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FAVORABLE ACTION ON ISRAEL'S ARMS REQUEST IS FORESEEN IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 15. (JTA) - Chances for favorable action on Israel's arms application were considered here today as improving in the wake of President Eisenhower's press conference statement yesterday in which he held open the possibility of such sales. American arms sales are not envisioned in the "immediate future." But a favorable American response is today considered as ultimately more likely.

Within the State Department, a tendency is emerging to regard Egyptian Premier Nasser with distrust. Col. Nasser was formerly viewed as a "moderate" who sought peace with Israel. His sincerity is being questioned now because of the Egyptian role in the ousting of British General Glubb from Jordan, and because of increasing symptoms of growing Egyptian hostility against Israel and the West.

Israel Minister Reuven Shiloah today conferred with William M. Rountree, Acting Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, on Israel's arms request and "regular workings" between Israel and the United States. Mr. Shiloah told reporters after the meeting that routine matters occupied most of the discussion, but that "we never meet anyone where we do not discuss arms." Asked whether Mr. Eisenhower's recent statement on the possibility of arms sales to Israel was discussed, the Israel Minister said there was no mention of President Eisenhower's remarks.

A State Department spokesman made known today that the Department possesses no information that would confirm a press report that the United States is drawing up proposals to create a United Nations commission to operate in Israel and the Arab states to prevent war. The spokesman, disclaiming any knowledge of the allegedly considered commission, said the United States is pursuing the Arab-Israel issue in talks within the State Department, between this government and other nations, and also between this government and the United Nations Secretariat.

ATTLEE URGES ARMS FOR ISRAEL; CRITICIZES U. S. POLICY IN MIDDLE EAST

LONDON, March 15. (JTA) - The American Government policy in the Middle East was strongly criticized today in the House of Lords by a former British Prime Minister, Earl Attlee, in his first parliamentary speech as a peer, while in the House of Commons a number of speakers pressed Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden for a clear-cut statement as to what Britain and the United States are doing to prevent the possibility of an Arab-Israel war.

Earl Attlee told the House of Lords that he believes "a certain amount of modern weapons, particularly aircraft," should be given to Israel "as a deterrent" against war. Prime Minister Eden hinted that the Big Three Western allies have now drawn up in Washington new military and political plans aimed at checking a sudden air attack on Israel.

"No one has suggested," said Earl Attlee, "that there is a need to pile up arms in Israel." But a certain amount of modern weapons as a deterrent does not amount to an arms race any more than I regarded it as such when we formed NATO. We did not form NATO to try to compete in quantity with the USSR, but to have adequate arms for a deterrent against sudden attack. I think that is needed today in Israel where there is very great trepidation because of the piling up of arms on the other side.

In Commons, Sir Anthony Eden, the Prime Minister, indicated that he might be ready to announce next week some of the results of the tripartite discussions on the Middle East under way in Washington now among representatives of Britain, France and the United States. Replying to a Conservative Party member's inquiry about the Washington talks, Sir Anthony said: "They are continuing, and I shall see whether I can make a detailed reply next week. The results of those talks are bound to be, of course, confidential and it may be difficult to make a public statement."

ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN BORDER INCIDENTS MOUNT; THREE CLASHES IN 48 HOURS

JERUSALEM, March 15. (JTA) - Increased Egyptian activities along the Gaza strip border, with three infiltrations and raids in the last 48 hours, was announced here today by the spokesman for the Israel Army. All of the Egyptian incursions took place in the area of the village of Kisufim.

The Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission today condemned both Israel and Jordan for an affray Monday during which the village of Barta was allegedly shelled.

DISSENSION WITHIN ISRAEL CABINET OVER PROPERTY TAX ISSUE HEALED

JERUSALEM, March 15. (JTA) -- Cabinet dissension over the draft of a new property tax, to which the religious and Progressive Party blocs had objected in the coalition government here, was healed today after a compromise formula on taxation was adopted, following a five-hour meeting of the Ministerial Economic Committee.

Under the new formula, the property tax will not be imposed on bank deposits or securities. The Economic Committee instructed the coalition presidium to draft a new measure incorporating this tax compromise.

