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LUGGAGE OF MOROCCAN JEWS SET AFIRE; SITUATION OF EMIGRANTS DESPERATE

CASABLANCA, June 21. (JTA) -- The desperate situation of the many thousands of Jews from various parts of Morocco who are now stranded in Casablanca became even more tragic today when a warehouse here in which they had stored their clothing and heavy luggage for transportation to Israel was set afire by unknown people.

The owner of the warehouse received anonymous threats during the last few days ordering him to discontinue accepting luggage from Jews who flocked to Casablanca in the hope of proceeding soon to Israel. The clothing and luggage destroyed in today's fire leaves thousands of Moroccan Jewish emigrants completely without any belongings -- they disposed of their homes and other property prior to leaving for Casablanca.

Moroccan authorities were reported today to have indicated a willingness to permit the emigration of about 4,000 Jews now in a Casablanca emigration camp and other emigration centers. However, even if these emigrants were permitted to leave for Israel, it would not alleviate the tragedy of thousands more who are affected by the ban on emigration to Israel issued last week by the Moroccan Government.

It was learned here today that prior to issuing the ban, the Moroccan Cabinet held two meetings on the matter. During the first meeting the members of the Cabinet were divided, but at the second meeting a decision was taken to halt organized Jewish emigration from the country. Dr. Leon Ben-Zaken, the only Jewish member of the Moroccan Cabinet, was not present at the first meeting. He attended the second meeting, but abstained from the debate.

B'nai B'rith President Returns from Morocco; Offers Suggestions

WASHINGTON, June 21. (JTA) -- An interim procedure to ease the crisis of Jews in Morocco should be possible, Philip M. Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith, declared in a statement issued here today upon his return from a visit to Morocco.

Mr. Klutznick was in Morocco last week when the government announced it was ending mass Jewish emigration through the liquidation of Kadimah, the organization set up by the Jewish Agency to arrange for Jewish immigration into Israel from Morocco. This action, he said, left some 2,000 Jews, headed for Israel, stranded in an emigration camp near Casablanca, and placed in perilous circumstances another 5,000 to 7,000 who had sold all their belongings in the course of committing themselves to leave the country.

He suggested, as an interim procedure in these circumstances: 1. A reasonable extension of time to Kadimah to continue its operation; 2. The expeditious processing for emigration of the more than 2,000 persons in the camp; 3. The establishment of an interim procedure to expedite the processing of the estimated 5,000 to 7,000 who have liquidated their homes and meager belongings.

Mr. Klutznick also urged that after the "pressing emergency" of today has been handled, consideration should be given "for the creation of reasonable procedures to give meaning to the Moroccan Government's declaration that it will not restrict individual emigration. This may involve another 40,000 to 50,000 Jews who are mentally committed to leave. This group constitutes, almost exclusively, an economic liability, not an asset."

In reference to Jewish emigration from Morocco, he pointed out many Moroccan Jews are victims of poverty and illiteracy, and urged upon the Moroccan Government "a forthright recognition of the assistance needed by these people to qualify for passports and other emigration rights." Referring to the 40,000 to 50,000 Jews who have decided to emigrate, he recommended as another possible approach to permit this mass emigration by "a job of major surgery in one step during a relatively short period of time." Mr. Klutznick reported that in Morocco he was told that the Sultan is "most friendly to the interests of his Jewish subjects."

JORDAN'S NEW PREMIER SAYS HE WILL NEVER CONCLUDE PEACE WITH ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, June 21. (JTA) -- The Jordan Radio broadcast a statement made this morning by the new Jordanian Premier, Said Mufti, assuring Parliament that his government will never conclude peace with Israel and will cooperate with other Arab countries in anti-Israel military alliances. He also pledged to make all possible efforts to return the Palestine Arab refugees to their "former homes."

SOVIET DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS CITED BY U.S. AT GENEVA PARLEY

GENEVA, June 21. (JTA) -- Soviet discrimination against Jews was cited here yesterday by U.S. Solicitor of Labor Stuart Rothman at a session of the International Labor Organization committee on forced labor.

