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AMERICAN ARMS FOR ISRAEL PROPOSED AT DEMOCRATIC NATIONAL CONVENTION

CHICAGO, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- A platform plank pledging defensive arms to Israel was proposed today before the resolutions committee of the Democratic National Convention in the name of 91 Democratic members of Congress. The current policy of the United States Government of failing to provide such arms to Israel was sharply criticized at the committee hearing. The proposed plank, submitted for the group by Rep. Thomas J. Dodd of Connecticut, read:

"We shall strive to avert war in the Near East by vigorous leadership in the UN, by strengthening our commitments in the 1950 Tripartite Declaration, by security treaties to give effect to that declaration and by making defensive arms available to Israel to enable her to defend herself from the Communist weapons which now form a steel ring around her frontiers.

"We will not countenance boycotts and blockades in the Near East which deepen conflict there, which violate the UN armistice agreements and the principles of the UN Charter, and which interfere with the rights of American citizens.

"As a true friend of both the peoples of Israel and the Arab countries, we shall encourage all the peoples of the region to concentrate their energies and resources, not on military pursuits but on economic development and technical cooperation to raise living standards, to utilize water and land resources, to remove the causes of tension and unrest, and to strengthen democratic institutions.

"We shall foster and support an effective humanitarian program for the resettlement of the Arab refugees. We shall work both in and outside the UN to promote negotiations between Israel and the Arab states to bring about an Arab-Israel peace settlement based on mutual agreement.

"We will not condone any practices by any government which discriminate against the rights of American citizens on the ground of race or religion, and we will oppose any agreement which in any way sanctions or permits such practices."

Administration Accused of Tolerating Boycotts Against U. S. Jews

The 91 Democrats accused the Eisenhower Administration of failing to promote Arab-Israel peace, abandoning impartiality, failing to distinguish between those who stand for peace and those who stand for war. The Administration was said to have "ceased to advocate direct negotiations for a peace settlement but led the Arab states to believe that our government would back their demands for concessions by Israel."

The Administration was accused by the 91 Democrats of "tolerating and condoning blockades and boycotts which were aimed both against Israel and against American citizens and commerce, and which violated the principles and decisions of the UN." Also, of failing to carry out the commitments contained in the Tripartite Declaration of 1950 and of furnishing arms to Arab states while rejecting Israel's plea for similar weapons. (See page 3 for a statement of 10 Jewish organizations before the resolutions committee of the Democratic convention.)

I. L. Kenen, executive director of the American Zionist Committee for Public Affairs, told the resolutions committee that Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser "will not hesitate to attack Israel if this is necessary to dominate the Arab world." Mr. Kenen urged direct Israel-Arab negotiations, security treaties guaranteeing existing UN armistice lines, arms to Israel, continued international aid for the resettlement of Arab refugees in Arab countries and economic development.

Rep. Emanuel Celler said before the committee that a great deal of blame for the Suez debacle must be laid on the Republican leadership which, he said, urged the British to appease Nasser. Chairman John W. McCormack of the resolutions committee commented on the Suez crisis, stating "he was worried about the fate of Israel." Rep. McCormack is House Majority Leader.

It was predicted here today that the Democratic foreign policy plank would include a promise to provide Israel with arms to redress a "dangerous imbalance" now favoring Soviet-supported Arab states. It will promise economic assistance also to both Israel and the Arabs.

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BRITAIN CITES U. N. FAILURE TO ACT ON ANTI-ISRAEL BLOCKADE OF SUEZ CANAL

LONDON, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Anthony Eden virtually ruled out any proposal to turn the Suez Canal issue over to the United Nations on the grounds that since 1951 Egypt had been violating a UN Security Council resolution requesting the lifting of the Suez blockade against Israeli ships, it was indicated here today.

This indication was given by a Foreign Office spokesman, while reports from Cairo stated that Egypt is considering taking the Suez Canal case before the United Nations. The spokesman told newsmen that the UN had already had a try at a "relatively minor aspect" of the Suez Canal issue and had failed.

The Evening News, a Tory newspaper, called upon the British Government to stand by Israel as one of its "friends." The paper stressed that Israel had acted "with patience and restraint" in a situation which was "terribly dangerous to her." It declared that the "last wobbly, treacherous Arab 'ally,' Iraq, has slithered off into Egypt's camp, we can really give up trying to soothe the Arabs by being rude and contemptuous to Israel."

ARAB ACTION HAMPERS ISRAEL'S COOPERATION WITH U. N. AGENCIES

LONDON, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- Difficulties placed in the way of Israel's cooperation with the United Nations and its specialized agencies caused by Arab refusal to permit Israeli participation in regional organizations were described to an international study conference of the World Movement for Federal Government today.

The conference, now under way at Disley, in Cheshire, heard Dr. Charles Boasson, legal adviser to the Netherlands Legation in Israel, describe the special problems Israel had encountered with respect to participation in the functions of the World Meteorological Organization and World Health Organization.

