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ISRAEL CABINET MEETS TODAY TO DECIDE ON U.S. OFFER ON AKABA

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet will meet tomorrow to decide on the proposals to the Gaza-Akaba issue made by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles in an effort to meet Israel's request for freedom of navigation through the Gulf of Akaba.

No official comment on the American proposals was forthcoming today in view of the expected stand by the Cabinet tomorrow. However, the feeling was growing here today that "support" of the freedom of navigation under the terms offered by Mr. Dulles is insufficient and unsatisfactory.

The fact that Israel Ambassador Abba Eban in Washington requested further clarification of the offer was interpreted here as indicating that Israel may still see Secretary Dulles' suggestions as at least a basis for initiating discussions and working out proposals for effective safeguards of freedom of navigation.

Doubt was expressed here today that Israel would agree to the order of priorities implicit in Secretary Dulles' proposals, namely that Israel should first withdraw its troops from the Gaza and Akaba areas and only then the U.S. will take measures to assure free passage of Israeli ships through the Gulf of Akaba. The Israelis feel that Egypt's repeated default of its promises justify Israel's insistence that the American guarantees should precede Israeli troop withdrawals.

A report from Ambassador Eban on Secretary Dulles' proposals was under study today by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion. Informed sources here indicated that the proposals left many questions unanswered, particularly what the Eisenhower Administration would do if Egypt sought to interfere again with Israeli passage in the Akaba Gulf and the Tiran Strait. These sources said that the Israel Government does not exclude the possibility that, in such an event, the United States would again refuse any direct action and insist it was a matter for the United Nations to handle.

Another question asked here was the type of ships the United States would use to "test" non-interference: cargo ships or warships? Another unresolved problem is the fact that the Dulles' proposals made no reference to the problem of Egyptian denial to Israel of Suez Canal transit. It was assumed Israel was as concerned with Suez Canal as Akaba passage rights.

Meanwhile, a Foreign Office spokesman declared today that it is clear that Egypt has no intention of ending hostilities against Israel. He revealed that tracks from the scene of a landmine ambush--in which five Israeli soldiers were wounded yesterday--had been traced to United Nations Emergency Force lines on the Gaza-Sinai border. It is also clear that the presence of UNEF is no deterrent to Egyptian incursions into Israel, the spokesman added.

Knesset Rejects Referendum on Gaza and Akaba; Naval Unit Reinforced

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament rejected today, by a vote of 33 to 5, a Herut demand for a national referendum on the question of whether the government should withdraw further from the Akaba and Gaza areas.

Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, speaking for the government, said that it was useless to hold such a referendum since both the people of Israel and the world was very well aware of the government's intention of budging no further until it had obtained adequate guarantees it sought of navigation rights and security. He underlined the readiness of the Israeli people to back up their government with heavy personal sacrifices, if needed, and asserted that a referendum under these circumstances would be "superficial."

The Israel naval unit in the port of Elath has been reinforced by the overland shipment of a number of high speed torpedo boats, it was revealed here today. Two Israeli frigates sailed completely around the continent of Africa recently to enter the Gulf of Akaba and become the nucleus of the Israeli naval fleet guarding the port which may soon become Israel's second most important commercial harbor. The small PT-type boats have already been tested in shakedown maneuvers in the Gulf of Akaba.

U.S. CANNOT GIVE FORMAL GUARANTEES TO ISRAEL ON AKABA, OFFICIALS SAY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Top-level U.S. official sources today disclosed a view that Israel must take a measure of risk in withdrawing from the Strait of Tiran in the Akaba area, because it will not be possible for the United States to formally slip out a guarantee like that sought by Israel. Israel has been seeking clarification of the U.S. proposals since they were made earlier this week by Secretary of State Dulles to Israel Ambassador Abba Eban.

Official circles said today the United States feels the success of the Eisenhower Doctrine hinges on early Israel withdrawal. The United States is doing its utmost to persuade Israel to withdraw. The United States feels its proposals are preferable, from Israel's viewpoint, to anything that could be obtained from the United Nations.

