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DEMOCRATS FAVOR ARMS TO ISRAEL; ASSAIL COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM TESTIMONY

CHICAGO, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- A strong pro-Israel plank, including the provision of American arms to Israel, seems certain to be adopted by the Democratic National Convention, it became evident here today during the hearings held by the Convention's platform and resolutions committee prior to the opening of the conclave next Monday.

President Clarence Coleman, Jr., of the American Council for Judaism was sharply criticized today by Democratic platform leaders for taking their time with what they believed to be negative and anti-Zionist accusations. This came about when Mr. Coleman questioned the loyalty of American supporters of Israel.

Mayor David Lawrence of Pittsburgh, a member of the platform committee, told Mr. Coleman that there was nothing wrong with an American Jew supporting Israel. Mayor Lawrence referred to the fact that he is himself an honorary United Jewish Appeal chairman, has sold Israel bonds and has been active in Irish independence movements, feeling all this consistent with good Americanism. Mayor Lawrence accused Alfred M. Lilienthal, who gave anti-Zionist testimony, of deserting his own people.

Representative John E. Moss of California, of the platform committee, joined in expressing displeasure that Mr. Coleman took the committee's time to question the wisdom and loyalty of members of the committee by suggesting that their pro-Israel sentiments were not in the interests of the United States.

Chairman of Platform Committee Refutes Anti-Israel Arguments

Rep. John W. McCormack, chairman of the Convention's platform committee, suggested that Mr. Coleman's premise of dual loyalty was incorrect. He asked the Council for Judaism president if it were not consistent with the national interest of America that a democratic Israel should survive. He also publicly reprimanded Mr. Lilienthal, spokesman for the "Committee for Security and Justice in the Middle East," who sought to use the committee hearings as a forum against Israel.

Mr. Lilienthal blamed American support of Israel for Nasser's extremism and the penetration of the Middle East by Communism. He urged a bipartisan agreement to keep the Israel issue out of politics and demanded more time than allocated to him by the committee chairman in which to testify.

Rep. McCormack told him with regard to the demand for more time "you are not going to dictate to this committee." Rep. McCormack said further that the witness came here with "a provocative intent" but that the committee had listened in the "good American way." When Mr. Lilienthal sought to bring out that he was of the Jewish faith, the chairman ruled that mention and injection of the Jewish religion in this way was "irrelevant and un-American."

Rep. McCormack said that the witness went out of his way to agitate in a manner not conducive to the national well-being and indicated that the witness should know that it would be exploited by the lunatic fringe of anti-Semitism. A delegate from Puerto Rico arose and said he wished to express Puerto Rico's great admiration for Israel and Zionism and announced that Puerto Rican delegates would vote against any plank urged by Mr. Lilienthal.

The condemnation of anti-Zionist testimony before this hearing is believed the strongest political repudiation of anti-Zionist agitation in American political history.

Delegation to Republican Convention Favors Arms to Israel

SPRINGFIELD, ILL., Aug. 8. (JTA) -- The Illinois delegation to the Republican National Convention in San Francisco will support a resolution favoring U.S. arms for Israel, Gov. William G. Stratton announced today.

Gov. Stratton said the Illinois group would propose a plan urging U.S. participation together with other free nations. "In providing immediate arms for Israel to be used for legitimate self-defense in that land in its struggle for national integrity against aggression."

BRITAIN OPPOSES INJECTION OF ARAB-ISRAEL DISPUTE INTO SUEZ ISSUE

LONDON, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- The Suez Canal crisis is "wholly separate from the Arab-Israel dispute," British Foreign Office spokesman Sir George Young declared today. He warned that any attempt to inject that dispute "would not be helpful to a settlement" of the Suez problem.

Sir George said that the forthcoming conference of 24 nations on the Suez Canal issue would in no way prejudice a final settlement of the Arab-Israel conflict. This is being interpreted here as an assurance to the Arab states.

The Foreign Office spokesman said that it was the intention of the United States, Britain and France, however, to assure that the Suez Canal is operated in accordance with the international convention of 1888 which guarantees free passage to ships of all nations at all times. Egypt had barred Israeli ships long before she seized the Suez Canal.

The Egyptian blockade of the Suez Canal against Israeli shipping assumed major significance for Britain today following receipt of reports from Cairo that Egypt is considering bringing the Suez Canal case to the United Nations Security Council. In this connection, it is taken for granted here that Britain would argue that Egypt had no moral right to appear before the Security Council on the Suez Canal issue because for five years she has been flouting a resolution adopted by the Council requesting freedom of passage for Israeli shipping through the Canal.

That Israel is becoming an object of concern to Britain is also demonstrated in a number of editorials in the British press today. The papers point out that Egypt must not forget that she is already under censure by the Security Council for interfering with ships and cargoes destined for Israel.

Britain Urged to Conclude 25-Year Defense Pact with Israel

Expressing distrust in Egypt's promises of eventually permitting free passage to the ships of any nation, the British press stresses that Egypt is maintaining her blockade against Israel despite the fact that the 1888 convention on the Suez Canal reads: "The canal shall never be subjected to exercise of rights of blockade."

