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TWO-DAY CONFERENCE ON ARAB-ISRAEL CRISIS OPENS IN WASHINGTON TODAY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Hundreds of Jewish leaders from major organizations and communities began arriving here today to participate in the two-day extraordinary conference on the present crisis in the Middle East and the policy of the United States Government in that area. They will be greeted by George V. Allen, Assistant Secretary of State, at the opening session tomorrow.

The conference, which will be held at the Shoreham Hotel, will be addressed by a number of Senators. Major addresses will be given by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency, and Israel Ambassador Abba Eban. A statement by George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, reflecting the sentiment of organized labor in the United States will be read at the opening session by Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee.

The conference was called by presidents of 17 Jewish organizations to consider the rapidly deteriorating Arab-Israel situation and its implication for world peace, American interests and the security of Israel. Each of the organizations participating in the conference has assigned 20 delegates to it. Also among those arriving today are delegates at-large selected for the prominent positions they hold in their respective communities and their record of activity in public affairs.

The 17 organizations sponsoring the conference are: American Jewish Congress; American Trade Union Council for Labor Israel; American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs; American Zionist Council; B'nai B'rith; Central Committee Labor Zionist Organization of America; Hadassah; Jewish Agency; Jewish Labor Committee; Jewish War Veterans of the United States; Mizrahi Organization of America; National Community Relations Advisory Council; National Council of Jewish Women; Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; United Synagogue of America and Zionist Organization of America.

Byroade Seeks to Influence U. S. Against Selling Arms to Israel

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16 (JTA) -- Efforts to influence the State Department against the sale of American arms to Israel are being made here by Henry A. Byroade, United States Ambassador to Egypt, who is participating in the Anglo-American discussions on Middle East problems currently being held here. Heading the American group at these discussions is Assistant Secretary of State George V. Allen. The British group is headed by Evelyn Shuckburgh, expert on Middle East Affairs at the British Foreign Office. The results of these discussions will be brought to the attention of President Eisenhower and British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden when they start their meetings in Washington at the end of this month.

In questioning the wisdom of U. S. arms sales to Israel, Ambassador Byroade is reported by informed sources to be advancing the idea that Israel is responsible for the Egyptian arms deal with the Communists. According to him, the Communist countries had been offering Egypt arms for many months, but Egyptian Premier Col. Nasser had not reacted to these offers until after Israel's attack on Gaza last year. Mr. Byroade is reported to feel that the Communist countries would tend to side with the Arabs in an Arab-Israel war and he advises the U. S. to avoid identification with Israel.

Israelis in Washington Worried Over U. S. Stand on Sale of Arms

Israeli circles here declared last night that a rejection of Israel's application to purchase American arms would mean an almost inevitable Arab attack within a few months. They indicated that Israel has received no word so far from the State Department to the effect that the United States has decided to rescind undertakings of President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles concerning their "sympathetic consideration" of appeals for weapons for legitimate self-defense.

Israel circles feel this undertaking is a commitment that is not compatible with rejection of Israel's request. Nevertheless, they expressed "profound concern" at the very existence of newspaper reports in this direction. A high Israel source described the contingency as one of "extreme gravity." The Israel Embassy announced officially

that Ambassador Abba Eban is seeking an appointment with Secretary Dulles this week to resume negotiations for defensive arms.

Israel circles expressed belief that even if the United States and Israel differ on certain matters, the United States does not want to see the danger of a Middle East war increased by allowing Israel to be exposed to growing peril. It is believed that the timing of Israel's request for an Eban-Dulles meeting in continuation of arms negotiations is based on Mr. Dulles' recent statement that he would give the matter a "fresh look" after the United Nations Security Council debate on the Lake Tiberias incident.

Meanwhile, President Eisenhower indicated today in his message to Congress on the new budget that the United States would continue to supply "basic military equipment" to Iraq. The President also indicated concern over the Arab refugees. He said: "Provision should be made for further contributions for the relief and rehabilitation of refugees from Palestine. In view of the current unrest in the Near East, our continued support is essential both for humanitarian reasons and to assist in achieving peace and stability in the area."

PLAN PREPARING ISRAEL FOR POSSIBLE WAR EMERGENCY ANNOUNCED BY MAPAI

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- A plan for Israel to tighten its belt in the economic and manpower fields and place itself in the best shape to beat off an expected attack from the Arab states has been prepared by the Mapai Party, largest party in Israel and leader of the government coalition. The plan, which was prepared by a special Mapai committee headed by Pinchas Lavon, former Defense Minister, will be submitted to the political committee of the party for discussion and eventual implementation, it was learned here today.

The plan calls for the establishment of a supreme defense board, composed of citizens, with consultative status in reference to the Premier and the Defense Minister. It suggests that the government accompany the creation of this defense board with the proclamation of a "state of preparedness." During this period strikes would be prohibited in national and municipal government work and in industries producing defense items.

The draft plan calls for the immediate classification of Israel's manpower, so that the most economical and most efficient use may be made of it should the occasion arise and both the army and industry expand their personnel needs. The plan terms urgent the establishment of a special commissariat to coordinate control and to implement various emergency regulations in the event of war. The stockpiling of food and water is also called urgent.

