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ACHESON TESTIFIES ON EISENHOWER PLAN; SAYS U.S. MUST NOT ABANDON ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- Former Secretary of State Dean Acheson, testifying today before the House Foreign Affairs Committee on President Eisenhower's new Middle East plan, said that it is "vague, uncertain, and inadequate" as a Middle Eastern policy. Among other things, he called upon the Congress to formulate a policy to meet the basic problems of the Middle East--the Israel-Arab conflict and the Suez Canal dispute.

"Having participated so prominently in the establishment of Israel in the midst of the Arab world, whether wisely or not is now irrelevant, this government," he said, "cannot properly abandon Israel to be overwhelmed by armed attack and its people dispersed. From this same prominent participation in the creation of Israel, it also follows that this government cannot properly leave Israel free to attack her neighbors."

"These statements," he continued, "I am quite aware, raise the whole complicated series of disputes through which Israel and her neighbors have just passed. How large an attack is an aggression which justifies a counter-attack? Who is the aggressor to be opposed?"

Mr. Acheson told the Foreign Affairs Committee he saw no need for great haste in evacuation by Israel of the Gaza Strip. He expressed a hope that the Gaza Strip's future might be talked about some more. In response to questioning, Mr. Acheson said he saw "nothing particularly sacred" about the 1949 Israel-Arab armistice lines. He indicated that concessions might be made to Egypt but that he desired that they not be made.

Mr. Acheson suggested that the U.S. has a responsibility to establish, underwrite, and support with force an international arrangement for preventing either Arab or Israel government-supported raiding and attacks by taking the responsibility for punishment "by way of retaliation or otherwise as might be necessary." He said that while the policy might be unpopular in some quarters, it would be helpful and would have a substantial chance for execution through international negotiation and organization.

Concerning the Suez Canal dispute, Mr. Acheson said the present situation encourages Egyptian Premier Nasser to be obdurate in refusing a control and management of the canal which would give safeguards to nations whose very life depends on the freedom and efficiency of the Canal. He said Congress could be in favor of providing means alternative to the Suez Canal for transporting oil by pipeline in an area under United Nations administration and protection. He suggested that such an area might serve the dual purpose of interposing a demilitarized strip between Israel and Egypt.

President Eisenhower, in his State of the Union message to Congress today, reiterated the "vital and immediate importance to the nation's and the free world's security and peace" of Congressional authorization of his proposed Middle East doctrine against Communism. The President said "by our proposed programs in the Middle East, we hope to assist in establishing a climate in which constructive and long-term solutions to basic problems of the area may be sought."

ISRAEL AGREES TO EVACUATE EL ARISH; WILL NOT QUIT AKABA AREA

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- Israel forces are not evacuating Sharm el Sheikh, the area on the Sinai Peninsula opposite the Strait of Tiran from which Egyptian artillery forbade passage into the Gulf of Akaba to Israeli shipping, Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, commander of the United Nations Emergency Force, told newsmen today after a meeting with Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, Israel Army Chief of Staff.

Gen. Burns revealed that Israel would draw back a further 25 kilometers (15 miles) from its present positions and evacuate El Arish, capital of Sinai, by January 15. Later, Gen. Dayan confirmed that Israeli troops would march out of El Arish on that date. Gen. Burns said that after UNEF troops entered El Arish he would set up his forward headquarters in the town.

The line of evacuation will extend southward from El Arish through the site of St. Catherine's Monastery. Yugoslav troops, who are now three and a half miles west of El Arish, will move into and ten miles past the town. Indian contingents, advancing along the Red Sea coast from Suez, will occupy the monastery grounds at the same time.

U. S. AND BRITAIN DISCUSS MOVES ON ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUE AT UNITED NATIONS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 10. (JTA) -- The British and United States delegations here have been discussing what next steps should be taken in connection with the entire Arab-Israel issue. Confirmation that such discussions have been held came today from a spokesman for the United States delegation.