However, the U.S. feels that care must be taken to prevent giving offense to Egypt. It is thought the Egyptians might tacitly accept the U.S. proposals if they are sufficiently non-committal and presented in the right way. It was explained here that the U.S. could give no assurances that would be binding without Egypt's agreement. But the U.S. had confidence Egypt would ultimately agree.

Officials stressed that under no circumstances would the United States act under the proposals to use force against Egypt. No U.S. naval vessels would be used in the Gulf of Akaba. But it might be assumed, these sources said the U.S. could send an American freighter to Elath. In such event it is not expected Egypt would challenge America's right.

If Egypt seeks to halt Israel ships in the gulf, the United States will refer the matter to the United Nations and rely on UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold. The current formula has been constructed in consultation with him and Egypt informed through him. The question of stationing United Nations Emergency Force units at the Tiran Strait would be up to Mr. Hammarskjold and the U.S. would look to him for an answer.

The problem of the Gaza Strip was defined as one that might be solved either by the UNEF or by expanding the UN Truce Supervisory Organization under Gen. E. L. M. Burns. In the U.S. view neither Israel nor Egypt really wants the Strip because of the responsibility for the Arab refugee inhabitants, but Israel has less right than Egypt.

It was stressed today that the U.S. sees no connection between the blockade of the Gulf of Akaba and the question of Israel maritime passage through the Suez Canal. According to the high sources here, Israel is essentially interested in Akaba Gulf as an alternative to Suez and is only using Suez as a talking point.

Egypt might want to take the Tiran Strait issue to the World Court for a final decision, the high officials said. For these reasons, it was explained it cannot be expected that the U.S. could offer Israel rigid guarantees.

EGYPT WARNS U.S. NOT TO GIVE ANY ASSURANCE TO ISRAEL ON AKABA

LONDON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Reports from Cairo received here today indicate that Egypt will insist on immediate Israel withdrawal from the Gaza and Akaba areas without any concessions whatsoever to Israel. An official source in Cairo said any assurances to Israel would be "an American slap in the face of the Arabs."

The Egyptian Government newspaper said today the United Nations could give all the "assurances" it wants to Israel on Gaza and the Gulf of Akaba, but Egypt would not be bound by them. This expression of intent appeared in the newspaper "El Goumhouria" which closely reflects Egyptian President Nasser's views.

LESSING ROSENWALD IMPRESSED WITH ISRAEL; REMAINS AN ANTI-ZIONIST

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Lessing J. Rosenwald's principled opposition to political Zionism remains unchanged despite a sympathetic and profound appreciation, gained during a recent visit to Israel, of the country's problems and the character and integrity of its people. He declared in an address here this evening. Mr. Rosenwald, for many years first president of the American Council for Judaism and now chairman of the board, spoke at a meeting of the Council at the Plaza Hotel.

He paid tribute to the fact that Israel had offered "a haven of refuge for hundreds of thousands who could not have found such a place in any other part of the world," to the spirit of sacrifice he observed on the part of the people. "People," he reported, "are courteous to each other and hospitable in the extreme to strangers. The 'newcomers' are accepted as a responsibility but not too willingly, and often as inferiors to the early settlers and the 'sabras.' Nevertheless, in time, they find their niche, shoulder their burdens - as do others - and in one way or another finally become integrated into the State."

At the same time, Mr. Rosenwald had criticism for what he called the "isolationism" of Israel. "For them," he observed, "the world is the boundaries of the Israeli borders. I found it difficult to explain how one could be enthusiastic about the State and disagree with Zionist ideology. To them, Jews who are in other parts of the world and who are in difficulty should receive no assistance other than to help them come to Israel--all else is temporizing."

GERMAN BUSINESSMAN FORCED MOSCOW TO ADMIT WALLEMBERG'S ARREST

FRANKFURT, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The affidavit of a German businessman incarcerated in the same Moscow prison where Raoul Wallenberg was held apparently was a key factor in inducing the Soviet Government to admit its arrest of the Swedish diplomat, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today.