Quoting from a statement made in Moscow by Nikita Khrushchev, head of the Communist Party, to a French Socialist delegation visiting Russia, Mr. Rothman chided the Soviet delegate Prof. A. Arutiunian over the fact that Jews in the Soviet Union are, according to Khrushchev, restricted in professional positions to the relative proportion of Jews in the Soviet population.

"What can happen to one group, can happen to any group," the U.S. official stated. "International conventions have little meaning where there are not constitutional provisions guaranteeing to each and every individual equal protection of the laws in the country." Prof. Arutiunian replied that all was not perfect in many countries, including his own.

SOVIET LAUDS MIKHOELS; WAS CALLED "JEWISH SPY" UNDER STALIN

NEW YORK, June 21. (JTA) -- For the first time since his mysterious death in the Soviet Union in 1948 -- when he was accused of being a "Jewish bourgeois nationalist" and an "agent of the American Jewish capitalists" -- the name of Solomon Mikhoels, prominent Jewish actor in Moscow and president of the dissolved Jewish Anti-Fascist Committee there, reappeared today in a complimentary manner in a Soviet report disseminated here.

The report, distributed by the Soviet delegation to the United Nations, terms Mikhoels as "the great Jewish actor." Apparently aiming to show that Jewish cultural life has not altogether been suppressed in the Soviet Union, the report, entitled "Jewish Artists Perform in Moscow," says that Jewish concerts are currently taking place in the Soviet capital and in other cities in the USSR and that they enjoy great success.

The report concentrates especially on Clara Vaga, whom it describes as a "singer of Jewish songs with the Latvian State Philharmonic Society of Riga," and on Max Reznik-Martov, identified as "a monologist with the Latvia Philharmonic Society." It stresses the fact that the latter "is a graduate of the Moscow Theatrical School, where he studied under Mikhoels," and says that "his style of delivery is reminiscent of the great Jewish actor."

The report says that Miss Vaga sang in Moscow "to full audiences" which appreciated the "ease with which she conveyed the unique flavor of Jewish folk songs." It also states that the audience "enjoyed tremendously" selections from the works of Sholem Aleichem read by Reznik-Martov in Yiddish. It asserts that Vaga and Reznik-Martov "give as many as 20 concerts a month."

The "Literaturnaya Gazeta" which arrived here from Moscow reports that the Soviet authorities have decided to rehabilitate Isaac Babel, noted Soviet Jewish author who "disappeared" in 1939 and who was very well known for his stories in the Russian language of Jewish life during and after the Soviet revolution. The Moscow publication reveals that the writers association in Moscow has established a committee to deal with Mr. Babel's "literary heritage."

POLAND AGREES TO PERMIT EMIGRATION OF JEWISH ORPHANS TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, June 21. (JTA) -- Poland has agreed, for humanitarian reasons, to permit the emigration to Israel of Jewish orphans, the Polish Charge d'Affaires in Israel revealed today during a tour of a Youth Aliyah center at Magdiel.

The diplomat, J. Slowikowsky, announced that the first group of Jewish children and youths might arrive in Israel next week. Mr. Slowikowsky also said that Poland and Israel would soon sign a trade agreement.

BRITAIN GRANTS VISA TO CHIEF RABBI OF RUMANIA; DUE IN LONDON NEXT WEEK

LONDON, June 21. (JTA) -- The Foreign Office has authorized the issuance of a visa for Dr. M. Rozen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania, to visit Britain, it was announced here today. Rabbi Rozen, who is currently visiting Stockholm, is expected here in the middle of next week, as a guest of the Agudas Israel organization.

HUNGARIAN OFFICIAL VISITS ISRAEL; STARTS TRADE AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS

JERUSALEM, June 21. (JTA) -- Negotiations started here today for a new Israel-Hungarian trade pact. Representing Hungary is Peter Veres, head of the Mediterranean Division of the Hungarian Foreign Ministry, who is currently touring Israeli industrial plants.