Air Raid Protection Urged; Introduction of Defense Tax Suggested

The administrative framework for a fully operative air raid protection and civil defense system should be set up, the plan recommends. A special authority should be created to plan for the construction and maintenance of air raid shelters, both public and private, and for the evacuation of urban centers.

It is proposed that stricter measures be enacted to prevent military age men and women from leaving the country and to cut the number of delegations travelling abroad, to recall Israeli students from abroad as soon as they complete their studies and to set a deadline for persons who have been abroad a long time to return under pain of loss of citizenship.

These preparations will require great sums, the plan points out, which should be raised by taxation. It recommends a defense tax which would bring in 50 million pounds and an "apartment tax" to be paid by occupants of apartments larger than 260 square feet; proceeds from the latter to be used to finance civil defense costs.

In addition, the plan calls for the government to cut its expenses in a variety of ways; to reduce the number of public servants on both the municipal and national levels; fix prices, particularly on consumer goods, and prevent monopolistic price fixing. Luxury imports would be reduced drastically, also where possible expensive necessities would be replaced by cheaper items, such as small British cars for the larger American auto. The "cultural importation" of foreign artists and large official receptions would be discouraged.

To deal with the problem of settling the new immigrants during this emergency period, the plan proposes a special recruiting drive for men and women between 35 and 45 to serve for one year in the new immigrant settlements. Also older students would be given their matriculation examinations several months earlier than usual and be freed for one-half year's service in the settlements.

JEWISH GROUPS SUPPORT PROPOSAL FOR CALLING WORLD PARLEY ON BIAS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Jewish organizations presented their views today at the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities on a proposal that another world-wide conference on eradication of prejudice and discrimination be convoked by the United Nations.

Speaking in favor of the proposal was Philip M. Klutznick, world president of the B'nai B'rith and chairman of the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations. Others who supported the proposal included Moses Moscowitz, representing the Consultative Council of Jewish Organizations and Gerhardt Jacoby, representing the World Jewish Congress.

CLAIMS CONFERENCE VOTES \$1,300,000 FOR JEWISH CULTURAL WORK IN 1956

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The three-day meeting of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany concluded here last night with the voting of \$1,300,000 for world-wide programs of Jewish cultural and educational reconstruction during 1956. These funds are part of the \$10,000,000 allocations program for the relief and rehabilitation of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution and for communal reconstruction approved by the Conference board of directors.)

More than \$560,000 was allocated for use in Europe, an increase over the preceding year which reflected the stronger emphasis the Conference is placing on the development of Jewish education in Europe. Almost 60 percent of all the cultural allocations were earmarked for Jewish education, in particular for the construction or acquisition of suitable school buildings and the expansion, equipment and repair of existing buildings especially in Europe. An allocation of \$165,000 was granted to Yeshivoh formerly functioning in central and eastern Europe which were transplanted during the past 15 years to western Europe, the United States and Canada. More than 1,000 Nazi victims are currently enrolled at these Yeshivoh.

The sum of \$135,000 was granted for a program of scholarships and fellowships in the field of Jewish studies, including Jewish teacher training, graduate study and independent research. The purpose of these grants is to aid in expanding the corps of Jewish teachers and to assist refugee scholars in resuming interrupted projects or in embarking on new projects in Jewish studies. Scholarship and fellowship beneficiaries are required to be victims of Nazi persecution who are able to establish scholastic or research abilities.

\$7,000,000 Asked for Cultural Purposes by 260 Organizations

About 28 percent of the cultural allocations were earmarked for research and publication projects in Europe, the United States and South America employing the services of refugee writers, scholars, rabbis, researchers and editors. The remaining 12 percent of the allocations will be devoted in principal measure to the restoration or the establishment of Jewish libraries, archives and museums and the collection, preservation and publication of materials relating to the European Jewish catastrophe.

The funds earmarked for cultural allocations this year represent less than one-fifth of the amounts applied for. Some 260 Jewish organizations all over the world requested cultural allocations this year in excess of \$7,000,000 although but \$1,300,000 was expected for allocation. The limited funds available placed the Conference in the position of being unable to grant favorable consideration to every application of merit unless it was of the most urgent priority.

The cultural allocations were based upon recommendations submitted by special committees and commissions composed of outstanding Jewish scholars, educators and intellectual personalities in Europe and the United States. These bodies carried on their tasks in cooperation with Jewish communal organizations in Europe and with established organizations in the fields of specialization.

Leavitt Reports on \$10,000,000 Disbursements of 1955 Allocations

Moses Leavitt, executive vice president of the Joint Distribution Committee and treasurer of the Claims Conference, reported on the disbursement of general allocations made in 1955. Mr. Leavitt said that 87 percent of the total sum of \$10,000,000 had been paid out by the end of last year and that 85 percent of the monies were spent in Continental Europe for the aid of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

The Conference provided \$1,500,000 in 1955 for capital projects mostly in Europe designed to strengthen Jewish communities and institutions which suffered most from Nazism. Capital projects completed to date include the equipment of a four-story youth center in Paris, the first of its kind in that city, the establishment of youth and community centers in France, Italy and Norway, the acquisition of a children's home in Brussels, the expansion of homes for the aged in Switzerland and Argentina and the repair and equipment of old age homes in Austria, France, Germany, Holland, Italy, Luxemburg and Switzerland.

