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EISENHOWER STUDIES SOVIET OFFER TO HELP SOLVE ARAB-ISRAEL PROBLEM

WASHINGTON, April 18. (JTA) -- A White House spokesman said today that President Eisenhower welcomes Russia's offer to help solve the Arab-Israel problem if it "demonstrates a real desire" by Moscow to support United Nations peace efforts. The spokesman said the White House was still studying the Soviet statement. The President will discuss the Middle East in a nationally broadcast radio-television speech Saturday evening.

(The statement on the Middle East issued in Moscow yesterday "should be taken seriously," Soviet Ambassador in Israel, Alexander Abramov, declared last night. He spoke at an Israel Independence Day reception given by the Mayor of Ramath Gan.)

A Jewish delegation today called at the White House to urge consideration of Israel's security needs, but the delegation was not permitted to see President Eisenhower. Six rabbis representing Orthodox, Conservative and Reform congregations of the Philadelphia area left a petition with Bernard Shanley, one of the secretaries of the President.

Senator Mike Mansfield, Montana Democrat and an important member of the Foreign Relations Committee, today appealed from the floor of the Senate to President Eisenhower to make it clear that the United States "does not intend to permit the annihilation of Israel." At the same time, he said, "it must also be made clear that we shall not support Israeli expansion at the expense of the Arab States."

A constructive policy in the Middle East "cannot be built on an eagerness to please everyone," he declared. "That has been tried and it has failed miserably. We have ended by pleasing no one." The United States, he said, also needed a clearer understanding of the part American oil interests have played in the Middle East. He cited reports on how Arabs have used oil royalties from the U.S. to finance war preparations "and in other dubious ways."

War Danger Is Postponed, Not Dispelled, Ambassador Eban Says

Israel Ambassador Abba Eban last night told the annual dinner meeting of the America-Israel Society that the war danger is "postponed, not dispelled" and that "the crisis may be renewed in sharper form within a few weeks when the Egyptian dictator has perfected his mastery of his new air and armored power." Mr. Eban called for immediate provision of jet fighter planes for Israel. He said "everything for Israel, and much for the world, depends upon how we use this respite."

The Ambassador said the emphasis should be on equipping Israel for self-defense "rather than on external intervention which raises grave and complex issues not likely to be resolved overnight." Thomas K. Finletter, former Secretary of the Air Force, said the Israelis "must" be given F-86 Sabre jets. He added: "If they need them the Israelis must have not only these obsolescing F-86 fighters, but the finest and newest all-weather defensive fighters in the possession of the United States."

The State Department denied today a report from Tokyo that the United States had approved the sale of Japanese arms to Syria. State Department spokesman Lincoln White said that no request had been made of United States officials for permission to sell such arms. He noted further that Japan would not require such permission unless the weapons were manufactured under American patents or contracts.

BEN GURION AND HAMMARSKJOLD CONTINUE ARMISTICE IMPLEMENTATION TALKS

JERUSALEM, April 18. (JTA) -- Two brief meetings were held here today between Prime Minister David Ben Gurion and United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld. An official communique merely said that problems of implementation of the general armistice agreement were discussed at the meetings. No details were given.

The two men will resume their meeting tomorrow afternoon. A Cabinet meeting will intervene in the morning. One of the questions to be decided by the Cabinet is whether to yield to opposition demands for a political debate in Parliament.

Meanwhile, a water line leading to the Lehav settlement near the Jordanian border in the Hebron area was sabotaged at three different points early this morning.

BRITAIN'S VIEW ON SOVIET MIDDLE EAST STATEMENT REPORTED IN COMMONS

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- Both the Conservative government and the Labor Party in Parliament today welcomed the Soviet statement of yesterday on the Arab-Israel issue. However, Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd made it clear in Parliament that the Soviet offer "requires careful study." While the statement includes some "evident misstatements and inconsistencies," its emphasis on the need to preserve peace and to reach an Arab-Israel settlement was welcome, Mr. Lloyd said.