Delegates from 14 countries attending the conference also heard Dr. Boasson's expression of surprise at the fact that the United States was not pushing more actively the Johnston plan for regional development of the resources of the Jordan River. He affirmed that Israel was most willing to cooperate with the Arabs in plans for regional development and added an expression of his belief in the feasibility of a Jordan Valley Authority.

MAYOR TO DEFY OPPONENTS OF REFORM SYNAGOGUE IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- The Jerusalem City Council will definitely take action next week on a request for a projected American School of Archaeology here which will house a Reform synagogue in its library, Mayor G. Agron announced here tonight after a fifth attempt to consider an application for a building permit was foiled by a boycott of a religious and Herut members of the council.

Mayor Agron noted that the boycott had resulted in a failure to secure a quorum, but that the next meeting of the council would be legal even without a quorum under municipal regulations. If the religious and rightwing councillors continue to boycott the council meetings, the Mapai and Progressive members will grant the building permit.

The boycott developed after the Israel Chief Rabbinate issued a statement opposing the introduction of Reform services in Israel. The School of Archaeology would be sponsored by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, leading Reform seminary in America.

ISRAEL TRADE BALANCE SHOWS \$109,000,000 DEFICIT FOR FIRST SIX MONTHS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- Israel's trade balance for the first half of 1956 dropped 25,000,000 pounds below the same period of 1955, it was revealed here today with the publication of the figures.

The total deficit for the six month period was \$109,000,000. Although the increase in deficit came at a time when exports rose 13,000,000 pounds, it was not seen here as a reason for concern because it is assumed that Israel is stockpiling goods from abroad.

GROUND-BREAKING CEREMONY FOR I. L. G. W. U. HOSPITAL IN BEERSHEBA

TEL AVIV, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- A ground-breaking ceremony was held today for a new Kupat Holim hospital at Beersheba. The 250-bed, \$1,500,000 pound hospital will be named for the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, which is contributing \$1,000,000 for its construction.

SMALL ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE TO MEET IN ISRAEL NEXT MONTH

JERUSALEM, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- The next meeting of the Small Zionist Actions Committee will open here September 10, it was decided here today at a session of the Actions Committee praesidium. It was further decided that the 33-member Small Actions Committee will meet quarterly to hear reports of the World Zionist executive.

DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION ASKED TO ACT ON ARAB BOYCOTT OF U. S. JEWS

CHICAGO, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- Ten major national Jewish organizations today urged the Platform Committee of the Democratic National Convention to adopt a plank pledging action "to counter current discrimination against U. S. citizens on the basis of their religion and to preserve the integrity of United States citizenship."

In a supporting statement, the ten organizations explained their proposed plank deals with "the widespread campaign by Arab League countries against Jews in the United States - a campaign that is being acquiesced in and endorsed by our own government."

They called for "an immediate end to the practice of screening United States troops and personnel that are to be sent to foreign lands" on the basis of religion; "a firm statement of government policy that violations of anti-discrimination laws are not justified by a desire to yield to the prejudices of foreign nations;" and "an express anti-bias clause in all treaties and executive agreements."

The ten organizations that joined in submitting the plank are: American Jewish Congress, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Rabbinical Council of America, Rabbinical Assembly of America, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, United Synagogue of America and National Community Relations Advisory Council.

Appearing as their representatives before the Platform Committee of the Convention were Julian Freeman, of Indianapolis; Rabbi Israel Goldstein, of New York; and Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, of Chicago. In a prepared statement, they enumerated the following forms of discrimination: 1. Arab denial of entry or transit visas to American Jews; 2. Arab boycott of American Jewish businesses; 3. The exclusion of American Jewish citizens from United States Government civilian and military posts and from employment on U. S. defense contracts in Arab countries.

U. S. Government Criticized for Indifference to Discrimination

"Not once in recent years has our government offered any public protest," the statement declared. "Encouraged by this seeming official casualness, if not indifference, the Arab states continue to act virtually as they please in the mistreatment of American citizens who are Jews. The apathy of our government has served to increase and introduce anti-Semitism in new and unexpected quarters here and to down-grade the status of American citizenship."

The Jewish organizations said they are concerned about the discriminatory practices of the Arab countries not only because of their direct effects on American citizens but also because of the activities of the U. S. Government in response thereto. "It is our government that has been screening United States troops so as to exclude Jews from assignment to our base in Saudi Arabia," their statement pointed out. "It is our government that has pleaded for special exceptions in state FEPC laws to allow American concerns to engage in otherwise illegal employment discrimination against Jews."

The statement castigated as "a perversion of traditional and basic American doctrine," any concessions at the expense of the integrity of U. S. citizenship, and as "a way of thinking that accepts subordination of the rights of citizenship to the expediency of international bargaining and that regards the legal incidents of citizenship as expendable items to be traded away." Citing the action of President William H. Taft in 1911 in abrogating a treaty with Russia because of Russian anti-Semitism, the statement said:

"When confronted with a threat to the liberties of its citizens--indeed, when forced to choose between continuing exactly the kind of anti-Semitism now practiced by the Arab states and risking the possibility of economic loss--this country has not wavered or equivocated in the past. The claim of freedom has always been of greater force and dignity than the claim of profit."