DR. KASTNER ACQUITTED ON CHARGE OF PERJURY; DID NOT TESTIFY FOR NAZI

JERUSALEM, March 15. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Kastner, storm center of Israel's most sensational trial last year, was today acquitted by a magistrate here on one charge of perjury in connection with his trial. The charge involved his relationships with S.S. General Kurt Becher, who was acquitted by a war crimes tribunal. It had been charged that Dr. Kastner personally intervened on Becher's behalf and secured his acquittal. Dr. Kastner denied this and was charged with perjury as a result of his denial.

The Becher charge was one of a series made by Malkiel Gruenwald against Kastner. The main accusation by Gruenwald was that Dr. Kastner had saved an "elite" of Hungarian Jewry - including his own family - at the expense of lulling Hungarian Jews into a false sense of security and thus acting as an accessory in their extermination. As a result of these charges Gruenwald himself went on trial - and was cleared. Israel's Attorney General, who had brought the original action against Gruenwald, then lodged an appeal. That appeal is still pending.

RUMANIAN ZIONIST LEADER ARRIVES IN ISRAEL; WAS JAILED IN RUMANIA

TEL AVIV, March 15. (JTA) -- Yechezkel Feiter, Zionist leader who spent four years in Rumanian prisons, arrived here among some 45 immigrants from Communist countries who came by plane and ship.

Mr. Feiter, former head of the Transylvanian Zionist Organization, was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in 1951 by a Rumanian military court. He was released last December after having spent four years in prison. He arrived here accompanied by his wife.

TURKEY GRANTS IMPORT LICENSES FOR \$2,500,000 WORTH OF ISRAEL GOODS

ISTANBUL, March 15. (JTA) -- The Turkish Ministry of Trade has granted licenses for the import of some \$2,500,000 worth of Israeli goods, it was learned here today. Trade between the two countries has declined in recent months because of Turkey's deteriorating economic position.

These are the first licenses granted by Ankara for Israel products this year. Despite the fact that Israel has been buying fish, oil seed and sheep from Turkey, the balance of trade still favors Israel to the extent of some \$2,000,000.

Meanwhile, a \$250,000 contract for the repair of Turkish aircraft at Lydda airport has been cancelled. Although M. Aysal, former general manager of the Turkish State Airline, was quite impressed with Israeli repair facilities which he inspected some months ago, the repair work has been turned over to American technicians at the Esenboga airfield near Ankara.

TUNISIAN GOVERNMENT APOLOGIZES FOR ANTI-JEWISH RADIO BROADCAST

TUNIS, March 15. (JTA) -- A broadcast over the Arab radio service here of a strongly anti-Zionist, anti-Jewish poem was officially disclaimed today on behalf of the government. A government spokesman declared that "this poem was transmitted by error and without authorization by the radio station's director."

"The Tunisian Government," said the spokesman, "strongly deprecates this broadcast, and disciplinary measures are being taken against those responsible." The offensive poem had been broadcast on a so-called "literary" program and was the work of the Lebanese poet Nazar Kabani. The broadcast had caused grave concern in the Jewish community here and was immediately called to the attention of Roger Seydoux, French High Commissioner for Tunisia.

MINORITY GROUPS IN ITALY SEEK AVOIDANCE OF CATHOLICISM IN SCHOOLS

ROME, March 15. (JTA) -- Avoidance of Roman Catholic indoctrination in the curricula of Italian public schools was requested here today by the Federal Council of Italian Evangelical Churches. A representative of the Council met with Minister of Education Paolo Rossi.

Pointing out that he was speaking on behalf of all religious minority groups in the country, the Council representative told the Minister that it is not enough merely to exempt non-Catholic students from lessons embracing Catholic catechism. He insisted that, under constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion, permeation of the curriculum with Catholic doctrine must also be avoided.

- 3 -

GERMAN GOVT. TO PAY ISRAEL \$59,500,000 IN REPARATIONS THIS YEAR

BQNN, March 15. (JTA) -- Agreement was announced here today on a \$59,500,000 schedule of commodities and services which the West German Government will furnish Israel and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany during the fiscal year beginning April 1, under terms of the German-Israel reparations agreement. The agreement was reached following negotiations between experts from each side who make up the German-Israel mixed commission.

