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DR. BEN-ZAQUEN, JEWISH LEADER, APPOINTED MEMBER OF MOROCCAN CABINET

CASABLANCA, Morocco, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Dr. Leon Ben-Zaquen, member of the Casablanca Jewish Community Council, was today appointed Minister of Posts and Telegraphs in the new Moroccan Government. His appointment marks the end of an internal strife within Moroccan Jewry over the naming of a Jewish representative to the first all-Moslem Moroccan Cabinet.

Dr. Ben-Zaquen, who is the chief physician of the OSE institutions in Morocco, is well known in the medical world. He is an authority on lung tuberculosis. In addition to his work for the OSE, which is engaged in improving the health of the Jews in Morocco, he has been active also in other Jewish organizations. He is also the holder of a French Legion of Honor decoration for services recognized by the French Government.

The Jewish member of the Moroccan Cabinet, although in charge of posts and telegraph, will act as representative of Moroccan Jewry in the government. His appointment by Premier Bekkai is being looked upon as a new era in the life of the 240,000 native Jews of Morocco who for generations had no citizenship status in the country but were merely "protégés" of the Sultan. They had been judged in courts according to the Islamic law, which is essentially religious, and their oath was not recognized. They have also been excluded from all posts in the Moroccan administration, and not until 1947 did they gain representation even in the French administration in Morocco.

EISENHOWER AND DULLES DISCUSS SOVIET STRATEGY IN THE MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower today consulted with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles for the second consecutive day on major world problems, including the Middle Eastern situation, in connection with policy formulation and statements to be made in the President's State of the Union message. The message will be delivered to Congress at the opening of the new Congressional session next month.

Government sources thought it likely the President and Mr. Dulles discussed ways of countering Soviet Mideast strategy. In this context, according to these sources, Israel's appeal for arms might have figured. State Department authorities feel that announcement of arms sale to Israel after the Israel attack on Syrian positions, on Lake Tiberias, would further antagonize Egypt and undermine strategy aimed at wooing that country away from Communist influence.

The State Department officially refused today to comment on the alignment of Saudi Arabia in the new tri-national command under the Egyptian war minister, Gen. Abdel Hakim Amer. The Saudi Arabian ambassador conferred with George V. Allen, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, late today.

Government sources, however, indicated fear that Saudi money will be used to keep Jordan out of the Baghdad pact and to pay for an increased flow of Communist military supplies. It was pointed out that Egypt may function as the pipeline to channel Communist arms to Syria and Saudi Arabia, making direct deals between Saudi Arabia or Syria with the Communists unnecessary. The three Arab nations hope to enroll Jordan under their command and have offered arms aid to the Jordan government.

BEN GURION ASKS U. S. TO CONVOKE ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN PEACE CONFERENCE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Israel intends to propose formally that the United Nations convoke a face-to-face conference between this country and Egypt, under terms of Article 12 of the Egypt-Israel armistice agreement, with a view to restoring peace between the two countries. Article 12 provides that the Secretary-General of the United Nations must call such a conference when he receives such a request from either of the parties to the armistice.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman announced tonight that a proposal for a conference under Article 12 was made a fortnight ago by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion to Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, chief of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. Mr. Ben Gurion is reported to have told Gen. Burns that, since Israel accepted unconditionally the latest series of pacification proposals made by UN Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld, while Egypt's attitude was tantamount to a rejection, this country's course demanded the request for such a conference.

EGYPT TO HAVE HUGE WAR MACHINE IN 1956; LARGEST IN THE MIDDLE EAST

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Authoritative Israeli sources today estimated that within a short time Egypt will be in possession of a war machine of a quantity hitherto unknown in the Middle East.

Egypt's war machine will include, before 1956 is over, a total of 700 tanks of superior power, like the British Valentine and the Russian Stalin tank. That is twice as many tanks as Egypt has now. Self-propelled guns are being increased, and the number of jet fighters will grow from 150 to 300.

