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BEN GURION SPARKS ERECTION OF DEFENSES; MILITARY LEADERS DIG TRENCHES

JERUSALEM, March 8. (JTA) -- In a dramatic move to spur the defense of Israel, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, together with his Army Chief of Staff and top military leaders, set an example today in establishing protection for border settlements threatened by Arab attack. At the same time, describing the program initiated by Mr. Ben Gurion, a military spokesman declared that Israel has come to regard the danger of war as highly concrete.

Mr. Ben Gurion, in his capacity as Defense Minister, was teamed up with an army private and a settler in erecting a barbed wire fence around the settlement perimeter. Nearby, Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, Army Chief of Staff, was teamed with a private and a settler in digging trenches. In similar teams all of the top officers of Israel's Army of Defense helped construct defensive trenches, rifle pits and machine-gun nests. Other ministers went to different areas to help spark the conversion of Israel's border settlements into defensive outposts.

Recognition of the dangerous situation following the upsetting of the military power balance in favor of the Arab states has obliged Israel to strengthen itself from within through the utilization of all resources, the Army spokesman said. He said that in line with this policy Israel would try to convert every settlement into a defensive position, a concept that had proved valuable in the War of Liberation.

Israel's financial resources were limited and most of what was available had been allotted for arms purchases, the spokesman continued. The conversion of settlements to defense positions could be done chiefly with labor, he said, but the settlers must have assistance from all citizens. The program initiated today will include 1,000 citizens from all parts of the country and from all walks of life, he emphasized.

The spokesman then noted that the Army not only encouraged this program but participated in it, and announced the work of Mr. Ben Gurion, Gen. Dayan and the other top officers. He said they were working in a village settled chiefly by North African immigrants. In accordance with this policy, he added, the Army has issued an order placing every soldier and officer side by side with civilians in the gigantic and important task.

U. N. CHIEF TOSSES ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE BACK TO PRESIDENT EISENHOWER

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 8. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower's statement of yesterday that it was up to the United Nations to take "urgent and early action" to pacify the Middle East was virtually tossed right back into his lap today by U. N. Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold. "Personally, I do not feel that a meeting of the Security Council would make an immediate contribution to the situation," Mr. Hammarskjold told correspondents here.

"What can the Security Council contribute at this juncture?" the UN chief asked in answer to questions put to him as to possible Council action. Asked whether any of the big powers had come up with any firm suggestions in regard to pacifying the Middle East, he stated that there have been consultations "but I know nothing of any firm plans."

Reiterating his previous pleas for calmness and against "over-dramatizing" the Middle East tensions, Mr. Hammarskjold asserted that while the tenseness is "extremely regrettable," he is certain that "war is not around the corner." He based his certainty, he said, on his firm belief that there are forces in the Middle East that do not want war and pointed, by way of illustration, to the speech made in the Israel Parliament this week by Israel Premier David Ben Gurion in which, Mr. Hammarskjold said, the Israeli statesman "discards war."

State Department Insists Arab-Israel Issue Is U. N. Problem

WASHINGTON, March 8. (JTA) -- The State Department emphasized today that the lead in seeking Middle Eastern peace should be taken by the United Nations and that the UN measures should be in the forefront of thinking of those concerned about the Arab-Israel crisis. A State Department spokesman made known this viewpoint. He, however, declined direct comment on President Eisenhower's reference of yesterday to urgent and early UN action.

U. S. diplomats today envisioned a Security Council meeting to draft a formal resolution warning Israel and the Arab states against war. The tripartite powers, according to

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diplomatic sources, may ask the United Nations in the next few days for such a move. The proposal would test the Soviet veto because the warning resolution would be aimed at the Arabs as well as Israel. State Department sources said France was consulted and has agreed with the Anglo-American idea. The tripartite group visualizes a broad United Nations declaration telling both sides to avert war and at least implying UN sanctions if either sides starts a war.

BRITAIN SEEKS U. S. AID ON MID-EAST PLANS; NO ARMS FOR ISRAEL FORESEEN

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- The British Cabinet met today for the third time in four days to consider the Middle East crisis. It is understood that the Cabinet is concerned with plans to bolster Britain's Middle East position without open United States assistance.

