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KHRUSHCHEV HITS ISRAEL IN SOVIET PARLIAMENT; VOICES "SYMPATHY" FOR ARABS

LONDON, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Nikita Khrushchev, the "strong man" of the Soviet Union, today strongly attacked Israel in a speech which he delivered before the Supreme Soviet, the parliament, reviewing the international situation. At the same time he went out of his way to express his "sympathy" with the Arab nations which, he said, are being threatened by Israel.

"The Soviet Union," he stated, "sympathizes with the desire of the Arab nations to achieve true independence, the latest example of which is Jordan. Israel, on the other hand, has from the first day of its existence taken a hostile, threatening position toward its neighbors. Imperialists are behind Israel, trying to exploit Israel for their own benefit. Israel has constantly been aggressive toward its neighbors."

The Soviet Communist leader also attacked President Eisenhower, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, and New York Governor Averell Harriman. He charged that the Baghdad Pact into which the United States is interested in bringing in as many Arab countries as possible is a violation of the "Geneva Spirit." He lauded Arab countries, especially Jordan, for refusing to be involved "in an aggressive military bloc."

STATE DEPARTMENT DISPLEASED WITH ARAB BOYCOTT OF U.S. JEWS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The State Department today expressed disapproval of the refusal by Arab states to grant visas to Americans of Jewish faith, and reported that the Arab League is conducting a boycott against U.S. business firms trading with Israel.

State Department spokesman Joseph Reap said the United States Government "disapproves" of the discrimination by a number of Arab countries against American Jews seeking visas. However, he declined to say the United States protested to the Arab countries against such regulations. State Department sources pointed out that America cannot be strongly critical of the visa policies of foreign nations at a time when other countries are finding fault with U.S. visa restrictions.

Mr. Reap said the State Department had no information on reports that U.S. business firms this week received Saudi Arabian communications that sought to determine if such firms had Jewish officers. He said that no firms reported on this to the Department or sought guidance. "The Department," he stated, "is aware that the Arab League nations are conducting a boycott of firms which do business with Israel, and that certain nations, of which Saudi Arabia is one, have regulations which prohibit the granting of visas to persons of the Jewish faith."

"When and if cases arise affecting American citizens under these laws, the Department and its representatives abroad stress to the foreign nations that we do not recognize such distinction among our citizens. However, the problems raised by these laws are difficult because the nations which enact them have the sovereign right to regulate both their commerce and the admission of foreigners," Mr. Reap declared.

MAPAI PREPARES PLAN TO COPE WITH ISRAEL'S EMERGENCY SITUATION

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- A special committee entrusted with the task of preparing a "comprehensive plan for the present emergency situation" which Israel faces was established today by the Mapai, Israel's Labor Party, which is the leading government party.

The decision to establish such a committee was adopted at the conclusion today of a two-day conference of Mapai's political committee together with the members of the party in Israel's Parliament. Premier David Ben Gurion and Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett reported to the conference on Israel's situation. The committee is headed by Pinhas Lavon, former Defense Minister.

BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER SUMMONS MIDDLE-EAST AMBASSADORS TO LONDON

LONDON, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Top priority was given today by the newly appointed British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd to the troubled Middle East situation by summoning to London eight British envoys in Middle Eastern countries for a two-day conference. Among the British ambassadors summoned are those from Israel, Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

BRITAIN TO "EXPLAIN" TODAY SHIPMENT OF "RECONDITIONED" ARMS TO EGYPT

LONDON, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Criticism against the British Government for enabling the shipment to Egypt of surplus armaments "reconditioned" in Belgium mounted in the press here today, following the admission last night by the Foreign Office that 190 British Valentine tanks had been reshipped to Egypt from continental ports.

Press criticism of the deals has increased to the point where the Foreign Office has found it not only necessary to authorize revelation of some details by its spokesman but has also scheduled a more formal, official statement to be issued tomorrow. A major attack on the government is expected when the House of Commons reassembles after the first of the year, the Express reports. A demand for a full investigation has been made publicly by Socialist Leader Shinwell, and a "national investigation" was urged again today in an editorial in the Labor Party's Daily Herald.

