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BEN GURION SAYS CHANCES FOR ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE OR WAR ARE GREAT NOW

JERUSALEM, April 22. (JTA) -- Opportunities for reducing Arab-Israel tension have arisen now as never before in Israel's history, but the danger of war has similarly increased as never before, Premier David Ben Gurion told an extraordinary session of the Israel Parliament today. He reported on Israel's security on the constant efforts of the Israel Government to secure peace and on his talks with Dag Hammarskjold, United Nations Secretary General, who is now on a "peace mission" in the Middle East.

The apparent contradiction, Mr. Ben Gurion said, can easily be explained by the fact that the danger of war has obviously aroused the concern of great and small nations to realize that any conflagration in the Middle East is likely to spread throughout the world. This, the Israel Premier emphasized, has been revealed by Mr. Hammarskjold's mission and perhaps also by the shift in the Soviet policy with regard to the Middle East.

Premier Ben Gurion reviewed at length the history of the Arab-Israel armistice agreements and how they were constantly violated by the Arab states. The armistice pact with Jordan, he pointed out, provided for free access by Israel to the Holy Places, the right to use installations on Mt. Scopus, free access to the Mt. of Olives cemetery, free use of the Bethlehem and Latrun roads as well as the railway to Jerusalem. "Only the last point was implemented, while Jordan persistently refuses to implement the other clauses," Mr. Ben Gurion emphasized. He stressed the fact that Israel had agreed to provide electricity for the Jordan-held Old City of Jerusalem, but the offer was rejected.

"Israel has always striven and will continue to strive to maintain peace in the region," the Premier continued. "To our regret this is not the attitude of our neighbors for whom the signing of the armistice agreements mean nothing more than a scrap of paper. They have never ceased openly and secretly to prepare for a 'second round' to wipe Israel off the map. As long as they are not certain that they can achieve this by military strength, they use boycott and economic blockade and guerrilla warfare in open defiance of their undertaken obligations."

Mr. Ben Gurion then reviewed the acts of violence committed by Egypt and Jordan against Israel leading to ever-increasing tension. The danger, he said, became more acute after a stream of Soviet arms and heavy bombers and tanks began to flow into Egypt in addition to arms which she had already received from Britain and the supplies which Saudi Arabia and Iraq have been receiving from the United States.

"For a considerable time," Premier Ben Gurion said, "the great powers ignored the danger, not only for Israel but for world peace. It was public opinion in France, Britain, the United States and some other Western countries which was first aroused, and the governments--especially France--followed in the wake of public opinion. There is, of course, the well-known Tripartite Declaration which is ostensibly designed to preserve the balance of forces between Israel and the Arab countries as well as to safeguard the integrity of the borders and peace in the region. But we never lull ourselves into the illusion that this declaration would serve as a barrier for the warlike designs of the Arab rulers."

"Our bitter experience in the War of Independence and thereafter has shown us that if we have strength we will have peace, and if not we, no one will stand up for us. Now, after the influx of arms to Egypt, I believe not only that the Israel Government, but also public opinion and perhaps some governments, have realized that the only thing that might deter the Egyptian dictator and his allies from war is to supply Israel with arms sufficient for its defense in the air, on the sea, and on the land. This realization," Mr. Ben Gurion pointed out, "has not yet been followed up by action except by France which made an important contribution although far from the barest minimum."

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS OPENS TOMORROW; ZIONISTS FROM 60 LANDS GATHER

JERUSALEM, April 22. (JTA) -- Some 500 delegates from Zionist movements in 60 countries gathered here today in preparation for the opening of the 24th World Zionist Congress Tuesday. Present at the opening of the conference, widely regarded as one of the most important in the history of the Zionist movement, will be 3,000 people, including delegates, alternates, members of the diplomatic corps in Israel and guests.

The achievements chalked up since the last World Zionist Congress--which was held here in April 1951--were reflected in a report by the Jewish Agency executive issued here.

today. The report states that in the nearly five years the Agency spent \$401,800,000 pounds on colonization and various other activities in Israel. It also discloses that in the eight years since the State of Israel was established the Agency spent \$708,600,000 on all its programs.