Political circles report that all day yesterday the British Government exchanged messages with the State Department to obtain some form of support, but that all the United States would agree to do was to dispatch the 1,800 Marines to duty with the Mediterranean Fleet. This meant that when he faced Parliament yesterday, Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden had nothing positive to offer in defense of the Middle East situation in which Britain finds itself. It is considered certain here that neither Britain nor the U. S. would risk further Arab enmity by granting Israel arms requests.

The Zionist Federation of Britain today condemned the refusal of the British Government to supply Israel with defensive arms. At the same time, the federation proclaimed the week of March 18 "Demand Arms for Israel Week" and scheduled a mass rally here on March 20 to protest the government's policy. In a statement issued at the conclusion of an emergency meeting today, the officers of the federation explained that the purpose of these activities was to bring to public attention the grave situation in the Middle East and the responsibility which rests on the British Government as a result of its policy.

SWEDEN RELAXES BAN ON ARMS TO EGYPT; MAINTAINS BAN FOR ISRAEL

STOCKHOLM, March 8. (JTA) -- Expressions of sympathy for Israel's cause were voiced by ten of 14 speakers who participated in a foreign policy debate in the Swedish Parliament yesterday. The first of these sympathetic voices was that of Foreign Minister Osten Unden who, nevertheless, announced that the recently imposed ban on arms shipment to the Middle East had been relaxed in favor of Egypt but not for Israel.

In a lengthy opening speech, Mr. Unden reviewed Sweden's traditional policy of banning arms shipments to countries at war or even to countries involved in a tense and dangerous situation. He mentioned the invocation of such a ban recently and then noted that apparently other countries were not as strict in their interpretation of what war materiel might be shipped to which countries. Therefore, he continued, small arms and ammunition contracted for previously by Egypt were released for shipment. "In the case of Israel," Mr. Unden continued, "the same circumstances did not apply."

Mr. Unden and other speakers, except for a Communist deputy who said that a Security Council resolution had condemned Israel as an aggressor, expressed sympathy for Israel's current position. Mr. Unden said that one of the primary reasons for the Arab-Israeli conflict was the Arab refusal to recognize Israel's existence. The Arab blockade of Israel is incompatible with the United Nations Charter.

ISRAEL WILL BUILD AN ATOMIC POWER PLANT; CAN UTILIZE ITS OWN URANIUM

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- The prediction that, with American help, Israel's utilization of atomic energy will become the most important factor in the power development of the Jewish State was made at a press conference here today by Dr. Ernst D. Bergmann, chairman of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission. Dr. Bergmann, who for the past three weeks has been touring atomic energy installations in this country as a guest of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, said that scientific work now being done in Israel can benefit the entire Mediterranean region, in particular the Arab countries.

Dr. Bergmann said Israel will be enabled to build an atomic power plant, utilizing uranium extracted from phosphates in the Negev desert. "We have large quantities of these phosphates. Our uranium production will be limited only by the amount of phosphate fertilizers we manufacture," he declared. He related that the Israelis developed a process for the production of heavy water several years ago, a process which is now in the pilot plant stage.

Asked about gains to be derived from the start of the Jordan Valley Authority project, which would harness the Jordan River for irrigation and power production, he explained: "There are three other sources of power we are developing--oil, solar and atomic energy. I count the latter most important. [The JVA will irrigate the Negev desert and increase food production; we also plan to desalt water and apply it for agriculture and industry."

CANADIAN PREMIER ANNOUNCES 12 DETAINED PLANES WILL BE SHIPPED TO EGYPT

OTTAWA, March 8. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent today announced in the House of Commons that the Canadian Government will not interfere with the shipment of 12 Canadian training planes to Egypt. This means that the planes which had been held up in the port of Halifax will now go to Egypt.

