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CONGRESS MAY BE ASKED FOR AUTHORITY TO USE U.S. TROOPS IN MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, March 22. (JTA) -- The Administration may ask Congress for stand-by authority to use U.S. military forces in the Middle East if United Nations peace efforts fail. Reports to this effect were circulated here today following a meeting at the White House at which Republican and Democratic Congressional leaders were briefed by President Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles on the international situation.

A State Department spokesman was asked about these reports and replied that he had no knowledge of comment on such plans. Administration sources said a possible request for stand-by authority for commitment of forces would be given the most serious consideration if the situation continues to deteriorate.

The question of U.S. armed intervention was expected to come up in a discussion of Arab-Israel war danger at a meeting of the National Security Council to be attended by the President later today. Main emphasis is now being placed on United Nations Security Council measures to prevent war.

The State Department disclosed today that France suggested "informally" that the tripartite Foreign Ministers meet in a few weeks in Paris or London to confer on the Arab-Israel situation. The meeting was seen by French Foreign Minister Christian Pineau as desirable in early May. The Arab-Israel situation, among other topics, was discussed today at a meeting of Italian Ambassador Manlio Brosio with George V. Allen, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

MEETING OF SECURITY COUNCIL ON ARAB-ISRAEL SITUATION SET FOR MONDAY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 22. (JTA) -- The United Nations Security Council will meet next Monday afternoon, March 26, to discuss the United States request that Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld make a survey of Israel-Arab tensions and report back within a month.

So certain are members of the Council that there will be no opposition to the American plan from the side of the Soviet Union, that Mr. Hammarskjöld has already scheduled his departure. Of course, he can change his travel plans, but right now he is understood to be planning to leave for the Middle East on Monday, April 2.

Mr. Hammarskjöld conferred briefly today with Arthur C. Liveran, Acting Deputy Chief of the Israel delegation. While neither would discuss the subject of the conference, which lasted only 15 minutes, the Secretary General is understood to have asked Israel not to insist on being heard at the forthcoming Security Council meeting. Similar requests are understood to have been made by the UN chief to the eight Arab delegations here.

Britain's Sir Pierson Dixon, this month's president of the Council, backed by the United States and France, is known to desire a brief Council meeting which would offer no opportunity for Israeli or Arab charges and countercharges and thus make it unnecessary at this point for the Council to attempt to evaluate the truth of the various accusations that troops of both sides are being massed with aggressive intentions. It is quite certain that neither Israel nor the Arab delegations will oppose these plans.

U. N. Chief Will Seek to Bring Nasser and Ben Gurion Together

Meanwhile, Mr. Hammarskjöld is also conferring with Henry R. Labouisse, Jr., director of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine, which is in charge of relief rehabilitation and resettlement for the 900,000 Arab refugees. Mr. Labouisse came here this week and has thus far avoided seeing any newsmen or discussing his mission here with anyone, except on the highest UN level. However, his presence here, in response to a summons by Mr. Hammarskjöld, underscores the fact that the refugee problem will figure heavily in whatever Middle East peace plans Mr. Hammarskjöld may be mapping.

While the Secretary General was understood to have been cool to the Western proposal that he try his hand at pacifying the Middle East, he is reported now to be determined to make a very strenuous effort to perform what would be considered by diplomats a "miracle" -- to get Egyptian Premier Gamal Abdel Nasser to agree to a face-to-face conference with Israel's Premier, David Ben Gurion.

Mr. Hammarskjöld is understood to have told leading diplomats here after his return from his recent visit to Cairo and Jerusalem that he is convinced that the only solution to

the Middle East war tensions is a personal meeting between Col. Nasser and Mr. Ben Gurion without any third party. He is of the belief that while such a meeting cannot be brought about quickly he may be able to persuade Col. Nasser that Egypt should start trying to clear the political paths, internally and in the Arab League, towards such a meeting with Ben Gurion in the not too distant future.

Britain Supports U.S. Request for Security Council Action

LONDON, March 22. (JTA) -- The United States request to the Security Council for action on the Israel-Arab crisis has the British Government's full approval, Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd told the House of Commons this afternoon. In response to Labor MPs, he affirmed that referral of the conflict to the United Nations in no way weakened the obligations of the British, French and American Governments under the Tripartite Declaration of 1950.

