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FOUR ISRAELIS KILLED, NINE WOUNDED, IN ARAB ATTACK ON ISRAEL BUS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Four Israelis, including at least one woman, were killed today and nine others wounded when a passenger bus travelling in a motor convoy was attacked from ambush north of Beer Menucha, not far from the Jordan border in the southern Negev.

Israel immediately protested to Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, against this new surge of Egyptian aggression. In another incident near Sdeh Boker, also in the Negev, five Israelis were wounded when an automobile in which they were travelling hit a landmine planted by infiltrators.

The protest to Gen. Burns stressed the "particular gravity of the situation". The note, sent by the Foreign Ministry, detailed all incidents involving Egyptian aggression since July 26.

The ambushed bus was en route to Eilat when the air was suddenly filled with bullets as concealed heavy machine guns burst into action. Three of the nine wounded people were seriously injured. Three of the fatalities were among soldiers of the convoy. The three seriously wounded Israelis were flown to Lydda and removed to a hospital, still wearing their bloodsoaked clothing.

In Jerusalem, meanwhile, United Nations personnel living with their families in the Jordan-held portion of the city, evacuated their families in anticipation of demonstrations in Jordan protesting the holding of the London Conference on Egypt's nationalization of the Suez Canal Company. UN vehicles were also moved out of Jordan. Some of the personnel were moved to UN headquarters in no man's land and others to a German hospice inside Israel.

DULLES URGES INTERNATIONAL BOARD FOR SUEZ CANAL; SILENT ON ISRAEL

LONDON, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, addressing the 22-nation conference on the Suez Canal which opened here today, proposed that the operation of the canal should be made the responsibility of an international board which should be associated with the United Nations and on which Egypt should be represented.

Mr. Dulles did not mention the Egyptian blockade of the Suez Canal against Israel shipping. However, he said that his proposal provides that the operation of the canal should be conducted in accordance with the 1888 Suez Canal Convention and that there should be no question of prejudice to any power in operating the canal.

It was indicated here today that Israeli representatives in the capitals of the maritime powers have received "comforting assurances" about Israel's Suez interests. It was reported that Israel has handed to the powers at the conference memoranda underlining Egypt's denial to Israel of freedom of passage through the Suez Canal.

Secretary Dulles told the conference today that any proposal adopted by the parley should be flexible and that Egypt's views should be ascertained. He said that Egypt's right to equitable financial return should be recognized and that fair compensation should be given to the Suez Canal Company. Differences on these points should be settled by an arbitration commission, he suggested.

It was originally expected here this morning that Secretary Dulles would, in his speech, demand specific Egyptian compliance with the United Nations demand that Israeli ships be permitted passage through the Suez Canal. Nor was such a demand included in the speech delivered by British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden when he opened the conference.

The London conference is expected to last a week or ten days. It may well be the first of a series. The general belief here is that the London parley is only the beginning, and that it may take months before a solution acceptable to all will be found.

ISRAEL DENIES REPORT OF NEGOTIATIONS FOR LAYING OIL PIPELINE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The Israel Government denied today reports from London that the government was participating in negotiations with foreign oil companies for the laying of an oil pipeline between Elath, on the Gulf of Akaba, and Haifa. The projected pipeline, the reports had it, would serve as an alternate route to tanker traffic through the Suez Canal.

GERMAN SOCIAL DEMOCRATS BACK ISRAEL ON SUEZ CANAL ISSUE

BONN, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- The Social Democratic Party of West Germany has called on the Bonn Government to press for free passage through the Suez Canal for vessels of all nations, particularly those of Israel, at the London Conference. The statement was made by Fritz Heine, party press chief in a policy statement published in the party's press service.

A similar view was expressed in the West Berlin daily "Telegraf", which took issue with the British Government's view that the Israel-Arab problem and the Suez situation are separate. "If the right of free passage is to be worth anything," Telegraf said, "it can only be indivisible, and whether the Egyptian Government eliminates the injustice it hitherto practiced against Israel will prove to be an absolute touchstone for the assurances it is now proffering with regard to free passage."

The influential Hamburg newspaper "Die Welt" takes the opposite point of view. It calls on Germany to take a hands-off attitude, warning that otherwise Egypt might recognize East Germany.

COST OF LIVING INDEX DROPS IN ISRAEL; ECONOMIC STABILITY SEEN

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The cost of living index tumbled five points last month, the sharpest drop in the inflationary trend registered in the last few months. July's index stood at 244 against a June index of 249.

If the decrease in the index does not turn out to be merely an indication of the seasonal food glut, it may be the long hoped for turn in the direction of economic stability. The index is set on a base of 100, computed on prices in September 1951.

The question of Israel's economic stability is one of the major points on the agenda of the Mapai Party's convention which will be held in Tel Aviv at the end of this month. A special 11-man committee has drawn up a list of economic discussion points which will be placed before the parley. That list was released this weekend.