Additionally, Egypt is acquiring 20 jet bombers, 60 heavy anti-aircraft guns, and eight submarines. Still further increasing Arab strength will be quantities of arms being shipped to Syria and Iraq, thus increasing materially the armed force striking power of these Arab nations. Syria is getting 85 tanks to add to the 100 it has now, and is receiving a dozen heavy anti-aircraft guns. Iraq, being armed by the Western powers, is receiving 70 heavy anti-aircraft guns, 50 tanks and 15 jet fighters.

Information reaching here reveals that Egypt has already started building its army concentrations in the Gaza strip "jumping off" area facing Israel. It is estimated that nine regiments of Egyptian regular troops--comprising one-fourth of the country's total army strength--are now stationed in Gaza.

BRITISH LEADER FLIES TO EGYPT, JORDAN, ISRAEL TO SEEK CONCILIATION

LONDON, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Richard Crossman, a leading Laborite member of the British Parliament, left today by plane for Egypt, Jordan and Israel with a view to discussing possibilities of reducing Arab-Israel tension. Mr. Crossman has an appointment with Egyptian Premier Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser, whom he will see prior to his visit to the other Middle-East countries.

The news that Egypt, Syria and Saudi Arabia yesterday formally agreed to put their armed forces under one commander has provoked great interest in London. This move is considered in British circles not only an act against the Baghdad Pact in which Britain is a partner, but also as an indication of the intentions of the Arab countries against Israel. Egyptian War Minister Maj. Gen. Abdel Hakim Amer was named commander of the joint Egyptian-Syrian-Saudi Arabian armies.

British authorities are especially watching efforts now being made by Egypt and Syria to line Jordan up with them, by offering financial aid to the Jordan Government to replace the funds which she receives from the British Government. So far Jordan has rejected these efforts. However, the Syrian radio announced last night that the King of Jordan had agreed to a meeting with the heads of the other Arab states for the purpose of discussing methods of "extricating Jordan from the clutches of foreign imperialism."

ISRAEL PROTESTS TO U. N. TRUCE CHIEF AGAINST SYRIAN STATEMENTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Israel today protested to Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, against aggressive statements made by Syria. It also instructed its principal representative to the United Nations, Abba S. Eban, to bring Syria's latest threats to the attention of the UN Security Council.

The Syrian statements were made in the form of a radio broadcast by Syria's army chief who declared that his country does not recognize Israel's frontiers and that Syria refuses particularly to give recognition to Israel's rights on Lake Tiberias. "Such utterances," the Israeli Foreign Office told Gen. Burns in its protest, "open the door to Syrian aggression, creating tensions along the borders."

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT APPROVES SAVING PLANS AIMING TO CHECK INFLATION

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The Israel Government today approved two new saving schemes designed to counter inflationary trends. The savings schemes originated with the Bank Leumi LeIsrael and the Palestine Discount Bank.

Details of the Discount Bank plan, to which the Bank Leumi scheme is similar, include provisions for two kinds of savings. The first calls for bulk deposits ranging from 100 to 5,000 Israeli pounds to be kept in the bank for five years. At the end of that period, the investor would receive a 33-1/3 percent tax-free dividend, with a proportional reduction in the premium for shorter periods of time.

The second project calls for monthly savings, ranging from five to one hundred Israel pounds, with a 15 percent tax-free dividend at the end of five years, and proportional reductions as in the first plan. The banks will invest the money they receive only with Finance Ministry approval.

In announcing the new plan today, the Bank Leumi pointed out a number of other trends which it termed anti-inflationary. Specifically, it cited the stabilization of the payments balance and the success of a new bond offering of the Palestine Electric Corporation.

2,000 TEL AVIV MUNICIPAL WORKERS STRIKE PARALYZE CITY SERVICES

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- About 2,000 Tel Aviv municipal workers, including street cleaners and sewage department employees, went on strike today after prolonged threats. They had demanded that the municipality cancel recognition of a small trade union numbering only several hundred city workers and confine its recognition to the Tel Aviv Workers Union. The strike paralyzed the city's services.

