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SYRIA REFUSES TO AGREE TO CEASE-FIRE; HAMMARSKJOLD FLIES TO DAMASCUS

JERUSALEM, May 2. (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold was expected to return here tonight from Damascus where he flew this morning in an effort to secure Syrian agreement to a cease-fire along the Israel frontier. The Syrian Government, it is understood, is refusing to agree to a cease-fire unless Israel promises not to resume work on the Jordan water project at Bnot Yaacov, near the Syrian border.

Israel leaders were extremely reserved today in commenting on Mr. Hammarskjold's sudden flight to Damascus. Officially it was denied here that Israel had ever agreed, or hinted to Mr. Hammarskjold or to anybody else, that she would not resume work on the Jordan water project in compliance with Syria's demand.

Prior to his departure this morning, the Secretary General conferred for two hours with Premier David Ben Gurion, Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and Israel's Chief of Staff Gen. Moshe Dayan. He had planned to fly to Rome today on his way back to New York. The sudden flight to Damascus will delay his leaving the Middle East on schedule.

The five Dutch airmen apprehended yesterday in an Egyptian-chartered plane taking aerial photographs over Israel territory were released today after being interrogated in the presence of the Dutch Minister to Israel. The five spent the night in a hotel at Lydda airport.

Their plane, a KLM Dakota, was intercepted by Israeli fighters over Maktesh Rimon, in the Negev, and was forced to land at Lydda where aerial photographic equipment was found in the plane. A sixth member of the crew was an Egyptian air force officer.

STATE DEPT. CONSIDERS "IMMEDIATE DANGER" OF ARAB-ISRAEL WAR DIMINISHED

WASHINGTON, May 2. (JTA) -- The "immediate danger" of an Arab-Israel war "appears to be diminished," Robert Murphy, Deputy Undersecretary of State, declared today in an address before a public forum in Pittsburgh. He said that "the mission of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold has been helpful in easing a very tense situation."

"The Soviet leaders," Mr. Murphy declared, "in their talks at London showed considerable understanding of the danger we all face from the threat of hostilities in the Middle East. It may well be that the Soviet appreciation of the dangers of war today has led them to reappraise their earlier trouble-making tactics in that area."

Speaking in the House, Rep. Eugene J. Keogh (D., N. Y.,) warned today that the conditions menacing an Arab-Israel peace are still present despite Russia's recent policy statement professing Communist desire for Middle East peace. He called for a skeptical view of the Russian statement, pointing out that a few days after it was issued reports indicated that Communist arms were still flowing into Egypt.

The Russian call for peace might be a "stall for more time" in which to train the Arabs for war, Rep. Keogh stated. He compared the Russian military moves in the Middle East with those in Korea, and predicted that the greatest danger of war in the Middle East will come this summer. He criticized the Administration for approving Japanese munitions sales to Syria, as reported last week. He urged the Administration to divert a Middle East war by sending Israel jet planes and anti-tank weapons for self-defense.

U. S. DESTROYER ARRIVES AT HAIFA; CHEERED BY ISRAELIS AT PORT

TEL AVIV, May 2. (JTA) -- The United States destroyer Surcoff arrived at Haifa this morning where it received a riotous welcome, both official and unofficial. As the vessel steamed into the port all workers in the vicinity halted their labors and cheered wildly. The destroyer fired a 21-gun salute which was replied to by Israeli naval vessels.

Meanwhile, preparations are under way for the reception of the U. S. S. Albany, a cruiser, which is scheduled to arrive on a goodwill visit Tuesday. The Albany's band will parade through the streets of Tel Aviv. Officers and enlisted men of the crew of both vessels will be given liberty in port and will tour the country in groups.

DELEGATES TO ZIONIST CONGRESS VISIT BORDER SETTLEMENTS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, May 2. (JTA) -- The general debate at the 24th World Zionist Congress resumed here today after the delegates returned from visiting settlements in the Negev where they watched young immigrants tilling the land and patrolling the border. At a recently established settlement, peopled by young veterans of army service, the commander of the Negev district described the life and activities of the pioneers in redeeming the wilderness and in protecting the security of the nation.

