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SUEZ CONFERENCE ENDS; EGYPT SAYS CANAL OPEN TO ALL; MUM ON ISRAEL

LONDON, Aug. 23. (JTA) -- The 22-nation conference on the Suez Canal concluded today with 18 of the participating nations backing the proposal of U. S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles to establish international authority over the canal. (See page 2 for more news on the Suez Canal issue.)

Following the conclusion of the conference, the Egyptian Embassy in London issued a statement declaring that Egypt was determined to maintain the Suez Canal "free and open to all ships and vessels without distinction of flag."

Asked by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency whether this is to be applied also to Israeli shipping, a press officer of the Egyptian Embassy declined to give any answer, and said he is referring the question to the Counsellor of the Embassy. However, the Counsellor was "not available" when attempts were made to get in touch with him. The statement of the Egyptian Embassy said that "it was never the intent of the Egyptian Government to discriminate against ships of any nationality passing through the Suez Canal."

A spokesman of the British Foreign Office was asked whether the stated intention of the 18 nations to reach an agreement with Egypt ensuring the freedom of shipping for all nations included also Israel. He brushed the question aside by stating he "cannot go any further" than what was said in the official statement issued following the conclusion of the conference.

SAUDI ARABIA EXTENDS AIRBASE RIGHT TO U. S.; CONTINUES TO BAR JEWS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23. (JTA) -- The State Department made known today that an "informal agreement" has been reached with Saudi Arabia to indefinitely extend the right of the U. S. to use Dhahran Airbase, even though the formal lease expired early last month.

It is understood that the same conditions will apply until negotiations to renew the five-year lease are completed. The Dhahran airfield, with facilities for 1,500 United States airmen, will continue to bar U. S. Jewish servicemen from the base.

The State Department said that no formal diplomatic steps directed at ending Arab discriminatory practices against American Jews have been taken as yet to implement Secretary Dulles' recent pledge to seek an end to Arab bias against U. S. citizens.

It is understood that no U. S. diplomatic action in this respect will be taken until the Suez crisis is settled. It is also understood that the State Department desired to merely indefinitely extend, rather than renegotiate the lease, to avoid Congressional attacks in an election year against acquiescing to Arab discrimination against American Jews.

Negotiations to renew the five-year old lease are now in their fourth month. A 30-day extension of the agreement has expired. But King Saud is reported to have extended indefinitely--although informally--the American right to operate and use the airfield until negotiations are completed. American officials are reported confident that the lease will be renewed, once monetary differences are worked out with the Saudis.

U. N. SECRETARY-GENERAL SAYS ARAB-ISRAEL CEASE-FIRE STILL IN FORCE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Aug. 23. (JTA) -- In spite of the flare-ups of armed conflict along the Israel-Arab borders during the last week, Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld insisted today that the cease-fire he had arranged last April still is in force. "All the governments" concerned, he said, still "wish to pay to the cease-fire not only lip service; they still regard it as a real obligation."

"In April," Mr. Hammarskjöld said, "the cease-fire had been put into jeopardy. I considered it essential to lift the cease-fire out of the armistice framework and give it legal status by itself. No lack of observance can undo the fact that the governments had now undertaken an obligation to the United Nations in regard to the cease-fire."

WESTERN POWERS URGED TO CHALLENGE EGYPT ON ISRAELI SHIPPING

NEW YORK, Aug. 23 (JTA) -- Failure by the Western Powers to challenge Col. Nasser, the Egyptian ruler, on the subject of Israeli shipping through the Suez Canal will destroy the practical and moral effectiveness of the Western case against Egypt, it was pointed out here today by Rose Halprin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency executive. "It can only lead to palliatives which in the long run will further impair the Western position in the Middle East," she declared.

Mrs. Halprin made the points in a letter in the New York Times in which she reviewed the Egyptian blockade of the Suez Canal against Israel. Her views coincided with an editorial in the New York Times today stating that "a preview of what Egypt can do in the future if it has unchecked control over the Suez Canal has already been given in the case of Israel, to whose ships the canal has been denied in a blockade which has been extended even to non-Israeli shipping carrying goods to or from Israel.

