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SHARETT ANALYZES MOSCOW'S NEW ARAB-ISRAEL POLICY, URGES CAUTION

JERUSALEM, April 23. (JTA)-- The Soviet statement pledging support to United Nations efforts to secure a settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict was welcomed today with much criticism and caution by Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett. Addressing the Israel Parliament, Mr. Sharett insisted that the Soviet statement "still has to pass the test of action." He lambasted the Soviets for their "unstinting" support of the Arab cause and for having added fuel to the Arab fires by supplying arms to Egypt.

Noting that the Moscow statement contained phrases which might be considered "innovations" compared with earlier pronouncements, the Israel Foreign Minister declared: "We sincerely hope that the new formulations herald a change for the better in the climate of relations between ourselves and the Soviets; the deterioration of which we never desired." He warned, however, that the "Soviets have lent and are lending sincere and wholehearted support to the Arab states' aspirations. It is noteworthy, Mr. Sharett went on, that 'in talking of a peace settlement between Israel and the Arab states, no mention was made of direct negotiations--a principle which the Soviets have always upheld for the settlement of international affairs.'

The negative aspects of the Soviet statement take on additional importance, he said, in view of an article in last Sunday's *Izvestia*--Soviet Government organ--emphasizing in great detail the one-sided friendship of the Soviets for the Arab states and in which Israel is accused of violating the UN Charter by her actions along the border. That article also stigmatized Israel as a tool of United States and British aggressive circles and the article differentiated between the armistice demarcation lines and permanent frontiers, Mr. Sharett pointed out. The whole intent of the article appears to be to obscure the positive aspects of the Foreign Ministry declaration and to stress its negative aspects, the Israel Foreign Minister charged.

Despite this, he added, it is possible to see in this official policy declaration a certain change, and if this is true "we are perhaps justified in assuming that Israel's foreign policy had some share in it. Our consistent warning against the growing danger to Israel's security and to the peace of the Middle East has at long last found some response in Moscow--concern for Israel's security and for the peace of the area as reflected in world public opinion undoubtedly made its contribution."

At this point Mr. Sharett recalled expressions of sympathy from a number of French political parties, the British Labor Party, the Socialist International, the governments of the Scandinavian countries and party leaders and the press in the U.S. He expressed the opinion that the USSR could not indefinitely disregard the problems of Israel security and territorial integrity as well as the place of Israel in world opinion if it desired to play a part in calming spirits in the Middle East and not raise new barriers against itself on the international scene.

Cites Significant Omissions in the Soviet Declaration

"Notwithstanding all this, we must note with concern the omission from the Soviet declaration of one crucial problem, that of the serious gap in the armed forces between Israel and Egypt and the dangers to peace and security arising from this imbalance," Mr. Sharett underlined. "The Soviet declaration admits the danger of war but disregards its origin, it calls for the prevention of war but is silent as to how it is to be achieved. Furthermore, implicit in this declaration is justification for the Czech arms deal which is the root of the evil which we now strive to overcome."

It is doubtful, the Israeli Foreign Minister felt, that the authors of the Moscow statement had given full attention to the contradiction between justifying the arming of Egypt and the statement that the USSR has always opposed any action in the Middle East which is likely to bring about armed conflict. The Soviets claim that they have persistently sought measures to reduce international tensions, "but in our view the Czech arms deal with all its ramifications is in direct conflict with this professed aim--as long as a wide gap in arms exists between us and Egypt, the danger persists and no verbal declarations can eliminate this peril and safeguard security."

"We do not minimize the significance of important declarations," he went on, "and we are glad to note any improvement in their tenor. At the same time we cannot disregard expressions which must put us on guard. But when security is threatened, we must

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firstly be concerned with its re-establishment. National security is primarily a matter of the balance of armed strength, not with modifications in the tone of a political declaration."

He emphasized in the gravest tones that it would be "perilous" if the Soviet statement were to serve as a pretext for withholding defensive arms for Israel. He warned that Israel would oppose any proposal to freeze armaments in the Middle East at the present level because this would "sanction and perpetuate our insecurity and aggravate the menace to peace in the area." The situation can only be frozen on a basis of equality, or at least relative equality of strength, he concluded.

