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## DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION BODY REACHES UNITY ON ARMS FOR ISRAEL

CHICAGO, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- Unity on the planks of the Democratic platform concerning Israel was reached today at a closed meeting of the "Small Platform Committee" of the Democratic National Convention.

The 15-man body which is preparing the party's political platform for adoption by the Convention, was reported to have reached the following recommendations:

1. The United States should enable Israel to acquire defensive weapons in this country. At the same time, the U. S. Government must reaffirm its adherence to the Tripartite Declaration of 1950 which guarantees the present Arab-Israeli borders.
2. The United States should demand that in any international agreement on the Suez Canal issue which may be reached a point should be included guaranteeing that Israeli ships, as well as other ships proceeding to and from Israel, should enjoy the same rights in passing through the Suez Canal as ships of any other nation.

Keynote speaker Frank G. Clement, Governor of Tennessee, told the convention last night that the Republican Administration has "permitted the country of Israel to be placed in jeopardy by ineptness and inactivity and the failure to approach this great problem on a bi-partisan basis." He asked how long America would permit the Department of State "to ship 18 tanks to Saudi Arabia without the knowledge of the President of the United States."

## SUEZ CANAL PARLEY OPENS IN LONDON TOMORROW; ISRAEL SEEKS ATTENTION

LONDON, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- Although the Israel Government has not yet given public expression of its view on the Suez Canal situation, it is not inactive in the diplomatic talks which are taking place here prior to the opening Thursday of the 22-nation international conference on Egypt's nationalization of the canal company. Some observers here expect more from the private behind-the-scenes talks than from the London Conference itself.

Israel's view is that Suez passage is not less important to her than to any other nation. On this passage, for example, depends her growing volume of trade with the countries of East and West Africa, such as Ethiopia, Nigeria and the Gold Coast. The economy of Israel is complementary to that of a number of these countries and, in the view of informed observers, but for the blockade of the canal, mutually advantageous trade in both directions could well have developed. Israel's trade with the countries of Asia and the Far East, such as Burma and Australia, also depends on free passage through the Suez Canal.

Another important consideration, and one which she shares with most European countries, is that her economy is largely dependent on oil normally transported through the canal to the Haifa refinery from oil producing countries in the Middle East. Furthermore, the geography of Israel is such that the Suez Canal serves as a sea connection between Haifa, Israel's largest harbor, and Elath, its southern outlet to the Red Sea.

Egypt's blockade works principally through the very existence of blockade regulations and their consequent deterrent effects, and only secondarily through actual assaults and confiscations. Israeli circles have made the point that having no means to overcome the force at the disposal of the Egyptian authorities in the canal, maritime nations have been compelled reluctantly to respect the very restrictions to which they and the United Nations are totally opposed.

They have had to agree against their own will and interest to avoid bringing cargoes to Israel as the price of passage through the Suez Canal, in which their rights of navigation should have been regarded as absolute and unconditional. The very knowledge that interference is either certain or possible carries out the purposes of the blockade.

Thus, the Israelis are able to explain, in a sense, the fewer the actual incidents of detention and confiscation, the worse is the position and the graver the proof

of transgression by the very existence of the regulations. Ships actually detained en route to Israel include: one Danish, one Swedish, one Norwegian, two Italian and four Greek vessels.

Israel Lost Tens of Millions of Dollars Because of Suez Blockade

Proof that the Egyptian blockade on oil supplies, for example, has been complete and water tight and that the Egyptian Government has extorted from other governments an unwilling surrender to its illegitimate regulations is demonstrated by the fact that scarcely a single one of the hundreds of tankers passing through the canal each year has tried to sell part of its cargo at Haifa. Tens of millions of dollars have been lost to Israel and larger sums to other countries through the need to purchase thousands of miles away oil which should be available locally if Egypt stopped its piracy.

For all these and related reasons, it will be the purpose of the Israel diplomatic initiative during the coming days to make it clear that Israel has the greatest possible interest in the success of efforts now being made to achieve an arrangement by which the international character of the canal and the unrestricted implementation of the Suez Canal Convention of 1888 shall be assured.

The Israelis feel entitled to hope that the maritime powers which are to meet in London will not rest and will not consider the issue of the Suez Canal settled until Israel ships and ships under other flags carrying cargoes to and from Israel are guaranteed free passage through the canal, along with ships of all other nations and ships going to all other destinations. Israeli diplomats are expected to press the point that the London Conference cannot pass in silence over this aspect of the problem of the canal's future.

Israeli circles point out that as long as Egypt refuses passage to ships of any nation whatsoever and thereby remains arbiter regarding the use of the canal, no other nation can be certain that it may not find itself in a similar position in the future. In this sense, the Israelis regard their aspect of the problem as a testing point for whatever arrangements are eventually arrived at regarding the future of the canal.

