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EBAN WILL ANNOUNCE TODAY ISRAEL'S WITHDRAWAL FROM GAZA-AKABA AREAS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban today commended Secretary of State Dulles for his "helpful role" during the current discussions and announced that the Israel delegation will make known at the United Nations General Assembly tomorrow the details of Israel's plan for withdrawal from the Gaza and Akaba areas.

Mr. Dulles met with Ambassador Eban for over two hours today. Interviewed by newsmen about the meeting, the Israel Ambassador refused to reveal the substance of tomorrow's announcement but said he thought it would cause "widespread satisfaction" to all concerned with peace in the Middle East.

Mr. Eban, stating that Secretary Dulles was already aware of the details, described a purpose of his meeting today as the formal notification of the Secretary of Israel's intentions as a matter of courtesy. Today, said Mr. Eban, he continued the "very constructive" talks which began February 11 and which have produced "helpful results." He described the February 11 meeting with Secretary Dulles as a "very important stage" in the U.S. - Israel negotiations.

Mr. Eban declined to define any specific aspect of the new Israel plan. He said it would be made known fully tomorrow. Participating in today's talk were Francis O. Wilcox, Assistant Secretary of State for UN Affairs, Lerman Paleger, the State Department's top legal adviser, and Gideon Rafael of the Israel UN delegation.

A joint communique issued by the White House today on the talks of President Eisenhower with French Premier Guy Mollat said: "With reference to the Middle East, they stated a common conviction that solution to the problems of the area can be achieved by peaceful means, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law."

The communique added: "With regard to the question of the future status of the Suez Canal, they recalled that the 1888 treaty contemplated a definitive system to guarantee, at all times and to all powers, the free use of the canal. In this connection they reaffirmed their adherence to the six requirements unanimously adopted by the United Nations Security Council and accepted by Egypt last October, which called, among other things, for free and open transit through the canal without discrimination, and the insulation of the operation of the canal from politics of any country."

Israeli Groups Restless Over Reports On Troop Withdrawal

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The reports from Washington and the United Nations that the Israel Government may announce its withdrawal of troops from the Gaza and Akaba areas aroused great unrest in the Herut Party, the second largest in Parliament, which is not represented in the government, as well as in the Achdut Avodah laborite group which is represented in the Cabinet.

The Achdut Avodah officially demanded today the immediate convocation of Parliament. It also insisted on an immediate session of the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs and Security Committee "in view of the grave developments at the United Nations and the United States with regard to Gaza and Akaba areas." An emergency session of the national committee of Achdut Avodah has been summoned for Sunday.

The Herut Party was planning today demonstrations against the withdrawal of troops from the Gaza and Akaba areas. The rightist party opposes any retreat by the government from the position approved in Parliament January 23 insisting on an Israeli civil administration in the Gaza Strip.

Earlier in the day, government officials denied that Israel will announce withdrawal plans within 48 hours. They said that even if agreement was reached between Israel and the United States, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion might find it "very difficult" to persuade Israelis to accept "retreats." It was asserted that while Mr. Ben Gurion considers the Akaba issue of primary importance, the Israeli public is much more sensitive to the Gaza Strip problem which is "close to home" and where both "retreat" and its possible immediate consequences in increased fedayeen activities would produce political repercussions.

The Achdut Avodah may attempt to hold up approval of the agreement reached in Washington between Secretary Dulles and Ambassador Abba Eban until Sunday night or Monday. In the event the Achdut Avodah and Mapam decide that the agreement represents

too great a retreat, and if the centrist General Zionists continue to adhere to their line, Premier Ben Gurion cannot obtain a vote of confidence in Parliament. That vote is necessary inasmuch as Parliament on January 23 adopted a resolution demanding Israeli civil administration of the Gaza Strip.

Israel Will Announce its Withdrawal Plans at U.N. Assembly

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Israel announced in the General Assembly today that its delegation "will be in a position to make a statement on Israel's plans for withdrawal" at tomorrow afternoon's meeting of the Assembly.

The announcement was made by the deputy chairman of Israel's permanent delegation here, Mordecai R. Kidron. The two-sentence announcement by Mr. Kidron was followed by long speeches from the Arab and Soviet blocs assailing not only Israel but also the United States.

Setting the tone for the fresh attacks against Israel, Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi, Foreign Minister of Egypt, complained that plans have been made outside the United Nations while Egypt "has barely been consulted or informed on matters of vital importance." Those who are making such efforts, he charged, "ignored the existence of Egypt and the United Nations. Dr. Fawzi's attack on the United States, while it did not name Washington, was considered by observers as the most bitter statement against American policy made here since last October.

