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SENATE BODY TO PROBE U.S. ARMS POLICY ON MIDDLE EAST; TO CALL DULLES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- An inquiry into the State Department's arms policy on Israel and the Arab countries will be started this Friday, or early next week, by the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, it was indicated here today by Sen. Walter F. George, chairman of the committee. He said that he intends to summon Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Under Secretary Herbert Hoover, Jr., to appear before the committee.

Demands for a full scale investigation of the State Department's Middle East arms policy were voiced today by a number of members of Congress following the embarrassing situation that has been created by the imposition and immediate revocation of a ban on the shipment of 18 American army tanks to Saudi Arabia. The tanks left the port of Brooklyn today for Saudi Arabia on the freighter James Monroe. It was reported that besides its cargo of tanks, the freighter also carried about 20 dismantled jet planes for Saudi Arabia, but these reports could not be confirmed.

State Department circles indicated that no definite plans have been made so far for Secretary Dulles to report to Congress on the Middle East arms policy. Department spokesman Lincoln White declined to reveal the reaction of the State Department to Senator George's suggestion that the Department publish in detail a list of arms furnished to various Middle East countries in the \$16, 000, 000 sales mentioned in the statement issued by the Department two days ago.

Mr. White indicated that Israel's \$50, 000, 000 arms request was being handled separately from other Israel requests, but that it was all included in the regional total of \$150, 000, 000 in applications mentioned in that statement. He said that it was still the Department's policy to avoid an arms race between Israel and the Arab countries.

State Dept. Scored for Failure to Consult Congress Leaders

Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey today accused the State Department of "either designed deception or gross incompetence" in connection with the tanks sent to Saudi Arabia. At the same time, Rep. James P. Richards, chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, accused the State Department of treating the House like a "weak-minded illegitimate son" on foreign policy matters including the Saudi Arabian tank issue.

(The New York Times today reported from Washington that State Department officials gave consideration yesterday to the early sale to Israel of at least part of the major weapons she asked for three months ago. No decision has been reached primarily because of reported differences within the department on the issue. But the possibility of the sale of some arms to Israel is expected to be put before Secretary of the State Dulles this week, the report said. The Secretary will return Wednesday from a fishing trip off the Bahamas.)

Democratic Presidential aspirant Adlai Stevenson speaking today in Chicago said: "The situation in the Middle East is very critical and I think this is a good time to keep cool. While I do not know what our government is doing, I assume that it is not unmindful of Israel's peril and is actively seeking peaceful solutions of the mounting tension."

U. N. CHIEF DISCUSSES JORDAN RIVER ISSUE WITH SYRIAN ARMY LEADERS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The Syrian Defense Minister and the Syrian Chief of Staff today discussed with UN Truce Chief Gen. E. L. M. Burns problems relating to Israel's plans for utilization of Jordan River waters, it was announced here today by the UN truce organization. The discussion took place at the initiative of the Syrian Chief of Staff, the announcement emphasized.

Gen. Burns also discussed with the Syrian military leaders implementation of the Security Council resolution on the exchange of Israeli and Syrian military prisoners, and his suggestions for improving the situation in the area of Lake Tiberias.

NASSER THREATENS ISRAEL WITH WAR; SYRIA RECEIVES ARMS FROM SOVIETS

LONDON, Feb. 20. (JTA).-- Egyptian Premier Col. Gamal Abdel Nasser made known yesterday that if war develops between Israel and Syria, Israel will be attacked by Egyptian forces. "We consider any attack against Syria an attack against Egypt," he said at a graduation ceremony of air cadets which was marked by a demonstration of nine Soviet bombers flying overhead.

Col. Nasser told the audience that he expects war with Israel this spring. "When we hear talk today of a spring Zionist offensive we are not panic-stricken," he stated. "We have been expecting it for six months." Meanwhile, "it was revealed to day that Syria is getting a share of the arms which Egypt received from Communist Czechoslovakia. This was reported in the Cairo press which said that Syria has joined Egypt in concluding an arms pact with Soviet countries."

ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN ARMISTICE BODY MEETS FOR FIRST TIME SINCE SEPTEMBER

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The Israel-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission met today for the first time since last September and promptly condemned Egypt for an armed incursion into Israel territory last August during which Egyptian troops occupied an Israeli observation post and seriously wounded an Israeli soldier before being driven back.

The commission termed the attack on Aug. 25 a "flagrant violation" of the armistice agreement and called on the Egyptian authorities to cease their attacks on Israelis. When the Egyptians withdrew that day, they left behind some 400 different items of military equipment.

Israel has nearly completed the release of an estimated 3,000,000 pounds sterling in blocked Arab accounts in Israel banks, it was announced here today. As of last week, the totals paid out have amounted to 2,580,000 pounds sterling, with the largest share going to Arabs now living in Jordan.

