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EISENHOWER ASKS CONGRESS FOR \$100,000,000 FUND FOR MIDDLE EAST, AFRICA

WASHINGTON, March 19. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower, in his foreign aid message to Congress, today asked for a special fund of \$100,000,000 for use in the Middle East or Africa at the discretion of the President. This was seen in some quarters as a device conceived by the State Department to gain funds for the Aswan dam development in Egypt while evading the necessity for going directly to Congress for this specific controversial purpose.

Mr. Eisenhower explained his request for the special fund as follows: "The Middle East and Africa are areas in which it is especially important to build new strength friendly to us. There is need for an adequate fund which can be used to assist in meeting special economic problems that may arise in those regions. The United States must be in a position to act promptly to help the governments in this area in their efforts to find solutions for economic and social problems. I therefore recommend creation of a special fund of \$100,000,000 to be available for use in any part of the Middle East or Africa for non-military mutual security programs which will advance the cause of free world security and economic strength."

The President said that "in Asia and the Middle East, serious risk of aggression still exists." His program recommends aggregate military assistance of approximately \$1,640,000,000 for countries in these regions. It was indicated that Iraq was included. The sum of \$63,000,000 was requested by the President for development assistance in 1957 to countries in the Near East and Africa. Continued support was recommended for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency which provides relief and rehabilitation to the Arab refugees from Palestine. Carry-over authority was asked for the estimated unobligated balance of \$45,300,000 in fiscal year 1956 funds for Palestine Arab refugees.

ISRAEL TO FACE WAR IF NOT GIVEN ARMS IMMEDIATELY, BEN GURION ASSERTS

TEL-AVIV, March 19. (JTA) -- Egypt and its Arab allies will "almost certainly" attack Israel in the next few months unless Israel receives "immediately and in sufficient quantity" the arms needed to deter such aggressive war, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion warned here last night.

In a two-hour address before the convention of Histadrut, Israel's Federation of Labor, Mr. Ben Gurion emphasized the war danger facing Israel by declaring that Egypt has now received through its purchases in Communist countries 200 fast MIG jet fighters, 60 twin-engineed Ilyushin jet bombers, dozens of heavy tanks and a number of submarines. "I am absolutely certain," he stated, "that our army and people are capable of defeating and destroying the Egyptians, in spite of their Soviet arms. But, if war is forced on us, we will suffer severely in the opening stages, due to Egyptian air and armor superiority."

Mr. Ben Gurion pointed out that both the "front" and the "rear" of Israel will be a battlefield if war comes. "The courage and capacity of our Army will not be enough in total war," he warned. "Therefore, both the front and the 'rear' defenses must receive top priority over all other activities in the nation. If, in spite of our will for peace, we are compelled to undergo the supreme test, it is not only the army that will be decisive but the total capacity of our people in skill, economy, spiritual stability and strength. These will count."

To prepare for eventualities, Mr. Ben Gurion called upon all the people of Israel to bolster their spirit, build up civil defense, and increase sacrifice by volunteering for defense work and helping integrate the newly arrived immigrants in Israel. "Any attempt now to raise the living standards of the older residents of Israel," he warned, "would be an unforgivable sin against military defense and our obligations to the new immigrants."

American Jewry and the American government, he told the labor convention, "have been helpful in fulfilling Israel's mission for the ingathering of Jewish exiles through emigration to Israel. But two of the biggest Jewish communities--the American and the Russian--have scarcely contributed through immigration--the Russian Jews because they cannot emigrate, and the American Jews because they don't want to, regarding themselves, as they do, an organic part of the United States."

MUTUAL FEAR DOMINATES ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION, FRENCH MINISTER SAYS

PARIS, March 19. (JTA) -- French Foreign Minister Christian Pineau declared in a radio interview here this week-end that the essential problem in the situation between Israel and the Arab states was mutual fear of aggression. M. Pineau, who had just returned from a meeting in Cairo with Egyptian Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser, was asked whether he thought the possibility of an Arab-Israel conflict was a real one. He replied: "At the moment, there is conflict between Israel and the Arab countries which bears on a number of precise problems. But the essential one, in my opinion, is the mutual fear on each side that they'll be attacked."