Emanuel Shinwell, member of the last Labor Government, declared that "all of us on this side of the House welcome the Russian declaration and hope it will lead to a satisfactory conclusion as a result of further consultations." His reference to consultations was obviously pointed at the forthcoming talks between British Government leaders and Soviet Premier Nikolai Furlanin and Communist Party chief Nikita-Khrushchev, who arrived here today for a ten-day visit.

As the debate on the Arab-Israel issue continued, Mr. Lloyd said that the British Government associated itself with President Eisenhower's recent statement that the United States would assist any nation in the Middle East which was a victim of aggression. He added that the British Government had not changed its views on the Tripartite Declaration, nor was he aware that either of the two other signatories had changed their views.

He refused to indicate in advance what methods the British Government would use to carry out its obligations under the declaration. He did note, however, that Mr. Eisenhower's emphasis on action within the United Nations did not remove the possibility of action outside that body. At another point he indicated he favored a UN solution.

Asked by Laborites about permitting the export of arms to Israel, Mr. Lloyd insisted that "there is no current ban on the supply of arms to Israel or the neighboring Arab states. In authorizing particular consignments the government have regard for their obligations under the Tripartite Declaration." At another point in the debate, he responded to a request to authorize arms shipments to Israel by again referring to the tripartite document's mention of the desire of the signatories to avoid an arms race in the Middle East.

When a Labor MP insisted that under the present circumstances the only road to security for Israel lay in acquiring arms and that Britain was under moral obligation to supply them, Mr. Lloyd declared: "I have always taken the view that it should be our purpose to preserve a balance. It would be dangerous to lead either side to believe that its only hope of safety was through arms."

The Foreign Secretary rejected a proposal--from a Conservative--that Britain seek Western talks with Israel and the Arab states including Egypt. He said that this "might cause more complications rather than fewer."

U. S. CONCERN OVER FATE OF ISRAEL STRESSED BY AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- The "active concern" of the United States Government for the welfare of Israel was emphasized here tonight by Edward B. Lawson, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, in a recorded message to the annual dinner of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce held at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. More than 500 bankers, industrialists and business leaders attended the affair.

Ambassador Lawson, who is due to arrive in Washington within a few days for consultations on the Arab-Israel issue, referred to President Eisenhower's call for "the courage to be patient," and said he believed Israel would abide by this kind of courage. "It is in all good faith and conviction that I say to you now," the Ambassador added, "that I believe Israel will choose the way of reason and steadiness and patience, and that in this choice she will find a certain reward."

Nathan Strauss III, president of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, presented awards of merit to the chief executives of five American companies participating in the development of Israel's oil resources. The awards were presented to the Israel-American Oil Corporation; Israel Mediterranean Petroleum, Inc. and Pan-Israel Oil Company, Inc.; Sharon Plains Oil Corporation; Ampal - American Israel Corporation; and the Grovitz-Friedland Israel Oil Venture.

Meir Sherman, Israel Minister for Economic Affairs in the United States, who was the guest speaker at the dinner, praised the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce for its work and called American businessmen trading with or investing in Israel "far-sighted." He described the rise in economic relations between the two countries and laid stress on the 40 percent increase in one year in the number of American tourists visiting Israel. Exports, imports, tourist travel, investments - all increased in 1955, he said.

Secretary of Commerce Sinclair Weeks, in a message to the dinner, disclosed that in 1955, U.S. exports to Israel rose to \$90,000,000 as compared with \$76,000,000 in 1954; at the same time, Israel exports to the U.S. increased from \$13,700,000 in 1954 to \$17,000,000 in 1955. He said this trend "in our trade relations with Israel is a healthy sign," and added that the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce "has played an extremely active role in fostering and creating conditions conducive to expanded trade between the two countries." A message from the Israel Minister of Commerce and Industry, Pinchas Sapir, also hailed the growth of economic relations between the two countries.

JEWISH REFUGEES TRANSFERRED FROM FOEHRENWALD TO NON-JEWISH CAMP

MUNICH, April 18. (JTA) -- The bulk of the Jewish "illegal returnees" in the Foehrenwald DP camp were today transferred by the Bavarian state authorities to the Ludwigsfeld camp, on the outskirts of Munich. Affected were 84 former DP's who had trickled back to Germany some years ago, mainly from Israel without visas or residence permits.