OPENING OF WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS TODAY ATTRACTS WORLD-WIDE ATTENTION

JERUSALEM, April 23. (JTA) -- All preparations were completed here today for the opening tomorrow of the 24th World Zionist Congress at which problems affecting the relations between Israel and Jews in countries outside of Israel--as well as Israel's security--will be discussed.

The delegates, coming from many countries, will have the opportunity to listen to the addresses and the ensuing debates in the language which each understands best. Simultaneous translation will be available in several languages and earphones will be provided each of the 500 delegates.

More than 60 foreign correspondents have arrived here to cover developments at the Congress. About 200 other journalists have registered as representatives of newspapers and magazines published in various parts of the world. The opening session tomorrow will be addressed by Israel's Premier David Ben Gurion; Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, and Berl Locker, chairman of the executive in Jerusalem.

A plan for the future activities of the World Zionist Organization was outlined here today by Dr. Goldmann in an address to the opening session of a conference of the General Zionist Confederation which was attended by 150 delegates from all parts of the world.

Dr. Goldmann suggested the abolition of the "double shekel" which gives double representation to Israeli delegates at the World Zionist Congress. He also urged creation of "territorial Zionist organizations" in countries outside of Israel, but the simultaneous maintenance of identity of the various Zionist political groups. He warmly urged the recruitment of non-Zionists into the Jewish Agency. With regard to relations between the World Zionist movement and Israel, Dr. Goldmann suggested that an existing coordinating committee, which is composed of representatives of the two, should establish a permanent institution to deal with economic and political issues.

The delegates decided unanimously to postpone discussion of internal differences within the Confederation until after the conclusion of the Zionist Congress. Today's speakers included Dr. Israel Goldstein who insisted on the abolition of the "double shekel" and Dr. Peretz Bernstein, president of the General Zionists in Israel, who advocated a merger between the General Zionists and the Progressives. Mrs. Rose Halprin, speaking at today's session, described Arab propaganda activities in the United States and urged vigorous counter-action. Dr. Emanuel Neumann told the conference that Israel has no dependable allies in the East or in the West, except the Jewish people.

ISRAEL PARLIAMENT APPROVES 50,000,000 POUND EMERGENCY DEFENSE TAX

JERUSALEM, April 23. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament approved today a measure for a 50,000,000 pound emergency defense tax proposed by the government and sent the bill to the Knesset Finance Committee. The bill was adopted by 56 to six, with only the Communist Party voting against it.

In a second vote, the deputies upheld the government's foreign policy. In a vote on a variety of bills dealing with the government's policy, the Mapai-led coalition received 46 votes, a Communist motion received six votes, a Herut motion, four votes and a General Zionist resolution, four votes.

U.S. AMBASSADOR TO CLARIFY STATUS OF ISRAEL'S APPLICATION FOR ARMS

WASHINGTON, April 23. (JTA) -- Edward B. Lawson, U.S. Ambassador to Israel, indicated today that when he returns to Israel in 10 days or two weeks he expects to have a better picture of the status of Israel's arms application.

Mr. Lawson sat in during a meeting of Israel Ambassador Abba Eban with George V. Allen, Assistant Secretary of State, in which Mr. Eban again stressed the primary importance of the arms procurement question. Ambassador Eban also discussed recent developments including the United Nations cease-fire arrangement and the Soviet policy statement of last week. It is expected that the Israel Ambassador will see Secretary of State Dulles personally on the arms question before the Secretary leaves in early May for the NATO conference in Paris.

Ambassador Lawson will confer at length with Secretary Dulles this week. Today he characterized the cease-fire as a "very forward step," but cautioned that it does not mean "the fire is out." He said that the fact he chose this time to come to Washington indicated he was hopeful war would not break out now. He revealed his instructions were to come when he thought it appropriate in view of the tense situation.