City officials had asked the union to postpone the strike call, pending further negotiations, but officials of the union had refused to cancel their call for a walk-out.

200 JEWISH CONGREGATIONS EXIST IN RUSSIA, JUSTICE DOUGLAS REPORTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Judaism is suffering from the Communist campaign against religion in the Soviet Union, but active congregations still exist, Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas said today.

Writing on "Religion in the Godless State" in the new issue of Look magazine, Justice Douglas said that he found that religion still survives in the Soviet Union despite an incessant Communist campaign against it. His comments were made as the result of a trip he took last summer to that country.

There are about 3,000,000 Jews in Russia, Justice Douglas noted, and about 200 congregations. In most of the cities he visited, the congregations were active ones. "But not many of the younger generation are being taught the precepts of Judaism," he said. "And the rabbis complain of the difficulty of getting cantors." However, he added, in synagogues, the confirmation of young boys is still customary and other of the old rituals continue.

FRENCH INTELLECTUALS URGED TO TAKE INTEREST IN NORTH AFRICAN JEWS

PARIS, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- If conflict broke out between Israel and the Arab states, Jews in North Africa would be "the first victims," therefore it is up to French intellectuals "to take a greater interest in the fate of the Jews in North Africa," M. Mantet, a leading Christian member of the French Christian-Jewish Friendship Society, warned today.

In an open letter to French intellectuals, M. Mantet urged that Israel's measures providing benefits to organized workers be called to the attention of the new government in Morocco and the progressive nationalist leaders in Tunisia. He also pointed out that "when one speaks of restoring liberty to all in North Africa, this restoration must apply to Jews as well as to Arabs." The Jewish problem, he continued, "is of as much concern to our conscience as is the problem of the Arabs. All minorities must be protected."

M. Mantet also urged fellow intellectuals to help "integrate into metropolitan France those Jews who have fled from North Africa."

REFUGEE RABBIS IN U.S. RECEIVE AID FROM JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany announced today that 226 needy refugee rabbis in the United States and Canada have received from it this year grants totaling \$117,000. This allocation was a continuation of the program initiated by the Conference in 1954 to aid the surviving religious leadership of the destroyed Jewish communities of Europe. Approximately 1,000 persons comprising the families of the refugee rabbis were beneficiaries of the Conference grants.

Grants were made for relief aid and for individual rabbinical research projects. The relief grants were extended, in keeping with the urgency of financial need, to victims of Nazi persecution who had functioned as rabbis in their communities prior to their displacement by the Nazis. Furthermore, individual rabbinical research grants were given for projects considered outstanding in terms of originality and usefulness to rabbis and rabbinical students. The projects for which grants were made covered practically every phase of rabbinical literature.

The program was carried out under the general supervision of a special committee under the chairmanship of Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein. Among the prominent rabbinical personalities who served on this committee were Rabbi Leo Jung, Rabbi Max Kirshblum, Rabbi Isaac Lewin, Dr. Samuel Sar and Rabbi Harry I. Wohlberg. In the implementation of the program the Claims Conference also had the benefit of the views of leading rabbis of pre-war European Jewish communities.

TWO STATES IN GERMANY RECOMMEND INCREASE OF INDEMNIFICATION FUNDS

BONN, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- The steering committee of the West Berlin parliament has approved a supplementary appropriation of \$3,500,000 for indemnification, thus raising the total amount made available for this purpose in the current budgetary year to \$27,400,000. The additional allocation is necessary, Senator Joachim Lipschitz told the parliament, mainly to pay indemnification pensions to Nazi victims.

In Lower Saxony, the State Government has submitted to the Landtag a similar request for an additional appropriation of \$3,500,000, which would increase the state's total indemnification expenditure in the current budgetary year to ten million dollars.