ISRAEL AND EGYPT REPORTED AGREED ON EXCHANGE OF WAR PRISONERS

LONDON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Israel and Egypt have agreed to an exchange of prisoners of war and the exchange is expected to take place on the Gaza strip Sunday, the Daily Herald reported today.

The significance of this move is considerable, the newspaper's diplomatic correspondent noted, despite the fact that the number of prisoners involved is small. "It is the first constructive gesture by either nation for many months," he wrote. The Israelis are believed to be holding some 70 Egyptian soldiers and civilians, while the Egyptians hold six Israelis. The Herald gave credit for negotiating the exchange to an International Red Cross official, David de Traz, a citizen of Switzerland.

STRIKE OF ISRAEL PROFESSIONALS ENDED; COMPROMISE REACHED ON SALARY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The two-week old strike of Israeli doctors and other professionals employed by the government and national institutions came to an end in the early hours this morning as the government gave in on the main demands of the strikers. The government agreed:

To recognize as a debt repayable in 1957 the withheld one-third of a pledged increase for professionals; to reimburse the strikers for wages lost during the strike, and to guarantee that no disciplinary measures would be taken against the strikers. Premier David Ben Gurion presided over the final negotiating session at which the strike was settled.

NEW RAILROAD SECTION LINKS BEERSHEBA WITH JERUSALEM, TEL AVIV, HAIFA

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Beersheba, the economic center of Israel's Negev, was linked directly by rail with Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem yesterday when the last section of a 48-mile spur was completed. The first freight train is expected to roll on the new section this week.

The new line, which took three years and 11 million pounds to build, connects up with the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv line at Naan, seven miles south of the Lydda junction. The new spur will be used chiefly to bring mineral products out of the Negev which are now being transported in economically expensive trucking operations.

NEW IMMIGRANTS TAKEN FROM SHIP TO ELATH ON PLANES FOR SETTLEMENT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A new immigrant service was instituted in Israel today when 130 newcomers were taken directly from an immigrant vessel in the port of Haifa to three military planes which flew them to Elath, Israel's port on the Gulf of Akaba, for immediate settlement.

The party consists of young people who know exactly what kind of life awaits them. They were interviewed in an immigrant clearing center in Marseilles by the chairman of the Elath city council who explained the rigors and rewards of life in the outpost city at the southern end of Israel.

JEWISH HOMES IN TUNIS BOMBED FOUR TIMES WITHIN ONE WEEK

TUNIS, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- For the fourth time in one week a Jewish place was bombed here today. The latest explosion damaged the home of a Jew living next to a shop owned by another Jew, Rene Nahum. As in the previous explosions, no one was injured. The anti-Jewish attacks here have been attributed to nationalist extremists.

WORLD ORT UNION ADOPTS \$4, 000, 000 BUDGET FOR ITS 1956 ACTIVITIES

GENEVA, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A \$4, 000, 000 budget for 1956 was approved here today by the 15-man executive committee of the World ORT Union at the end of a two-day meeting at which various plans of the activities of the organization were discussed. At the meeting were ORT leaders from the United States, Britain, Switzerland, Sweden, Belgium, Italy, France, Israel, Holland, Tunis, Morocco, Algeria, Iran, South Africa and the Argentine.

Speeding up ORT's North African emergency program, and ORT's increased program in Israel were two of the major items on the committee's agenda. Efforts will be made to double ORT's work in North Africa this year. Special emphasis will be laid on vocational training of adults in Morocco, Tunis and Algeria. In 1955, reports showed, 4, 450 students were enrolled in ORT's North African training centers for development of skills in handicrafts, industry and agriculture.

In Israel, during the past year, 41 ORT schools were attended by 4, 650 pupils, it was reported at the meeting. The schools have recently expanded their courses to embrace a four-year curriculum in the place of former three-year courses and are receiving the full cooperation of the Israeli Ministry of Labor, the executive committee was told. A report on another Middle Eastern country, Iran, showed that, in addition to schools training 750 younger students, ORT courses have been begun in that country for adults preparing to emigrate.

\$1, 820, 000 RAISED IN LONDON AT DINNER LAUNCHING 1956 J. P. A. DRIVE

LONDON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The sum of 650, 000 pounds (\$1, 820, 000) was contributed last night at the dinner launching the 1956 Joint Palestine Appeal, it was announced here this morning. This is the largest sum contributed on a single night in British Jewish fund-raising history and is expected to set a pattern for the rest of the campaign.

Reporting this development, Sir Simon Marks, JPA chairman, said that last year Zionist fund-raising totalled 2, 250, 000 pounds, exceeding by 100, 000 pounds the 1954 total. Since the State of Israel was established in 1948, he said, British Jewry has raised 18, 000, 000 pounds, which amounts to about eight percent of the total contributed by world Jewry.