The Ludwigsfeld stone barracks house non-Jewish refugees from Eastern Europe for the most part. The Foehrenwald residents transferred there are those who expect to emigrate to other countries later in the year. Left in Foehrenwald are about 50 "illegal returnees," consisting of those who either are on the point of emigrating, or else who have little hope of being able to leave Germany this year. The "illegals" are not entitled to government help for resettlement and integration in German cities, as are the "legal" old-time residents of Foehrenwald, the last Jewish DP camp on German soil.

There are now still 650 Jewish DP's in Foehrenwald, which contrary to earlier reports, has not been closed and will not be vacated before the summer. The buildings of the camp, however, have been purchased by a Catholic housing group and, for the first time since talk of "liquidating the camp" became current six years ago, the Jewish DP residents have become reconciled to the fact that they must move within the next several months.

RUSSIAN JEW REPORTS INCREASED DEMAND FOR 'MEZUZOTH' IN MOSCOW

TEL AVIV, April 18. (JTA) -- A slight improvement in the situation of the Jews of the Soviet Union--and that primarily in the religious field--has been reported here by a newly arrived immigrant from the USSR. The report was given by 75-year-old Itzhak Mazor, of Moscow, who arrived here with his wife and four other Jews from the Soviet Union.

Mazor reported a great demand for religious objects like "mezuzoth" and phylacteries. Explaining his views on the improvement in the situation, he noted that a Jewish ritual slaughterer was now allowed to work openly in the yard of the synagogue. He also mentioned the approval, a half-year ago, of a new Jewish prayer book, which, he said, would be printed soon. Synagogues were packed during Passover, he reported.

Twenty-one immigrants from Communist countries were among a party of 850 who arrived here aboard the S.S. Jerusalem today. Most of the immigrants were from North Africa. The North African Jews were immediately taken to settlements prepared for them. Several hundred were flown directly to Elath, on the Gulf of Akaba, where homes and furnishings were awaiting them.

HUNGARY RELEASES JEWS IMPRISONED FOR ALLEGED PRO-WESTERN ESPIONAGE

VIENNA, April 18. (JTA) -- A number of Hungarian Jews imprisoned for alleged pro-Western espionage are being released as a result of the "rehabilitation" of the late Lazlo Rajk and other Hungarian Communist leaders, it was reported here today.

The report said that among the Jews released were L. Stern, J. Kiklosch, Dr. M. Komlosch and Alexander Hevesy. In addition, the report said, a considerable number of Jews forced to leave Budapest and other Hungarian cities have been permitted to return although they have not had their homes returned to them. Communist functionaries still live in them, the report said.

HISTADRUT SEEKS RELEASE OF ITS LEADER FROM CZECHOSLOVAKIAN PRISON

TEL AVIV, April 18. (JTA) -- Mordecai Namir, secretary general of the Histadrut, today handed the Czechoslovak Charge d'Affaires in Israel the text of a resolution by the recent Histadrut national conference calling for the release of Mordecai Oren from prison in Czechoslovakia. The Czech diplomat promised to forward the resolution to Europe.

Mr. Oren, a Mapam leader and member of the Histadrut executive, was involved in the Rudolf Slansky trials in Prague and "confessed" to plotting against the Czech state in behalf of "Zionists" and "imperialists." With the rehabilitation and release of other defendants in those trials, there is new hope that Mr. Oren, who received a 15-year sentence, will be freed.

JEWS IN TUNISIA WORRIED OVER GROWING PROPAGANDA OF ARAB LEAGUE OFFICE

TUNIS, April 17. (JTA) -- An intensified anti-Israel propaganda campaign in Tunisia conducted by the Arab League is bringing disquiet in its wake among Tunisian Jews. This despite assurances by Premier Habib Bourguiba and his moderate Neo-Destour leadership and the presence of a Jew in the Cabinet.

Although Tunisian newspaper editors have remained "correct" in their references to Jews, it is feared that further pressure will have an effect on them. Meanwhile, more Tunisian Jews have registered this week at the Jewish Agency office here for immigration to Israel.