Dr. Joseph Schechtman, American Revisionist leader, complained that the Zionist movement could never develop into a powerful popular movement while it remained an "auxiliary organization," although he did admit the need for the financial and political help it mobilized for Israel. Asserting that the Congress was not truly representative, he demanded that "every Jew who identifies himself with Zionism should have the right to vote on Zionist issues."

Zalman Shazar, Mapai member of the World Zionist executive, called for the Congress to undertake the "Herculean" task of "changing the existing trend in Jewish history." He expressed concern over the "critical danger of assimilation" and expressed sorrow that the young generation of Jews is completely unaware of the great tradition and cultural treasures of the Jewish people. He charged that very little attention was being placed on Jewish education in the United States, although some effort had been made recently to improve the situation.

Meir Grossman, General Zionist member of the executive, advocated separation between Israel and the Zionist movement, but close cooperation. The state, he said, could not ask the Jews outside Israel for financial support and immigrants without allowing them to participate in internal decisions. He called for increased efforts to attract middle class immigrants to Israel.

The plight of 300,000 North African Jews was described to the Congress by delegates from North Africa who demanded that a special department for North African problems be established in the Zionist Organization. Borgen Jouró, a Revisionist from Tunisia, asserted that the Jewish population was imperilled and that immigration to Israel must be speeded up.

The Congress leadership invited the Poale Agudas Israel to send a delegation to observe at the Congress. The invitation was accepted and a delegation headed by Benjamin Mintz is present. The invitation was extended because although the Poale Agudah is not a Zionist group, it cooperates in immigration, colonization and absorption.

RABBIS IN ISRAEL ASK GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST HAIFA MUNICIPALITY

JERUSALEM, May 2. (JTA) -- Members of the Israeli Chief Rabbinate and leading rabbis met today to consider action to prevent "further desecration of the Sabbath" such as the opening of an industrial exhibit in Haifa last Saturday.

The meeting decided that Chief Rabbis Isaac Herzog and Itzhak Nissim should call on President Itzhak Ben Zvi to ask his intervention with the Haifa authorities. If this fails, the rabbis agreed, all synagogues throughout Israel would be closed down and prayers would be held in the open air.

The meeting also took a serious view of a decision by the Supreme Court ruling that municipal laws prohibiting the sale of pork were unconstitutional. The court ruled that this matter was within the jurisdiction of the Knesset alone. The meeting called on the religious parties' representatives in the Cabinet to raise the question with Premier David Ben Gurion.

Meanwhile, the Hapoel Hamizrachi representative of the Haifa municipality announced his resignation from the municipal coalition headed by Abba Chushi and the Mapai Party. The Hapoel Hamizrachi leader said that the municipality's insistence on opening the exhibit on a Saturday left him no other choice. The Poale Agudas Israel alderman who has not resigned from the coalition, identified himself with his religious colleague's statement.

TWO MORE ISRAELI FISHING VESSELS INTERCEPTED BY TURKISH NAVY

TEL AVIV, May 2. (JTA) -- Two more Israeli fishing vessels have been apprehended by Turkish naval vessels and escorted into Turkish ports, it was reported here today.

The fresh detentions of vessels and crew, bringing the number of captured ships to three, have caused concern among Israeli fishermen. For years Israeli fishing boats have operated off the Turkish shore, but well outside territorial water limits.

The crew of these two vessels have been detained aboard ship because of a lack of space in the prison in the port to which their ships were taken.

EXPORT OF CHEMICALS FROM ISRAEL INCREASED LAST YEAR, P. E. C. HEAD REPORTS

TEL AVIV, May 2. (JTA) -- The export of chemicals by the Kishon Company, a subsidiary of the Palestine Economic Corporation, reached 2,000,000 Israel pounds last year, it was revealed here today by Julius Simon, chairman of the P. E. C. administrative board. At the same time, it was disclosed that P. E. C. is now preparing to establish a new company for construction development, with \$1,000,000 in capital.