A Daily Express report from Brussels accuses British officials openly of having engineered some of the deals for armament shipments to Egypt. "Britain knew," the report states, "that demilitarized Valentine tanks were being rearmed for shipments from Belgium to Egypt. Inspector Authomb, of the Belgian police, has reported officially on the matter to Foreign Minister Henri Spaak. According to this report, Egypt first approached Britain and France with requests for purchase of new tanks, but found the prices too high. The British cut their own prices when Czechoslovakia offered Egypt lower quotations."

"When the Egyptians found Britain's lower prices for new tanks were still higher than the Czech offers," the report continues, "Britain offered to sell Egypt demilitarized tanks at rates of four 'surplus' tanks for the price of one new one. The British, however, wanted the Egyptians to make their own arrangements for reconditioning the 'surplus' tanks. The tank shipments from Antwerp were guarded by armed Egyptian soldiers."

The report from the Belgian capital declares that, in addition to tanks, Egypt received also British Bren carriers and jeeps, some of the shipments going to Alexandria via Rotterdam, Holland.

ISRAEL REITERATES "UNCONDITIONAL ACCEPTANCE" OF U. N. PROPOSALS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Israel has "explicitly affirmed its unconditional acceptance" of the pacification proposals made by United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold to ease tensions in the Nitzana (El Auja) area where Israeli-Egyptian clashes occurred recently. Egypt, on the other hand, has taken "a stand tantamount to rejection."

These points were reiterated today by Walter Eytan, director-general of the Israel Foreign Ministry, in a conference with Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization here. Before the Eytan-Burns conference, a Foreign Ministry spokesman took issue with the wording of a communique on the subject issued by Burns' office yesterday.

"The facts," said the Israel spokesman, "are in no way modified" by Gen. Burns' latest statement. "Nevertheless, the communique from Gen. Burns is at pains to try to show that Israel has not accepted Mr. Hammarskjold's proposals while Egypt is being assured that it has really not rejected them. The communique reflects a remarkable and anomalous situation. Whoever drafted that communique for Gen. Burns has certainly not helped his efforts to secure agreement by both parties. Israel at no time made any conditions for the implementation of the Hammarskjold proposals. Nor is there any warrant for the Burns communique's assertion that Israel's statement of the facts 'complicates negotiations.'"

Burns met yesterday with Egypt's war ministry's chief of armistice affairs, Col. Salah Gohar, discussing with the Cairo official the Hammarskjold pacification proposals for the Nitzana-El Auja area; exchange of prisoners between Israel and Arab countries; as well as improvement of communications between Burns' headquarters and Cairo.

HALF OF SECURITY COUNCIL MEETINGS IN 1955 DEALT WITH "PALESTINE ISSUE"

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The pertinacity of the "Palestine Question" as an agenda item which continues stubbornly to come up before the Security Council was dramatically illustrated here today by data issued by the United Nations Secretariat. The data shows that, in 1955, more than half of the Council's sessions were devoted to discussions of Israel-Arab conflicts.

There were 23 Council sessions in 1955 and, since one of the meetings was of a routine character, dealing with the body's annual report, only 22 were devoted to substantive matters. Of these 22 meetings, various aspects of Israel-Arab conflict took up 12 sessions. Eight dealt with complaints and counter-complaints by Egypt and Israel as a result of the Gaza raid of last February; two of the sessions took up Israel's recurrent complaints against the Egyptian blockade of the Suez Canal. The year's final two meetings took up Syria's complaint and Israel's answer in connection with the attack on December 11 against Syrian gun positions which had shelled Israeli fishing and police boats on Lake Tiberias. The latter issue is still unresolved and is scheduled to come up before the Council for further discussion next week.

BERLIN TO PAY \$3,000,000 TO JEWISH GROUPS FOR HEIRLESS PROPERTY

BERLIN, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The Government of West Berlin, after years of hard bargaining and false reports of accord, has agreed to make some \$3,000,000 available to the Jewish "successor organizations," and to the West Berlin Jewish Community, in an overall settlement of restitution claims for heirless property, it was announced here today.