JEWISH GROUP ASKS EISENHOWER TO SECURE ACTION ON CIVIL RIGHTS

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower was asked today by the National Community Relations Advisory Council--coordinating body of a number of groups--to exert "the full influence" of his office to secure prompt Congressional action on civil rights measures now pending in Congress.

In a letter addressed to the President, Bernard H. Trager, chairman of the NCRAC, said: "We are certain you will agree that there is no room for partisanship in protecting citizens of the United States in the enjoyment of their constitutional rights. The proposals advanced by the Administration conform closely to measures that have already been reported out by subcommittees of the House and Senate and that are presently before the Judiciary committees in both Houses. Given the bipartisan support which the issue merits, such differences in detail as exist between the bills should yield quickly to conference."

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND HOLDS 66 PERCENT OF ISRAEL'S CULTIVATED LAND

JERUSALEM, April 18. (JTA) -- A review of Jewish National Fund activities in the period since the last World Zionist Congress, made public at a press conference here today, disclosed that the organization's holdings now constitute 17 percent of the state's territory and 66 percent of its cultivated land. The survey showed that in 1951 and 1953, the Government of Israel sold the JNF 3,300,000 dunams of abandoned land, that it acquired an additional 56,000 dunams directly from private owners--mostly non-Jews, and that its total land holdings now amount to 3,500,000 dunams.

It was also revealed that 583 of Israel's 728 settlements are established on the organization's land and that 75 percent of the entire agricultural production of this country is derived from JNF lands. In the period covered by the report, the organization improved 108,000 dunams of land--bringing land improvement up to a total of 188,300 dunams since the group's inception. Eighteen million trees have been planted since the establishment of the State, part of the overall plantation of 30,000,000 trees covering 131,000 dunams since the organization's beginning.

The survey indicated that the completion of the Huleh project would convert some 60,000 dunams of marshes into arable land and make possible the exploitation of some 100,000,000 cubic meters of water for irrigation purposes each year. The JNF had received \$52,000,000 in loans from the State of Israel since 1949, it was disclosed, of which \$42,000,000 had been repaid. During the same period, the Jewish National Fund invested \$36,000,000 pounds.

HERUT-REVISIONIST WORLD CONFERENCE OPENS IN ISRAEL; 30 LANDS REPRESENTED

TEL AVIV, April 18. (JTA) -- The ninth world conference of the Herut-Zionist-Revisionist world organization opened here last night with hundreds of delegates and guests from 30 countries in attendance.

Dr. Shimshon Junitchman, chairman of the world executive, called for all Revisionists to migrate to Israel, demanded the end of the "shekel" system of representation at World Zionist Congresses and denounced the Labor coalition in the Israel Government. He asked the Soviet Union to open its doors for Jews who wanted to come to Israel. Menachem Beigin, Israel Herut leader, predicted that in the next Israel general election the major contest would be between the Mapai and the Herut parties.

BRAZILIAN GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATES IN ISRAEL ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 18. (JTA) -- Participation by Brazilian Government and communal leaders highlighted the celebration of Israel's Independence Day here. More than 2,000 persons attending a special demonstration heard an address by Israel Minister of Trade Pinchas Sapir, who is now visiting Brazil, and a plea by General Flores de Cunha, vice-president of Brazil's House of Representatives, that Jewish youth take part in the construction and defense of Israel. Rep. Euripides Cardoso de Menezes, president of the Brazilian Catholic League, told the rally that the collapse of what he termed the new Egyptian Pharaoh would follow a war against Israel.

TRIBUTE TO EINSTEIN'S MEMORY PAID ON FIRST ANNIVERSARY OF HIS DEATH

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- The first anniversary of the death of Prof. Albert Einstein, who died last April 18 in Princeton, was observed here last night by 1,200 persons from all parts of the country at a commemorative dinner held under the auspices of the Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University.

Four awards, established by Yeshiva University, were presented at the dinner to Senator Herbert Lehman, Carl Sandburg, Dr. John von Neumann of Princeton, member of the Atomic Energy Commission, and Dr. Stanley Cob, noted neurologist. The awards carry \$1,000 in cash and a commemorative medallion bearing a bas relief of Prof. Einstein.