Included in the Agency's receipts of 411,600,000 pounds for the last five years were loans, which if deducted from the total receipts would mean that the Agency actually spent nearly 76,000,000 pounds over and above its income, bringing its total deficit to date to over 102,500,000 pounds. Its total debt obligation amounts to 111,900,000 pounds, of which 43,800,000 must be repaid within three years; 15,700,000 pounds repayable between three and five years; 146,000,000 pounds repayable in five to seven years, and 73,800,000 pounds which need not be repaid for longer than seven years.

U. J. A. Provided \$225,000,000 for Israel Since Last Congress

The Agency's income during this period came chiefly from the Keren Hayesod, the fund-raising arm of the Zionist movement. This source provided 60 percent of the total income, reparations payments from Germany came to 24.1 percent and the remainder came from heirless property receipts, loans, Youth Aliyah appeals, etc. The Keren Hayesod received \$266,000,000 between 1950 and 1955, the report states, of which \$225,000,000 came from the United Jewish Appeal in the United States. Beside this sum, the Jewish Agency received 2,000,000 pounds in contributions in Israel itself. The role of the United Jewish Appeal in meeting Israel's needs came in for high praise.

The report emphasized that since the last congress, the Keren Hayesod has been attempting to cut down on the multiplicity of Israeli appeals. It has reached agreements with various Zionist party organizations and funds, with international Jewish bodies and higher educational institutions to cut down on the number of duplicating appeals. Its youth section has conducted campaigns for funds and pioneers in Argentina, Uruguay, Cuba, Mexico, Morocco, Italy, France and other organizations.

The Jewish Agency's "ship-to-village" plan for absorption of immigrants in the last two years has meant that since August, 1954, 75 percent of all the newcomers--mostly North African Jews--have been absorbed immediately on the land or on projects in the development regions. As part of its educational activities, the Agency--in cooperation with the Israel Government--provided 7,000 scholarships for immigrant youths to attend secondary schools, agricultural training schools, vocational schools and institutions of higher education.

In an overall review of the housing of the 778,000 immigrants who entered Israel between the proclamation of the state and December 31, 1955, the report said that 204,000 of them were in new housing units; 123,763 were resettled in buildings abandoned by Arabs; 134,765 were being cared for by relatives; 71,902 were living in temporary huts or in farm training camps; 144,423 were in rural areas, including Youth Aliyah children; 69,720 were in transit camps, and nearly 6,000 were in Malben welfare institutions.

The phenomenal growth of the settlement movement in Israel was spurred by the Agency's activities in direct settlement work and in undertaking road building, rural housing and irrigation projects. The completion of the Yarkon project brought 100,000,000 cubic metres of water annually from the source of the Yarkon River, near Tel Aviv, down to settlements in the Western Negev and the Lachish development area.

U. S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL ARRIVES IN WASHINGTON FOR CONSULTATIONS

WASHINGTON, April 22. (JTA) -- United States Ambassador to Israel, Edward B. Lawson, arrived here today to report to Secretary of State Dulles and other top officials on the mood in Israel and the Arab-Israel situation. He will remain about two weeks.

President Eisenhower said last night that "we will do all in our power, through the United Nations whenever possible, to prevent resort to violence" in the Middle East. Speaking before the American Society of Newspaper Editors, the President said: "We are determined to support and assist any nation in that area which might be subjected to aggression. We will strive untiringly to build the foundations for stable peace in the whole region."

Making known that his words applied "with special force" to the Arab-Israel situation, Mr. Eisenhower said an important task of U. S. foreign policy "is in helping to resolve disputes between friends we value highly." Such disputes, he stated, impair the unity of the free nations and impede their advance. "In these situations, each side would like the United States to back its point of view without reservation," he declared. "But for us to do so could seldom contribute to the settling of the disputes. It would only sharpen the bitter enmities between the opposing sides and impair our value in helping to reach a fair solution." He said "our aim and effort must be to assist in tempering the fears and antagonisms which lead to such disputes."

Britain Sends Small Quantity of Arms to Israel

LONDON, April 22. (JTA) -- The Israel freighter "Galila" will sail from Gravesend today, carrying the first shipment of arms Britain has sent to Israel since the Communists began arming the Arabs. The cargo was reported to include 16 anti-aircraft guns, 100 cases of detonators, and two mobile searchlights. A Foreign Office spokesman and the Israeli Embassy declined to comment on the shipment.