The agreement provides for three distinct financial arrangements. An outright cash grant of \$239,000 is to be given to the local Jewish Community. The American as well as the British and French "successor organizations"--the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization and the Jewish Trust Corporation--will receive \$2,140,000 but in a round-about way; the municipal treasury has undertaken to pay the bills for this amount of Berlin industrial goods that will be shipped to the Jewish State through the Israel Purchasing Mission in Cologne. The value thereof shall be refunded to the successor organizations by the Israel Government, probably over a two-year period. Berlin has acknowledged a further basic obligation of \$833,000 to the JRSO and JTC, but will deduct an as yet uncomputed amount because of certain technical counter-claims.

In return, the successor organizations cede to the City of Berlin the claims they have filed, on behalf of Jews who were killed together with their entire families, for the restitution in the three Western sectors of this city of real estate, houses, businesses, stocks and bonds, etc. The agreement also extends to communal property, but not to endowment property such as real estate formerly owned by B'nai B'rith. The City of Berlin, on its part, intends to recover the \$3,000,000 by collecting from the "Aryanizers," who acquired the Jewish property during the Nazi regime and now wish to retain it.

The claims filed by the successor organizations, and covered by the present "global settlement," are estimated to exceed \$3,000,000 by a wide margin, but pressing each individual case in the courts is a laborious and costly business. Further, real estate is difficult to find buyers for in Berlin, an island city behind the Iron Curtain.

Lump-sum settlements similar to the present one, but more generous in their financial provisions, were arrived at several years ago between the JRSO and four German states in the United States zone. The wearying negotiations for the present agreement, in which Dr. Nahum Goldmann participated on several occasions, were carried on and concluded, on behalf of all successor organizations, by Dr. George Weis and Benjamin Ferencz of the JRSO.

AUSTRIAN GOVT. EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR FILING RESTITUTION CLAIMS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The State Department today received information that the deadline has been extended for filing claims in Austria under certain laws relating to restitution of property seized during the period of German occupation. The extension provides that such claims may be filed up to July 31, 1956, whereas the deadline had previously been December 31, 1955.

The extension is applicable only in regard to claims to property of which foundations and funds were deprived, if such foundation or fund was dissolved during the German occupation of Austria and if its status as a juridical person was not restored as of December 1, 1953; claims to property which was under public administration on June 30, 1952, or thereafter; and claims which could not be enforced by reason of a fact existing outside of Austrian laws.

It was stressed that persons wishing to file claims for property confiscated in Austria on account of the racial origin or religion of the owner must do so prior to July 31, 1956, under State Treaty provisions for restoration of property to former persecutees where such property was taken after March 13, 1938.

The State Department said it also had information that the Austrian Government has recommended to its parliament legislation to establish a special fund to provide limited payments to former Austrian citizens or residents who were victims of Nazi persecution in Austria. Persons wishing information were referred by the State Department to the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria in New York.

A. J. C. WELCOMES APPOINTMENT OF JEWISH MEMBER IN MOROCCAN CABINET

PARIS, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The European headquarters of the American Jewish Committee here today sent a cable to the Moroccan Premier, Si Bekkai, expressing satisfaction with the appointment of a Jew, Dr. Leon Ben-Zaquen, to membership in the Moroccan Cabinet. A message of congratulation was also sent by the AJC to Dr. Ben-Zaquen.

(Zachariah Shuster, European director of the AJC, upon his arrival today in New York from North Africa, said that, despite the fact that the new governments of Morocco and Tunisia have promised to wipe out ancient discrimination against Jews and to give them full equality of rights, there is still a feeling of insecurity among the Jews there, and many of them are seeking to emigrate. He urged that there be "no shutting down of opportunities for those Jews who, for economic and other reasons, should want to make their lives elsewhere.")

B'NAI B'RITH SENDS FINANCIAL AID TO FLOOD VICTIMS IN CALIFORNIA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Emergency relief funds from B'nai B'rith are being rushed to aid flood victims in California, it was announced here today by Philip M. Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith. An initial contribution of \$3,000 was sent to West Coast B'nai B'rith officials in accordance with the authority given the B'nai B'rith president to disburse funds to help meet national catastrophes. Other B'nai B'rith units are giving financial assistance.

