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EISENHOWER CONFERS WITH TOP CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS ON SANCTIONS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower conferred today with a bi-partisan group of 28 top Congressional leaders on the issue of whether or not to impose sanctions on Israel. Some of the members of Congress indicated after leaving the White House meeting that a free exchange of views took place, but that no firm decision on sanctions was taken.

It is understood that bi-partisan objections were entered with the President against sanctions. The President will present his views to the American people tonight in a national radio and television address. Vice President Nixon, Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, and Henry Cabot Lodge Jr., American Ambassador to the United Nations, participated in the White House meeting.

Secretary Dulles said after the meeting that a full exchange of views with the Congressional leaders took place and admitted that there was no "unanimity." Vice President Nixon declined all comment as he emerged from the White House. Ambassador Lodge said that he expects President Eisenhower to outline a "positive course" of action for the United States. He said that there would be no U.S. request for delay in tomorrow's meeting of the UN General Assembly. Mr. Lodge said the United States would be ready for action on the Israel question at that time.

Dulles Reported Considering "Moral" Sanctions, Not Economic

House Republican Leader Rep. Joseph W. Martin of Massachusetts said "all kinds of sanctions" were discussed. It was hinted in other Congressional circles, meanwhile, that thought is being given by Secretary of State Dulles to "moral" rather than economic sanctions. It was the impression of Speaker of the House Sam Rayburn, Texas Democrat, that no conclusion was reached at the meeting on the subject of sanctions.

Sen. John J. Fulbright, Arkansas Democrat, described the session as the "freest" exchange with the President in which he had participated. It was learned that Congressional leaders made a strong case against sanctions and meanwhile insisted on a more sympathetic look by the Administration at Israel's case against Egypt on Egyptian blockade practices.

Sen. Thomas Hennings, Missouri Democrat, revealed that "the general purport" of the President's remarks was that the Administration would support sanctions against Israel if the United Nations decides to apply them. Rep. Vorys (R., Ohio), a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said: "I think there was a substantial agreement that in view of the assurances given Israel by the President and the Secretary of State that Israel should withdraw without waiting for future action in the United Nations Assembly."

Rep. Halleck (R., Ind.), Assistant House Minority Leader, said that "so far as I know there has been no determination as to what we should do" if it comes to a UN vote for sanctions against Israel. He said there was a good deal of talk about sanctions. But, he added, "I think there was pretty general agreement that Israel should withdraw from Egyptian territory under assurances."

Sen. Knowland Proposes 30 Days for Compliance with U. N. Resolution

Senate Republican Leader Knowland said it was his impression the Administration has not yet decided whether to vote for an Arab-sponsored UN sanctions resolution against Israel. He thought the United States should vote against it. If the United States did vote against it, he said, the General Assembly situation was such that there would be difficulty getting the necessary two-thirds to pass the measure. But if the United States either abstains or votes affirmatively, he said, sanctions would be imposed.

Senator Knowland revealed he has submitted to President Eisenhower a proposal under which the UN would give violators of its resolutions 30 days to comply or face threats of sanctions. The California Republican described the proposal as an alternative to American support of any move to sanction Israel for failure to withdraw from positions in the Akaba and the Gaza areas.

BEN GURION ASKS U.S. TO SECURE TWO-WEEK POSTPONEMENT OF U.N. DEBATE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion today asked the United States to try to obtain a two-week postponement of the General Assembly debate of its resolutions demanding Israel withdrawal from the Akaba and Gaza areas. The debate is scheduled for tomorrow.

Mr. Ben Gurion asked for the delay in the hope that an agreeable solution on the future of Gaza and on navigation of the Akaba waterway might be worked out in that time. It was hoped here that Ambassador Abba Eban, who is due to arrive past midnight, would have some indications of a firmer U.S. attitude toward guarantees of Israel's freedom of navigation and the possibility of a United Nations committee studying the future of the Gaza Strip.

Meanwhile, the government announced that it would schedule a foreign policy debate in Parliament some time after tomorrow's meeting of the Cabinet. This satisfied opposition demands for an immediate debate.

FRANCE TO SEND SHIPS THROUGH AKABA WATERS; SUPPORTS ISRAEL'S STAND

PARIS, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Jacob Tsur conferred today with top French foreign policy officials at the Quai d'Orsay. He is understood to have discussed with them Israel's position at the United Nations and relations among Israel, France and the United States.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman today announced France will send ships through the Strait of Tiran to Elath to help emphasize the international character of the waterway. The spokesman said France considers Israel's demands for guarantees legitimate.

CANADIAN MINISTER SAYS SANCTIONS AGAINST ISRAEL WOULD BE "UNWISE"

OTTAWA, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Asserting that sanctions against Israel at the present time would be "premature and unwise," Lester B. Pearson, Canadian External Affairs Minister, told Parliament last night there was "a very good possibility" that Israeli troops would withdraw from the Gaza Strip and Akaba Gulf territory.

The possibility of obtaining Israeli withdrawal depends on linking the necessity for such action by Israel with "the equal necessity of ensuring that withdrawal should not be to the state of affairs existing last October," he said.