Despite Mr. Lloyd's announcement, some official circles here indicated that the initiative for the Security Council meeting came from the United States alone. These circles feel that recourse to the Security Council at this time only invites trouble from the Soviet Union which, merely by vetoing any Western resolution, can give itself another boost in Arab eyes. Everything that the American resolution asks, these circles say, could have been accomplished without summoning the Council to a meeting.

(The New York Times reported today from London that Britain has completed a plan for "effective" military action within 24 hours of the outbreak of a war between the Arab states and Israel. The object of this action would be to prevent both the spreading of such a war and its continuation in the Middle East. Britain would employ her army, navy and air forces now concentrated in Cyprus and elsewhere in the eastern Mediterranean area, it is understood. The British action would be taken under the Tripartite Declaration of 1950, the Times report said.)

Turkey Wants Arab-Israel Conflict Settled Within U.N. Framework

ISTANBUL, March 22. (JTA) -- Turkey hopes that the Arab-Israel conflict can be solved peacefully and "within the framework of the United Nations," Turkish Foreign Minister Fuat Koprulu told a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent today.

(Responding to questions about Turkey's attitude toward the Arab states and Israel and about the Turkish Government's ideas for preventing Arab-Israel hostilities, the Foreign Minister said that Turkey's stand on the Palestine question had been taken in "loyalty" to UN decisions. Warning of the real danger of war in the situation, Mr. Koprulu said that the conflict must be resolved as soon as possible, in accordance with justice.)

Asked if Turkey's efforts to expand the Bagdad Pact and win the friendship of the Arab states was weakening Israel-Turkish relations, Mr. Koprulu said that Turkish-Israel relations must be divorced from the campaign to extend the Bagdad Pact. In an obvious reference to the recent Soviet moves vis-a-vis the Arab states, the Foreign Minister charged that the Arab-Israel "conflict has been stirred up by those who have secret designs on the Middle East."

ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM, JERUSALEM STATUS DISCUSSED IN BELGIAN SENATE

BRUSSELS, March 22. (JTA) -- The question of tension in the Middle East was raised in the Belgian Senate today, with all speakers expressing sympathy for Israel's cause and warning of the dangers of an arms race.

Sen. Henri Robin, Minister of State and head of the Socialist group in Parliament, spoke critically of the Soviet and Western arming of the Arab states, despite his well known pro-Soviet attitude. Sen. Paul Strye, ex-president of the Senate and a Christian Socialist, said that the Arab refugee question should be settled with international assistance. He called for a new look at the question of the internationalization of Jerusalem.

DR. SILVER CONFERS WITH BEN GURION IN ISRAEL ON DEFENSE NEEDS

TEL AVIV, March 22. (JTA) -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, veteran American Zionist leader, arrived here by plane last night and was greeted by General Zionist leaders and a crowd of admirers. Shortly after his arrival, Dr. Silver conferred with Premier David Ben Gurion in the latter's office here. It is understood that the two men spoke of Israel's defense needs. Dr. Silver is in Israel to attend exercises dedicating a settlement in his name.

CANADA DEMANDS DAMAGES FROM BULGARIA FOR EL AL DISASTER VICTIMS

OTTAWA, March 22. (JTA) -- The Canadian Government has submitted claims for damages to Bulgaria in connection with the death of four Montreal residents, all Jews, who were aboard the El Al passenger plane shot down by Bulgarian fighters last summer. It was announced here. The announcement, which did not specify the amount of damages requested, said the claim had been filed through the British Legation in Sofia.

II ISRAELI WOUNDED IN GAZA AREA; EASING OF TENSION ON BORDER SOUGHT

TEL AVIV, March 22. (JTA) -- Eleven settlers were wounded near Gevuloth, opposite the Gaza strip, last night when a cart drawn by a tractor was landmined.

In Jerusalem the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission met today to discuss ways and means of easing the rapidly developing tension along the Israel-Jordan border, particularly in the Bartaa area.