ISRAEL REPAYS \$7,700,000 TO EXPORT-IMPORT BANK IN WASHINGTON

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Israel Treasury will turn over \$7,700,000 to the United States Export-Import Bank today in partial repayment of loans totalling \$135,000,000. The payment, the largest thus far in the lifetime of the loan, covers interest and a repayment of principal. (The check was presented this afternoon in Washington by Ambassador Eban to Export-Import bank officials.)

The loan of \$135,000,000 was originally contracted in 1949 and 1950. The dollars are being spent for agriculture, industrial, irrigation, and public utilities development projects, including port, telecommunication, power, transport and housing facilities. The payment to date amounts to \$46,700,000.

FIRST SHIP TO BRING CARGO TO ISRAEL FROM ARAB PORT DOCKS AT HAIFA

TEL AVIV, Feb. 27. (JTA) -- The first ship to bring a cargo to Israel directly from an Arab port docked at Haifa yesterday. The Greek vessel Captain Stratis arrived from Beirut with 400 tons of food, medicaments, tools, clothing and textbooks for the use of Arab refugees in camps operated by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency in the Gaza Strip.

Haifa's main pier will be extended by some 1,770 feet and all cranes used on the dock will be converted to diesel operation instead of steam, it was announced today. The improvements are included in a special 1,500,000 pound budget earmarked by the Ministry of Communications for Haifa port development.

The first Israel-chartered tanker to bring oil to Elath, the southern terminus of Israel's nearly completed oil pipeline, is expected about mid-April. The pipeline is expected to be ready for use by then. The oil will be piped from tanker to storage tanks on the dock--already under construction--and thence through the line to Beersheba. There tank cars will move the crude oil to Haifa for refining.

NEW IMMIGRATION BRINGS MANY PHYSICIANS TO ISRAEL; MORE NEEDED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The growing number of professionals in the current immigration has been highlighted by the arrival during the past month of 40 physicians. Dr. Israel Barzilai, Minister of Health, reported in Knesset.

He said the doctors were receiving clinic space and guidance from established physicians to assure quick integration, adding that 20 of the medical newcomers were already practicing medicine, with ten others scheduled to begin practice soon. Dr. Barzilai reported that another 200 physicians could easily be absorbed because of current needs.

Provisions for housing the professionals and other European immigrants were announced by the Ministry of Labor, which reported plans for the construction of 600 housing units on a 50-acre site in the Batyam area. The site is part of an area of 1,500 acres on which 500 units have already been completed.

ISRAEL'S POPULATION TOTALS 1,872,390; INCLUDES 205,000 NON-JEWS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The population of Israel at the end of 1956 totalled 1,872,390, of whom 205,000 were non-Jews, according to official statistics published today.

The data also showed that, starting in 1955, the sex ratios of immigrants, who accounted for 82 percent of the population increase of more than one million Jews since establishment of the state, was reversed, with female immigrants now predominating.

JEWS URGED TO SEEK COMPENSATION FROM EGYPT FOR CONFISCATED PROPERTY

PARIS, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The world Jewish community should investigate means of obtaining compensation and restitution from the Egyptian Government for damage caused Jews and for property confiscated from them by the Nasser regime, it was recommended here tonight at the concluding session of a two-day meeting of the European executive of the World Jewish Congress.

In a report by A. L. Easterman, political secretary of the WJC, and Dr. G. M. Riegner, head of its Geneva office, it was estimated that nearly half of the Egyptian Jewish community had already been driven out of the country and that the Nasser regime's persecution, aimed at eradicating the Jews from Egyptian life, is still in full sway. The Egyptian Government campaign was continuing on both the legal and economic fronts, the report said.

The World Jewish Congress has made representations to the United Nations and to many of its member states, the meeting was told, but thus far to no avail. The only positive action by the UN, it was pointed out, was the decision by the UN High Commissioner for Refugees to accept jurisdiction over Jews expelled or fleeing from Egypt.

The WJC pledged itself to further efforts in world capitals and suggested that an all-out effort must be made to arouse the public to act against the persecution of the Jews. The WJC executive acknowledged with appreciation the assistance given Jewish expellees and refugees by the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the WJC, reported on negotiations between the Congress and other Jewish organizations for cooperation on international questions. He said a final decision would be taken at the meeting of the WJC executive in London, scheduled for the end of April.

Members of the European executive from North African countries reported on the situation of the Jews in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco. The position of the Jewish communities in Communist East Europe was also discussed.

U. J. A. INAUGURAL CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS JEWISH REFUGEE CRISIS IN EGYPT

MIAMI, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal is being presented with its "most challenging emergency since 1948," Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice chairman of the UJA, declared today upon his arrival in Miami to attend the UJA's two-day National Inaugural Conference, which opens tomorrow.