BAVARIAN BUDGET COMMITTEE APPROVES \$28,600,000 FOR INDEMNIFICATION

MUNICH, May 2. (JTA) -- Expenditures of \$28,600,000 for indemnification purposes in the current fiscal year, which began on April 1, were approved by the Budget Committee of the Bavarian Legislature after it had been told by Finance Minister Friedrich Zietsch that total payments made by Bavaria in the entire postwar era amount to \$64,000,000, of which \$28,000,000 were disbursed during the past year. These figures apply to non-Jewish as well as Jewish victims of Nazism.

With regard to the sum approved for the current year, the Bavarian budget appropriates only \$11,000,000, in expectation that the Federal treasury will contribute the remaining \$16,000,000. This is somewhat doubtful, however, since the pending amendment to the Federal Indemnification Law provides for a federal contribution limited to 50 percent of the total. The long-delayed Amendment, which should have entered into force on April 1, is still awaiting passage by the Bonn Parliament.

For the Federation of Jewish Communities in Bavaria, an annual subsidy of \$57,000 was again approved by the budget committee. All recommendations of the committee must be ratified by the full Landtag.

AUSTRALIAN PREMIER TO ACT ON DISSEMINATION OF ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA

SYDNEY, Australia, May 2. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Robert G. Menzies told a Jewish delegation today that he will order immediate government action to check anti-Jewish propaganda in Australia. The delegation, headed by M. Ashkenasy, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, told the Prime Minister that anti-Semitic literature is widely distributed in this country.

During the two-hour conference, the delegation expressed concern over the likelihood of Arab aggression, the Arab violations of the armistice pacts and the United States embargo on arms to Israel. The members of the delegation asked for the Australian Government's support of Israel's campaign to obtain weapons, and for armed intervention in the event of an Arab invasion.

The Executive Council's statement describing the meeting reported that Prime Minister Menzies had promised to "bear in mind" the delegation's representations. He also paid tribute to the "gallantry" of Israel's fighting forces.

LEADERS OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN 12 COUNTRIES CONFER IN PARIS

PARIS, May 2. (JTA) -- Heads of Jewish communities in twelve countries of continental Europe gathered here today to confer on community problems. Charles H. Jordan, acting director general of the Joint Distribution Committee, is presiding over the sessions which will end on Friday.

Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice-chairman and secretary of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, came from New York to participate in the discussions. He was accompanied by Saul Kagan and J. Shapiro, both officials of the Claims Conference.

JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION REVIEWS ACTIVITIES IN VARIOUS LANDS

LONDON, May 2. (JTA) -- The activities of the Jewish Colonization Association in Israel, Argentina, Brazil, North Africa and Greece were reviewed at a meeting of the JCA's Council, it was announced here today.

The meeting, which was chaired by Sir Henry D'Avigdor Goldsmid, heard reports indicating that existing JCA colonies in Israel are making good progress. The council approved credits for the provision of communal buildings in Kfar Avigdor, including a school, cooperative store and dispensary, and for additional items of livestock and other materials for individual settlers.

The Council voted credits for a new trade school in Argentina where children of settlers in the JCA colonies will be taught agricultural mechanics. In Brazil, credits will be forthcoming to help settle the sons of colonists on their own farms, to support the colonists' hospital and to help the organization which trains young persons intending to take up farming in Israel.

In North Africa, it was reported, work is proceeding normally at the agricultural and training center in Morocco, and the same is true for the loan funds instituted with the Joint Distribution Committee in Tunis and Morocco. The JCA is also helping in rehousing Jewish victims of the earthquake in Volos, Greece.

The creation of new settlements in the Lachish area, in Israel, will proceed as planned, it was decided by the Council. The work will begin next month following the conclusion of an agreement on technical and financial details with the Jewish Agency. The system of farming in the new colonies will probably be based on commercial crops and cattle, rather than on vegetables and dairy farming as is the case in the older colonies.

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AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS AWARD PRESENTED TO ISRAEL'S PRESIDENT

JERUSALEM, May 2. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress Stephen W. Wise Award for service to Israel was presented today to President Itzhak Ben Zvi of Israel at a ceremony attended by members of Parliament and the Cabinet, by delegates to the World Zionist Congress, members of the diplomatic corps and both Chief Rabbis of Israel. Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the AJC, made the presentation.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, declared in a brief address that one of the wisest things that Israel had done was the election of Mr. Ben Zvi as Chief Executive. Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and Speaker of the Knesset Joseph Sprinzak also paid tribute to the President. Mr. Ben Zvi, in his reply, spoke of the close identification between Israel and the Zionist movement.