GERMANY CRITICIZED FOR FAILING TO COMPENSATE ALL NAZI VICTIMS

LONDON, June 21. (JTA) -- The West German Government's failure to accord compensation rights to Jews and other persons persecuted in territory outside Germany was hit here in the fifth annual report of the Jewish Trust Corporation, a successor organization active in the British zone of Germany and the British sector of Berlin.

The Federal Indemnification Law, which was amended last week, provides compensation for German nationals who were victims of Nazism and for victims who resided in Germany before or after the war and who were victims, but has done little for Nazi victims in territories occupied by the German armies, the report pointed out.

The report also hit the German Government's attempt to curtail compensation payments to successor organizations to 75,000 deutschmarks for each of the former Jewish communities--the exact sum which marks the upper limit of claims for individuals who suffered property losses as a result of Nazi action. This, the Jewish Trust Corporation pointed out, was a violation of several reparations agreements and was "unjustifiable on general grounds." It also criticized the Bonn Government for failing to take care of closed Jewish cemeteries in Germany.

Claims totaling about 45,000,000 deutschmarks had been collected by the organization by the end of 1955, the report said. It will receive a bulk settlement of nearly 32,000,000 deutschmarks this year for claims resulting from Nazi confiscatory measures. The report noted that the process of recovering individual heirless property had come almost to a close.

N C R A C. DISCUSSES EFFECT ON JEWS OF DESEGREGATION ISSUE IN SOUTH

ATLANTIC CITY, June 21. (JTA) -- How Jews in the United States are affected by Arab anti-Israel propaganda in this country and to what extent the Jewish communities in the South are involved in the struggle over desegregation was reported here today at the opening session of the four-day annual conference of the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

Bernard H. Trager, chairman of the NCRAC, and Isaiah M. Minkoff, executive director, told the more than 100 delegates from six national Jewish agencies and 35 community relations councils that comprise the NCRAC of the community relations problems arising out of the Arab-Israel issue and those growing out of the desegregation issue in the South. Decisions on how to deal with these problems will be taken at the closing session of the conference on Sunday.

Speaking of the desegregation issue, Mr. Trager noted that "the entire substantive program of Jewish community relations rests upon the thesis that Jewish equality is only as secure in a democratic society as the equality of other groups. That equality is under assault by the White Citizens Councils of the South," he declared.

Mr. Trager called for widespread "creation and dynamic development of representative community-wide agencies" for combatting anti-Jewish propaganda and fighting for civil rights. "The whole community," he stressed, "is affected by every event, planned or unplanned, that affects the image in the public mind of every Jewish agency or organization."

"Whatever any particular agency or organization does or does not do about its own relations affects in some way and in some degree the status situation of the whole Jewish community," Mr. Trager continued. "It is only in a fully representative council, embracing all organizations, agencies and sectors of the community, that the interplay of these influences can receive the many-sided attention they merit and must have."

Unanimity Among All Religions on Racial Equality Reported

Mr. Minkoff, in his annual report, commented on the "complete unanimity among the major religious bodies on the justice and morality of racial equality." This, he said, "has concrete applications in terms of desegregation. He called for "interconsultation among religious groups on best ways of joining forces, for concerting their influence in behalf of peaceable and harmonious realization of that justice to which they are all equally committed."

Dr. John J. Kane, head of the Sociology Department at the University of Notre Dame, addressing the opening session, predicted an increase in interreligious tensions arising out of differences about public and private education. The social forces that may be expected to produce tensions, however, may be approached in such a way as to offer possibilities of greater cooperation among religious groups, the noted Catholic educator said.

Dr. Kane referred to the field of education as "a prolific source of interreligious tension." Enumerating "just a few aspects of it," he cited Catholic, Jewish and Italian quotas in some professional schools, the controversy over Federal aid to education, Bible reading in public schools, released time and dismissed time programs, and celebration of Christian or Jewish religious holidays in public schools.