Meanwhile, Commander Stephen King-Hall, former MP and a retired distinguished naval officer, today advocated in the Manchester Guardian that Britain sign a 25-year mutual defense treaty with Israel, including provisions for Britain to use Haifa as a base and the right to station troops in Israel.

Such a move, Commander King-Hall asserted, would cause the other Arab states to turn against Egyptian President Nasser. He added that the United States could not object to such an arrangement because "we shall only be putting teeth into the Tripartite Declaration."

Egyptian Embassy in U.S. Admits Using Suez Canal Against Israel

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- The Egyptian Embassy here today described as "false" the charge that Egypt is already interfering with free traffic on the Suez Canal by refusing the passage of Israeli ships. In a release entitled "The Suez Canal -- Facts and Figures," the Embassy said in regard to rights of Israeli ships on the canal:

"All Israeli non-strategic goods are allowed to proceed in the canal to their destinations without interference, and the volume of such goods has been on the increase. Only Israel-bound strategic materials and Israeli ships are barred from the canal, because it should be remembered that Israel is still technically at war with Egypt and Article 10 of the 1888 convention regarding the neutrality of the canal upholds Egypt's action in this respect."

U.S. AID TO EGYPT NOT WITHDRAWN, STATE DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL SAYS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- The State Department made it known today that there has been no change in the status of the U.S. aid program to Egypt, thus indicating that reports published in today's press to the effect that the United States intends to cut off economic assistance to Egypt pending an easing of the Suez Canal crisis are premature.

The reports, attributed to Administration officials, said that the United States has not notified Egypt officially that aid is being shut off, because the State Department is waiting to see the results of the London conference on the Suez issue. However, commenting on these reports today, a State Department spokesman said: "No new U.S. aid programs have been approved, nor have any previous commitments been withdrawn."

The State Department official said that no decision has yet been made whether to offer aid to Egypt during the fiscal year 1958. At the same time, he made it clear that current aid commitments to Egypt are "still in the pipeline continuing to move." Current aid commitments amount to \$38,000,000. Yesterday, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles said that if the London conference on the Suez Canal failed, "economic pressure" might be brought to bear on Egypt, but he did not explain by whom this pressure might be exercised.

A spokesman for the International Cooperation Administration, however, said last night that "major items of large expenditure will not be shipped from American or European ports until political determinations are made," in connection with the Suez crisis.

ISRAEL DENIES SYRIAN CHARGES OF MASSING TROOPS OPPOSITE BORDER

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- The Israel Government today denied Syrian charges that Israel was massing troops opposite the Syrian border and was preparing to divert the Jordan River in line with its long-postponed development project.

An Israel Foreign Ministry spokesman said that Syria was spreading false reports with the deliberate intention of building up tension and creating a war atmosphere. He coupled the new stream of hostile declarations from Damascus with a mounting anti-Israel propaganda offensive and military preparations by the Syrians.

The Israeli spokesmannoted that a similar propaganda drive was launched last month to cover the movement of troops by Syria and Iraq. Those Arab charges, he recalled, had quickly been dispelled as completely spurious.

(In a letter presented to the United Nations Security Council last night, Syria accused Israel of allegedly encircling a number of Syrian villages with mines and ditches and declared that regular Israeli Army troops, clothed in police uniforms, have taken up positions along the demilitarized zone between Israel and Syria. The letter implied a threat of retaliation by declaring that Damascus "cannot consider itself the responsible factor in any consequences that may inevitably result from such activities.")

Meanwhile, Jordanian sources have added new charges to the Arab campaign against Israel. This one had it that Israeli troops were being massed close to the Jordan border along a line just outside Jerusalem northward to Tulkarm, 36 miles away.

The Israel-Lebanese Armistice Commission, however, met today in an amicable atmosphere. There were no complaints filed by either side, but the commission met to discuss several questions concerning regulation of observance of the armistice pact.

FOREIGN ATTACHES WATCH COMBINED ISRAEL MILITARY MANEUVER

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- Foreign military observers today watched Israeli infantry, artillery and Air Force units work out a combined operational war problem. The maneuver consisted of storming and capturing three hills.

At the conclusion of the exercise, the observers, who included some high-ranking officers, expressed admiration for the training and ability to cooperate of the various Israeli Army arms.

ISRAEL BUS COOPERATIVES HALT TRAFFIC FOR TWO HOURS; SEEK FARE RAISE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- Interurban passenger traffic in Israel came to a virtual standstill this morning as the bus cooperatives called a two-hour strike.

The strike was in protest against the Ministry of Transport's announcement that it had once again postponed making public the decision of an inquiry commission on a request by the bus companies for a fare increase.

The bus cooperatives, which control the entire industry, had requested a fare increase months ago but had agreed to hold off a strike while a public inquiry commission considered the problem. The government now says that the commission's decision will be made known next week.

CHIEF RABBIS IN ISRAEL APPEAL FOR UNITY OF ALL RELIGIOUS PARTIES

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- Israel Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog and Yitzhak Nissim appealed for unity of all religious parties in Israel at the opening session last night of the national convention of the Poale Agudas Israel, Orthodox labor organization. Rabbi Herzog stressed his desire to see at least the religious workers parties unified.

