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U. S. MAY OFFER DEFENSIVE ARTILLERY TO ISRAEL; NO JET PLANES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Administration sources today indicated that the State Department may soon offer anti-aircraft artillery batteries and barrage balloons to Israel to protect Israeli cities from low-altitude aerial assault. Jet planes will probably not be offered to Israel, the same sources stated.

These sources said the State Department is now considering export licenses for obviously defensive arms such as anti-aircraft guns equipped with radar and fire control director apparatus. The guns considered were 90 millimeter pieces made surplus some time ago by the U. S. Army which considers them obsolescent and not effective against the latest jets. It was explained by one artillery expert that the jet speed is such that the automatic range finding device cannot compute and track effectively.

The anti-aircraft equipment might be explained to the Arabs with a statement that they have nothing to fear if their planes do not attack Israel territory. It might be pointed out that the much-desired jet fighters were not being sold to Israel. At the same time, Israel, according to this information, might be told that the flak batteries should calm their anxiety over the menace from the skies.

The barrage balloons were described here as "ideal" for Israel because they are so legitimately and obviously "defensive" that the Arabs can make no reasonable objection. It is not believed that Israel requested balloons on the list of vital arms submitted last November to balance the flow of aggressive Communist weapons to Egypt.

DULLES TO TESTIFY TODAY ON TANKS DEAL; SENATE HEARINGS TO BE OPEN

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Secretary of State John Foster Dulles conferred today with top advisers on the Middle East arms situation in preparation for his appearance tomorrow before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. It is considered likely that Mr. Dulles will confer with the President on the arms question.

Mr. Dulles, reportedly, will justify the sale of tanks to Saudi Arabia with four excuses: 1. The danger of a Saudi Arabian arms deal with the Communists; 2. The need to gain Saudi Arabian agreement for renewal of the Dhahran airbase agreement; 3. The need to protect strategic oil interests, and 4. The view of the Administration that the sale of the 18 tanks would not upset the Arab-Israeli power balance.

Chairman Walter F. George of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said today the American people should have "fuller knowledge" of the Middle Eastern situation. He expressed hope that his committee can lay the groundwork for better understanding tomorrow when Secretary of State Dulles appears before an executive session.

The Senator said there was too much "confusion" in the public and Congressional mind about the Middle East development. He revealed he knew absolutely nothing of the Saudi Arabian tank deal until he read the newspapers. He indicated he expected fuller information from the State Department.

It is not expected that Mr. Dulles will complete his testimony before the Committee on Friday. If a Saturday session is not held, the committee may call Mr. Dulles back on Monday. Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey urged that a hearing at which answers will be demanded of Secretary Dulles be opened to the public because the American people "have too much at stake not to get the answers." Later, Sen. George announced the hearings would be open.

Rep. Clement J. Zablocki, a ranking Democratic member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said today in a letter to his Wisconsin constituents that the Administration's "on again, off again" position on the shipment of army tanks to Saudi Arabia "will undoubtedly hurt our prestige abroad, and only aggravate the Arab-Israeli controversy."

U. S. DESTROYER TO VISIT ISRAEL PORT SUNDAY; THREE MORE TO CALL LATER

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- A destroyer from the United States Sixth Fleet in the Mediterranean will call at either Haifa or Jaffa Sunday, the United States Embassy here announced today. Three other destroyers will visit Israel ports later. The American crew will be given shore leave in Israel and the Captain will pay formal visits to Israeli officials.

U.S. BOWING TO EGYPT ON BOYCOTT OF AMERICANS DEALING WITH ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The New York Post reported from Washington today that the United States Government had "bowed" to Egypt's blacklisting of American shippers trading with Israel, when it approved a deal which provides for the sending of 55,000 tons of surplus wheat worth more than \$4,000,000 to Egypt. The shipment was sanctioned by three Federal agencies -- the State Department, Agriculture Department and the International Cooperation Administration -- without a word of protest, the Post said.

In doing so, the Post emphasized, they accepted the demand of the wheat purchase committee of the Egyptian Embassy here that grain not be shipped in any vessel blacklisted by Egypt or any ship that either passes through Israel's territorial waters or touches its ports. Not only the cost of the wheat but the price of shipping it are borne by American taxpayers.