Neither he nor British spokesmen, however, would indicate the position taken by either delegation on the pressure of the Afro-Asian bloc for a new General Assembly resolution which would condemn Israel for not having completed its troops withdrawals from the Sinai Peninsula or the Gaza Strip.

Britain's position regarding suggestions that some kind of United Nations jurisdiction be set up over the Gaza Strip has already been voiced in the House of Commons, it was pointed out here. Selwyn Lloyd, Britain's Foreign Secretary, told Commons last night that UN jurisdiction over the Gaza Strip would be one way of settling that problem.

The United States' "basic position" on Israel's troop withdrawals was reiterated here today as one "stressing the need for full compliance with the United Nations resolutions calling for the withdrawal of all Israel troops behind the armistice lines."

U. N. TEAM ESTABLISHES ISRAELI TROOPS COMMITTED NO VANDALISM IN SINAI

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- The United Nations team which proceeded at the request of the Israel Government, to the ancient Christian Monastery of St. Catherine, on the Sinai Peninsula, to investigate Egyptian allegations that Israeli troops had destroyed rare manuscripts in the library of the monastery during their occupation of Sinai, returned today with a report that the Egyptian charges were baseless.

The UN team, it was reported here today, stated that it had found all the manuscripts at St. Catherine's intact and that the monks said they had never been molested by Israeli soldiers. The team included a representative of the International Red Cross as well as a representative of the Greek Orthodox Church.

At the same time, it was revealed here today that Christos Evangelou, cantor of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Decalogue in the Sinai Peninsula, has asked for and received asylum here from the Israel Government. The famous Church of the Decalogue, which was founded in the Fourth Century of the Christian Era, stands at the traditional site, in Sinai, where Moses is said to have received the Ten Commandments.

Cantor Evangelou said he did not want to stay on at the church because he feared Nasser's troops would return after Israel has completed withdrawal of its armed forces. He praised the conduct of the Israeli soldiers who occupied the Sinai area, reporting that they had supplied food to the Christian monasteries in Sinai. Cantor Evangelou has taken up residence in a Greek Orthodox monastery in this city.

ARAB NOTABLES FROM GAZA VISIT TEL AVIV; STUDY JEWISH LIFE IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- A party of Arab notables from Gaza were shown around Tel Aviv and its suburbs today as part of a program to acquaint inhabitants of the Gaza Strip with life in Israel. Other parties of leading Gaza Arabs will be taken to other parts of Israel on organized tours.

Reports from Gaza said today that Israel police forces have been increased and road blocks strengthened on the roads from the Sinai Peninsula into the Gaza Strip, because of the increased efforts being made by Arabs from Sinai to enter the strip and thus avoid coming under Egyptian rule again. It is evident that Sinai Arabs fear Egyptian return. They seem to feel that the strip, which never was Egyptian territory until the Cairo government seized it during Israel's War of Liberation, will not again be reoccupied by Egypt.

Natives of the Gaza area, interviewed today, seemed to show little enthusiasm for Egypt's return as the occupying power here. At first, they were inclined to favor United Nations rule over Gaza to Israel annexation. Many of those interviewed, however, seemed, on second thought, to fear that United Nations rule would be only a temporary solution. They prefer that their future be determined on a more permanent basis.

ISRAEL INTENDS TO PURCHASE LATEST MODELS OF JET PLANES FROM FRANCE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- Israel will purchase the latest model Mystere jet planes from France, Shimon Peress, director general of the Ministry of Defense, revealed here last night at a meeting devoted to the sale of internal defense bonds.

(In Washington it was reported today that plans are being advanced for the early shipment of U. S. military jet planes to Iraq under the grant-in-aid program. It was also reported that the U. S. is considering giving Saudi Arabia 90 jet fighter planes and \$3,000,000 in cash in exchange for a five-year renewal of the Dhahran air-base lease.)

ARABS FAIL TO WIN U. N. AFRO-ASIAN BLOC ON SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 10. (JTA) -- The Arab League here failed today to stampe the entire Afro-Asian bloc into demanding an immediate General Assembly session to censure Israel and to vote sanctions against Israel for alleged failure to withdraw its troops from the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip. However, the move may meet with at least partial success by tomorrow.