U. S. JEWISH LEADERS, ISRAEL AMBASSADOR PAY TRIBUTE TO SENATOR BARKLEY

NEW YORK, May 2. (JTA) -- Leaders of American Jewish organizations and Israel Ambassador Abba Eban paid tribute today to former Vice President Alben W. Barkley for whom funeral services were held in Washington today. During the 25 years of his service as a member of the Senate and the four years as Vice President, Mr. Barkley was greatly devoted to Jewish causes.

Ambassador Eban said: "I am deeply shocked by the sudden passing of Senator Alben Barkley. He was in the forefront of the great Americans who have sustained Israel's cause with their eloquence and ardent sympathy. Only two days ago he was conversing with me in affectionate concern for Israel's future. All free peoples and all generous causes will be the poorer for his loss. We are proud to know that his name has been inscribed on the map of our country."

Philip M. Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith, said: "The death of Alben W. Barkley will be mourned by Americans of every political creed, race and religion. His integrity, steadfast faith in the future of America, and championship of the underprivileged made him an exemplary force in American political life. He was an unwavering friend of the Jewish people, an admirer of B'nai B'rith whose general convention he addressed in 1950, one of the first to see the necessity for establishing in Palestine a haven for victims of Nazi persecution and a strong believer in that new State of Israel as a bastion of democracy."

Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, cabled the following message from Jerusalem where he is attending the World Zionist Congress: "Senator Barkley's death comes as a blow to the free world at a time when his fighting spirit is so desperately needed. High among the democratic causes espoused by Mr. Barkley was his unfailing support of Israel and Zionism. We are proud to have been associated with so inspiring a leader and so fine a man. The Zionist movement recalls with affection how untiringly he worked to bring about a just and durable peace in the Middle East."

Mortimer May, president of the Zionist Organization of America, who is now attending the Zionist Congress as head of the ZOA delegation, cabled from Jerusalem: "Among the many millions who mourn the death of Senator Alben W. Barkley, Jews throughout the world feel an especially profound sense of loss - for throughout his life Senator Barkley was among the foremost champions of justice for the Jewish people. The Zionists of America, in particular, recall how courageously he stood in the forefront of the struggle to establish the Jewish State and how indefatigably he worked to foster the growth and development of Israel."

Rabbi Philip S. Bernstein, chairman of the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs, sent the following message of condolence to Mrs. Alben W. Barkley: "We shall miss Senator Alben W. Barkley's wise counsel in the halls of government, his warm understanding of human nature, and his keen humor. We shall miss him as a great American and a distinguished friend of Israel. His concern over the establishment of Israel, and his efforts toward the fulfillment of this dream will always be remembered by the American Jewish community and by Jews everywhere. In the annals of modern Israel it shall be said of him that his name shall be for a blessing."

BOOK ON MICHAEL WURMBRAND PUBLISHED IN U.S.; WAS WITH J. T. A. 18 YEARS

NEW YORK, May 2. (JTA) -- A book honoring the memory of Michael Wurmbrand, late editor of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's German-language service in pre-Nazi Germany, and who later edited the JTA German-language services in Prague and Paris, was published here today by the Philosphical Library. Mr. Wurmbrand died in New York four years ago. He had been with the JTA for 18 years.

The book, entitled "Michael Wurmbrand: The Man and His Work," carries an introduction by Dr. Nahum Goldmann and articles evaluating Mr. Wurmbrand's journalistic activities written by Boris Smolar, editor-in-chief of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency; Manfred George, editor of the German-language paper Aufbau; Kurt Grossman, Jewish Agency consultant on Jewish claims against Germany; Gershon Smet and Sholomo Bickel, well-known Jewish journalists; and Prof. H. W. B. Skinner, of Liverpool University, who was a member of the British mission to America for atomic bomb research.

The volume also contains a well-balanced sampling of Mr. Wurmbrand's own creative writings, including poems, plays, essays and a section of "Citizen of the Universe" -- a major philosophical book on which he was working in the last years before his death.