EGYPT SEEKING SPECIAL SESSION OF U. N. ASSEMBLY ON SUEZ CANAL ISSUE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Aug. 14. (JTA) -- Egypt was reported here today to be seeking a special session of the United Nations General Assembly to be convened in October to take up the entire Suez Canal situation. Dr. Omar Loutfi, Cairo's permanent representative here, conferred today with Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, and reportedly placed that demand before the UN chief.

While neither Mr. Hammarskjold nor Dr. Loutfi would discuss the subject of their conference, it was reliably reported here that Dr. Loutfi insisted that the United Nations was being by-passed on too many important issues. He is said to have told Mr. Hammarskjold that he was certain that a majority of the 76 member states would be willing to meet at a special General Assembly session, if an inquiry on his suggestion were to be sent to them.

A plebiscite on the holding of a special session can be initiated by any member of the UN. There was a fair certainty here that if such a ballot were to be held at least 51 percent of the members--including the now enlarged Arab and Soviet blocs, as well as the entire Asian group--would vote for such a session. The next regular session of the Assembly is scheduled to convene Nov. 12.

ISRAEL BUILDING "SECURITY ROAD" BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND TEL AVIV

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- An eight mile section of Israel's "security road" between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv is nearing completion. A party of newsmen was conducted about the project today.

The road, an alternate to the highway which was shelled and overrun by Arab Legion troops during the War of Liberation, is set so far back that it cannot be brought under artillery fire from Jordan-held territory. It can only be put out of commission by invasion and conquest. The route traverses some of the wildest and most rugged terrain between the capital and the coast.

Grading and construction material is of such a quality that the highway will be usable by the heaviest trucks in Israel. The road is temporarily named "Refa'im Road."

GROUP OF 30 CATHOLIC PRIESTS FROM 17 COUNTRIES VISITS ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- Thirty Catholic priests who are members of the faculty at a French Biblical archeological school in the Old City of Jerusalem, crossed into Israel today for a visit. The party included priests who are nationals of 17 countries, including the United States, Holland, Germany, Poland, Viet Nam and the Philippines.

## ISRAEL ENACTS DEPLETION ALLOWANCES FOR OIL INCOME; GOES BEYOND U. S.

NEW YORK, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- Foreign and domestic oil operators in Israel will now receive the benefits of depletion allowances, retroactive to the beginning of oil exploration in the state, the Government of Israel announced today in New York. The new regulations give oil operators not only the same depletion allowances current in the United States and Canada, but go beyond them in the deductions allowed.

According to the regulations, companies may deduct a "percentage depletion" equal to 27-1/2 percent of their gross income from crude oil and natural gas production, as long as this figure does not exceed half the net income for a taxable year. Furthermore, considering the high cost of oil development, companies may deduct "cost depletion," an amount based on actual investment in oil and gas rights, should this amount be more than the percentage depletion.

Where Israel's new ordinance goes beyond prior U. S. or Canadian tax provisions is in permitting the costs of geological and geophysical expenses to be included in exploration expenses, chargeable to current operations. Such expenses are not deductible in the U. S. and Canada.

The new income tax provisions have been under study since 1952, when the Israeli Government enacted the basic petroleum law under which nine private groups are currently engaged in test drilling. When the discovery of oil at Heletz in September 1955 made possible the production of oil in commercial quantity, Government tax experts concentrated on implementing the Government's promise to enact tax measures with benefits at least equal to those in force in the U. S. and Canada. The new regulations become part of Israel's general income tax ordinance.

To date, 26 deep wells have been drilled and, of these, 16 have been begun since the discovery of oil last year. The nine groups currently working test sites have licenses covering almost 12,000,000 dunams of Israeli territory. The nine private groups now drilling in Israel include five with substantial participation of U. S. capital, two financed by Canadian capital, and two, by domestic capital.

Israel's petroleum law is based on free and competitive enterprise, and is designed to encourage investment by private capital. Under its provisions, a company is licensed to explore for oil in one or more of the petroleum districts into which the country has been divided. The license is granted for non-revokable three-year period, and can be extended for up to seven years dating from the original grant.

## NEW YORK U. J. A. DRIVE REACHES \$28,000,000; EXCEEDS 1955 CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- An intensive summer drive by more than 2,000 volunteer workers has added \$5,000,000 to the receipts of the United Jewish Appeal and brought the total raised in the metropolitan area so far in 1956 to almost \$28,000,000. This sum is \$3,000,000 more than was raised in the course of the entire 1955 campaign.

This interim report, which covers contributions to the regular UJA campaign and to the Special Survival Fund, was presented today to top leaders of the UJA by Barney Balaban and Samuel D. Leidesdorf, chairmen of the summer campaign, at a luncheon in honor of Attorney General Jacob K. Javits. The tribute to Mr. Javits was based on his leadership of the UJA's "person to person" drive during June, which launched the summer campaign.

In calling for continued effort on the part of the UJA volunteers, Mr. Javits pointed out that the drive must continue at its current accelerated pace because the UJA this year must bear the sole responsibility for resettling and rehabilitating the tens of thousands of immigrants who are finding refuge in Israel. In the past, the people of Israel shared this obligation, but now all their resources must be concentrated on building their own security.