Except for an additional 4,000 tons bought through normal commercial channels the 55,000 ton shipment is a 4,000,000 dollars gift of the U.S. public under provisions of the Mutual Security Act, the report pointed out. And since ships going to Egypt are not allowed to continue on to Israel shipowners have been asking -- and getting \$2 to \$3 more per-ton for 'partial cargo' than the going rate.

The first wheat shipment -- 9,500 tons -- left Norfolk on Feb. 18 aboard the S.S. Dido owned by the Firth Steamship Co. of New York, the Post stated. It said its information was confirmed by Hassan Abdul Hamid Hassan, Commercial Secretary of the Egyptian Embassy. The rest of the cargo "will be shipped from Eastern ports" by the end of the month, Mr. Hassan said.

State Dept. "Explains" Deal with Egypt; New Deals Announced

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- A State Department spokesman today commented on the report that the government sanctioned shipment of surplus wheat to Egypt in an arrangement that accepted the Egyptian blacklist of ships that traded with Israel. His explanation was that the United States has no control over the selection of ships, except for the requirement under the Cargo Preference Act that 50 percent of surplus commodities must be shipped aboard American vessels.

The Department of Agriculture, meanwhile, announced that additional wheat has been made available to Egypt. Egypt was authorized \$8,235,000 worth of wheat, approximately 4,500,000 bushels, under the expanded agreement. The Department made known that Egypt would be included in a new program to expand U.S. wheat and wheat product exports.

SYRIA RENEWS SHOOTING ON ISRAELI FISHERMEN AT LAKE TIBERIAS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Syrian gun posts on the eastern shore of Lake Tiberias opened fire on Israeli fishermen in the northeast corner of the lake this morning. The Israelis cut loose their nets and escaped without returning fire.

Simultaneously, Syria warned today that it will resist by force any attempts "to divert Jordan River waters from the Syrian-Israel demilitarized zone into Israel." The warning was contained in a note sent Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, chief of the UN truce organization in Palestine.

In the Erez area opposite the Gaza strip, an Israeli soldier was wounded slightly when an Egyptian gun post opened fire. The Israelis returned the compliments for about ten minutes, after which the Egyptians sprayed the area with mortar shells for about an hour.

CANADA'S FOREIGN MINISTER URGES COLOMBO TYPE PLAN FOR MIDDLE EAST

TORONTO, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Lester B. Pearson, Canada's Minister for External Affairs, proposed today a "Colombo type" of aid program for Middle East countries including the resettlement of Arab refugees in countries outside Israel.

American financing of refugee assistance is not likely to continue indefinitely, Mr. Pearson pointed out, and the refugees must be given "homes not doles." He charged that a peace settlement in the Middle East had been rendered more difficult by Soviet intervention, but asserted that "quiet diplomacy pursued with patience can bring about stability."

SOVIET TRADE COMMISSION ARRIVES IN LEBANON; OFFERS TECHNICAL AID

LONDON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Soviet Russia offered technical aid to Lebanon in a renewed effort to stimulate trade with the Arab states. It was reported here today from Beirut.

A six-man economic development commission from Moscow began a two-week campaign to increase Soviet trade with Beirut before launching similar drives in Syria, Egypt and other Arab states inclined toward the East. The aid offer involves road building, hydroelectric dams, irrigation, railway and seaport improvements.

U. J. A. TO LAUNCH 1956 CAMPAIGN THIS WEEK-END AT MIAMI BEACH CONFERENCE

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Leaders of the United Jewish Appeal here completed today a week of intensive preparatory meetings prior to the opening of the two-day national conference on Saturday evening at which the 1956 UJA nationwide campaign will be launched.