Reports received here from Harry K. Wolff, Sr., of San Francisco, a vice-president of B'nai B'rith; Moe Kudler of Los Angeles, president of B'nai B'rith District Four, and Edward Zeisler of San Francisco, secretary of the district, stress that the Stockton area, south of Sacramento, is in the greatest need of help. A district relief fund is being set up, and contributions from B'nai B'rith world headquarters as well as from B'nai B'rith lodges and chapters in District Four will be distributed in cooperation with local Red Cross chapters and local relief committees.

DEAD SEA SCROLLS DISCUSSED BY 200 AMERICAN BIBLICAL SCHOLARS

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The recently discovered Dead Sea scrolls, which have been acquired by Israel, were discussed here last night at a meeting attended by more than 200 Protestant, Catholic and Jewish members of the Society of Biblical Literature and Exegesis. The meeting celebrated the 75th anniversary of the Society.

Dr. William F. Albright, Professor of Semitic Languages at John Hopkins University, said the scrolls provided a "wealth of evidence" as to meanings and usages of Hebrew words that might require a retranslation of parts of the Bible.

Dr. Frank M. Cross, Jr., of McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago, read a paper in which he stated that the tens of thousands of fragments, "the ultimate jig-saw puzzles," had already been identified as having come from 332 manuscripts, and many years of work remained.

NEW YORK SYNAGOGUE DESECRATED TWICE IN TWO DAYS; DAMAGES HEAVY

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Damage to the extent of thousands of dollars was reported by a Bronx synagogue here today, after it had been desecrated by vandals twice within two days. Rabbi David Savitz, of Congregation Brith Shalom, said that he had no choice but to believe that the vandalism was motivated by religious hatred.

The first raid by the vandals resulted in the twisting and breaking of religious articles, as well as the tearing of holy scrolls and books into shreds. Panes of glass were broken, walls and ceilings ripped, and pictures torn from the wall. In the second visit, there was even more damage than in the first, the rabbi reported. Everything that could be smashed was destroyed, and even the light fixtures were torn out of the walls. Openly weeping when he talked to reporters, Rabbi Savitz said: "I have lost my faith in mankind."

THREE AUTHORS WIN 1955 KESSEL PRIZE FOR JEWISH LITERATURE

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Yitzchok Berliner, Mexican Yiddish poet, Jacob Pat, New York author of many books in Yiddish, and S. Shalom, a Hebrew poet residing in Israel, have been named as winners of the Zvi Kessel prizes for Jewish literature for 1955, it was announced here today. Each of the prizes is in the amount of \$250. The current awards mark the ninth year since the foundation of the prizes by Mr. Kessel, a Mexican Jewish industrialist.

Mr. Berliner was awarded a prize for his book, "Gezang Fun Mensch," while Mr. Pat's award was for his work, "Shmussen Mit Yiddishe Shreiber." The honor for Mr. Shalom was awarded for his "Hayinu Kecholmim."

JEWISH SORORITY PRESENTS PLAQUE TO ISRAEL ENVOY IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The Delta Phi Epsilon Sorority, holding its 22nd biennial convention in Washington, today presented a plaque to Israel Ambassador Abba Eban at the Israel Embassy. Mr. Eban was cited for "his exemplary contribution as a pioneer of a new, hopeful nation in a world seeking peace."

TWO YOUTH CONFERENCES IN ENGLAND REAFFIRM SOLIDARITY WITH ISRAEL

LONDON, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Two conferences of Jewish youth in Britain adopted resolutions at sessions here today reaffirming solidarity with Israel.

At the session of the Inter-University Jewish Federation, the pro-Israel resolution called on all Jewish students to "stand by Israel in her hour of need." The biennial conference of Habonim, Labor Zionist youth group, reaffirmed "our solidarity with Israel in her struggle" and reiterated the movement's goal as that of emigration to Israel to work on Jewish settlements there.