It noted also that in 1912, the Republican, Democratic and Bull Moose National Conventions all adopted planks to safeguard the rights of American citizens against encroachment and discrimination by any foreign government on the ground of religion.

Jewish Groups Cite Senate Resolution Opposing Discrimination

The Jewish groups quoted with approval the unanimous resolution of the Senate on July 26 that distinctions among U. S. citizens based on their religious affiliation are "incompatible with the relations that should exist among friendly nations" and that "in all negotiations between the United States and any foreign state every reasonable effort should be made to maintain this principle."

They also noted with commendation that two Presidential committees have undertaken vigorous action on this problem - the President's Committee on Government Contracts, which has announced that it is taking action on the complaint that Jews are discriminated against in employment on government contracts for work to be done outside of our country; and the President's Committee on Government Employment Policy which has taken similar

action with respect to a complaint that Jews are discriminated against with respect to assignment to Federal Government positions in Arab countries.

"Despite these indications of awakened concern by some agencies of our government, the statement concluded, "much remains to be done. A forthright statement in the platform of your party will bring us closer to action that will put an end to the present disgraceful situation. "

Full Text of the Plank Proposed by Jewish Organizations

The text of the proposed plank reads as follows: "The protection of the rights of United States citizens to travel, to pursue lawful trade, and to engage in other activities abroad without distinction as to race or religion is a cardinal function of United States sovereignty. American citizens are being excluded from service in military, diplomatic and civilian capacities abroad because of their religion.

"Certain foreign governments, which receive United States economic aid, are maintaining a boycott against Americans and refuse to honor United States passports carried by United States citizens solely because of the religious faith of such citizens. These practices are incompatible with the constitutional principle of equality of citizenship.

"We pledge appropriate action by the Executive and Legislative branches of the government to assure that the imposition by foreign governments of discriminations against U. S. citizens, based on their religion or race, will not be tolerated. We pledge further that treaties, conventions and executive agreements between the United States and foreign governments will expressly provide that the privileges, benefits, or opportunities afforded thereunder will not be denied to any United States citizen solely because of his race or religion. "

INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OF B'NAI B'RITH GIRLS OPENS IN UNITED STATES

CHAMPAIGN, Ill., Aug. 7. (JTA) -- The 12th annual international convention of B'nai B'rith Girls opened at the University of Illinois here today with 175 teen-age girls from scores of American and Canadian communities in attendance. The youthful delegates, representing more than 16,000 members back home, will also participate in a leadership training institute following their four-day working convention.

Among the major issues to be resolved during the convention will be selection of a new international community service project for the coming year. B'nai B'rith Girls' 600 chapters across the U. S. and Canada are currently winding up three-year fund-raising campaigns on behalf of the Children's Home in Jerusalem, and the Leo N. Levi Memorial Hospital, Hot Springs, Ark., the nation's only non-sectarian hospital devoted exclusively to the treatment of rheumatism and arthritis.

Focus of the five-day leadership training institute will be on helping to develop budding leadership traits. Delegates will attend a series of lectures and participate in round-tables, discussions and seminars on topics related to Judaism, world affairs, human relations and others.

B'nai B'rith Girls is one of the major constituent divisions of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, world's largest Jewish youth organization. BBG membership is limited to girls of high school age. B'BYO's other divisions are: Aleph Zadik Aleph, for boys 14 to 21; and B'nai B'rith Young Adults, for young men and women 19 to 26. Combined membership of all three divisions is 32,500.

HEBREW INSCRIPTIONS DATING TO PERIOD OF JEWISH KINGS DISCOVERED

TEL AVIV, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- Hebrew inscriptions on artifacts dating to the period of the Jewish Kings, sculpture of the Canaanite period, and an alabaster incense vessel dating to 13th Century B. C. E. are among finds announced here today as a result of the current season's diggings at Hatzor.

Dr. Yigal Yadin, noted archaeologist and former Chief of Staff of the Israel Army, revealed that the Hebrew inscriptions of the period of the Kings are the first of their kind ever uncovered in Northern Israel and are of considerable archaeological value.

Among the vessels uncovered in the diggings was a fragment of a water jug bearing the word "Lemachbiram" in Hebrew lettering. It is thought that the inscription refers to the name of a man and the word itself has a definitely authentic Hebrew ring.

POALEI AGUDAT ISRAEL ORGANIZATION OPENS THREE-DAY CONVENTION

TEL AVIV, Aug. 7. (JTA) -- The convention of the Poalei Agudat Israel, Orthodox labor organization, opened here tonight with 280 delegates representing more than 13,000 members of the religious workers' movement in attendance. The delegates represent 53 branches of the group.

The three-day parley was opened by Benjamin Mintz, in the presence of the Chief Rabbis, members of the Cabinet and Knesset, and guests from all parts of the country. Agenda items include the development of Orthodox villages and the integration and expansion of Orthodox education in Israel.