"With the wisdom of hindsight it is now clear that there should have been more vigorous protest against that infringement of the right of free passage when it began," the Times editorial said. "But certainly now with that example before them the Western powers can hardly be blamed for refusing to accept unchecked Egyptian control of the most vital single waterway in the world."

Mrs. Halprin Cites Ban on Israel As Legal Case Against Egypt

Mrs. Halprin pointed out that since his seizure of the Suez Canal, Colonel Nasser has asserted his intention to guarantee freedom of navigation for all countries. "Almost immediately," the acting chairman of the Jewish Agency continued, "the powers which have arranged the conference must agree upon an interpretation of what they call 'freedom of the canal.' Does that freedom pertain to all ships irrespective of flag?

"The only legal case which the Western powers have against Egypt in terms of the contravention of the 1888 convention is Egypt's denial of the canal to Israeli ships and the strictures on ships bound for Israel," Mrs. Halprin emphasized. "The fact is that since May, 1948, Egypt has carried on a blockade against Israel in direct contravention of the 1888 agreement, in flagrant disregard of the armistice agreement of Feb. 24, 1949, between Egypt and Israel; of a Security Council resolution of Sept. 1, 1951, and of the reaffirming votes of eight members of the Security Council on March 23, 1954, which was only prevented from becoming a resolution by the veto of the Soviet Union.

"During this interval Egypt has arrogated to itself the right of search and seizure of ships bound for Israel of all registries, under the penalty of attack. Through a new series of customs regulations it is required that ships' captains present declarations countersigned by the Egyptian consul in the country of destination, showing that their cargo had been discharged and that it was for local consumption, as a way of preventing transshipment of supplies to Israel.

Warns Other Countries May be Treated Like Israel by Egypt

"Ships trading with Israel have been put on a blacklist and denied drinking water and food at Egyptian ports," Mrs. Halprin continued. "Oil tankers proceeding southward through the Suez Canal have been required to submit log books showing that their ultimate destination is not an Israeli port. Vessels found to have called at any port in Israel are blacklisted and denied stores, fuel and repair facilities in Egyptian ports. Contraband goods, as defined by Egyptian regulations, include foodstuffs, building materials, clothing, hides, bicycles, etc. Cargo containing this material have been seized from ships flying Norwegian, Greek, Italian and Australian flags.

"The failure of the Western powers to enforce compliance by Egypt with the 1888 convention insofar as Israel is concerned has been an encouragement to the present act of defiance. It is the belligerent action of Egypt with respect to Israel in connection with Suez which offers a foretaste of what could be expected from Nasser with respect to any other country which he dislikes.

"Failure to challenge Nasser on the subject of Israeli shipping through the canal will destroy the practical and moral effectiveness of the Western case against Egypt and can only lead to palliatives which in the long run will further impair the Western position in the Middle East," Mrs. Halprin concluded.

HAMMARSKJOLD SAYS U. N. RESOLUTIONS ON SUEZ ARE "NOT FORGOTTEN"

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Aug. 23, (JTA) -- Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold asserted today at a press conference that, as far as he is concerned, the Security Council's past resolutions regarding freedom of shipping through the Suez Canal are very much on his mind. "I have certainly not forgotten them," he declared.

The principal Council resolution concerned is the one adopted September 1, 1951, which resulted from an Israel complaint against Egypt's blockade of Suez shipping bound to and from Israel. That resolution put the Council clearly on record as to the international character of the Canal and insisted that Egypt must keep the waterway open to all shipping of all nations.

DEMOCRATIC, REPUBLICAN PARTIES OPPOSE BIGOTRY IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Aug. 23. (JTA) -- A tri-faith statement against resort to bigotry in the 1956 Presidential election campaign was endorsed Thursday by the chairmen of the Democratic and Republican national committees. Jewish co-sponsors of the statement were Irving M. Engel, president of the American Jewish Committee, and Rabbi Abraham Feldman, president of the Synagogue Council of America. The statement reads:

"With the free world looking to American democracy for leadership and inspiration in the struggle against totalitarianism, all eyes are focussed on our election campaign. Nothing is healthier for self-government than out-spoken political discussion, but nothing is more harmful to a self-governing people than confusion of the issues by base appeals to racial and religious bigotry.