This is the eighth successive year that the UJA is opening its national campaign from Miami. Unlike the previous campaigns, this year's drive will seek the fulfillment of two goals as against the usual one, with the combined goals totalling more than \$130,000,000. Of this sum, the UJA will seek: 1. A total of \$105,283,435 to finance the migration, welfare and rehabilitation programs that are carried on in Israel, Europe, Moslem countries and other areas by its constituent agencies. -- The United Israel Appeal, Joint Distribution Committee and New York Association for New Americans. 2. A sum of \$25,000,000 plus for an emergency Special Fund that has been designed exclusively for the resettlement in Israel of Jews now streaming out of turbulent North Africa.

More than 650 Jewish communal leaders representing UJA campaign affiliates throughout the United States will participate in the two-day conference. At the final session on Sunday night, the principal speaker will be Dr. Giora Josephthal, treasurer of the Jewish Agency and head of its Immigrant Absorption Department. Dr. Josephthal will report on the upsurge of Jewish refugee immigration from tense North Africa, which has given rise to a critical financial emergency for the people of Israel, already hard-pressed to meet their defense emergency resulting from the Communist arming of Egypt.

A rapidly growing nationwide response by the membership of the Labor Zionist Movement to the organization's call for a gift of a minimum of one week's pay to the United Jewish Appeal's Special Fund was reported here. The report was issued by Baruch Zuckerman, chairman of the Labor Zionist Assembly, central organ representing the Labor Zionist Organization of America, Farband, Pioneer Women and Habonim.

J. D. C. SENDS PASSOVER FOOD TO NEEDY JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee has purchased more than 350,000 pounds of matzoth and other Passover supplies for Jewish communities in Europe, it was announced today by Edward M. M. Warburg, JDC chairman. The supplies have already been shipped to nearly a dozen countries, to guarantee that they will arrive in time for holiday distribution.

In addition to the supplies purchased to help European Jews to celebrate the forthcoming Passover holiday in the traditional fashion, Mr. Warburg said, JDC hospitals, sanitarium, old-age homes and other institutions in Israel buy their Passover supplies on the spot. In North Africa and other Moslem countries, communities purchase their own type of matzoh, as well as other Passover necessities, as part of regular JDC-financed relief and feeding programs.

The Passover supplies, most of which were purchased by JDC in Holland, Mr. Warburg stated, include not only matzoth, matzoh meal and over 5,000 bottles of kosher wine, but also special items to meet specific community needs. These special items include some 3,000 pounds of kosher fat. Largest shipments of matzoth and matzoh meal include: France, 39,000 pounds; West Germany, 31,000; Yugoslavia, 30,000; Greece, 21,000; Austria, 16,000. Other consignments were sent to Jews in Italy, Portugal and Spain, and to the tiny Jewish community of Albania. For Jews in many of these areas, the JDC shipments will be the only Passover supplies available anywhere in these countries.

DR. SCHWARTZ RETURNS FROM ISRAEL: CONFERRED ON BOND DRIVE IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- "Economic development is a key factor in Israel's program of defense and security," Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice president of the Israel Bond Organization, stated today at Idlewild Airport on his return from a two-week visit to Israel where he met with government leaders on plans for the 1956 Israel bond campaign, which must raise a minimum of \$75,000,000.

"Israel's capacity to defend her borders will depend in large measure on her basic economic strength," Dr. Schwartz said. "Her enemies have hoped for a long time for an economic collapse in Israel. She has shown, however, that she is fully capable of keeping her economic structure intact. That ability must remain unimpaired in the difficult months which lie ahead."

"In the discussions which we held regarding the Israel bond campaign, the leaders of Israel's Government stressed the decisive importance of investment capital derived from bonds. They count on an intensified flow of Israel bond dollars to help maintain Israel's economic defenses, to continue the development of industry and agriculture, and to make possible the absorption of at least 50,000 immigrants from North Africa this year."

"I was deeply impressed by the determination and the calmness of the people of Israel at this critical period in their history. Investment in State of Israel bonds provides a key channel through which we in America can identify ourselves with these courageous men and women," Dr. Schwartz declared.

HEINE'S MEMORY HONORED IN GERMANY; POSTAGE STAMP ISSUED BY GOVT.

DUSSELDORF, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The city of Dusseldorf, birthplace of the poet Heinrich Heine, sponsored a memorial meeting and a banquet to commemorate the centennial of the poet's death. Present as a guest of honor at the banquet was Dr. F. Shinnar, chief of the Israel Purchasing Mission in West Germany. Other guests included West German Cabinet members and heads of various universities.