The agreement was signed by Dr. F. E. Shinnar, head of the Israel Purchasing Mission, and Baron von Mahls, of the Bonn Ministry of Economics. The type and quantity of deliveries for the coming year will show few major changes from the pattern set in the fiscal year now drawing to a close. As in the past two years, Germany has made use of an "escape clause" in order to limit the amount available for reparations purchases during the twelve-month period to the \$59,500,000 mark--the rockbottom minimum--whereas the reparations treaty envisages \$73,800,000 as the normal annual rate payment.

Since the ratification of the reparations pact in 1953, Germany has furnished a total of \$214,000,000 in reparations goods. The Israel Government has transmitted to the Claims Conference the agreed share of this total. The twelve months beginning April 1 are, technically, the fifth year of the reparations accord. If Germany, whose economy is now in a state of unprecedented boom, should increase future installments to \$73,800,000 per year--the stipulated normal rate in the agreement--all the goods will have been delivered by 1964. If, on the other hand, she continues to discharge her obligations at the present minimum rate of \$59,500,000 per year, the shipments will run until 1956.

The equivalent of nearly \$18,000,000--not quite one third the overall amount--has been earmarked once again for petroleum products shipped to Israel from sterling bloc countries and paid with German-owned sterling balances deriving from export surpluses. The remaining \$41,500,000 will be employed principally in the purchase of raw materials, manufactured goods and agricultural products, with certain sums covering services such as insurance, freight, and administrative costs. Considerably more than half this total will go for long-range investment goods, and about 40 percent for semi-manufactured or consumer goods.

Interviewed by the JTA, Dr. Shinnar expressed regret that the German negotiators had not acceded to the Israeli request to increase the annual installment to \$73,800,000, the normal rate set by the original accord. He pointed out, however, that the text of the agreement permits Germany to reduce the sum to \$59,500,000 unilaterally. He acknowledged that the costs of reparations purchases had increased during the past year, but emphasized that this was in line with the general price movement in world markets. He also noted that, in the negotiations, the German-Israel mixed commission had brought about certain simplifications in ordering and shipping procedures.

SETTLEMENT ON HEIRLESS PROPERTY OF NAZI VICTIMS SOUGHT IN U.S.

WASHINGTON, March 15. (JTA) -- A bill directing a bulk settlement of claims to property belonging to victims of Nazi persecution who died without heirs and which currently is vested in the United States Office of Alien Property, was introduced today in the House of Representatives by Congressman Arthur G. Klein of New York.

The bill is in furtherance of the intent of Congress as expressed in United States Public Law 626, that heirless property formerly belonging to Nazi victims and seized by the U.S. Government during World War II as the property of nominal enemy aliens, should be used for the relief and rehabilitation of needy persecutees residing in the United States. The law imposed a ceiling of \$3,000,000 as the overall sum which could be recovered. A preliminary survey of the claims on file indicates that they would run to a considerably greater figure.

By way of implementation, President Eisenhower, acting in January 1955, designated the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization, a New York charitable member corporation, as the successor organization authorized to claim heirless property of Nazi victims under the terms of Public Law 626. The United States authorities in Germany had previously designated the JRSO to press claims against Germany to heirless Jewish property located in the United States zone.

The JRSO has filed some 7,000 claims with the Office of Alien Property. Technical difficulties connected with the processing of these claims on a case-by-case basis are enormous. It would be the work of years to see these claims through to final adjudication and the process would involve great and needless expense both to the JRSO and the Government. These factors produce a situation in which attainment of the basic objective of Public Law 626--to secure early aid to needy Nazi victims--would be put off for at least several years more. This delay would be in addition to the eleven years which have already elapsed since the end of the war.

The bill introduced by Congressman Klein provides for a bulk settlement of the heirless property claims, sets a minimum of \$2,000,000 and a maximum of \$3,000,000, and requires that the exact amount be determined within six months of enactment. Payment is to be made to the JRSO out of funds currently in the hands of the United States Office of Alien Property. These funds are more than sufficient to meet even the maximum amount authorized.

JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE SETS DEADLINE FOR 1957 APPLICATIONS FOR FUNDS

NEW YORK, March 15. (JTA) -- The Conference on Jewish Claims Against Germany today announced that organizations, institutions and communities seeking allocation of funds from the Conference for the year 1957 can file their applications till June 30, 1956

For activities outside of Israel, applications should be submitted in ten copies to the New York office of the Conference, and should contain a detailed description of the activities for which funds are requested. The organizations submitting applications should also include precise budgetary data and information on other sources of income which may be available to the applicants for the projects in question. For activities within Israel, applications should be addressed to Dr. Giora Josephthal, Jewish Agency treasurer in Jerusalem.

"The Claims Conference, by the terms of the agreement it had concluded with the Federal Republic of Germany, is able to allocate funds only for those activities which contribute to the relief, rehabilitation and resettlement of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution, in accordance with the urgency of need," the announcement emphasized.

CANADIAN PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENTS ACTIVE IN OUTLAWING DISCRIMINATION

MONTREAL, March 15. (JTA) -- A Fair Employment Practices Act has passed its final reading in the British Columbia legislature and a similar bill has been introduced in the New Brunswick legislature, it was reported here today in a survey of FEP activity in Canada released by the National Joint Public Relations Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith.

The group also revealed that the provincial government of Saskatchewan has proposed two new statutes -- an FEP Act and a Fair Accommodation Practices Act -- to replace sections of the provincial Bill of Rights. Chief differences between the old legislation and the new are special enforcement and administrative procedures incorporating machinery for investigation and settlement of complaints out of court. The Act would be binding on all employers of labor, including private and public, regardless of the number of people they employ, and it provides for an increasing scale of fines for repeated offenses.

Meanwhile, Ontario authorities have won a victory in the second conviction of a Dresden, Ontario, restaurateur who refused to serve a Negro. The first time the case was thrown back to the magistrate's level by an appellate court. The second conviction was again handed down by a Magistrate.

ANTI-JEWISH, ANTI-ISRAEL, ANTI-U.S. PROPAGANDA DISSEMINATED IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY, March 15. (JTA) -- A viciously anti-Semitic attack on Israel and world Jewry, in the form of a 12-page illustrated brochure, is being distributed in Mexico through the mails. The brochure, which carried neither the name of any publisher nor a return address, contained a charge that President Eisenhower is a "Jew who is true to his traditions."

Material contained in the brochure, which was obviously expensively printed, also charged that Israel was provoking World War III, and carried an illustration which showed the globe being controlled by an eye with a Star of David in its center. The brochure also depicts the United States Government as an agent of world Jewry.

U.S. JEWISH WOMEN APPEAL TO EISENHOWER TO SELL ISRAEL DEFENSIVE ARMS

NEW YORK, March 15. (JTA) -- A new appeal that the United States guarantee the security of Israel and sell her defensive arms, coupled with a warning that these measures represent an opportunity which may never come again to build peace in the Middle East was sent to President Eisenhower today by Mrs. Moise S. Cahn, president of the National Council of Jewish Women. She asked that United States action be immediate.

Recalling that it is several months since President Eisenhower announced that the good offices of this country were available to bring about a peace settlement in the Middle East, she stated: "The time has come when our government must commit itself to positive action. The only country which will benefit from further inaction and delay will be the Soviet Union. Peace and security demand clear and forthright action by the United States and her Western allies in order to prevent further Soviet penetration."

FORD FOUNDATION GRANTS \$129,800 TO PHILADELPHIA HOME FOR JEWISH AGED

PHILADELPHIA, March 15. (JTA) -- The Ford Foundation has granted \$129,800 to the Home for Jewish Aged here, it was announced today by Harry A. Robinson, president of the home which is one of the agencies of the Philadelphia Federation of Jewish Charities.

The funds will be used to finance extensive research in geriatrics in cooperation with the Albert Einstein Medical Center, Mr. Robinson said. The award brings the total of Ford Foundation grants to Philadelphia Federation of Jewish Charities agencies to \$693,000.

B'NAI B'RITH LANDAU AWARD IN ISRAEL PRESENTED TO DR. NAHUM SLUSCHZ

JERUSALEM, March 15. (JTA) -- The Landau award which is given annually by the B'nai B'rith Lodge here for services in the field of journalism, was presented here today to Dr. Nahum Sluscz, noted author, for his "best record" in correspondence and the exposition of Zionism. The award is named after Jacob Landau, late founder of the JTA.