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"BIG THREE" DISCUSS SOVIET SABOTAGE OF ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE EFFORTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The use of United Nations machinery for promoting an Arab-Israel peace and the problem of a possible Soviet veto sabotaging UN Security Council action was discussed at the State Department today at the renewed meeting of United States, British and French diplomats exploring methods for reaching an Arab-Israel settlement.

Today's meeting was attended by George V. Allen, Assistant Secretary of State, French Ambassador Couve de Murville and British Minister J.E. Coulson. Also at the meeting was Francis O. Wilcox, Assistant Secretary of State for United Nations Affairs.

The number of members of Congress who have put themselves on record in favor of permitting Israel to acquire arms in the United States to offset arms received by Egypt from Communist countries is constantly increasing. A number of Democratic Congressmen added their names today to the list of those who have urged immediate sale of war materiel to Israel.

Sen. John J. Sparkman, Democrat of Alabama, urged today that the United States attempt to mediate the Arab-Israel crisis rather than raise the possibility of employing military force. "We seem to be putting the cart before the horse" in attempting to find a solution, he said. "Thus far, I haven't seen any strong effort on our part to mediate between the two sides, and yet that ought to be our position now instead of talking about committing our armed forces," he added.

Another Democratic Senator, Mike Mansfield of Montana, said that the Administration "should make it a point to consult with Congress before taking any military steps" in the Middle East. Both Senators said they had heard of no moves by the Administration to attain stand-by authority to use U.S. forces if fighting flares.

State Dept. Sees "Serious Likelihood" of an Arab-Israel War

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs George V. Allen said tonight that there is a "serious likelihood" of war between the Arab states and Israel. In an interview broadcast by the Voice of America, Mr. Allen declared that he believed "it is likely" that the Arab states and Israel "with their present tense attitude could be involved in serious military operations, perhaps without either one knowing it."

Mr. Allen admitted that Israel is justified in requesting arms for its defense "in view of the fact that the Egyptians have acquired a very considerable amount of arms, and perhaps more important than that, new types of arms." On the other hand, he said, the Israelis have to realize that "when you started an armament race, you have got to look as far as you can to find out where you are going to come out."

"Nobody wants to devote any more of their scarce economic wealth to military equipment than you have to, and as far as the United States is concerned we don't like to encourage that," Mr. Allen continued. "We never have been in the armaments picture in the Middle East to any important extent. If an adequate situation exists for armaments, I may say that for my own point that I would rather give arms where they are needed, than to be in the business of selling them."

ISRAEL WILL POSTPONE RESUMPTION OF WORK ON JORDAN RIVER WATERS

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Israel will postpone its work on diversion of the Jordan River along the Israel-Syrian and Israel-Jordan borders pending the arrival of Eric Johnston, President Eisenhower's personal envoy to the Middle East, in the area in a new attempt to settle the question of Israel-Arab regional development of the Jordan River. Premier David Ben-Gurion declared yesterday in an interview with a correspondent of the New York Times in Israel.

"If Mr. Johnston is coming we will give him time," the Premier said. "If it can be done by agreement, it is better." Israel had warned the United States that it would resume work on the Jordan River project, all on its own territory, if the Arabs did not agree to Ambassador Johnston's proposals, which Israel has long since accepted in principle. (In Washington it was announced today that Mr. Johnston will leave the U.S. next week to visit Asiatic countries, but will not stop in Israel or the Arab countries. His trip was estimated to last five weeks.)

BRITISH FOREIGN MINISTER EVADES MIDDLE EAST ARMS ISSUE IN COMMONS

LONDON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd refused today to give Commons any information at all concerning British arms shipments to the countries of the Middle East, asserting that to do so would be to depart from set government policy. Disclosure of such information, he added, might "embarrass purchasers and cause them to buy their weapons elsewhere and thus Britain would lose all "control" over them.

He responded in the negative to half-a-dozen questions concerning quantities of arms sent to Israel and the Arab states, on the value of those arms and on the balance of arms between Israel and the Arab states. He kept insisting that to give these figures would be to present a partial and therefore a false picture, since it would not include information about arms purchases by these same states from other suppliers. When an exasperated Laborite questioner finally demanded that he be given a "complete" picture, the Foreign Secretary retreated to his refusal to provide such information as a matter of "policy."

Although at one point Mr. Lloyd insisted that he was quite "satisfied" that a balance of arms is currently being maintained in the Middle East, he later said that the Tripartite Declaration of 1950 did not provide for an arms parity. He also predicted that there would be no real solution of the Arab refugee question except within the framework of a general Israel-Arab settlement.

During a discussion of the training of officers for the Arab Legion in Britain, Defense Minister Sir Walter Monckton attempted to ward off criticism by pointing out that Israeli officers were also being trained in this country.

ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN ARMISTICE TALKS, LONG BROKEN OFF, WILL BE RESUMED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The Israel-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission, which has not met for several months, since Egypt broke off talks with Israel after the fighting between forces of the two countries in the Nitzana (El Auja) demilitarized zone area, has been convened for two meetings by Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, chief of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization here.