JEWS IN SOVIET RUSSIA SENTENCED FOR POSSESSING "ZIONIST LITERATURE"

LONDON, April 23. (JTA) -- More than 20 Soviet Jews were sentenced to terms of imprisonment ranging from three to ten years at a trial held in Moscow at the end of March for "possessing and distributing illegal-Zionist literature," the Manchester Guardian, leading British newspaper, reports.

This, the report says, was the first hard news reaching the West of what has happened to this group of Jews who were arrested last summer in Moscow after their homes had been searched by police and "incriminating evidence" had been found. Previously, it had only been known that two Jews were sentenced on similar charges to terms of three and five years, respectively, at a trial last February 16. It was hoped that Soviet authorities would desist from further prosecutions.

The Manchester Guardian correspondent goes on to say that it was apparent from the manner in which the second trial was conducted that Soviet authorities feared possible repercussions in the West when the matter became known, for the proceedings were what for the Soviet Union must be regarded as a model of fairness. The accused were given every opportunity to explain their actions and defend themselves and they made full use of this. They were also able to engage the best Moscow lawyers.

They pleaded not guilty, the report continued, itself an innovation in a Soviet political trial, and the defense proceeded along two lines. Firstly, it was argued, the accused had taken what they thought was a perfectly legitimate interest in Jewish cultural affairs in the Soviet Union and outside. Secondly, since they were charged under Article 58 of the Soviet penal code--which deals with counter-revolutionary activities and provides for extremely heavy penalties--the efforts of the defense were directed towards a redrafting of the charges so that the alleged offenses could be tried under a less ominous article of the code.

Soviet Authorities Intimidate Jews Seeking Cultural Freedom

The proceedings and the severity of the sentences indicate that while the Soviet legal methods may be undergoing a change, the Soviet attitudes toward Jews is only a little better than it was during the worst excesses of the campaign which followed the discovery of the "doctors' plot," the correspondent states. In court it was argued openly and forcefully that a verdict of guilty would be a miscarriage of justice, for the accused could not have known that they were committing an offense--especially in view of the new atmosphere of "Soviet legality" which the authorities have been deliberately fostering in Russia.

The correspondent notes that at a time when many other nationalities and categories of people who had been oppressed for years by Stalin's deliberate policy, were beginning to breathe more freely, Soviet Jews evidently felt that they might again be permitted the same measure of freedom as is allowed others. This was especially so, he adds, after the recent official Communist admissions that many representatives of Soviet Jewry had been executed on trumped-up charges.

The authorities however, the Guardian report says, seem to have been guided in this case not by their newly professed regard for "legality," but by a desire to intimidate those Jews who are seeking opportunities for a greater degree of freedom in Jewish cultural and religious activity. This seems to be a hangover from the time of the campaigns against "cosmopolitans" and "doctor assassins," which were closely linked.

It is not known, according to the correspondent, whether the March trial was the last of a series, or whether more trials are in the offing, because it has not been possible to determine the number of Jews arrested during the searches last Summer.

JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADERS IN TUNISIA CONFER ON LOCAL SITUATION

TUNIS, April 23. (JTA) -- Problems confronting the Jewish community of Tunis as a result of the present political and economic situation was studied here yesterday at an all-day assembly of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Tunisia.

The delegates resolved to continue Jewish activities "in a spirit of dignity and loyalty to our country but without sacrificing any ties with world Jewry and its age-old traditions." Charles Haddad, president of the Tunis Jewish Community, was elected to head the federation.

GERMANY SETS DEADLINE ON CLAIMS FOR PROPERTY LOOTED BY NAZIS ABROAD

BONN, April 23. (JTA) -- West German authorities today announced that May 8 is the last day on which individuals can file suit in German courts for the "external restitution" of jewelry, silverware, antique furniture and cultural property taken to Germany illegally during the war by Nazi army and government agencies or by individual Germans, provided the property has been located in Germany and can be identified there.

The "Paris Accords," which the three Western Allies and West Germany concluded several years ago, state that anyone who was dispossessed of his property through larceny or through duress, during the wartime German occupation of non-German territory, or anyone whose predecessor in title was so dispossessed, may file a claim against the present possessor of such property for its restitution in kind.

