and Jack D. Weiler of New York. Mrs. Henry Newman, prominent Kansas City civic leader, was named chairman of the National Women's Division. The coming year will mark the tenth anniversary of the National Women's Division, which was organized in 1946. In the last 10 years, through their community campaigns, women have contributed more than \$125, 000, 000 in "plus" gifts.

## DR. SILVER NAMED BOARD CHAIRMAN OF ISRAEL BOND ORGANIZATION

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, prominent American Zionist leader, was appointed chairman of the board of governors of the Israel Bond Organization, it was announced here today by Abraham Feinberg, president of the organization. The last person to have held the same position was Henry Morgenthau, Jr., formerly Secretary of the United States Treasury.

## MUNICIPAL COMMISSION FORMED IN NEW YORK TO DEAL WITH BIGOTRY

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Mayor Robert Wagner announced the composition of a 15-member Commission on Intergroup Relations this week-end to handle problems of religious and racial discrimination and violations of civil rights in this city. The commission is headed by Herbert Bayard Swope.

Among the Jewish organizations who have representatives on the 15-member group are: Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, American Jewish Committee; American Jewish Congress, and Jewish Labor Committee. Funds for the commission will be appropriated later, the Mayor said. The group will serve without pay. It will have the power of subpoena and the right to hear testimony under oath.

## PLAN FOR INTRODUCTION OF RELIGIOUS VALUES IN N. Y. SCHOOLS WITHDRAWN

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The proposed policy statement of the Board of Education of New York City on "Moral and Spiritual Values and the Schools" has been withdrawn because of opposition and has been sent back to the Board of Superintendents, which drafted the original statement, for reworking in consultation with the representatives of the three major faiths. The policy statement was opposed by the New York Board of Rabbis and by some Protestant groups and was approved by other Protestant groups and the Catholic Church.

The Board of Rabbis, which opposed the policy as one which would bring religious education into the public schools, is pledged to do everything in its power "to find some common ground with our religious colleagues," according to Rabbi Arthur Gilbert, member of a Board of Rabbis' committee set up to fight the original policy. He noted that the Board would continue to resist the teaching of spiritual and moral values by reference to theological sanction, asserting this would open the door to possible religious sectarianism and intra-communal disputes and friction.

## JEWISH CONGRESS HONORS ELMER DAVIS; LEHMAN PRESENTS AWARD

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Elmer Davis, one of the nation's leading newspapermen, was honored at the National Press Club here for his efforts on behalf of civil liberties. The American Jewish Congress presented Mr. Davis with the 1954 Stephen Wise Award.

Sen. Herbert H. Lehman, who presented the award, warned of the "damage already done" to civil liberties despite the decline of Sen. Joseph R. McCarthy. He stressed the "need for continued vigilance." Mr. Lehman said: "We Jews have learned out of a long history that antedates by many centuries the American experience that no aspect of freedom and no basic rights can be yielded by any individual or group of individuals without endangering the freedom and basic rights of all."

## YEAR-LONG OBSERVANCE OF CENTENNIAL OF BRANDEIS' BIRTH PLANNED

WALTHAM, Mass., Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Brandeis University has named a commission of leading jurists, lawyers and educators to plan the celebration next year of the centennial of the birth of the late Supreme Court Justice Louis D. Brandeis, for whom the Jewish-sponsored non-sectarian institution is named.

Dr. Abram L. Sachar, president of Brandeis, said that the college would mark the centennial with year-long activities. The commission will consider projects including publication of the collected works of the jurist and presentation of symposia to consider his social, economic, political and legal contributions. Born in 1856, Louis Brandeis served 23 years as an Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court before dying in 1941.

## MILITARY ATTACHES ATTEND CHANUKAH CELEBRATION AT ISRAEL EMBASSY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Military attaches representing virtually all embassies in Washington and high-ranking U.S. military officers and government officials last night joined in a Chanukah celebration tendered at the Israel Embassy by Col. Katriel Salmon, chief Israel military air and naval attache.

## SHLOMO ERENSKY, JEWISH WRITER, DIES IN BOGOTA; WAS 55 YEARS OLD

BOGOTA, Colombia, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Shlomo Breinsky, well-known Yiddish writer, died here last week at the age of 55. He was born in Poland and had lived here for some years. Many of his tales, dealing with life in this country, were translated into Spanish and were highly praised by critics here.