Gen. Burns himself will be chairman of the two sessions. The first of the meetings will be held on February 20, and will be an "emergency" session scheduled to consider about 20 complaints from both Israel and Egypt. The second meeting will be held two days later. Both meetings will be held at the hut at Kilometer 95, in the Gaza Strip demilitarized area, where earlier abortive Egypt-Israel talks had been held until those conversations were broken off by Egypt.

EGYPT SEIZES NORWEGIAN SHIP BOUND FOR ISRAEL; BLOCKADE AT GAZA

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Radio reports received in Washington today from Cairo said a Norwegian ship has been fired upon and seized by Egyptian forces at Gaza coast. The ship was reported bound for the Israel port of Jaffa.

A report from Beirut said the Jordan Government has asked the Arab League Secretariat General to approach the Ethiopian Government to refrain from concluding any trade agreements with Israel.

ISRAEL ASKS \$2,656,858 FROM BULGARIA FOR SHOOTING DOWN EL AL PLANE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Israel submitted today a claim for \$2,656,858 to the Bulgarian Government for damages and compensation resulting from the shooting down of an Israel passenger plane by Bulgarian fighters last July.

At the same time, the Government of Israel asked to be informed of the identity of those responsible for the incident and how they had been punished, as the Bulgarian Government had promised last August it would do. Included in the monetary claims are the cost of replacing the ELAL four-engine Constellation plane, compensation for loss of freight aboard the plane and compensation to the relatives of the 58 victims aboard the plane.

STRIKE OF PROFESSIONALS IN ISRAEL CONTINUES; NEGOTIATIONS SLOW

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The strike of professionals continued for a ninth day today without any visible break in the situation. A ministerial committee which has been dealing with the strikers spent the day at a meeting which broke up without having contacted the strikers' negotiating committee.

Meanwhile, there have been a few signs that some doctors and some of the other professionals may be tiring of the strike. However, the Medical Association issued a stern warning to would-be strikebreakers that if they quit the walkout the association would take measures to cut them off from every social and professional contact with their fellow physicians.

BILL TO OUTLAW SHECHITA INTRODUCED IN SOUTH AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- The possibility of shechita -- Jewish ritual slaughter -- being outlawed in the Union of South Africa has been raised by a private bill introduced by Dr. W. L. Shearer, Conservative, in the House of Assembly, the lower house of the national legislature.

During debate on the bill, Dr. Shearer attacked shechita because it did not provide for stunning the animal before slaughter and deplored the "cruelty" practiced in kosher abattoirs. Dr. Shearer asked for the appointment of a commission to study shechita. He was followed in the debate by Nationalist deputy J. Scholtz who demanded that the "dreadful barbarity" of ritual slaughter be halted.

A spokesman for the government, however, said he would prefer to have a memorandum from the Animal Welfare Organization on the type of legislation it would prefer. Then this memorandum could be brought before the House and studied by a special commission, he added.

Earlier this session, when the government introduced a measure designed to curb certain practices in slaughter, Dr. Henry Gluckman asked for assurance that this bill would not interfere with Jewish religious practices. He was told by a government spokesman that the exemption for religious practices contained in the original slaughter bill would be retained in the new version. Before the current session, even Dr. Shearer assured a Jewish delegation that he did not contemplate interference with shechita.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN MOROCCO MEET TO REORGANIZE THEIR CENTRAL BODY

RABAT, Morocco, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- The Council of Jewish Communities met here today to map plans for the reorganization of the Moroccan Jewish community in the light of the new autonomous status of the country.

The Council accepted the resignation of Jacques Dahàn, its general secretary, and decided to call a special meeting at which a "president general" will be elected. The forthcoming meeting will also discuss a structure for the Council which is composed of representatives of communities from various towns in Morocco.

J. D. C. DIRECTOR IN EUROPE REPORTS ON PLAN FOR 1956 ACTIVITIES

PARIS, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee will take over full responsibility for financing immigration to Israel in 1956, Charles Jordan, acting director general of the JDC, declared here today in his first statement since his appointment to the post. The JDC will take over this responsibility, Mr. Jordan added, because neither the Israel Government nor the Jewish Agency is financially able to continue to bear these costs and there are many thousands of Jews waiting to go to Israel.

Continuing his discussion of the JDC's responsibilities for 1956, Mr. Jordan outlined the three other major areas of work for his organization: caring for the aged, ill and handicapped among the immigrants to Israel; raising the standards of life for the Jews in the Moslem countries, and helping Jewish communities in Europe rebuild a communal life while at the same time caring for their needy. Mr. Jordan said that the JDC would fulfill its responsibilities for immigration and other programs even if "we have to borrow money and mortgage our future."

GURFEIN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNITED HIAS; BREGMAN NAMED CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, Feb. 15 (JTA) -- Murray I. Gurfein, prominent New York attorney and civic leader, has been elected president of United Hias Service, it was announced here today. He succeeds Ben Touster, who became the first president of United Hias Service in August 1954, when the unified Jewish migration agency was formed through the consolidation of the 70-year-old Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society (HIAS), 20-year-old United Service for New Americans (USNA), and the migration services of the Joint Distribution Committee (JDC).