"The practical problems," M. Pineau continued, "are difficult to solve. I readily recognize that. There are problems--the refugees, the Jordan River, Zionist immigration--which are in themselves extremely complex. But, psychologically, I think an effort has to be made to give both sides a guarantee that they won't be attacked by one or the other. This fear of aggression actually completely dominates Middle East policy. I believe the Western Powers, as well as the UN, have to do everything to try to ease the atmosphere. Insofar as France is concerned, we are resolutely opposed to everything which could lead to a conflict in that part of the world."

U. S. ASKED TO "TAKE THE LEAD" IN SETTLING THE ARAB-ISRAEL CONFLICT

CINCINNATI, March 19. (JTA) -- The United States Government was asked here yesterday "to take the lead" in attempting a settlement of the Arab-Israel crisis. The request was voiced by Senator John J. Sparkman, of Alabama, in addressing a regional conference of the United Jewish Appeal. He warned that if the Arabs invade Israel, the United States would find itself "in much the same position we were when the North Koreans invaded South Korea."

"We Americans," said the Senator, "must assume the following fundamental facts about Israel: first, it is a reality. Second, the United States has had a leading part in the establishment and recognition of Israel as a free and independent country. Third, perhaps most important of all, despite the efforts of the Communists to entice Israel into their orbit, Israel has stood firm for freedom in the great struggle of this mid-twentieth century."

Referring to "the recent statements of Premier Ben Gurion that Israel will not start a war," Senator Sparkman stated: "Of equal importance and immediacy is a clear-cut United States policy. The gist of recent statements by the President and the Secretary of State seems to be that we are relying, first, on the 1950 agreements between the United States, France and Britain to the effect that there shall be no aggression in this area and that the boundaries between the Arab states and Israel will be maintained and second, of the United Nations--the theory being that Israel is a creation of the United Nations and that the United Nations should solve the present difficulties which exist there. Neither idea contains a plan of implementation and action," Senator Sparkman charged.

"We have stated a moral obligation to maintain the boundaries. Indeed, our Secretary of State testified before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the United States was obligated to defend the national integrity of the State of Israel. Thus, it seems to be important that the United States forthwith take the lead in attempting to settle the Middle East tensions. Clearly, something more definite and far-reaching than press conference statements about the capacity of the respective countries to absorb arms is required," he declared.

DULLES CRITICIZED FOR MISEADING STATEMENT ON JEWS AT SENATE HEARING

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- Secretary of State John Foster Dulles was severely criticized last night for his recent statement before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the Arabs are hostile towards the Jews because they credit the assassination of Mohammed to a Jew. Although his advisers have drawn his attention on the spot that his statement is false, Mr. Dulles has withdrawn it only ten days later.

The criticism against Secretary Dulles was voiced by Carmine G. De Sapio, New York Secretary of State, speaking at a dinner of the Hapoel Hamizrachi, religious Labor Zionist organization. The dinner was held at the Commodore Hotel in honor of Rabbi Bernard Bergman, president of the organization and was attended by about 1,000 guests. Rabbi Bergman appealed to President Eisenhower not to pursue a "foreign policy based on numbers" by favoring 40 million Arabs over 1,700,000 Israelis, but to live up to America's moral obligation to defend democratic nations against aggression.

U. S. ZIONISTS CHARGE ARAB STATES WITH USING NAZI PROPAGANDA METHODS

WASHINGTON, March 19. (JTA) -- Psychological warfare on the Nazi pattern is being waged daily against Israel and the West by the Arab states, it was disclosed here today in a report published by the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs. Only toward the Soviet Union do the Arabs speak with approval and friendship, the report states.

The report points out that Arab broadcasts are making increasing use of stock anti-Semitic language in attacking the United States as well as Israel. It notes that Egypt has by far the most elaborate propaganda machine in the Middle East with seven high-powered transmitters to carry its charges and countercharges.

JEWS FROM BEHIND "IRON CURTAIN" COUNTRIES CONTINUE TO REACH ISRAEL

HAIFA, March 19. (JTA) -- Forty-two East European Jews arrived here today aboard the S.S. Jerusalem, the largest group of Jews from behind the Iron Curtain to come to Israel in years. Sixteen of the immigrants were from the Soviet Union, 18 from Poland, five from Hungary and three from Czechoslovakia.

