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DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION PLEDGES ARMS TO ISRAEL; OPPOSES DULLES' POLICY

CHICAGO, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The Democratic Party, at its national convention here, today pledged itself to assist Israel and the Arab countries economically, urging at the same time, the sale of American arms to Israel to redress the "dangerous imbalance of arms" in the Middle East created by Egypt's acquisition of armaments from Communist countries.

The pledge was incorporated in the party platform presented to the convention by the Platform Committee. The convention disapproved strongly of the present U. S. Government policy-tolerating discrimination against American Jews by Arab countries. The Democrats said they would not countenance any treaty with any government in which such discrimination is sanctioned.

The full text of the plank, as presented by the Platform Committee, reads as follows:

"The Democratic Party stands for the maintenance of peace in the Middle East, which is essential for the well-being and progress of all its peoples. We will urge Israel and the Arab states to settle their differences by peaceful means, and to maintain the sanctity of the Holy Places and permit free access to them.

"We will assist Israel to build a sound and viable economy for her people, so that she may fulfill her humanitarian mission of providing shelter and sanctuary for her homeless Jewish refugees, while strengthening her national development.

"We will assist the Arab states to develop their economic resources and raise the living standard of their people. The plight of the Arab refugees commands our continuing sympathy and concern. We will assist in carrying out large-scale projects for their resettlement in countries where there is room and opportunity for them.

"We support the principle of free access to the Suez Canal under suitable international auspices. The present policies of the Eisenhower Administration in the Middle East are unnecessarily increasing the risk that war will break out in this area.

"To prevent war, to assure peace, we will faithfully carry out our country's pledge under the Tripartite Declaration of 1950 to oppose the use or threat of force and to take such action as may be necessary, in the interests of peace, both within and outside the United Nations to prevent any violation of the frontiers or armistice lines.

"The Democratic Party will act to redress the dangerous imbalance of arms in the area created by the shipment of Communist arms to Egypt, by selling or supplying defensive weapons to Israel, and will take such steps, including security guarantees, as may be required to deter aggression and war in the area.

"We oppose, as contrary to American principles, the practice of any government which discriminates against American citizens on grounds of race or religion. We will not countenance any arrangement or treaty with any government which by its terms or in its practical application would sanction such practices."

(See page 2 for a statement by 10 Jewish organizations presented to the Platform Committee of the Republican National Convention in San Francisco. Also for testimony by Jewish Republican leaders Harold Riegelman of New York and John W. Dinkelspiel of San Francisco.)

NEW PLANES WILL CAUSE NO MANPOWER PROBLEM IN ISRAEL AIR FORCE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- Israel has enough trained flying personnel and ground crews to man whatever modern planes she obtains, Brigadier Dan Tolkowsky, commander of the Israel Air Force, declared at a press conference today. He said that the quality of Israel's military manpower is "good." Asked if the Air Force plans to protect Israel's cities against air attack, he said that Israeli planes would retaliate against any enemy attacks by hitting his cities "which is the only way to protect our cities."

JEWSH ORGANIZATIONS PRESENT THEIR VIEW TO REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The Republican Platform Committee was urged today by ten major national Jewish religious and community relations organizations to adopt a platform plank pledging action "to counter current discrimination against U. S. citizens on the basis of religion and to preserve the integrity of United States citizenship."

The views of the organizations were presented to the Platform Committee meeting at the Sheraton-Palace Hotel here by Col. Harold Reigelman of New York, civic leader and member of the New York delegation to the Convention; John W. Dinkelspiel, a GOP delegate from San Francisco, a member of the Permanent Organization Committee of the Republican National Committee, and Mendel Silberberg, prominent Republican and civic leader of Los Angeles.

The Jewish groups explained that their proposed plank deals with "the widespread campaign by Arab League countries against American citizens of Jewish faith--a campaign that is being acquiesced in and condoned 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 10 groups are the American Jewish Congress, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the U.S., Rabbinical Council of America, Rabbinical Assembly of America, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, United Synagogue of America, and the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

The statement presented in the names of these groups to the Platform Committee enumerates the following forms of discrimination: Arab denial of entry or transit visas to American Jews; Arab boycott of American Jewish businesses; exclusion of American Jewish citizens from U. S. government civilian and military posts and from employment on U. S. defense contracts in Arab countries.

Criticize Washington on Arab Discrimination Against U. S. Jews

The Jewish organizations stressed that they are concerned with the discriminatory practices of Arab countries not only because of their direct effects on American citizens but also because of the attitude of the U. S. government in response to these practices.