For the second successive day, the Afro-Asian group was called into session this afternoon after Abdel Monem Rifai of Jordan had charged in the General Assembly that Israel has massed "huge troop concentrations" in the Tulkarm sector of the Israel-Jordan border during the past two days. Mr. Rifai told the Assembly he had instructions from his Foreign Minister to call this "fact" to the attention of the Assembly "before aggression takes place."

Immediately after voicing this accusation, Mr. Rifai saw Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, and was followed into Mr. Hammarskjold's office by Egypt's Foreign Minister, Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi. The two appeared before the Afro-Asian meeting, demanding backing for a stiff anti-Israel resolution in which the Assembly would recommend at least political and economic sanctions against Israel.

Several members of the Afro-Asian bloc--among them reportedly Japan, Thailand and Burma--were cool to any demand for an Assembly session on this subject. India was understood to favor an Assembly session, but opposed the idea of sanctions. The Afro-Asian group adjourned after a meeting of almost two hours, to meet again tomorrow morning on the same issue. It appeared likely that the bloc would agree tomorrow to call for an Assembly session to censure Israel, possibly without a call for sanctions.

ISRAEL HAS HARD STRUGGLE AT U. N., GOLDA MEIR REPORTS UPON RETURN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- It is a "very hard struggle" to explain Israel's position throughout the world, Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, declared here this morning upon her arrival from the United States. This, despite the fact that Israel has gained many more friends, Mrs. Meir asserted. She will make a report at a special session of the Cabinet tomorrow.

Herut leader Menachem Beigin again demanded last night the resignation of Premier David Ben Gurion for having ordered the withdrawal of Israeli forces from the Sinai Peninsula. He warned against further Israeli evacuation of the Sinai beyond the present line held by Israel.

Addressing the Herut Party Council, Mr. Beigin thanked France for its aid to Israel, called on Britain to consider further cooperation with Israel and termed dangerous the new American Middle East policy as interpreted earlier this week in Washington by Secretary of State Dulles. The rightist leader said that Israel wanted no American soldiers to protect her.

He outlined Herut policy in reference to American Middle East policy as: 1. Continued belief in U.S. friendship for Israel; 2. New efforts to renew the U.S. Government's friendship toward Israel, and 3. Opposition to any further retreat by Israel.

GALLUP POLL LISTS BEN GURION AS MOST POPULAR WITH AMERICAN PEOPLE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- The American Institute of Public Opinion today listed Israel Premier David Ben Gurion as a personality regarded by a cross-section of Americans as one of the world's most admired men.

A national public opinion poll, directed by Dr. George Gallup, showed that Mr. Ben Gurion ranked higher in American public estimation than Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. The poll also showed that Premier Ben Gurion was more admired by the American man-in-the-street than Indian Premier Nehru, British Prime Minister Eden, who resigned yesterday, or Ambassador Henry Cabot Lodge, chief U.S. delegate to the United Nations.

The survey was aimed at determining which men living in the world today the public admires the most. Premier Ben Gurion has become widely known to Americans because of his strong stand against Arab aggression and the impression he created on a number of national television interviews.

ISRAEL'S POPULATION GIVEN AS 1,872,000 BY MINISTRY OF INTERIOR

JERUSALEM, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- Israel's population at the end of 1956 stood at 1,872,000, the Ministry of Interior announced today. This figure included 200,000 non-Jewish citizens. Two-thirds of Israel's current population are immigrants, the report stated. Some 8,000 persons left Israel permanently last year.

ISRAEL MINISTER DISCUSSES CURRENT PROBLEMS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- Current problems in Israel-American relations were discussed today when Israel Minister Reuven Shiloah conferred with Deputy Under Secretary of State Robert Murphy for 90 minutes. The Israel envoy requested the meeting.