Ernest Wallenstein, who told the JTA he occupied a cell directly under that of Wallenberg, said the Swedish diplomat--who saved 20,000 Hungarian Jews from Hitler's furnaces--was alive four months after July 17, 1947, the date of his death listed by the Soviet Government in its report to the Swedish Government.

An affidavit Mr. Wallenstein executed at the request of the Swedish Government shortly after his return from a Moscow prison to Germany in 1955 contained so many particulars that when the information was conveyed to Moscow, the data apparently proved instrumental in inducing the Soviets to abandon their previous insistence that Wallenberg was unknown to them and had never been in the Soviet Union.

Mr. Wallenstein's account to the JTA challenged the Soviet version of Wallenberg's death in several respects. The Swedish diplomat was never in the Lubianka prison as alleged by the Soviet note, which ended the long mystery of his disappearance. Mr. Wallenstein said he and the diplomat were inmates of Leffortskaya prison, which is also in Moscow. When the two men, who had met through business contacts in Bucharest, found themselves in the same prison, with the diplomat in the cell over that of Mr. Wallenstein, they maintained constant communication through knocking signals and other ways.

The German businessman said that their state of health was a perennial topic for exchanges of messages and that the diplomat had never complained about heart trouble, although the Soviets asserted he died of heart failure. Mr. Wallenstein said he had been sentenced for "espionage" by the Russians and later released and permitted to return to Germany.

(Tribute to the Swedish diplomat was paid in the Israel Parliament tonight by Rabbi Mordecai Nurock who described him as "an angel of salvation" for his unique life-saving mission in Nazi-occupied Hungary.)

HUNGARIAN JEWS, HELD IN NAZI CAMPS, RECEIVE NO GERMAN COMPENSATION

BONN, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Hungarian Jews, though they were inmates of German concentration camps during the Nazi era, have no claim under German indemnification legislation, Secretary General Dr. H. G. van Dam of the Central Jewish Council declared here today. His statement came in reply to many refugees from Hungary, now in Austria and other countries, who had been deported to such Nazi camps as Auschwitz.

With few exceptions, only former residents of Germany are entitled to apply for indemnification payments, Dr. van Dam pointed out. In addition to pre-Hitler inhabitants who later emigrated, the main categories of eligible Nazi victims are those who maintained a permanent domicile in West Germany or West Berlin on December 31, 1952; those who had a permanent domicile there the following year and qualify under the 1951 UN Convention on Refugees; finally DP's who lived in West Germany or West Berlin on January 1, 1947.

Hardly any of the thousands of Nazi victims among the Jews now fleeing Hungary can meet these conditions. In the case of those subjected to Nazi medical experiments, no deadlines applied, but the number of surviving unfortunates in this group is so small that a mere \$50,000 is appropriated annually for the claimants from and in all countries.

Dr. van Dam suggests that the Bonn Parliament might extend the principle of "equitableness" to Hungarian refugees, making them eligible to receive compensation for their sufferings at German hands, but chances of any such action being taken are considered very slight.

AUSTRIAN JEWS TO SEEK GOVERNMENT COMPENSATION FOR RAZED SYNAGOGUES

VIENNA, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Board of Jewish Communities of Austria moved today to press its claim on the Austrian Government for compensation for synagogues destroyed by the Nazis. It appointed a committee to seek a lump-sum settlement under existing restitution legislation, and also decided to seek extension of restitution programs.

The Board reiterated its complete solidarity with Israel in its present situation. It hailed Israel's decision to accept tens of thousands of Jewish refugees from Hungary, Egypt and elsewhere, and protested the "barbaric" expulsion of Egyptian Jews.

BULGARIA STALLS ON PAYING DAMAGES FOR SHOT DOWN ISRAEL PLANE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Communist-dominated Bulgarian regime is stalling on promises to pay damages for the El Al passenger plane which was shot down near the Bulgarian-Greek border in the summer of 1955, Israel sources indicated today.

Israel submitted damage claims of \$2,500,000 in the tragedy in which all 58 persons aboard were killed and the Bulgarian Government, after at first rejecting responsibility, finally agreed to pay damages. Israel sources said no progress has been made toward actual payment of the claims.

JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE TO OFFER SCHOLARSHIPS TO NAZI VICTIMS

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The fourth annual program of international scholarship and fellowship grants for the academic year 1957-58 will be offered by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, its president, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, announced today. The grants will be awarded to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who will qualify for Jewish teacher training scholarships, graduate scholarships in Jewish studies and research fellowships for independent projects in Jewish arts, letters and social sciences.

Last year 194 successful candidates in Austria, France, Germany, Great Britain, Holland, Italy, Sweden, Switzerland, Yugoslavia, Canada, U. S. and Argentina received scholarship and fellowship grants totaling \$135,000. An equal amount is earmarked for this program in 1957.

Applications for grants must be prepared on special forms which may be obtained from the offices of the Claims Conference here. European candidates may obtain the necessary forms from the Central British Fund, London or the American Joint Distribution Committee, Paris. All applications must be submitted to the Claims Conference not later than March 31, 1957.

The scholarship and fellowship grants are part of a greater program for Jewish cultural and educational reconstruction on behalf of which the Conference granted a general allocation for 1957 of \$1,232,000. This amount is included in the Conference allocations for this year totaling over \$10,000,000, the major share of which is earmarked for meeting the urgent needs for relief and rehabilitation of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution. The Conference obtains its funds for allocation under the terms of the Bonn-Israel Reparations Pact concluded at The Hague in 1952.

AMERICAN RED CROSS REFUSES TO BUY HOUSE IN SUBURB WITH BIASED COVENANT

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- An announcement by the American Red Cross that it would not buy a house in a Washington suburb involving a discriminatory covenant of purchase was lauded today by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith in a message to the organization and its new president, Gen. Alfred M. Gruenther.

The Red Cross announced it would not purchase property it had been considering in the Spring Valley section of Washington "after carefully considering all the factors involved." Gen. Gruenther said he was "naturally against" any racial or religious discrimination and that he would approve only a "valid document."

A Red Cross spokesman said this meant a covenant that did not contain restrictive clauses based on race or religion, which have been ruled unenforceable by the U. S. Supreme Court and are therefore not legally recognized. Although unenforceable, the clause is still carried in some deeds.

U. S. IMMIGRATION QUOTA FOR ISRAELIS NOT FILED; 30 VISAS LEFT UNUSED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Thirty immigrant quota visas enabling Israelis to become U. S. citizens were left unused during the fiscal year 1956, it was revealed in a State Department release today.

Under the U. S. immigration laws, Israel is allotted annually 100 quota immigrant visas. According to State Department figures only 70 Israelis came to the U. S. under the quota allotment. In addition to the 70 quota visas, however, 149 non-quota visas for special cases were issued to visiting Israelis.

YOUNG ISRAEL PLANS KOSHER FRATERNITY HOUSES IN AMERICAN UNIVERSITIES

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The success of the first kosher fraternity house in the United States at Cornell University, a project of the National Council of Young Israel, has encouraged the organization to plan similar facilities on other American campuses, Rabbi Ephraim Sturm, national director, said today.

Young Israel hopes to open a similar house at another Eastern University shortly, Rabbi Sturm stated. He reported that the Young Israel Intercollegiate House at Ithaca, N. Y. provides three kosher meals daily for some 40 students of whom 27 are in permanent residence. A small synagogue also was built in the renovation of the house. The deficit of the program, which opened for Cornell students at the start of the school year last September, are being met by the organization, the Young Israel director stated.

BEN GURION SENDS GIFT TO EDDIE CANTOR ON HIS 65TH BIRTHDAY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion dispatched a gift today to Eddie Cantor on the occasion of the comedian's 65th birthday. Celebration of the event will keynote Israel bond-sponsored public affairs in major cities across the United States this week-end.

Mr. Ben Gurion's gift is a handwrought silver cylinder which contains a map of Israel detailing its development program, in which Mr. Cantor has evinced continued interest. The inscription on the cylinder reads: "To Eddie Cantor, a great humanitarian, a loyal son of his people and a true friend of Israel."