"Our government," their statement emphasized, "has been screening troops so as to exclude Jews from assignment to our base in Saudi Arabia. Our government has pleaded for special exceptions in state FEPC laws to allow American concerns to engage in otherwise illegal employment discrimination against Jews. Our government pays subsidies for shipment of wheat and other agricultural commodities to Arab countries, although American Jews are barred from such trade."

Such concessions at the expense of the integrity of U. S. citizenship were castigated in the statement as "a perversion of traditional and basic American doctrine." The statement cited the action of President Taft in 1911 in abrogating a treaty with czarist Russia because of Russian anti-Semitism. "The claim of freedom has always been of greater force and dignity than the claim of profit," the statement declared.

The Jewish groups quoted with approval the unanimous resolution of the U. S. Senate of 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."

The statement concluded: "Despite these indications of awakened concern by some agencies of our government 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."

Republicans Urged to "Correct" Washington's Middle East Stand

Col. Riegelman, in urging adoption of the plank, told the Republican drafting group that "any reluctance of the United States Government to correct the Middle Eastern conditions above described is a retrogressive reversal of historic policy, clearly inconsistent with our government's laudable interest in establishing and maintaining here and abroad equality of opportunity and treatment of our citizens of all races, creeds and origins."

He called on the Republican Convention to put on record "its solemn and dedicated purpose to resist, repel and reject" any design by any foreign power to reduce any American to second class citizenship because of race, creed or color. "If we will not tolerate this discrimination at home," Col. Riegelman said, "surely we cannot

tolerate it abroad without destroying that concept which is the essence of our institutions and of our self-respect as a free nation."

Mr. Dinkelspiel told the Platform Committee: "No principle of international law requires the U.S. to discriminate against its own citizens or to permit other countries to force it to do so. The soundness of the plank being urged for your consideration and approval was established by the Senate of the United States when on July 26 of this year it unanimously adopted Senate Resolution 323.

"The Republican Party is dedicated to the preservation of all basic and fundamental rights of Americans. The adoption of the plank being urged at this time would be consistent with the Party's great tradition and would assure the people that the words contained in the Senate resolution would put into action and put an end to the continued unwarranted and unjustified discrimination against certain American citizens."

SUEZ CANAL PARLEY OPENS TODAY; ONLY FRANCE FAVORS ISRAEL OPENLY

LONDON, Aug. 15 (JTA) -- On the eve of the opening here of the 22-nation conference on the Suez Canal issue, it was noted today that of all the countries participating in the parley, only France has thus far clearly and publicly indicated that she definitely includes Israel when she insists that the canal should be free for the passage of ships of all nations.

British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd, in a broadcast to the nation yesterday on Suez, failed to mention Israel at all. This made him the third important Commonwealth leader to disregard Israel in this connection. The other two, who also spoke to the nation within the last week, are Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden and Australian Prime Minister Robert G. Menzies.

The overriding fear of the Israelis is that some agreement may be reached in which the Western Powers would accept continuance of Egypt's anti-Israel blockade. British and American spokesmen reply with meaningless verbalisms when they are asked whether they visualize Israel's freedom of use of the canal being covered by any international agreement. However, Britain has informed Israel that London has Jerusalem's interests in mind.

In a television interview, Labor Party leader Hugh Gaitskell called for specific guarantees of freedom of the canal for Israel. At one point, he opposed the use of force by Britain in connection with the Suez Canal situation, insisting that the only conditions under which force would be justified would be in defense of Israel if Egypt attacked.

Israel's Right of Passage Through Suez Canal Defended in Turkey

ISTANBUL, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Israel's right of free passage through the Suez Canal was defended here today by Djihad Baban, chairman of Parliament's Foreign Affairs Committee.

Writing in the newspaper "Tercuman," Mr. Baban reviewed Egypt's illegal blockade of the Suez Canal against Israel shipping and predicts that Egyptian President Nasser may give guarantees of free passage to the Western Powers, but not to Israel because to do so would be to destroy his prestige in the Arab world.

Mr. Baban warns that acceptance of partial guarantees are not enough. "Can one say that the principle of free passage through the Canal is implemented if Israel is still deprived of this right?"

Dr. Neumann Warns of Peril to Israel in Suez Canal Crisis

NEW YORK, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the national executive committee of the Zionist Organization of America, speaking today on a coast-to-coast telephone hook-up to Zionist leaders in 150 communities, voiced concern that "the whole present diplomatic turmoil arising out of the Suez crisis may result in a further fiasco in the shape of some compromise which will leave Egypt in control of the Canal and Israel in a more perilous position than before."