Among the committee's suggestions is a proposal that the country's economic planning should give stress to exports, that 100,000,000 pounds should be raised from private sources, the development budget and reparations in order to foster export projects and basic industry, and that easy credit terms should be granted export firms.

The committee also proposed that wages should be tied to productivity, that employers be permitted to discharge workers for unadaptability and that at least half the country's imports and exports should be in Israeli vessels. Other recommendations made known include the raising of the work week in public institutions from 42 hours to 45, and for teachers from 30 hours to 32.

Israel's wheat and barley crops increased by more than 200 percent in the past year, it was revealed here this week in a report released by the agricultural section of the Government's Statistics Department. The total wheat crop of 74,000 tons and barley crop of 85,000 tons represent a yield per acre comparable to that of the most advanced cereal producing countries.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT LISTS TAX-PAYERS; REVEALS THEIR ANNUAL INCOME

JERUSALEM, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- A four volume official Taxpayers Register has been made public here for the second year in a row. The massive work lists the tax assessments for all companies and kbbutzim in Israel, as well as of self-employed individuals with assessed incomes of more than 2,000 Israel pounds and employed persons with assessed incomes of more than 3,000 pounds.

Top income assessment in the country was that of Bank Leumi, which earned 2,580,000 pounds--more than 3 times its runner-up, Neshet Bonds, which earned 848,685 pounds. Top individual earner in the country was a Haifa building contractor, Yehiel Yacobowitz, with 703,700 pounds--closely followed by Moshe Basenzik, a Tel Aviv cabinet maker, whose income was listed as 702,400 pounds and Avraham Horowitz, Ramat Gan electrical contractor, with 702,000 pounds.

Givat Brenner topped the list of kibbutzim with an assessed income of 860,171 pounds--an average of 2,575 pounds per member. Top earner among Israel's physicians was Dr. Y. Asherman, of Tel Aviv, with 18,500 pounds, closely followed by Dr. S. Goz of Haifa, who was said to have earned 18,394 pounds. Jerusalem and Tel Aviv lawyers Zvi Schwartz and M. Gaspi led their occupational list with 35,000 pounds each.

10-POINT MIDDLE EAST PROGRAM PRESENTED TO REPUBLICAN CONVENTION

SAN FRANCISCO, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- A group of delegates to the Republican National Convention today submitted to the Foreign Affairs Committee of the convention a plea for the inclusion of a strong pro-Israel plank in the Republican platform. The group, led by Samuel Abrahams, a New York Republican, urged that the Republican platform should contain the following points:

1. A demand that the Arab states conclude peace treaties with Israel as speedily as possible.
2. The immediate implementation of the Johnston plan to bring about a resurgence of irrigation projects in the area.
3. A mutual security pact between Israel, U. S. , Arab League units and other interested Western powers.
4. Shipment of U. S. weapons to Israel to offset the imbalance caused by Red sales to Egypt.
5. International control of the Suez Canal, with free passage for the ships of all nations.
6. A fair resolution of the problem of the Arab refugees, such as payment for confiscated property and loans to the Arab countries for integration and resettlement.
7. A termination of the treaties permitting discriminatory treatment of American Jewish personnel in Saudi Arabia.
8. Continuance of American economic help and Point Four aid to the Arabs and Israelis for constructive internal socio-economic programs, contingent on proof of good will and neighborly cooperation.
9. Encouragement of greater scholarly, cultural and artistic exchanges between the United States and the Middle Eastern nations.
10. The creation of a para-military organization, similar to NATO and SEATO, in the Middle East. This could be an enlargement of the Bagdad Pact, with Israel included.

Mr. Abrahams pointed out in his testimony that "the Arabs have clearly evinced their anti-American, anti-Israel, and pro-Russian propensities in their world dealings." At the same time he pointed out that "Israel has always adhered to the principles of peace, honest relations with other nations and a desire to live up to the moral standards of the United Nations."

"The Republican Party," he continued, "has always supported the just claims of Jewry for the restoration of the ancient homeland of Israel. The 1944 resolution sponsored by Senator Robert A. Taft called upon the family of nations to redress an historic wrong by legally recognizing the rights of Jews to the development of Palestine as their national state."

U. S. AND ISRAEL TO OPEN JOINT "ATOMS FOR PEACE" EXHIBIT IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, AVIV, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Israel and the United States will open a joint "atoms for peace" exhibition here next month, Marshall Berg, manager of the exhibition to be presented by the U. S. , told a press conference here today. Israeli government bureaus and scientific institutions will cooperate on the Jewish State's portion of the exhibit.

This is the first time the two countries are cooperating to such an extent in a display, and the show will be the finest of its kind ever put together, Mr. Berg said. The U. S. section will picture the use of atomic energy for agriculture, industry, power production and medicine in the U. S. Israel will stress the country's achievements in the field of atomic energy.