LATIN AMERICAN GOVTS. URGED TO MOVE THEIR EMBASSIES TO JERUSALEM

MONTEVIDEO, March 8. (JTA) -- A call to all Latin American governments to establish their embassies in Israel in Jerusalem, "Israel's capital and the world's capital," is one of the highlights of the "Declaration of Montevideo" signed at the Pan-American Jewish conference here by a group of leading Latin American non-Jewish personalities in governmental and cultural fields. Among the signatories were well known figures from Argentina, Uruguay, Bolivia, Chile, Paraguay and Peru.

The Declaration stresses support of the State of Israel and asserts that as a democracy Israel is entitled to the "material and spiritual protection of the democratic countries." It protests the refusal of democratic countries to provide Israel with the "legitimate means for its defense" while at the same time Israel's enemies are supplied with weapons meant to be used in aggression. Finally, the document calls on all free men and all democratic countries to rally to the cause of peace in the Middle East, asserting that a peace settlement between the Arabs and Israelis will be a "decisive factor for peace throughout the world."

Meanwhile, Uruguayan President Dr. Alberto Zuviria received yesterday a delegation from the conference composed of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive and president of the World Jewish Congress, Brig. Moshe Carmel, Israel Minister of Transport, and Dr. Ariele Kuboví, Israel Ambassador to Uruguay. President Zuviria expressed Uruguayan friendship for Israel and said he hoped that Uruguay's recent transfer of its Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, in recognition of that city as Israel's capital, would be accepted as an example by other countries. He further expressed the hope that the aims of the conference would be achieved.

Montevideo Parley Protests America's "De Facto Blockade" of Israel

The conference, before it closed, sent a protest to the United States and Britain against the "de facto blockade" of Israel resulting from their refusal to provide Israel with defensive weapons while simultaneously supplying the Arab states with offensive weapons and thus inciting them in their aggressive policy. The parley charged that the "Arab feudal world is fomenting aggression and endangering peace in the Middle East."

During the conference two parallel parleys were held here: a Latin American youth conference and a Latin American Zionist meeting. The young people resolved to mobilize Jewish youth on this continent to spend at least a year in Israel serving the interests of the Jewish State. The 400 delegates demonstrated ample enthusiasm for working in Israel's behalf.

At the meeting of Zionist leaders, Dr. Nahum Goldmann presented a detailed report on the state of the world Zionist movement and offered a number of suggestions for improvements in the structure of the organization. He recommended abolition of the shekel system of apportioning representation at World Zionist Congresses, insisting that the original purpose of the shekel system had been lost and that it had become an instrument for the formation of political combinations.

He further suggested that Israel Zionist movement be restricted to 40 percent of the total representation at world congresses, that the Zionist executive be empowered to allocate representation on the basis of Zionist activity within each national movement and that the Actions Committee and the Jewish Agency be reorganized to give representation to non-Zionists in the New York branch of the Agency. Dr. Goldmann proposed the establishment of a Jewish Agency department in Europe.

Speaking of the function of the Zionist organization, he asserted that it has a right to existence only as an instrument of immigration to Israel, to promote pioneering and education and to strengthen Jewish life locally. He maintained that partisan political handling of all questions before the Zionist movement consumed too much of the energy of the Zionist movement and intensified internal friction.

CONVENTION OF ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF CANADA OPENS IN OTTAWA

OTTAWA, March 8. (JTA) -- The 33rd national convention of the Zionist Organization of Canada opened here today with some 350 delegates in attendance to chart a course of action for the Canadian Zionist movement over the next two years.

The keynote of the parley will be Canadian Jewry's concern about the life and death struggle facing Israel. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Jewish Agency chairman, is scheduled to address the convention, as are: Rabbi Herbert Friedman, executive vice-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; Michael S. Comay, Israel Ambassador to Canada; Sen. David Croll, first Jewish Senator in Canadian history, and others. Sen. Croll was honored for his services to Canadian Jewry at a Jewish National Fund luncheon today.

Canada will have 14 delegates to the World Zionist Congress opening in Jerusalem on April 24th. The Zionist parties have agreed upon the apportionment of the delegates as follows: Zionist Organization of Canada, five; Labor Zionist Movement, four; Mizrahi Organization of Canada, three; Achdut Avodah, one; Zionist Revisionists, one.