\$15, 593, 201 RAISED BY NEW YORK FEDERATION OF JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A record-breaking sum of \$15, 593, 201 was raised by the 38th annual appeal of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York which ended its five month campaign on January 31. Gustave L. Levy, chairman of the community-wide effort, reported today to the Federation board of trustees.

This sum, which will be utilized to maintain 116 local health, welfare and social work agencies and institutions, is \$1, 166, 649 more than the appeal raised last year at the same time. It represents the efforts of 12, 000 volunteer workers who obtained 94, 973 gifts in cash and pledges.

As the majority of these gifts were made in the names of firms and families it is estimated that more than 300, 000 individuals contributed to the campaign. Mr. Levy said, adding that at least 15, 000 additional gifts, amounting to more than \$1, 000, 000, are expected to be made before September 30th, the close of Federation's fiscal year.

U. S. JEWS WARNED ON SHORTAGE OF RABBIS; \$65, 000, 000 PLAN PROPOSED

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Unless the already overburdened educational facilities for rabbis and religious school teachers is doubled in the next ten years, "the shortage of rabbinic and lay leaders will become a serious danger to the entire American Jewish community," Joseph N. Gerson, chairman of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, declared here yesterday at the concluding session of the committee's mid-winter meeting.

Mr. Gerson reported that "objective studies made within the last several months indicate the heavy demands being made for rabbis and teachers by new congregations springing up in the fast-growing suburbs cannot possibly be coped with at this time." He called for immediate support of the Seminary's program to raise \$65, 000, 000 in the next decade to increase its educational facilities, enlarge its public education program in the communities and maintain its existing facilities.

JEWISH GROUPS COMMEND EISENHOWER'S PROPOSALS ON IMMIGRATION LAW

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Six major national Jewish organizations in a joint statement today expressed the "warmest commendation" to President Eisenhower for his special message to Congress calling for revision of United States immigration law. They urged him to exert the full influence of his office to obtain Congressional action in this session.

Joining in the statement were the Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans, National Council of Jewish Women, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, and United Synagogue of America. The last three are respectively the national congregational bodies of Reform, Orthodox, and Conservative Judaism. The statement was released by the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

The Jewish organizations commended especially the President's declaration that the national origins quota system, now used as a method of admitting immigrants, should be replaced by a new system based on different standards. They called upon Congress to enact immigration law revisions in this session.

At the same time, the board of directors of United Hias Service, Jewish migration agency, adopted a resolution hailing President Eisenhower for "his laudable stand regarding immigration and naturalization." The resolution recommended to the membership and supporters of the agency to suggest to their representatives in Congress to take immediate action in support of the President's recommendations and to ask them specifically to urge that Congress eliminate the national origins quota system from the immigration and naturalization laws.

Rep. Walter Seeks to Delay Hearings on Eisenhower's Proposals

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Chairman Francis Walter of the House Immigration Subcommittee said today he plans no hearings on President Eisenhower's proposed changes in the immigration law changes until the Senate has made a substantial start on them.

In the Senate, bills to carry out President Eisenhower's ideas have been introduced by Sen. Watkins. Chairman Harley M. Kilgore of the Judiciary Committee has said he plans early hearings on them. However, no dates have yet been set. Rep. Walter, an outspoken critic of any revision of the McCarran-Walter Act, said unsolicited mail opposing hearings is piling up in his files.

CONGRESSMEN URGED NOT TO BACK NEW U.S. GROUP ON MIDDLE EAST ISSUE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Rep. Abraham J. Multer today urged other Congressmen not to allow use of their names by the "Committee to Save the Middle East from Communism", which was formed last week. The group is co-chaired by Louis Bromfield and Pierre van Paassen. Its executive vice-chairman is Peter Bergson.

Rep. Multer said his attention was directed to the circulation of a letter on the letterhead of the committee signed "Gabriel Wechsler on behalf of Congressman Multer".

In a letter to colleagues, Rep. Multer said: "The sending of this letter was unauthorized, and immediately upon learning thereof I contacted the author of the letter, who agreed with me that it was unauthorized. I have taken the precaution of writing to him, telling him that I will not participate in any of the work of this committee, and do not wish to have my name connected with it in any way whatsoever. May I respectfully suggest that you follow the same course."

Rep. Multer said "while you and I will continue to exert every possible effort to prevent the spread of Communism in the Middle East as well as in every part of the world, I am sure you will agree with me that this type of operation and fund-raising appeal is not conducive to the results we seek."

PROTESTANTS, CATHOLICS FORM COMMITTEE TO SPONSOR JEWISH CENTER

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Dr. Norman Vincent Peale, nationally prominent Protestant clergyman and author, will head a committee of Protestant and Catholic leaders in Putnam County to sponsor a projected Jewish Center of the Mahopacs, situated about 50 miles north of New York City.

The center, which will house the Jewish community's religious institutions and provide facilities for civic and cultural affairs for all of Putnam County, has a Committee of 100 Christian Friends assisting in its organization.