"Today's Middle East crisis proves that the only dependable ally for a free nation is another free nation," Mr. Javits declared. "We are realizing with increasing clarity, as a result of the events of the last few weeks, that we have such a potential ally in Israel. Since its creation, Israel has maintained its devotion to the free institutions of democracy. We can be completely confident that the help we give the people of Israel will serve only one cause -- the cause of freedom and human dignity."

## BRITISH CHIEF RABBI APPEALS TO GIVE PRIMACY TO ISRAEL CAUSES

LONDON, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- An appeal for all synagogues in Great Britain to devote the proceeds of their traditional High Holiday fund raising to causes operating in Israel was made here today by Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie in a letter addressed to all ministers. He stressed the primacy of Israeli causes at this time.

FEDERATION OF LABOR ASSAILS ARAB DISCRIMINATION AGAINST U. S. JEWS

SPRINGFIELD, Mass. Aug. 14. (JTA) -- An unusual combination of trade unionists joined together this week at the Massachusetts Federation of Labor convention to win passage of a resolution hitting at Arab discrimination against American citizens of the Jewish faith. The resolution, which also scored the State Department for acquiescence in such a policy "in utter violation of fundamental American principles of religious liberty and equality of citizenship," was drawn under the guidance of the Jewish Labor Committee.

The 700 delegates unanimously passed the resolution calling upon "the President, the Congress, and the State Department to reject any treaty or executive agreements which shall permit other governments to forbid the advantages of travel, trade, employment or service to their nation to American citizens because of their race or religious affiliation."

JEWISH AGENCY DISCUSSES STRENGTHENING J. N. F. AND KEREN HAYESOD

JERUSALEM, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency executive discussed today a plan to strengthen and coordinate the activities of the Jewish National Fund and the Keren Hayesod in line with a resolution adopted at the last World Zionist Congress. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Jewish Agency, will participate ex-officio in the seven-man committee set up under this plan.

The executive discussed the agenda for the meeting of the Small Zionist Actions Committee which will start here on September 10. It decided to recommend that an urban center in a new settlement area be named in honor of Samuel Bronfman, Canadian Jewish philanthropist.

SAN FRANCISCO JEW LEAVES \$75,000 TO J. N. F.; NEVER CONTRIBUTED BEFORE

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- A San Francisco Jew, Frederick Burstein, who had never made any contribution to the Jewish National Fund, left \$75,000 to the organization in his will with the provision that the money be used for helping children in one of the JNF border villages in Israel.

A check for \$55,960 on account of the sum bequeathed was handed over to JNF officials here today by the Bank of America. The remainder will be paid later. Mr. Burstein, who was a beauty salon owner in this city, died last year. He was childless.

ORTHODOX CONVENTION IN ISRAEL ENDORSES FIGHT ON REFORM JUDAISM

TEL AVIV, Aug. 14 (JTA) -- The annual convention of the Poale Agudath Israel, Orthodox labor organization, concluded here today with a resolution calling upon religious party representatives in Parliament and in municipal councils to continue their fight against the introduction of Reform Judaism in Israel.

Other resolutions called upon the Western Powers to use their influence with Arab countries to gain access for Jews to the Wailing Wall and other Jewish Holy Places now in the hands of Arabs. The convention appealed to Orthodox Jews outside of Israel to come and settle in Israel.

A proposal that the Poale Agudath affiliate with the Zionist organization was left for decision by the Council. The conference rejected a suggestion of full organization merger with Agudath Israel, but adopted a resolution calling for cooperation with that body in special fields such as education and religion.

ISRAEL PRODUCES OWN GEIGER COUNTERS, AMERICAN GROUP ANNOUNCES

NEW YORK, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- The first Geiger counters ever to be produced in quantity in Israel are now being manufactured at the Technion, Israel Institute of Technology, it was announced here today by the American Society for the Technion. The Geiger counters, which detect nuclear radiation, are being used at the Technion for cosmic ray experiments, the announcement said. Previously imported at high cost from abroad, they have a limited life of only a few months, if in continuous use, and about 200 are needed for the average field experiment.

"The Cosmic Ray Group of the Technion's physics department, headed by Prof. Kurt Sitte, is endeavoring to provide a sufficient supply of Israel-made Geiger counters for geophysical experiments soon to be undertaken in co-operation with scientists in all parts of the world," the announcement stated. The group hopes to produce 20 Geiger counters a week. The Technion laboratories will then have sufficient quantities for research purposes and for replacement as the instruments wear out.

SON OF SO. AFRICAN JEWISH LEADER TO PLAY LEADING ROLE IN MOVIE

LONDON, Aug. 14. (JTA) -- Martin Shaban, 21-year-old son of South African Jewish communal leader Abel Shaban, has been signed for an important feature role in a new film to be shot in South Africa, it was announced here today. The script was written by a young Jewish writer, Wolf Mankowitz, and will be produced by another Jew, Mark Lynford.