Saul Kagan, executive secretary of the Claims Conference, outlined the Conference's future objectives and programs in a statement to the board of directors. He said that to make a lasting contribution to the strengthening and development of the Jewish communities which suffered most from Nazi ruthlessness, the Conference is focussing its attentions on capital investments which will help rebuild communal institutions and their resources and put them in a position eventually to look after their own needs. He saw no diminution in the needs for relief and rehabilitation in Europe in the near future.

Dr. Judah Shapiro, director of the cultural and educational department of the Conference, reported on the cultural allocations and their impact on the revival of Jewish education. The Conference reported that \$6,892,000 of its total 1956 grant for relief and rehabilitation purposes was earmarked for programs in Europe conducted by the Joint Distribution Committee and by Jewish communal and central welfare agencies there. The bulk of these grants are for use in former Nazi-occupied countries where the needs for individual and communal rehabilitation are most urgent.

AMERICAN ORT TO SUPPORT \$4,000,000 YOUTH TRAINING PROGRAM OVERSEAS

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Support for a \$4,000,000 program to provide 20,000 young people in Israel, North Africa and other areas with vocational training and secondary education in 1956 was voted here by the American ORT Federation at its annual conference last night at the Hotel Roosevelt. Dr. William Haber, president, announced that ORT would begin discussions with the Joint Distribution Committee this week for a financial allocation in support of these overseas activities.

During the past decade American Jews have made available the sum of \$15,000,000 for ORT vocational services to over 200,000 persons in 19 countries, Dr. Haber reported. He stated that ORT would require increased sums for its work in the year ahead in order to meet emergencies abroad. He said that with the help of a U.S. Government grant of \$50,000, ORT is establishing a network of ten trade schools for youngsters in immigrant settlements in Israel. These would be in addition to the present ORT program in Israel for 4,500 people annually.

Dr. Aron Syngalowski, chairman of the executive committee of the World ORT Union, who arrived for the meeting from Switzerland, reported on a recent survey of Jewish economic problems he had made in Morocco. Dr. Syngalowski observed that while Jewish emigration would undoubtedly continue for some time, it should not be equated with "evacuation." He foresaw that substantial Jewish communities would remain. The present status of the Moroccan Jewish population he found to be "dangerously weak" as a result of the backwardness of the methods and tools used by its artisans and the "overflow of petty merchants." He urged the necessity of immediate steps to "modernize" these economic activities and for funds for ORT to implement its plans for economic education among these communities.

Philip M. Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith, addressing the conference, said: "You have heard a lot about the Atlantic Pact, the South East Asia Pact, the Bagdad Pact. But there is a more basic human pact that ties us one to another. The many differences that separate people can be blended and if need be submerged in the great task of building a better tomorrow. It is to the great credit of ORT that it has been able to adjust itself to the mores of different countries, recognizing that differences exist, yet becoming a part of the community wherever it has taken root."

ANTI-JEWISH BIAS IN MASSACHUSETTS HOTELS REPORTED DECLINING

BOSTON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Discrimination in Massachusetts hotels and resorts is being corrected and the number of complaints is dropping off, and job bias complaints have been handled through conference and conciliation during the year ending November 30, 1955, it was reported by the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination.

The report noted that the commission had received, initiated and processed 284 matters pertaining to discrimination in employment in this period and in no case had it been forced to refer the matter to a formal hearing. In all cases where the complaints were justified, the report indicated, complainants received their just due after informal conferences between the employers and the commission. In matters of public accommodation, only 27 cases were processed during the year and 335 advertising brochures of Massachusetts resorts were studied, all of them in compliance with the state's anti-discrimination law.

JEWISH DOCUMENTS FROM AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY PERIOD EXHIBITED IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Mayor Robert F. Wagner launched a 12-day exhibition of rare Catholic, Protestant and Jewish objects and documents from the American Revolutionary period at a special City Hall ceremony today. The exhibit, entitled "1776--One Nation Under God," is jointly sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews and the Morris Morgenstern Foundation and will be on exhibit at the Building for Brotherhood.

During the ceremony, the Mayor presented \$10,000 in Morgenstern Foundation Scholarships to 25 high school students to enable them to attend a camp on human relations sponsored each summer by the New York area of the NCCJ. The students, who were selected from each of the city's five boroughs, have all demonstrated interest and achievement in stimulating inter-group understanding.

ISRAELI REPORTS ON HIS INVENTION TO CONVERT SOLAR ENERGY TO STEAM

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Dr. Harry Tabor, director of Israel's National Physical Laboratory, has invented a one-way mirror which will convert solar energy to steam, thus bringing solar electric power within the range of technology, he stated today in an interview.

Dr. Tabor, who does not foresee use of his method for the production of low cost electricity through steam turbines, believes that it can be used for heating or cooling homes, for making fresh water from salt and for providing low pressure steam for paper production and other industrial uses.