The theme of unity was also underlined by Benjamin Mintz, chairman of the Poale Agudah world executive, who specifically called on the Agudas Israel leadership to cooperate with the Orthodox workers movement. He pointed out that both Agudah parties have common aims in education of the youth and cultural and religious activities.

Summing up the Agudah laborites' accomplishments, Mr. Mintz said that the movement sponsored 15 settlements in which 5,000 Jews lived and that four of these settlements were in the "dangerous" border areas. He reported that 1,000 children were enrolled in Poale Agudah schools and urged the Jewish Agency to give the movement the means with which to educate hundreds and thousands more children of Orthodox families. He said that the movement had built 1,000 new housing units in the last few years, and was working on 200 more.

ISRAEL TO PARTICIPATE IN CONFERENCE ON ABOLITION OF SLAVERY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Aug. 8. (JTA) -- Israel is among eleven countries that have thus far signed up to participate in a four-week conference to be opened by the United Nations August 13 in Geneva in an effort to draw a new convention for the abolition of slavery and the slave trade. Egypt has consistently opposed the planned new draft.

THE JEW OUTSIDE OF ISRAEL IS A SPLIT PERSONALITY, BEN GURION SAYS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- The Jew in countries outside of Israel lives in two sometimes conflicting worlds and is a split personality, Premier David Ben Gurion said today in an address to some 1,500 youths from 24 Western countries at a rally of students from various summer institutes.

Only in Israel, the Premier declared, can there be a Jewish life of their own production and their own creation. Speaking in English, Mr. Ben Gurion told his audience to weigh carefully whether they wished to give up their homes, comforts and many facilities for difficulties, danger, tribulations, uncertain security and the dear price which must be paid for deeds, for life in Israel.

One thing, however, is unobtainable in Galuth, Mr. Ben Gurion insisted, and that is - national Jewish dignity. The Premier received a tremendous ovation when he concluded his speech of welcome.

Eliahu Dobkin, head of the Jewish Agency's youth and pioneering department, welcomed the 1,205 youths from abroad and the several hundred visitors and Hebrew University students. About half of the youths were from English-speaking lands, some 400 from French-speaking countries and 300 from Spanish-speaking states. Of the total, 562 were planning to spend at least a year in Israel.

330-Youths from Abroad to Remain for Service in Israel

Mr. Dobkin gave a special welcome to some 330 youths who had come to give Israel a period of service, in response to an appeal proclaimed at the World Zionist Congress three months ago. Ninety of them will stay for two years. He singled out for citation participants from the United States.

Mr. Dobkin disclosed that of 460 new settlements established since Israel's independence, 30 are inhabited by Western youth immigrants whose contributions he termed a great asset for Israel. He deplored the fact that only 21,000 of some 800,000 immigrants had come from those countries where 75 percent of the Jews were concentrated.

The Jewish Agency leader further revealed that 18 percent of the young men and women who had participated in seminars in Israel in the last three years had returned to settle in Israel. He expressed the hope that seminar participants who returned home this year would convey to Jews in their countries that Israel was not only a haven for the persecuted, but a home for every Jew seeking a full content to life and where he is fully the master of his fate.

Dr. Joseph Burg, Minister of Posts, told the young people to resolve their doubts before coming to Israel because "Israel is no place for doubters."

YEMENITE RABBI SENTENCED IN ISRAEL FOR VIOLATING MARRIAGE LAW

TEL AVIV, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- A Yemenite rabbi was sentenced to 50 days imprisonment today for performing a marriage ceremony in which the bride was a 15-year-old girl. Israeli law forbids the marriage of women under the age of 17.

The defendant, Rabbi Gedalyahu Agancy, a resident of the Azaraya settlement, told the court that he was unaware of the Israeli law and that in his native country he had officiated at a number of ceremonies in which the bride was a young girl.

GERMANY BECOMES ISRAEL'S "NUMBER TWO" CUSTOMER FOR CITRUS FRUIT

BONN, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- West Germany and West Berlin imported 650,000 cases of Israel oranges and grapefruit in the 1955-56 season, through commercial trade arrangements made outside of reparations channels, it was reported here today.

These purchases are valued at \$3,500,000 and constitute a straight business transaction. Payment is effected partly in specified German goods, partly through foreign exchange surplus balances accumulated by Germany in third countries and now released to the credit of Israel, which employs them to meet its trade obligations in those countries.

By buying 650,000 cases, Germany has moved into second place among customers of Israel citrus fruit, ahead of Sweden, the Soviet Union, Finland and France, but still far behind Britain. During the past season, the German market absorbed better than eight percent of Israel's total citrus exports.

J. N. F. PLANTED 5,000,000 TREES IN ISRAEL DURING 1956, REPORT SAYS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 8. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund planted some 5,000,000 trees during the 1956 planting season, a new record for afforestation in this country, it was reported here today. Trees were planted in the Galilee, Jerusalem corridor, Lachish area and Samarian Hills, as well as the southern Negev where more than 1,300,000 trees were planted. For the first time, carob trees, which provide cattle fodder, were planted in great quantities.