Arie Elkis, 79, of Mohilev-Podolsk, one of the new arrivals who came here to live with a daughter in this country, said there are about 5,000 Jewish families still living in the city he has just left. He declared that the Mohilev-Podolsk Jews have their own organized community and have a synagogue where services are held daily. According to the old man, anti-Jewish tensions in Russia relaxed noticeably after the death of Stalin.

COMMUNIST LEADER CHARGED WITH "ZIONISM" RELEASED IN EAST GERMANY

BERLIN, March 19. (JTA) -- A prominent Communist leader of non-Jewish stock, whom the present East German regime purged and jailed at the height of the Communist anti-Semitic wave some years ago after accusing him of being a "Zionist," has just been released from prison and stands a chance of being rehabilitated.

The Communist leader is Paul Merker, former State Secretary in the East German Ministry of Agriculture and a member of the top group of the Communist Party, the Politbureau. He escaped from France to Mexico during the war, and was connected with a German-language weekly published there at the time.

Since many of the paper's readers and advertisers were Jewish, Merker occasionally contributed articles advocating the restitution of Jewish property stolen by the Nazis and the payment of compensation to Jewish citizens of Germany, no matter whether they returned to Germany or remained abroad after the end of the Hitler regime.

In 1952 and early 1953, Germany's official Communist Party organ charged that, by holding such views, Merker had become "a cat's-paw of the U.S. financial oligarchy." He had "falsely and deceitfully pictured as alleged property of the Jewish people the maximum profits squeezed out of German and foreign workers by monopoly capitalists," whereas in actual fact the property had only passed from "Jewish monopoly capitalists" into the hands of "Aryan monopoly capitalists."

The Communist paper also accused him of having denied "Jewish culpability for the rise of Fascism" and of having urged compensation for stolen Jewish property "so as to enable U.S. finance capital to infiltrate Germany. Here we have the true root cause of his Zionism." After his return to Germany, he had "continued his services to the Zionist agency," the Communist paper declared ominously in the very month when the chairmen of all Jewish communities in East Germany fled to West Berlin.

This pillorying of Merker as a "Zionist" was all the more remarkable in view of the fact that he is not believed to be of Jewish descent. Observers believe that, after the Slansky trial in Czechoslovakia, the East German Communists were unable to find enough Jews in high party positions who might have been exposed as "Zionist conspirators" and that, for this reason, Merker, having run afoul of East German Communist boss Walter Ulbricht on other grounds, was presented to the public as an "ersatz Zionist."

Merker, who was reportedly held in solitary confinement for four years, has now returned to East Berlin. The Central Control Commission of the Communist Party is currently engaged in "reviewing" his case, and has already called in witnesses to that end.

DUTCH PROSECUTOR REJECTS JEWISH CHARGES AGAINST THE HAGUE MAYOR

THE HAGUE, March 19. (JTA) -- The public prosecutor of this city has refused to take legal action against Mayor Frans M. A. Schokking of this city on charges brought by Miriam Pino, sister of the late Jacob Pino who was deported from Holland by the Nazis, together with his wife and daughter, allegedly on a tip to the Gestapo by Dr. Schokking when he was wartime mayor of the village of Hazerswoude.

The prosecutor noted that the authorities had considered the Schokking case in 1949 and had then decided to take no action on the charges. Under these circumstances, he advised Miss Pino, her only recourse lay with the Supreme Court. The case has aroused considerable interest here since the press publicized the details several months ago, and Parliament is scheduled to debate it after the Easter recess.

JEWISH WORKERS IN SILESIA REPORTED DECORATED BY POLISH GOVERNMENT

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- Numerous Jewish workers from Stalinograd and neighboring towns in Silesia were among those who recently received high Polish government awards for "their revolutionary activities in pre-war Poland and the part they played in the liberation" of Poland, according to a Yiddish-language broadcast from Warsaw. The radio commentator interviewed a number of Jews who, he said, had received the Knight's Cross of the Order of Polonia Restituta and the Officer's Cross of the same Order.

Thirty-five hundred tire tubes from the Petach Tikvah plant of the General Tire Company have been ordered by a Polish trade delegation, it was reported here from Poland. The delegation placed its order after a tour of the Petach Tikvah factory. The tubes will be shipped aboard a Polish vessel, the Marshalensky Gdynia.