The Israeli delegate to the Israel-Syrian M.C. met with the UN chairman of the MAC today to discuss the security situation in the Syrian border zone. At the same time, Syrian troops reoccupied positions along the eastern shore of Lake Tiberias abandoned during an Israeli raid last December 12. They have also occupied heights which overlook Kfar Szold.

AMERICAN "INDEPENDENT ZIONISTS" APPEAL TO ZIONIST CONGRESS COURT

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- An appeal carrying 360 signatures has been filed with the World Zionist Congress court by the Independent Zionist Group, led by Louis Lipsky, protesting a decision of the American Central Election Board rejecting the list of 13 delegates to the forthcoming Zionist Congress submitted by the group, independently of the Zionist Organization of America. The nomination list was signed by 1,074 holders of shekolim which entitles them to vote in the election of delegates.

In announcing this move today, Judge Louis E. Levinthal, chairman of the Independent Zionist Group, said that the central election board acted in violation of the constitution of the Zionist Congress and the special instructions received from the organization department of the world Zionist movement in Jerusalem. "The Independent Zionist Group considers the allocation of 34 delegates to the ZOA by the CEB as illegal and requests the Congress Court to authorize the issuance of final credentials to 13 of its group in place of an equivalent number illegally included among the number allocated to the ZOA," Judge Levinthal stated.

WEST GERMAN SUPREME COURT ORDERS NEW TRIAL FOR RABBI OHRENSTEIN

MUNICH, March 22. (JTA) -- The West German Supreme Court at Karlsruhe yesterday ordered a new trial for Rabbi Aron Ohrenstein, one-time Chief Rabbi of Bavaria, who was convicted of fraud by a Munich court which held him guilty of false certification of indemnification claims by DP's.

The Supreme Court ordered a change of venue for the trial, and set his trial before an Augsburg court. The new trial will have no effect on the original findings of the court. Dr. Ohrenstein's attorneys complained, and were upheld by the Supreme Court, that a Munich judge who disqualified himself after being challenged by the defense as a former Nazi, had handicapped the judge who did try Dr. Ohrenstein, rather than assigning the next judge on the calendar. This, Dr. Ohrenstein's attorneys charged, had deprived the defendant of his "lawful judge."

A month ago, while considering the appeal, the Supreme Court took an unprecedented action in ordering Dr. Ohrenstein released from jail pending its decision.

350 NEW YORK RABBIS URGE MAYOR TO SEEK AMENDMENT OF SABBATH LAW

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- More than 350 rabbis representing Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Judaism today urged Mayor Wagner to protect the rights of the city's Jewish citizens by requesting immediate amendment of the Sabbath Law.

The New York spiritual leaders called on the mayor to obtain enactment by the City Council of a local law under the Home Rule Statute which, on approval by the State Legislature, would allow merchants who observe Saturday as their religious day of rest, to keep their businesses open on Sunday provided they do not disturb the neighborhood.

N. Y. SYNAGOGUES AND PHILANTHROPIC AGENCIES TO MAINTAIN CLOSER CONTACT

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- An important step was taken today toward closer contact between synagogues and Jewish philanthropic agencies with the formation of the Conference of Synagogues, an organization of New York Jewish lay and rabbinical leaders. Announcement of the new unit was made by Salim L. Lewis, president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, sponsor of the conference. At the group's organizational meeting, held today, Samuel S. Schneiersohn was elected chairman of the board and Charles Altman, president.

Leaders of the Conference announced that they planned to coordinate activities in which both synagogues and philanthropic agencies are interested; to set up courses to teach rabbis the principles of social work and give social workers a better idea of Jewish studies; to print brochures, pamphlets and bulletins informing synagogue members on developments in Jewish philanthropy, education and social work, and to conduct tours of the institutions of Federation.

DEFENSE DEPT. ACTS ON COMPLAINT OF JEWISH WAR VETERANS

WASHINGTON, March 22. (JTA) -- Defense Department sources made known today that the first of the Fort Monmouth security cases which the Jewish War Veterans brought to the Department's attention has now been reviewed and the panel's decision submitted to Wilber M. Brucker, Secretary of the Army, for final disposition.