SENATE BODY HEARS VIEWS OF JEWISH CONGRESS LEADER ON ENEMY ASSETS

WASHINGTON, April 23. (JTA) -- Abraham S. Hyman, executive secretary of the World Jewish Congress and former general counsel of the U.S. War Claims Commission, told a Senate subcommittee that a proposal providing for the partial return of enemy assets and the award of compensation for war damages, was a "razzle-dazzle bill" which would prove "a disappointment to those who look to Congress for a law that is both comprehensive and just."

Testifying on behalf of the American Jewish Congress, an affiliate of the World Jewish Congress, Mr. Hyman informed the Senate Subcommittee on Trading With the Enemy Act that the proposed measure "not only fails to come to grips with the outstanding problem of World War II war claims, but is basically an unjust measure." He made the following four recommendations to amend the bill:

1. Provide compensation for personal injury sustained by American civilian citizens as a result of hostilities;
2. Provide compensation to the survivors of American civilian citizens who lost their lives as a result of hostilities;
3. Provide uniform compensation for property losses, as a result of hostilities, sustained by American citizens, irrespective of the country where the loss was sustained, and to equalize the compensation, to further provide that compensation received under foreign or domestic legislation for the same types of claims shall be deducted from the first payments due under the law to be enacted;
4. Provide that persons who were residents of the U.S. at the end of the war and who are U.S. citizens at the date of the enactment of the law shall be entitled to recover for damage to property which they sustained as a result of hostilities.

Mr. Hyman reiterated a previous recommendation that persons adjudged "major offenders" by denazification tribunals should not be beneficiaries of the act.

CONSERVATIVE RABBIS HOLD FOUR-DAY CONVENTION; DISCUSS MANY PROBLEMS

MONTICELLO, N. Y., April 23. (JTA) -- Problems facing American Jewry, including relationships with Israel, the acute teacher shortage in Jewish education, will be discussed at the 56th annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, the national association of 600 Conservative rabbis, which opened here today.

The convention, which will last four days, will also discuss the archaeology of the Dead Sea Scrolls at a special session. Principal speaker at the session will be Dr. Immanuel Ben-Dor, visiting Professor of Biblical Archaeology at Harvard University and Deputy Director of the Department of Antiquities of the Israel Government.

QUEEN ELIZABETH OF BELGIUM APPEARS AT JEWISH MEETING IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS, April 23. (JTA) -- Queen Elizabeth and members of the Belgian Government were cheered when they appeared at a mass rally here celebrating Israel's Independence Day. Camille Huysmans, Belgian elder statesman who headed a Belgian Parliamentary delegation that recently visited Israel, told the rally that he believed that there would be no war in the Middle East.

QUEEN OF NETHERLANDS PAYS VISIT TO JEWISH MUSEUM IN AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM, April 23. (JTA) -- Queen Juliana and Prince Bernhard paid their first visit today to the Jewish Museum which is located in a medieval house remaining on the site of the ancient Jewish Ghetto of Amsterdam which was razed by the Nazis.

ORTHODOX JEWS IN U.S. OBSERVE DAY OF PRAYERS FOR PEACE IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 23. (JTA) -- Special prayers for peace in Israel were recited today in Orthodox synagogues throughout the United States and Canada and in specially summoned assemblies in Jewish day schools. A fast day was also observed in Orthodox congregations. The day of fast and prayer was proclaimed by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada.

JEWISH PUBLICATION SOCIETY RE-ELECTS EDWIN WOLF 2ND AS PRESIDENT

PHILADELPHIA, April 23. (JTA) -- The Jewish Publication Society of America, at its 68th annual meeting held here, re-elected Edwin Wolf, 2nd, as its president. Other officers elected were Justice Horace Stern, Sol Satinsky and Dr. Jacob R. Marcus as vice-presidents; Myer Feinstein as treasurer; Judge Louis E. Levinthal as chairman of the Publication committee; Dr. Solomon Grayzel as editor; and Lesser Zussman as executive secretary.