"REHABILITATION" OF OREN SOUGHT; WAS CHARGED BY PRAGUE WITH "SPYING"

TEL AVIV, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- The Mapam central committee decided last night to organize a public campaign to "rehabilitate" Mordecai Oren, Mapam leader imprisoned for five years by the Czechoslovak authorities on charges of espionage and anti-state activities. One aspect of the campaign will be the formation of an international committee to try to clear Mr. Oren's name.

When he was released several months ago, Mr. Oren repudiated a confession which he had signed prior to the trial, conviction and execution of Communist leader Rudolf Slansky. He has since demanded that his reputation be "rehabilitated," insisting that he had never done anything to harm the Communist government of Czechoslovakia.

GERMANY CHECKS NON-GERMAN LAWYERS REPRESENTING NAZI VICTIMS

BONN, Aug. 15. (JTA) -- Non-German attorneys and organizations who have heretofore dealt with West German indemnification agencies on behalf of individual Nazi victims are being asked to show that, under the newly amended Federal Indemnification Law, they are still eligible to represent their clients.

Due to the more restrictive provisions of the new law, it is explained in an official circular now being mailed out, indemnification agencies can in the future accept applications, briefs and correspondence solely from lawyers presently admitted to practice before the German bar, or from lawyers formerly admitted to the German bar and who emigrated because they were victims of Nazism.

The Indemnification Law specifically lists the United Restitution Organization, which maintains offices in all major countries of emigration and is sponsored by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims, as a group entitled to act for indemnification applicants. Other organizations, provided they are not profit-making, may be given authorization from the German governmental indemnification agencies to represent Nazi victims.

If power of attorney is granted to an individual outside the above categories, such power of attorney will be recognized by the competent indemnification agency only when the service is rendered non-professionally and not for profit.

N. Y. CITY COUNCIL PRESIDENT LEAVES FOR ISRAEL; CARRIES PROPOSAL

NEW YORK, Aug. 16. (JTA) -- Arab nations adjacent to Israel, as well as countries from all over the world, will be invited to participate in a international cultural exposition to be held in Israel, under a proposal advanced here today by Abe Stark, president of the New York City Council.

Speaking at a City Hall conference, Mr. Stark, who departs tomorrow for Israel, said that the purpose of the projected exposition would be to promote the art and culture of the Middle East. He announced his intention to discuss this proposal with leaders of the Jewish and Arab communities.

Such an international exposition, he said would bring "music instead of guns, concerts instead of cannons, and culture instead of conflict between Arab and Jew." Included in the exposition would be paintings, sculpture, music and dance festivals, drama, films, lectures and literature from all lands. Instead of arms shipments, this type of intercultural exchange would constitute a positive contribution to world peace, Mr. Stark asserted.

A \$50,000 check, derived from proceeds of "Music Under the Stars" held last June at Ebbets Field under the auspices of the American Fund for Israel Institutions, was presented to Mr. Stark at City Hall by Oscar M. Lazrus, vice-president of the Fund. Mr. Stark will turn the check over in Israel to be used for the Tel Aviv Cultural Center.

ORT TO TRAIN MORE TECHNICIANS IN ISRAEL, AMERICAN GROUP ANNOUNCES

NEW YORK, Aug. 16 (JTA) -- The American ORT Federation released today a report on the activities of the organization in Israel stressing that more technicians will be trained by ORT vocational schools in Israel during the new school year which starts after the High Holidays.

"An enrollment in trade and technical courses of well over 5,000 during the coming school year is anticipated by ORT in Israel," the report said. "Besides an increase in the number of trainees, ORT also envisages extension in the range of vocational education in line with the economy's steadily increasing need for trained workers."

These services, the American ORT Federation stated, will be offered at 45 trade schools, plus between 35 and 40 adult courses conducted in cooperation with the Ministry of Labor. The schools are located in 20 communities throughout the country and employ a staff of 250 instructors, many of them graduates of the Central ORT Teachers' Training Institute in Switzerland.

A program of industrial training schools for immigrant youngsters, which ORT recently instituted with the aid of a U. S. government grant, will be enlarged, the report said. Increased immigration from North Africa during the first half of 1956 has intensified the demand for these classes, which are specially designed to prepare newcomers for jobs in Israel.

Other new projects include the opening of Israel's first Textile Institute at Ramat Gan and establishment of a post-secondary school level training center for technicians for the construction trades at Givatayim. Ground has just been broken for a new vocational high school to be erected on the outskirts of Tel Aviv, which will be one of the largest in the country.

Although the capacity of ORT schools has risen over 25 percent in the last two years, and the number of graduates these schools send into the labor force has increased proportionately, the report indicated that trade schools are having a hard time keeping up with industrial requirements for skilled people.