The Jewish War Veterans initiated action to secure review of this and other "loyalty firings" at Fort Monmouth when it was determined that anti-Semitism was involved. Officials of the Department of the Army and the Jewish War Veterans are continuing in contact on these cases.

U.S. AIR FORCE SUBMITS TO SAUDI ARABIAN ANTI-CHRISTIAN PREJUDICE

WASHINGTON, March 22. (JTA) -- The U.S. Air Force has made concessions to Saudi Arabian prejudice against Christianity in addition to tolerating anti-Jewish discrimination by Saudi Arabia, it was learned today from authoritative government sources.

At the Dhahran Base, U.S. chaplains do not wear the insignia crosses denoting their status as Christian chaplains. This is done to avoid fanatical Moslem wrath. According to the account given by Air Force circles here, Catholic officials--in the interest of their personal safety--were obliged to "defrock" when on a mission to the base.

Christian religious services on the base are conducted with a measure of secrecy, with precautions taken to avoid arousing Moslem ire. The base figured in the news recently when Secretary of State Dulles, in response to Senate Foreign Relations Committee questioning, said that Saudi Arabia prohibited U.S. forces from stationing American servicemen of Jewish faith there.

One report heard here today is that the U.S. flag is not flown over the base because the Saudi Arabians look upon it as an "infidel" symbol. A question has been raised by service personnel as to the extent of control the U.S. command has over the base because of the numerous reported concessions to Saudi Arabian extremism. Several weeks ago Saudi Arabia threatened to refuse renewal of the agreement under which the bases is leased, thus forcing the State Department to release 18 Army tanks held up at the port of shipment because of the tense Arab-Israel situation.

MEDICAL EQUIPMENT OFFERED BY U.S. JEWS TO RED MOGEN DOVID IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- The current tense situation in the Middle East has brought a wave of offers of blood and equipment for the Red Mogen Dovid, Israel's equivalent of the Red Cross, Congress Emanuel Celler, chairman of the American Red Mogen Dovid, announced today. He noted, however, that blood was not being sent to Israel from America, only equipment to process blood in Israel.

Rep. Celler reported offers of ambulances and medical equipment for Israel, including the establishment of a special emergency committee in Los Angeles to aid the Red Mogen Dovid, the action of a group of 12 Chicago women to equip a blood bank in Israel and campaigns to buy ambulances for Israel by the Rebecca Charity Fund of New York and the women's division of the American wing of the Red Mogen Dovid.

SAMUEL RUBIN NAMED PRESIDENT OF U.S. FUND FOR ISRAEL INSTITUTIONS

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- Samuel Rubin, New York philanthropist, was elected president of the American Fund for Israel Institutions at the annual directors' meeting of the organization today. Frederic R. Mann, Commissioner of Commerce of Philadelphia, was elected chairman of the board. Mr. Rubin had served as chairman of the executive committee of the organization since the death of its president and founder, Edward A. Norman, last June.

A long-range program of cultural exchange between the United States and Israel was announced by Mr. Rubin which will include the presentation in this country of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra; Inbal, a native Israeli dance ensemble and the pantomime group of the Chamber Theatre of Tel Aviv--all in association with impresario S. Hurok, a trustee of the Fund. In addition, the Fund plans to organize exhibitions of Israeli paintings and photography for circulation in the United States.

AGUDAS ISRAEL SENDS PASSOVER SUPPLIES TO HUNGARIAN, CZECH JEWS

LONDON, March 22. (JTA) -- The Agudas Israel World Organization has sent Passover supplies, haggadahs, and medicines to Jews in Hungary, the organization announced here today. In addition, food parcels have been sent to Czechoslovakian Jews and to Czech Jews living in Britain.

CUBAN JEWS SEND A DELEGATE TO WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS FOR FIRST TIME

HAVANA, Cuba, March 22. (JTA) -- For the first time in the history of the Jewish community of Cuba, a delegate will proceed from here to a World Zionist Congress. The delegate, Baruch Shames, former president of the Jewish National Fund of Cuba, was elected to represent the Zionist movement here at the 24th World Zionist Congress which will be held in Jerusalem next month.