RUMANIA RELEASES MANY ZIONISTS; SOME WERE SENTENCED TO LONG TERMS

TEL AVIV, April 22. (JTA) -- Reports indicating that many imprisoned Zionists in Rumania have been released were received here during the week-end. Among those released were Dr. Zisu and M. Benevisti, former Zionist leaders in Rumania who were sentenced to life imprisonment.

Among the other's reported released were many Zionists who had been sentenced to 20 years' imprisonment. They included Jean Cohen, Zoltan Hirsch, M. Moscovitz and Dr. M. Haber. Telegrams from a number of released Zionists have been received by relatives in Israel during the week-end.

JEWISH AGENCY AUTHORIZES 12 GROUPS TO RAISE FUNDS FOR ISRAEL IN U.S.

NEW YORK, April 22. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency's Committee on Control and Authorization of Campaigns today made public a list of 12 organizations authorized to conduct public fund-raising campaigns in the United States for the benefit of Israel in 1956.

The committee, which co-ordinates fund-raising for Israel in this country, was established under the auspices of the Jewish Agency and includes representatives of the Israel Consulate, United Jewish Appeal, Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and the United Israel Appeal. In releasing its list of authorized agencies, the committee declared that the present tension in Israel and the Middle East makes strong control and co-ordination of fund-raising efforts more imperative than ever.

The following organizations received authorization after the committee studied their financial data and after they pledged priority to the United Jewish Appeal as the major source of philanthropic funds for Israel's immigration, absorption and colonization program:

American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science; American Friends of the Hebrew University; American Fund for Israel Institutions; American Red Mogen David for Israel, Inc. (membership campaign only); American Technion Society; Federated Council of Israel Institutions, Inc.; Hadassah; Jewish National Fund (traditional collections only); Mizrahi Women's Organization of America; National Committee for Labor Israel (Histadruth Campaign); Pioneer Women; Women's League for Israel, Inc. (New York area.)

CALENDAR REFORM PROPOSAL DROPPED BY U.N. BODY; WAS OPPOSED BY JEWS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 22. (JTA) -- A proposal for reforming the civil calendar to make every day of every month fall on the same day of the week every year was dropped by the United Nations Economic and Social Council this week-end. The decision to postpone debate on the proposal was adopted by a vote of 15 to 0 after the representative of the Netherlands said that the time was not ripe for taking up the idea because of religious and other objections to it.

Jewish organizations have been objecting to the calendar reform proposal because it would affect the Jewish holidays. Urging rejection of the proposal, Dr. Isaac Lewin, representative of the Agudas Israel World Organization, told the UNESCO session this week-end that the proposed calendar reform would make it impossible for Jews, Christians and Moslems to observe their traditional days of rest, since the universal day of rest, to be called "Worldsday" would be likely to fall any day of the week instead of on the traditional Sabbath.

Dr. Lewin told the Council he was speaking not only on behalf of Agudah but also for other Jewish opponents of the measure, including the American Jewish Committee, Anglo-Jewish Association, Alliance Israelite Universelle, Board of Deputies of British Jews, B'nai B'rith and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. The rejected plan would add an extra day at the end of every year. The day would not be counted as a part of any week. A similar extra day would be inserted in midyear of every leap year.

The idea of United Nations backing for world calendar reform has been on the Council agenda since it was introduced here by India in October, 1953. The United Nations circulated a questionnaire on the subjects among all countries. To date, 31 replies have come in. Of the total, 24 governments, including those of the United States and Israel opposed the proposal; seven countries declared they would withhold approval unless religious authorities agreed; and only one sovereignty, the Principality of Monaco, has come out in favor. Jewish, Christian and Moslem religious leaders are unanimously opposed.

WOMEN CONTRIBUTE \$2,267,000 FOR N. Y. FEDERATION OF JEWISH PHILANTHROPIES

NEW YORK, April 22. (JTA) -- Contributions from women to the 1955-56 campaign of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York reached the record breaking figured \$2,267,000, it was announced today. The campaign funds were obtained from some 30,000 women throughout greater New York and were raised over a six-month period by a corps of 3,500 women volunteers.

"This year's results prove to us," said Mrs. Leonard Bernheim, leader of the women's division of the Federation, "that women are becoming a decisive independent factor in philanthropy. One out of every three gifts to Federation," she declared, "is now coming from women. Some of these are widows, but many are women who participate in philanthropy independently, separate and apart from family giving."