ISRAELI VEHICLES BLASTED BY MINES IN GAZA AREA; RAIL TRACK DYNAMITED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Two vehicles were mined on roads around Raffah, in the Gaza Strip, last night. One Israeli soldier was wounded. Tracks from both ambulances led to the border, which is patrolled by the United Nations Emergency Force.

An Israeli was wounded when the jeep he was driving was fired upon in the Beisan area. Footprints from a point commanding the road were tracked to the Jordan frontier.

A section of rail track was damaged last night when fedayeen raiders attempted to dynamite an Israeli train near Raffah. The train escaped damage.

JEWS TESTIFY IN ISRAEL AGAINST NAZIS STANDING TRIAL IN VIENNA

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Nine Israelis, former residents of Nazi concentration camps, gave testimony in an Israel court today against six Nazis standing trial in Vienna for war crimes. The witnesses identified various of the defendants from photographs furnished the Tel Aviv District Court by the Vienna court.

Some of the witnesses told the Israeli judge that the defendants had thrown living Jewish babies into a fire and that they had tortured Jewish women. One of the witnesses said he would not go to Vienna to testify because he could not again "face those human beasts."

IMPORTS AND EXPORTS REPORTED INCREASED IN ISRAEL LAST YEAR

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Both imports into Israel and exports abroad increased last year, but imports rose more than twice as much as exports, it was announced here today. Imports amounted to 655,000,000 pounds, an increase of 70,000,000 pounds, while exports amounted to 187,000,000 pounds, up 29,000,000.

The largest increase in imports represented new capital investments, while the per capital consumption of consumer goods dropped. The increase in exports was chiefly in citrus fruits, and other agricultural products, followed by polished diamonds, cement and textiles.

FIRST GERMAN CORRESPONDENT ARRIVES IN ISRAEL; WAS ANTI-NAZI

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Rudolf Kustermeyer, correspondent of the West German News Agency, arrived in Jerusalem today, becoming the first German correspondent since the end of the Nazi regime to take up a resident assignment in this country. A non-Jew, Herr Kustermeyer was an anti-Nazi who spent considerable time as an inmate in Nazi concentration camps.

PROTECTION OF 7,000 ITALIAN JEWS IN EGYPT URGED; GOVERNMENT SCORED

ROME, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The failure of the Italian Government to take a "firm stand" in protection of the rights and religious freedom of 7,000 Italian Jews residing in Egypt was deplored today by Giorgio Peyrot, Protestant leader and director of the legal department of the Federal Council of Italian Evangelical Churches. He made the charge in an address to the opening session of the first convention of the Italian Association for Religious Freedom in Florence.

The Union of Italian Jewish Communities is collecting information from and about Jews of Italian nationality expelled from Egypt with a view to protecting their property rights, it was announced here today. The move parallels a reported Italian Government study of the situation in Egypt also with a view to protecting Italian national's property abroad.

The problem of 4,000 Hungarian refugees, including 200 Jews who want to remain in Italy, was considered yesterday at a meeting in Rome of United States escapee program executives with Italian officials. Participating in the meeting were representatives of the Italian Red Cross, the Interior Ministry, Catholic Welfare Services, the High Commission for Refugees and the Joint Distribution Committee. Currently the Italian Government is granting these refugees only transit permits.

NAZI EXPERT ON ANTI-JEWISH LEGISLATION TO VISIT U.S.; PROTEST VOICED

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Secretary of State John Foster Dulles was urged today to cancel a projected visit to Washington by Dr. Hans Globke, State Secretary in the West German Government who was one of Hitler's experts on racial legislation.

The appeal was made in a letter to Mr. Dulles from the Society for the Prevention of World War III, which declared that Globke's visit late this month would be "an affront to the American people which could damage our prestige in the eyes of millions of victims of Nazism."

The Adenauer Government announced plans last week for the visit of the Bonn official, who was accused by the Society of possession of a "notorious Nazi record." Albert Simard, secretary of the Society, said the letter to Mr. Dulles had been sent to a number of Senators and Representatives. He stressed in his letter that Globke's commentaries on the Nuremberg laws "formed the basis of the Nazi extermination program."

Mr. Simard added that "Chancellor Adenauer's selection of Globke as one of his key advisers has been denounced both in the German press and by German leaders." He quoted a statement by Karl Gerold, publisher of the Frankfurter Rundschau, that Globke's commentaries were "banners above the bloody trail of millions of murdered human beings of Jewish ancestry."

GERMAN SHAREHOLDERS TO VOTE ON \$7,150,000 COMPENSATION TO JEWS

FRANKFURT, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- April 5 has been set as the date of the next regular shareholders' meeting of the IG-Farben chemical corporation, which will have to approve the recent \$7,150,000 out-of-court settlement with the firm's former Auschwitz slave laborers.

The agreement was signed early this month by IG-Farben's principal officers, Dr. Walter Schmidt and Dr. Brinckmann, but ratification by the shareholders is necessary before it can enter into effect. Under the terms of the settlement, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany will distribute 90 percent of the \$7,150,000 among Jewish survivors of Buna-Monowitz and those other plants which IG-Farben operated near Auschwitz with manpower supplied by the SS from the inmates of the death camp.