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF URUGUAY ASSURES ADMISSION OF NORTH AFRICAN JEWS

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Uruguay has provided an initial quantity of job contracts for North African Jews seeking immigration opportunities in Latin America, it was disclosed by Murray I. Gurfein, president of United Hias Service. At the same time Mr. Gurfein disclosed that the Jewish community of Argentina dubbed that country's past immigration policy as "anti-Semitic" and adopted a resolution calling on the new Government to permit Jews to immigrate into that country.

The United Hias leader announced that he had received word from the United Hias director in Latin America, Israel Jacobson, that job assurances for several Jewish families in North Africa had been certified as acceptable by the Uruguayan Government. The job assurances have been forwarded to the United Hias offices in Casablanca and Tangiers for processing, Mr. Gurfein said, and the first group of North African Jewish immigrants to reach Uruguay since World War II will soon be resettled in that country.

U. S. EXPERTS COMPLETE SURVEY ON TOURISM IN ISRAEL; PREDICT RISE

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- "Israel's attractions to Americans of all faiths as the Land of the Bible and a state of modern progress are so great that travel to Israel will more than double, to reach 100,000 visitors by 1960, according to top-notch American experts who just completed a study for the development of tourism to Israel under the U. S. International Cooperation Administration," it was revealed today at a press conference here.

The most comprehensive single survey ever made of the tourist industry of any country, the 438-page "Study of Tourism in Israel" is a blueprint for making Israel one of the most attractive tourist countries in the world. The team of experts in travel development, hotels and allied fields, not only analyzed on the spot, in Israel, every facet connected with increasing tourist traffic to Israel, but in the several months of its study conducted two comprehensive attitude surveys in the United States and interviewed travel leaders in Europe and other Middle Eastern countries as well.

The United States is the largest present and potential source of tourists to Israel, the report states; and, since the trend of the world's rising traffic is to the Middle East, Israel is in a strategic position to capture a large share of these visitors as well. The experts based their optimistic forecast of increased traffic to Israel also on the poll they took of recent visitors. According to the poll, the leading Jewish motive for visiting Israel was interest in the country's progress (82 percent), while the top Christian motives were religious interest (52 percent) and interest in culture and antiquities (46 percent). The survey further revealed that, whereas Jewish visitors at present outnumber Christians two to one, the proportion is rapidly changing, and Christian visitors will gradually outnumber the Jewish tourists to Israel.

NEW CENTER FOR JEWISH YOUTHS OPENED IN THE HAGUE WITH J. D. C. FUNDS

THE HAGUE, March 19. (JTA) -- A new center for the Jewish youth of this city has been opened here. The center was made possible by grants from the Joint Distribution Committee and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. It is located in the building which houses Jewish communal offices.

There are an estimated 400 Jewish youths between the ages of 12 and 20 now living here. Their new center includes meeting rooms, lounges, a library, a snack bar and classrooms for Hebrew instruction. Work with Jewish youth here is carried on under the direction of the newly-appointed Chief Rabbi Benedikt.

DR. SCHWARTZ LEAVES FOR ARGENTINA; WILL FURTHER ISRAEL BOND SALES

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the Israel bond drive organization, left for Argentina by plane today and will remain there for about two weeks to further the sale of Israel bonds there.

"The Jews of the Argentine Republic are eager to stand with Israel in her present crisis," Dr. Schwartz said. "They have shown a readiness to invest substantially in State of Israel bonds. I am confident that the intensive Israel bond drive which is now under way there will produce large sums for Israel's economic development."

DAVID ARANOW, FORMER STUDENT, GIVES \$200,000 TO NEW YORK CITY COLLEGE

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- City College of New York has a gift of \$200,000 from David Aranow, an alumnus of the class of 1914, it was announced here this week-end at exercises dedicating six new buildings. Dr. Buell G. Gallagher, president of CCNY, said this was the largest single contribution ever made to the college by an alumnus.

ENCYCLOPEDIA TALMUDICA WINS PRIZE AT INTERNATIONAL BOOK SHOW IN LONDON

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- The Encyclopedia Talmudica, published in Jerusalem, has received a prize in an international book show sponsored here by the National Book League. Seven volumes of the 25-volume encyclopedia have already been published.