MORDECAI KAPLAN HONORED; RECEIVES \$250,000 FOR RECONSTRUCTIONIST WORK

NEW YORK, April 22. (JTA) -- A check for \$250,000 was presented to Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, founder of Reconstructionist movement, at a dinner tonight celebrating his 75th birthday and 50th anniversary in the rabbinate. Nearly 1,000 Jewish leaders attended the dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel which was sponsored by the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation. The check will be used as an endowment for Reconstructionist work.

Addressing the dinner, Philip M. Klutznick, president of the B'nai B'rith, paid tribute to Dr. Kaplan for "his provocative views and ideas, his search for new pathways and methods, his philosophy of Judaism which allows for pluralism and the free exchange of ideas and opinions." In a review of the current Arab-Israel situation, Mr. Klutznick insisted that the world's concern with the Middle East cannot be solved without assuring the survival and continued progress of the State of Israel.

In his address, Dr. Kaplan too stressed the importance of Israel, asserting that its existence as an autonomous and self-sustaining country and as a homeland of Jewish culture, tradition and religion was essential for the reconstruction of the Jewish people as well as the revitalization of the Jewish religion and the replenishment of Jewish culture. He urged Jews to define themselves as a "dynamic religious civilization."

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF TEAMSTERS RAISES \$265,000 FOR ISRAEL

DETROIT, April 22. (JTA) -- A dinner for James R. Hoffa, a vice-president of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, here this week-end raised \$265,000 which Mr. Hoffa said would go toward the building of a children's home in Israel. Among the members of the committee which sponsored the \$100-a-plate dinner was Bishop Bernard J. Shiel of Chicago.

"NEW YORK JEWRY HALL" DEDICATED AT Z. O. A. HOUSE IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, April 22. (JTA) -- A "New York Jewry Hall" was dedicated at ZOA house here at a gala reception last night for General Zionist delegates to the World Zionist Congress and their guests. Mortimer May, president of the Zionist Organization of America, presided at the dedication.

At the same time, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the ZOA's national executive, unveiled a plaque with the names of contributors to the fund for the construction of ZOA House. It was also announced that the Connecticut Zionist Region had undertaken to establish an Abraham Goldstein Library at ZOA House.

DR. LELYVELD NAMED EXECUTIVE OF AMERICAN FUND FOR ISRAEL INSTITUTIONS

NEW YORK, April 22. (JTA) -- Dr. Arthur J. Lelyveld, national director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, has been appointed executive vice-president of the American Fund for Israel Institutions, it was announced today by Samuel Rubin, president of the American Fund. Dr. Lelyveld succeeds Itzhak Norman in the top executive post of the organization on June 1st. Mr. Norman, after 15 years with the American Fund, will return to his home in Israel.

The American Fund supports many of the leading educational and cultural institutions in Israel and conducts a program of cultural exchange in music, drama, art and literature. Dr. Lelyveld, a native of New York City, is a graduate of Columbia University. He received the degree of Master of Hebrew Literature from Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati in 1931.

SIGMUND GESTETNER, LONDON JEWISH PHILANTHROPIST, DIES IN FRANCE

LONDON, April 22. (JTA) -- Sigmund Gestetner, philanthropist and for many years leader of the Jewish National Fund in Britain, died in Nice, France, this week-end. He was also active in the directorate of the Joint Palestine Appeal in this country. He was 58.

Mr. Gestetner was the founder of the world-famed commercial firm which bears his name. He was born in London and entered communal life as a young man. He was early identified with the Zionist cause, being most influenced by his father, David Gestetner, and by Dr. Chaim Weizmann.

D. SAMUEL GOTTESMAN, NOTED JEWISH PHILANTHROPIST, DIES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 22. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for D. Samuel Gottesman, noted Jewish philanthropist, who died yesterday after a brief illness. Mr. Gottesman, who was 70 years old, was born in Munkach, Hungary, and was brought to the United States as a boy.

An active contributor to the United Jewish Appeal, Anti-Defamation League and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, Mr. Gottesman recently presented four Dead Sea Scrolls to the State of Israel through the American Fund for Israel Institutions. He also established a Chair of the Humanities at the University of Uppsala in Sweden in recognition of Sweden's assistance to victims of Nazi persecution. (In Washington, Israel Ambassador Abba Eban paid tribute to Mr. Gottesman's "imaginative generosity" in relation to Israel.)