EISENHOWER TELLS CONGRESS HE WILL OFFER CHANGES IN MIGRATION LAW

WASHINGTON, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower announced in his State of the Union message today that he would "shortly recommend to the Congress by special message the changes in our immigration laws that I deem necessary in the light of our world responsibilities."

The President did not make any specific recommendations on immigration today except to state that he would ask Congress to enact legislation promptly to regularize the status of the United States of Hungarian refugees brought here as parolees.

16,560 JEWS FLED HUNGARY SINCE REBELLION, U. J. A. LEADER REPORTS

VIENNA, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- A total of 16,560 Hungarian Jews have arrived in Austria since the beginning of the Hungarian rebellion and fighting, Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice president of the United Jewish Appeal, reported at a press conference here today.

Rabbi Friedman noted that this figure represented 14 percent of the Jewish population of Hungary and twice that of Austria. He said that although a higher percentage of Jews than non-Jews had fled Hungary, a smaller percentage of Jewish refugees had been accepted as immigrants to other countries. Sixty percent of the non-Jewish refugees have already left Austria, he pointed out, but only 25 percent of the Jews. There are still 12,000 Jewish refugees in Austria.

This meant more financial and moral support which Jewry must supply, he underlined. The UJA, he said, had undertaken an extraordinary \$100,000,000 campaign for refugee needs alone this year. The Joint Distribution Committee, a UJA beneficiary organization, Rabbi Friedman said, is currently supplying cash and caring for supplementary needs of the refugees, including supplying kosher food, setting up kosher kitchens in the camps, providing prayer books and other religious supplies and setting up religious schools for the children.

Rabbi Friedman, who is here together with Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice chairman of the JDC, said his purpose in coming to Vienna was to assure the refugees that American Jews are behind them in their heroic effort to reject Communism and build themselves a new life.

REDCROSS ARRANGES FOR MORE SHIPS TO TAKE JEWS OUT OF EGYPT

GENEVA, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- The International Red Cross is arranging for a second ship to take out of Egypt Jews who are either being expelled or leaving under duress. It was reported here today from Cairo.

A total of 957 Jews were brought to Naples January 1 on the first ship, the majority of whom were either expelled outright or released from internment on condition that they leave "voluntarily."

Most of the 45,000 Jews in Egypt plan to leave the country as soon as possible, the Cairo report said. Some interned Egyptian Jews are planning to renounce their Egyptian nationality so that they will be permitted to leave Egypt, the report added.

AMERICAN RELIGIOUS CONVENTION DISCUSSES SHORTAGE OF TEACHERS

ATLANTIC CITY, Jan. 10. (JTA) -- Prominent Jewish educators issued a sharp warning here today that the development of American Jewish life was facing a serious threat by the lack of religious educational teachers.

Speakers, addressing more than 1,000 delegates attending the convention of the newly-established American Religious Zionist Organization, composed of the Mizrahi and Hapoel Hamizrachi, emphasized that "the dearth of competent teachers for the Jewish schools is so great that it is threatening a breakdown of the existing Jewish all-day schools and afternoon and evening schools."

Isidor Margolis, executive director of the National Education Committee of the new group, laid particular emphasis on the teacher shortage. He asserted: "Even if all the present students in the Jewish teachers' institutes throughout the country should enter the teaching profession, they would only supply less than 50 percent of the demand." He estimated that there are at the present time some 225 day schools devoted to a curriculum of religious and secular studies in the United States.

Rabbi Solomon J. Sharfman, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, which embraces 700 Orthodox rabbis, hailed the merger of the Hapoel Hamizrachi and the Mizrahi groups into a united front. "The unity in Orthodoxy will help to strengthen the religious Jewish community in the United States which represents the largest part of world Jewry," he said.

Jacob Greenberg, Deputy Speaker of Israel's Parliament, emphasized the need of the United Nations to achieve an immediate peace settlement between Israel and the Arab states, warning at the same time that failure would ultimately lead to world-wide hostilities. He called attention to Israel's adherence to democratic ideals and principles and its strategic position as a democratic citadel in the Middle East.