BEN GURION WELCOMES ARRIVAL OF TWO ISRAELI DESTROYERS FROM ENGLAND

HAIFA, June 21. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion, who is also Israel's Defense Minister, welcomed the Israeli crews of the destroyers Yaffo and Elath, the most recent additions to Israel's Navy, when they steamed into Haifa yesterday.

The vessels, largest units in the Israeli Navy, are 2,500 ton craft built in 1944 and sold to Israel by the British Navy. The crews which guided the vessels to their anchorage spent months in Plymouth harbor becoming acquainted with the destroyers.

While jets flew overhead, Premier Ben Gurion told the crew and official guests that these important additions to the fleet did not compare with what the "enemy" has received from the Communist bloc. "But our advantage," Mr. Ben Gurion added, "is our superior spirit, which cannot be shipped to our enemies." He also called it a "great day for Israel and world Jewry" that ships bearing names famed in Jewish maritime history arrived in Israel manned by Jewish sailors.

BLAUSTEIN TESTIFIES BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE ON U. N. REFUGEE FUND

WASHINGTON, June 21. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee today supported the Administration's request for \$1,500,000 for 1956, and \$800,000 for 1957 for the United Nations Refugee Fund.

The AJC position was presented by Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the organization, in testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee today. Mr. Blaustein, who was a member of the U. S. delegation to the United Nations General Assembly last year, served on the committee of the General Assembly which was concerned with the refugee problem.

DR. SILVER HONORED BY ISRAEL BOND ORGANIZATION IN CLEVELAND

CLEVELAND, June 21. (JTA) -- Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver was honored here tonight by the Israel Bond Organization at a dinner attended by 600 delegates, each of whom purchased a \$1,000 bond. A special plaque listing the names of all Clevelanders who purchased \$1,000 or more in Israel bonds for the dinner was presented to Dr. Silver.

Dr. Silver, who is the national chairman of the board of governors of the Israel Bond Organization, accepted his plaque as a "tribute to all who bought Israel bonds." "We are not only helping Israel to grow and to prosper, but we are demonstrating to the people of Israel that we believe in them and want to join them in their great pioneering venture," he said.

AMERICAN STUDENTS LEAVE FOR YEAR'S STUDY AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, June 21. (JTA) -- Eleven American collegians, representing a cross-section of seven U.S. universities, ranging from Brooklyn College to Stanford University at Palo Alto, Calif., are leaving tomorrow aboard the Israeli liner S. Z. Zion for Haifa, where they will disembark for a year's special study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The Israeli study project is sponsored by the Jerusalem university in cooperation with the American Friends of Hebrew University and the Jewish Agency. The students were screened and selected under the direction of Professor Oscar I. Janowsky of City College who is chairman of the American Friends of the Hebrew University's Academic Council.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY CONFERS 193 DEGREES, CITES BRITISH CHIEF RABBI

NEW YORK, June 21. (JTA) -- One hundred and ninety-three degrees and diplomas, and three honorary degrees were conferred by Yeshiva University yesterday at its 25th annual commencement exercises.

Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of the university, conferred the honorary degree of Doctor of Laws upon Senator Irving M. Ives of New York and that of Doctor of Divinity on the Very Rev. Rabbi Israel Brodie, Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth. Abba Eban, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, who was scheduled to receive the honorary degree of Doctor of Humane Letters, was unable to be present. He will receive his degree at a later date.

BRITH ABRAHAM CONVENTION ENDORSES THE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION OF AMERICA

KIAMESHA LAKE, N. Y., June 21. (JTA) -- Brith Abraham, one of the oldest national Jewish fraternal orders in the USA with a membership of 20,000 families, today endorsed the Zionist Organization of America in a resolution adopted at its 69th annual convention held at the Concord Hotel here.

The resolution resolved upon cooperation as a national body with the Zionist Organization of America and called upon its branches and members to support the ZOA. Irving Katcher, reelected Grand Master of Brith Abraham, commenting on the resolution, stated that it "opens the way to a new era of closest relationship between the ZOA and Brith Abraham for the cause of Israel." Mortimer May, president of the Zionist Organization of America, expressed his deep gratification at the convention decision.