"In the light of the pre-eminent role which the United States is playing, it is incumbent upon us to prove that in our democracy, men of all races, creeds, and national origins participate in our government to take all necessary measures to prevent any expression of racial or religious bias by their adherents and to condemn publicly and emphatically every occurrence thereof.

"We urge all citizens to reject political arguments based on racial or religious prejudices and to rebuke those who make such appeals. We suggest that in every community a non-partisan and non-sectarian committee undertake to keep a watchful eye on campaign activities and call to the attention of political leaders any instances of appeals based on religious or racial prejudice. Let us make certain that our election campaigns are in every sense free and worthy of a nation founded on the principles of brotherhood of man and the Fatherhood of God."

Mr. Engel, president of the American Jewish Committee, has expressed appreciation to the chairmen of the Democratic and Republican national committees for their endorsements of the statement. In letters to Paul M. Butler, national chairman of the Democratic Party, and Leonard W. Hall, national chairman of the Republican Party, Mr. Engel declared: "Your assurance that your Party will continue to oppose bigotry in election campaigning and your conveying our statement to other party leaders, will be helpful in preventing the use of racial and religious intolerance as a political device."

LEHMAN SAYS HIS DECISION NOT TO SEEK SENATE SEAT IS "IRREVOCABLE"

NEW YORK, Aug. 23. (JTA) -- Senator Herbert H. Lehman declared today that his decision not to seek re-election to the U. S. Senate was "irrevocable." At a meeting with political and labor leaders here, he made it clear that he would not be induced to run again in the November elections.

"The Senator's decision must be accepted as final," participants in the meeting told the press later. However, they indicated that Sen. Lehman assured them that he will be "very active" in the campaign of the Democratic Party seeking the election of Adlai Stevenson as President of the United States.

U. S. JEWISH GROUP ASKS RELIGIOUS FREEDOM FOR JEWS IN TRANSYLVANIA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23. (JTA) -- A New York delegation of the United American Jews of Transylvania appealed to the Rumanian Legation here today, to restore religious freedom to the Orthodox Jews of Transylvania, Rumania. A spokesman for the deputation said that it is estimated about 70,000 Jews still reside in Transylvania.

In a memorandum presented to the Rumanian Minister Selveu Burcam during a two-hour meeting, the delegation urged the Rumanian Government to restore the Sabbath holiday, permit Talmudic students to study abroad, allow the import of religious articles into the country, permit Transylvanian Jews to emigrate to countries of their choice, and reopen cultural communications between Transylvanian Jews and their coreligionists throughout the world.

ANTI-SEMITISM STILL ALIVE IN GERMANY, AMERICAN RABBI REPORTS

NEW YORK, Aug. 23. (JTA) -- Nazism in Germany "is not altogether dead, and in the Soviet Union Judaism is treated as 'a culture of antiquity' and a 'museum piece,'" Rabbi George B. Lieberman, of the Central Synagogue of Nassau County, declared at a press conference here today. The rabbi has just returned from visits to the USSR, Germany and Israel.

"During a visit to a German university near Munich," Rabbi Lieberman stated, "I found most disconcerting the attitude of mockery and brazenness toward me as an obvious Jew. Students questioned me about American Jews in a spirit of mockery.

In the Soviet Union, the rabbi stated, he found scholars doing research work in the history of Jewish culture at libraries in Leningrad and Moscow, and he came across one non-Jewish scholar delving into the works of the greatest Hebrew poet of the Middle Ages, Judah Halevi. But as for practical religious practice, he asserted, he found Russia "entirely without religious schools for any religious groups."