Dr. Neumann addressed the Zionist leaders over the phone hook-up because of "the extreme urgency of the situation in the Middle East and the new challenge it holds for Zionist leaders and workers throughout the country." Citing Col. Nasser's successive acts of hostility and vituperation against America and the West, Dr. Neumann said: "This is the same Nasser upon whom our State Department has been showering its favors, building him up as the 'strong man' and constructive statesman who was to bring stability and progress to the Middle East in friendly association with Western democracy."

ISRAEL DISCOVERS LARGE SOURCE OF UNDERGROUND WATER IN NEGEV

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- A new, large source of underground water was discovered in the Negev today. The reservoir was discovered during well digging operations.

REVISED AIR FORCE REGULATION FACILITATES SABBATH OBSERVANCE

NEW YORK, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Revised regulations issued by the U. S. Air Force provide that the Jewish Sabbath shall henceforth have equal religious status for Jewish servicemen as does Sunday for their Christian comrades, it was announced here today. Commanding officers are directed, under the new regulations, to excuse Jewish men from duty on the Sabbath upon request, subject to the same military exigencies and requirements as to total duty time as apply in the case of Sunday religious observance.

"This step marked the first time in which the military establishment has effectively implemented the policy of official parity for the Jewish Sabbath," the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations said in a statement. "Besides its great moral value, the ruling offers a major gain for Jewish religious life in the service. It will greatly facilitate Sabbath and Holiday observance by Jewish personnel."

The new Air Force Regulation reads as follows: "Commanders, in fulfilling their responsibilities for the religious life, morale, moral, character guidance, and religious matters within their commands will, subject to military necessity, excuse from duty personnel who express a desire to attend religious services of their faith on week days which have the same ecclesiastical obligations as Sunday, and upon request, excuse these individuals from all normal duties on such days. When individuals are excused from duty, they will be required to make up lost duty time to equal the total duty time required for the week for military personnel of the unit involved."

A similar change in Army regulations will be announced shortly. The revised version will read as follows: "In those instances where no military requirement prohibits, commanders will excuse from duty personnel who are required by the tenets of their faith to observe certain customs and/or desire to attend religious services on: 1. Sundown preceding Saturday and/or Saturday in the case of members of denominations which observe another weekly holy day; or 2. Weekdays which carry the ecclesiastical obligations of Sunday or which are recognized as having special religious importance."

No change is deemed necessary in Navy directives as they are considered by Jewish organizations to provide already for religious observance.

ISTANBUL JEWS ABANDON ANNOUNCEMENT OF DONATIONS IN SYNAGOGUES

ISTANBUL, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The Jewish Community Council of Istanbul ruled today that the public announcement of donations to the Jewish community and other Jewish causes will no longer be made in synagogue during the services.

This practice, in effect for generations, made it compulsory for a member of the congregation to announce his donation when he was called up to the Torah to read a portion. This led to a form of bidding for the right to read from the Torah, and the virtual elimination of all but the richest members of the congregation.

In addition, the privilege of taking the Torah out of the Ark was also given to the congregant pledging the largest contribution. A form of bidding developed about this practice, to which many congregation members objected.

Under the new system, no public announcement of pledges will be made, nor will there be any bidding for honors. As each man steps up to the Torah he will hand a filled-out pledge card to the sexton.

SHARETT TO START TWO-MONTH GOODWILL TOUR OF ASIAN COUNTRIES

TEL AVIV, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Former Premier and Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett is planning a two-month goodwill tour of Asian countries, the Labor daily, Davar, reported here today.

During his tour, which reportedly will start next month, Mr. Sharett will attend the Asian Socialist Conference, which opens in Bombay November 1, as head of Israel's delegation. He will also attend the Inter-Parliamentary Conference in Bangkok November 15. He is expected to confer with Premiers and other important leaders in each of the countries he visits.

UNITED NATIONS CORRESPONDENTS HONOR TWO ISRAELI OFFICIALS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Members of the United Nations Correspondents Association today held a reception here honoring Joshua J. Justman, for the last two and one-half years chief press officer for the Israel delegation, and Dr. Eliezer Yapou, his successor.

Mr. Justman, who has attained considerable popularity among correspondents here, has been on loan to the Israel delegation from the Israel newspaper Maariv. He has now rejoined the staff of Maariv. Dr. Yapou, who was born in Rishon Le-Zion and holds the degree of Doctor of Law from the Sorbonne in Paris, has been on the staff of the Israel Foreign Ministry since 1948 and came here from a post at Israel's Legation in Brussels.