As part of the national observance of the Heine centennial, the West German Government issued a ten pfennig postage stamp. Memorial meetings and readings from Heine's works were held in various German cities. In Dusseldorf it was announced that the city had purchased, for \$50,000, a collection of 3,700 manuscripts of Heine's which had been secreted out of the country during the Nazi regime and kept in a New York bank vault for safe keeping. The Mayor of Dusseldorf announced that with this acquisition, Dusseldorf now owns the largest Heine library in existence.

JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE ENVOY REPORTS ON GERMAN INDEMNIFICATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Kurt R. Grossman, of the Jewish Agency, who recently completed a study trip as a representative of the Conference on Material Claims Against Germany, declared on his return here today that implementation of the indemnification program by the anticipated date of March 31, 1963 is impossible unless processing is simplified and the handling of the program is imbued with a "new spirit of dispatch and devotion."

Mr. Grossman, whose six-week visit to Germany included calls at Frankfurt, Bonn, Cologne, Dusseldorf, Hannover, Bremen, Hamburg, Berlin, Stuttgart and Munich, asserted that many of the officials with whom he had conferred agreed with him that basic reforms are necessary. "The processing of claims is too much a matter of paragraphs, and the fact that it should be the restitution of a great moral debt is overlooked," Mr. Grossman said. His itinerary included talks with high German officials in charge of the program, leaders of Jewish communities, representatives of persecutees, and officials of the United Restitution Organization.

NON-JEWS IN ITALY HONORED FOR HELPING JEWS DURING NAZI OCCUPATION

GENOA, Italy, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of this Italian city today honored 50 Italian non-Jews who helped their Jewish fellow citizens during the Nazi occupation and the Fascist regime, often at risk of their lives.

Among the 50 "certificates of merit" awarded were three given posthumously to the families of men who died on such missions. Some of the recipients were Catholic priests. Present at the ceremony, in the historic Palace of Dukes were the Mayor of Genoa, representatives of the Catholic Church and leading military and civil figures, beside many Jews.

BERL CORALNIK, J. T. A. CORRESPONDENT IN JERUSALEM, HONORED AT 60

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Berl Coralnik, correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in Jerusalem and dean of the foreign correspondents in Israel, was feted tonight by the Association of Journalists here on the occasion of his 60th birthday. Mr. Coralnik is president of the Association.

Tributes to Mr. Coralnik's journalistic integrity and objectivity were paid at the dinner by Moshe Shapiro, Israel Minister of Religious Affairs and Social Welfare, Mayor Gershon Agron and others. Messages of congratulations were received from Israel President Itzhak Ben Zvi, Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog and Speaker of the Knesset Joseph Sprinzak.

MARYLAND GOVERNOR URGES U. S. ARMS FOR ISRAEL; SPEAKS AT J. N. F. DINNER

BALTIMORE, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Republican Governor Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland tonight urged the State Department to sell arms to Israel and to do it promptly if aggression on the part of the Arab states is to be deterred. He was addressing an audience of 1,000 people, constituting a cross section of the Baltimore Jewish community, at a dinner given in his honor by the Jewish National Fund of Baltimore.

The dinner was the culmination of a project to plant a forest in Israel in appreciation of Governor McKeldin's friendship for Israel. The meeting was also addressed by Simon E. Sobeloff, Solicitor General of the United States, and Mendel N. Fisher, national director of the Jewish National Fund; it was presided over by Joseph Allen, chairman of the Tax Commission of the State of Maryland.

NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS TO VISIT ISRAEL ON EXCHANGE PLAN

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Six New York City high school boys and girls, accompanied by a teacher and a member of the Board of Education, will visit Israel next month in an exchange program which will bring six Israeli youngsters to attend classes in this city. Charles H. Silver, president of the Board of Education, announced yesterday at the 29th annual luncheon of the Jewish Teachers Association of New York. The exchange was instituted on the invitation of the Israel education system, which will pay the expenses of both parties.