JEWISH VETERANS SCORE U. S. FOR BARRING JEWS FROM AIR BASE IN ARABIA

WASHINGTON, March 8. (JTA) -- The Jewish War Veterans of the United States today strongly criticized the action of the State Department in entering into a treaty with Saudi Arabia "under which the State Department agreed to have the Defense Department screen those individual American soldiers who were to be stationed at an air base in Saudi Arabia." The JWV pointed out that its criticism was "based on the fact that in the assignment of military personnel to man American bases; the only criteria for assignment should be the military capabilities of the individual."

"For the Government of the United States," the statement continued, "to agree to screen individuals to be assigned to military bases overseas because of the prejudices of the country where the base is located means that the Government of the United States agrees to carry into execution the prejudices and hates of bigots. It is not consistent nor consonant with the policy of the United States of America to base its policies or its actions on race hatred or religious bias and prejudice or to act as a cat's-paw in such instances."

U. S. BUSINESSMEN DISCUSS SAUDI-ARABIAN BOYCOTT OF JEWISH FIRMS

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- Charges that Saudi Arabia had set up a system under which export concerns in the United States must certify as to whether they are "Jewish" or "Christian" were aired here yesterday at the monthly forum of the Foreign Credit Interchange Bureau. The bureau's members include major banking and commercial firms. The meeting heard that the certification procedure was being verified by checks made here by the Saudi Arabian Consulate.

A bureau member, who was not identified, in accordance with rules of the trade group designed to elicit the fullest exchange of trade and credit experience, said that Saudi Arabian customers had advised him that certification was necessary, and that lack of a certificate attesting that the supplier firm is not "Jewish," would make it impossible to complete a sale. He complained that the criteria for determining "Jewishness" were unknown, adding that compliance without a protest could not be made in any event.

The information offered at the meeting apparently confirmed the extension of the Saudi Arabian boycott of Israel to Jews in general. The U. S. Department of Commerce has stated in the past that it does not recognize the Arab League boycott of Israeli firms and firms doing business with Israel. Participants in yesterday's discussion said that while the certification procedure was new, traders have become increasingly aware of the tightening of the boycott and the fact that it was not being confined to firms doing business with Israel. They indicated that the Saudi Arabians would probably label any firm owned or directed by a member of the Jewish faith as "Jewish."

U. S. JEWISH WOMEN APPEAL TO GOVERNMENT TO SEND ARMS TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- A resolution calling upon the United States Government to grant arms to Israel and conclude mutual security pacts which would guarantee the borders of Israel and other nations in the Middle East was adopted here today by the Conference Committee of National Jewish Women's Organizations which represents more than 1,000,000 American Jewish women.

The constituent organizations of the Conference Committee include the Hadassah, Pioneer Women, Mizrahi Women's Organization of America, National Council of Jewish Women, National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, National Ladies' Auxiliary of the Jewish War Veterans of the U. S., National Women's League of the United Synagogue, Women's American CRT, and the women's divisions of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregation of America, American Jewish Congress, and B'nai B'rith.

OAK PARK RESCINDS RESOLUTION AFFECTING STATE-CHURCH SEPARATION

DETROIT, March 8. (JTA) -- Members of the City Council of Oak Park, a suburban community of 28,000 which borders on Detroit, rescinded a resolution which was charged with being in violation of the principle of separation of church and state.

When a Catholic church, Our Lady of Fatima parish, was completely destroyed by a fire on February 17, the Councilmen, in a resolution drawn up "in the spirit of brotherhood" which was being celebrated during Brotherhood Week, organized a committee of private citizens to raise funds to aid the stricken church. Immediately, the Greater Detroit Evangelical Minister's Fellowship, an organization of 40 churches, issued a statement opposing the action as a breach of church-state separation.

Meeting on March 5, the Council rescinded the resolution and issued a substitute proposal which merely authorized a campaign among the city's residents and businessmen. A committee of five--two Jews, two Protestants, and a Catholic--which had been appointed by Oak Park Mayor Richard W. Marshall, was dissolved. It was immediately re-formed at its own request, and will function as a private entity, without official government sponsorship. Our Lady of Fatima, valued at \$250,000, was insured for only \$136,000.