ISRAEL GAINS IN RESEARCH ATTRACT ATTENTION AT U.S. SCIENTIFIC PARLEY

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 27. (JTA) -- A display of more than 2,000 scientific papers by scientists from Israel, reporting on researches since the establishment of the Jewish State, is attracting attention here at the conference of the American Association for the Advancement of Science which is attended by several thousand scientists from all parts of the United States. Affiliated with the Association are 265 scientific societies with a total membership of more than 2,000,000. They include the American Medical Association, the American Chemical Society, the American Physical Society and 42 academies of science.

The exhibit of Israel papers was opened last night by Ambassador Abba Eban who declared that rapid and diverse immigration has created problems and presented an unusual opportunity for research in Israel in various fields. The subject of the Israel exhibit run from aerodynamics to zoology. Age-old problems such as irrigation and locusts are treated, as well as the peaceful uses of the atom and the practical applications of solar energy.

Some of the problems dealt with are peculiar to the Middle East. Others have a wider scope. The papers that have been collected cover agriculture, engineering, medicine and the natural sciences. The engineering section contains studies devoted to the relationship of building material and design to environment. Reports also are included on studies on the origin and age of underground water sources based upon the measurement of the concentration of tritium, the hydrogen of triple weight used as one of the basic ingredients in the hydrogen bomb.

The medical section contains a variety of medical topics. In the section on natural sciences are shown reports on mathematics, physics, including atomic physics, and chemistry, bacteriology, botany, zoology and geology. The last published research reports of the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann, first President of Israel and a world-renowned chemist, also are included.

Most of the research reported upon was carried out by the Hebrew University, the Israel Institute of Technology, the Weizmann Institute of Science and the Research Council of Israel. The council organizes and coordinates research work in natural sciences. It stimulates and carries out studies designed to develop industry and agriculture and the exploitation of Israel's natural resources.

CANADIAN GROUP SENDS 10,000 TONS OF WHEAT TO ISRAEL GOVERNMENT

MONTREAL, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Another shipment of Canadian wheat to Israel was arranged by the Canada-Israel Corporation which is sponsored jointly by the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Zionist Organization of Canada, it was announced here today. The shipment consisting of 10,000 tons, left Vancouver on the SS "Ionian Trader" and is now on its way to Haifa, consigned to the Government of Israel.

Earlier, in November a shipment of 9,700 tons of Canadian wheat was sent to Israel on the SS "Endeavour." An amount of \$1,600,000 was involved in these two transactions. The shipments arranged by the Canada-Israel Corporation since its inception involve \$5,300,000.

ISRAEL STARTS COURSES FOR SCRIBES; TO RELIEVE SHORTAGE IN HOLY SCROLLS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Special courses to train "soferim," scribes expert in the calligraphy required for writing Holy Scripture on scrolls, have been established in Israel by the Ministry of Religion. It is hoped that the newly-trained scribes will relieve the scarcity of Holy Scrolls in this country and also produce some for export.

The first class, comprising 50 students, is now open in Jerusalem. A second class of 35 is being organized at Kfar Ganim, and a third class will soon be started at Tel Aviv.

MOSHE SHAMIR, ISRAEL AUTHOR, NAMED WINNER OF 1955 BIALIK PRIZE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Moshe Shamir has been named the winner of this year's "Bialik Award" for literature presented by the Tel Aviv municipality. Shamir is the author of "Melech Bassar Vedom" and the drama, "Milchemet Bnai Or." Named as winners of the award for Jewish learning were Michael Avi Yona and Shmuel Yeivin for their book, "Antiquities of Israel."

NEW YORK PROFESSOR TO TEACH HISTORY OF GERMAN JUDAISM IN BERLIN

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. (JTA) -- Dr. Adolf Leschnitzer, professor of German at New York City College, who has accepted an invitation from the Free University in West Berlin to the newly-established chair for the history of German Judaism, today stated that he remains a resident of New York and an active member of the faculty of the City College. His courses of history of German Jewry will be given in West Berlin's Free University during the summer sessions only.