Abner Bregman, who has been a leader for many years in the work of the United Jewish Appeal, the Joint Distribution Committee and other philanthropic organizations, was elected to succeed Carlos L. Israels as chairman of the executive committee. Herbert C. Kränzer, who has served as a vice-president of the organization, was elected treasurer. He succeeds Samuel Goldstein who is taking up residence in Israel.

COURT ORDERS JEWISH COUPLE TO SURRENDER ADOPTED CATHOLIC CHILD

PROVIDENCE, R. I., Feb. 15 (JTA) -- The Rhode Island Supreme Court yesterday ordered Samuel and Anna Sklaroff, a Jewish couple of this city, to surrender a four-year-old boy they adopted when he was a week-old infant. The child was born out of wedlock to a Catholic mother who later married.

The court ruled against the Sklaroffs on the basis of a Rhode Island law which prescribes that "wherever possible" the adopting parents and the natural parents should be of the same religious faith. The mother, who originally consented to the adoption, changed her mind after her marriage and sought custody of the boy.

AUSTRIA RESENTS OPPOSITION TO ITS SOCCER TEAM IN ISRAEL

VIENNA, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The Austrian Consul General in Tel Aviv has been instructed to discuss with the Israeli Foreign Ministry several incidents involving Revisionist youth and the Austrian Kapfenberg soccer team, which is currently touring Israel.

When the team arrived in Israel, members of the Herut and Betar the latter a Revisionist youth organization, distributed leaflets asking Israeli team to refuse to play with the Austrians, and accusing them of being Nazis. Yesterday, after an unsuccessful attempt to burn the goal posts, isolated youths tried several times to interfere with the game, but were arrested by police before they could get on the field. The game, between Kapfenberg and the Petach Tikva Hotel eleven, ended in a 2-2 tie.

The protest to Jerusalem followed a campaign in the press here, including even a Socialist newspaper, which insisted that the incidents were proof of unfriendly feelings among the Israelis. A statement by the Austrian Chancellery denied this and pointed out that the incidents were of a minor nature and that the fact that an Austrian team had been invited to Israel at all proved that the Israelis were not prejudiced against the Austrians.

The Israel Consul General here stated today that the youths responsible for the incidents were neither numerically nor politically important. A representative of the management of the Kapfenberg team issued a statement to the effect that Israel authorities are doing everything possible to prevent repetition of such incidents and that the Israeli authorities were obviously trying to assure that the incidents do not hurt sports relations between the two nations.

COMMISSION TO REVISE J. W. B. PRAYER BOOK FOR JEWS IN ARMED FORCES

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- A committee of rabbis to revise the prayer book prepared and distributed by the National Jewish Welfare Board to Jewish personnel in the U. S. armed forces has been created by the JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy. It was announced today. The committee consists of rabbis recommended by the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform), Rabbinical Assembly of America (Conservative) and Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox).

Prepared under war-time conditions and designed for personnel in combat, the Jewish prayer book for GI's now in use has served nearly 1,000,000 men and women who were in the U. S. armed forces or who have been in VA hospitals. The need for the present revision, the manuscript of which is due to be completed by the fall of 1956, became evident as a result of reports received by JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy from GI's and Jewish chaplains. These reports indicated that a fuller text is required to meet the needs of a peacetime military establishment where more stress is being placed on the role of religion as a factor in morale.

Dr. Joshua Bloch, recently retired chief of the Jewish Division of the New York Public Library, has been named Jewish Welfare Board consultant to Jewish community center libraries. Dr. Bloch's new position would include the following responsibilities: Consultation with Jewish Community Center and YM-YWHA library committees; consultation with Jewish Community Center and YM-YWHA librarians; evaluation of Jewish Community Center and YM-YWHA libraries in accordance with the criteria of the JWB-sponsored Jewish Book Council of America, and formulation of recommendations for Center libraries concerning facilities, personnel, selection of books, and other matters. There are 350 Jewish community centers and YM-YWHA's affiliated with the JWB.

ARCHBISHOP OF BOSTON HONORED BY B'NAI B'RITH AS "MAN OF THE YEAR"

LOWELL, Mass., Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston was honored tonight by B'nai B'rith here as "man of the year." The citation was presented at a brotherhood dinner attended by 1,000 persons in the Lowell Hebrew Community Center.

Archbishop Richard J. Cushing was cited for "a lifetime of distinguished service to the cause of human brotherhood under God and in further recognition of great leadership in the fields of education and community relations."

NEW YORK'S UNION SQUARE RENAMED "PIONEER WOMEN SQUARE" FOR WEEK

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Historic Union Square here was renamed Pioneer Women's Square for the week ending February 19 at a mass rally held in the square today. The renaming of the square is part of the week-long celebration of Pioneer Women Week, proclaimed by Mayor Robert F. Wagner to coincide with the women's Labor Zionist organization's nationwide membership drive this week.

A declaration calling upon the United States Government "to reject any proposal to appease the Arabs" and to force Israel to surrender any territory to the Arab states was adopted at the rally. The declaration further expressed alarm over the "mounting Arab threats" to Israel's security and the "attacks on American institutions and the insults to the American flag in Arab countries."