BONN TO PAY BENEFITS TO ISRAEL RESIDENTS INSURED IN EAST GERMANY

BONN, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A government regulation, which has just received final approval from the Federal Council, extends to residents of Israel certain old age and invalidity insurance benefits they accumulated while employed in parts of Germany outside the present territory of the West German Federal Republic.

Beneficiaries of the new regulation are mainly Jews who held sales and office positions in what is now East Germany or Silesia, Pomerania and East Prussia. If they have contributed the mandatory premiums to the official Employees Insurance Fund and to the Invalidity Insurance Fund, they qualify for a pension. The premiums involved were automatically deducted from all but the highest salaries.

Whereas these old age and invalidity pensions have long been paid to present or former residents of West Germany, one-time inhabitants of German provinces outside the area of the Federal Republic were rendered eligible only a few years ago. At the time a legal proviso was included to the effect that applicants must be domiciled in West Germany or in countries with which Bonn maintains diplomatic relations.

Since no formal diplomatic relations exist between Bonn and Israel, it was necessary to pass the new regulation so as to put Israelis on the same footing as residents of all other countries outside the Soviet bloc.

MURRAY SNYDER NAMED BY EISENHOWER AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF DEFENSE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower today announced the appointment of Murray Snyder, assistant White House press spokesman, to be Assistant Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs. Mr. Snyder, Brooklyn-born Jew, served as a political reporter on the Brooklyn Eagle before joining the White House staff in 1953.

STATE DEPT. EXPLAINS SLOW-UP IN ISSUANCE OF U.S. VISAS TO ISRAELIS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- State Department officials denied today there was any political significance to a slowing of the rate of granting visas to Israeli nationals to enter the United States.

A report from Jerusalem said that in the last few days the Embassy has been telling Israelis that visas which they had been promised could not be processed because the United States ban on travel of American nationals to the Middle East had left the Embassy short-handed. The report pointed out that although the travel had been in effect since last October, the hold-up of visas had developed most recently.

U.S. PROTESTANTS ASK EISENHOWER NOT TO "BARTER" AWAY ISRAEL'S RIGHTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The American Protestant Defense League called on the United States today to support the State of Israel against "injustice." In an open letter to President Eisenhower, Secretary of State Dulles and members of Congress, the Protestant group warned against "bartering" away the rights of the small nation of Israel.

In a review of the situation, the league noted that Israel has been surrounded by hostile Arab countries which refuse to make peace, refuse to recognize Israel and make continuous murderous raids and sorties across the borders. The league underlined that Israel's reprisal actions were taken only after repeated unheeded protests to the United Nations.

CHRISTIAN COMMITTEE OPENS THREE-DAY CONFERENCE TODAY ON MIDDLE EAST

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Ambassadors from several nations as well as leading authorities on the Middle East will discuss the present Arab-Israel dispute at a national three-day conference of the American Christian Palestine Committee which will open here tomorrow.

Several hundred delegates from all over the country will attend this conference. It has been called to consider not only the present economic and political crises in the Middle East but also the methods whereby the present situation might be ameliorated and peace attained.

At the opening session on Thursday evening the speakers on "crisis and opportunity," will be Dr. Russell Henry Stafford, president of the Hartford Seminary Foundation; Brig. Gen. S. L. A. Marshall, chief historian of the U.S. Army and military analyst of the Detroit News; and Dr. Leon Keyserling, former chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisers.

ABNER BREGMAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF UNITED HIAS; GURFEIN NAMED CHAIRMAN

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Abner Bregman, a member of the New York Stock Exchange, has been elected president of United Hias Service, it was announced here today. He succeeds Murray I. Gurfein who became chairman of the United Hias executive committee.

Mr. Bregman, who has been active in Jewish relief and rescue work since 1935 when he joined the board of directors of the Joint Distribution Committee, has been a member of the board of directors of United Hias and its predecessor agencies since 1950. He served as the agency's executive committee chairman during the past year.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS PAYS TRIBUTE TO MEMORY OF SWEDISH HERO

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The World Jewish Congress, an organization representing Jewish communities in 60 countries, today paid tribute to the memory of Swedish hero, Raoul Wallenberg, who died in a Russian prison following efforts to aid Jewish victims of Nazism during World War II.

In a telegram to Swedish Ambassador Erik Boheman in Washington, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, conveyed "sincere and respectful condolences to the Swedish Government and his family." Dr. Goldmann added: "In his sacrificial devotion to the highest ideals of humanity and his invincible courage he deserved well of his country, whose noblest traditions he honored with the gift of his life, and of mankind in whose service he made the supreme sacrifice. Jews everywhere always will remember him with reference and gratitude."

PIONEER WOMEN PRESENT \$100,000 CHECK TO AID IMMIGRANTS IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A check for \$100,000 was turned over to Mrs. Batsheva Vilenski, director of vocational training of the Working Women's Council of Israel, last night by the Pioneer Women.