B'NAI B'RITH TEEN-AGERS CONVENTION OPENS; 160 DELEGATES ATTENDING

CHAMPAIGN, Aug. 23. (JTA) -- More than 160 teen-age delegates, representing some 14,000 members throughout the United States and Canada, are attending the 33rd annual international convention and leadership training institute of Aleph Zadik Aleph, boy's division of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, which opened here tonight at the University of Illinois.

Delegates will participate in a five-day leadership training institute to be followed by a four-day working convention. Both events will run through Friday, August 31. Major convention speakers will be Låbel A. Katz, New Orleans attorney, chairman of the B'nai B'rith Youth Commission, policy-making body for the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, and Dr. David Fellman, professor of American Government at the University of Wisconsin.

300 YOUTHS COMPLETE STUDY IN ISRAEL; 190 FROM U.S. AND CANADA

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23. (JTA) -- Three hundred participants in the Summer Institute of the World Zionist Organization's Youth and Hechalutz Department celebrated the completion of their summer course of study here last night. At a party held in their honor at the Beit Hakerem Teachers Seminary, the students conducted a program of songs and sketches in the Hebrew they had acquired during their seven-weeks of study.

The student group was composed of 190 youths from the United States and Canada, about 100 from the United Kingdom, and the rest from Holland, Norway and Finland. Some members of the group have decided to remain in Israel permanently, while others have indicated their intention to prolong their present stay. Still others, who will now return to their home countries, have made it known that they plan to return to Israel with a view toward permanent settlement here.

\$300,000 PLAN FOR RENOVATION OF THE-TOURO SYNAGOGUE OUTLINED

NEWPORT, R. I., Aug. 23. (JTA) -- The sum of \$55,000 toward a goal of \$300,000 has been contributed for the restoration of Touro Synagogue here, the oldest Jewish house of worship in this country and a national shrine, it was revealed here yesterday. Announcement of the sum raised toward the final goal--which is to be achieved by 1958--was made at a meeting of the Society of Friends of Touro Synagogue by William Zeckendorf, chairman of the Restoration Committee.

Mr. Zeckendorf outlined a three-stage plan for the renovation of the synagogue and the creation of an adjoining park site. The meeting also included ceremonies observing the 166th anniversary of the famed George Washington letter addressed to the congregation of the Touro Synagogue proclaiming religious tolerance.

New directors of the Society named at the meeting include Governors Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut and Dennis J. Roberts of Rhode Island, Carl M. Loeb, William Levitt, Senator John O. Pastore of Rhode Island, Abraham Ziskind, George Alpert, S. H. Thal, Rabbi Norman Gerstenfeld and Philip Klutznick. Dr. Bernard Friedman, of this city, was re-elected president, as were all other officers and directors of the group.

U.S. AND ISRAEL TO OPEN "ATOMS FOR PEACE" EXHIBITS IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23. (JTA) -- Israel's first "Atoms for Peace" exhibit--showing what the scientists in the Jewish state have contributed toward use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes--will be opened here September 10. The exhibit will be set up next to the United States "Atoms for Peace" exhibit which has been shown in various countries and is scheduled to be set up here at the same time the Israeli achievements are unveiled to the public at large.

Among the Israel exhibits will be demonstrations of Israel's methods for enriching heavy water--a field in which this country's scientists are among the world's leaders; uranium detection instruments which help extract this vital ore from phosphates found abundantly in the Negev area; and this country's use of radioactive isotopes, some of them employed for special therapy now in four of Israel's leading hospitals.

Another section of the Israel exhibit will show this country's progress toward use of cosmic radiation. Still another display will show radiation detectors and other atomic detection apparatus developed in this country.

PROF. RACHMILEWITZ, NOTED ISRAELI PHYSICIAN, ARRIVES IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Aug. 23. (JTA) -- Professor Moshe Rachmilewitz, one of Israel's foremost medical teachers and the first Israeli to be trained in the United States by Hadassah, has arrived in the United States to participate in the Sixth Congress of the International Society of Hematology which will take place in Boston, beginning Aug 26th. He will preside at the plenary session of the international meeting next Friday.