"The emergency will reach a highwater mark between now and the end of March because it is expected that in addition to the 11,000 foreign, stateless and native Jews who have already been driven out of Egypt, a large number of the remaining 50,000 may be forced to leave at that time," Rabbi Friedman said. "These new Jewish refugees will need immediate aid along with the 17,000 Jews who have fled Hungary and the thousands of others who continue to come out of eastern Europe and North Africa," he declared.

"The need for UJA to provide immediate relief of the pitiful plight of thousands of Hungarian and Egyptian Jewish refugees patiently sitting in reception centers in Europe is placing an almost intolerable burden on the philanthropic organization's finances," Rabbi Friedman reported. "It is costing the Joint Distribution Committee, which is one of the agencies which receives its funds from the United Jewish Appeal, almost a half-a-million dollars a month for the maintenance and care of the Hungarian refugees in Austria alone."

At the same time, the tide of new Jewish refugees reaching Israel is swelling daily, the UJA's executive vice chairman noted, and is "stretching the tiny Middle Eastern democracy's resources to the breaking point." To meet the critical situation before the end of March, Rabbi Friedman said, it is hoped that the National Inaugural Conference will initiate quick action by communities all over the United States in support of the \$100,000,000 Emergency Rescue Fund.

JEWISH AGENCY PLENARY SESSION POSTPONED; WAS TO OPEN SUNDAY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- A Jewish Agency plenary meeting, scheduled to open here Sunday, has been postponed pending further developments in the current political situation, it was announced today.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Agency, will remain in Europe and continue contact with both the New York and Jerusalem headquarters of the Agency. The American members of the executive will remain in the United States.

MENACHEM BEGIN, HERUT LEADER, ARRIVES IN U.S.; WILL STAY SEVERAL WEEKS

NEW YORK, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Menachem Begin, leaders of the extreme rightist Herut Party in Israel, arrived here today for a visit of several weeks in this country. He refused to make any statement upon his arrival, but indicated that he will give the views of his party on the Gaza-Akaba issue at a press conference tomorrow.

INTERNATIONAL RED CROSS GETS JEWISH RECORDS FOR TRACING NAZI VICTIMS

LONDON, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Gaps in the records of the International Red Cross' tracing service on the fate of more than 1,500,000 Jewish victims of Nazi persecution will be partly closed by information loaned by the World Jewish Congress, it was announced today.

K. Baum, director of the World Jewish Congress European Tracing Office said such clarification was of vital importance both to prospective claimants under the compensation laws of the West German Republic and to thousands of survivors applying to the ITS. Such applications are made for certificates not related to claims on the Bonn Government and for information about relatives, Mr. Baum said.

The World Jewish Congress documentation was provided to the ITS after a study of the documents was completed in Germany earlier this month. The data contained new or supplementary information on 449,000 Jewish victims, including evidence on the fate of 322,000 persons whose names have not appeared to date on ITS records.

Much of the Congress information will be used by the ITS to replace documentation on 618,000 Jewish persecutees which have not been previously available to ITS in original form or which was damaged. The ITS has appealed to other organizations possessing data on persecuted Jews to make the information available for ITS study.

ITALIAN DEPUTY SEEKS PENSIONS FOR WIDOWS OF JEWS KILLED BY NAZIS

ROME, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Special pensions for surviving widows and parents of victims of the Nazi massacre at the Ardeatine Caves, most of them Jews, are provided in the draft of a law prepared by George Berzanti, Christian Democratic deputy in the Italian Parliament, it became known today. Sgr. Berzanti has circulated his draft among deputies of all parties.

Certificates attesting to the assistance given Italian Jews during the Nazi-fascist regime were presented to a number of non-Jews at a ceremony held in Verona by the Association of Deportees. Herman Friedentahl, Chief Rabbi of Milan, expressed the gratitude of Italian Jewry to those who had risked their lives in behalf of Jews.

TUNISIAN PREMIER VISITS OSE INSTITUTIONS; LAUDS OSE SERVICES

TUNIS, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Dr. Habib Bourghiba, Prime Minister of Tunisia, visited the clinics and dispensaries of the Tunisian OSE in the Jewish quarters of the city. The leader of the Tunisian Government, in an inscription in the Golden Book of the organization, commended OSE on its magnificent achievements and congratulated the staffs for its humanitarian services.

The OSE in Tunisia was founded in 1947 and maintains 12 health centers which serve the Jewish communities scattered throughout the whole country. In the year 1956, the OSE centers carried out over 73,000 medical examinations of children and adults and, in the average, distributed over 50,000 bottles of milk to needy children and their families. The OSE derives its funds from grants by the JDC and from contributions by the local Jewish population.

\$1,000,000 DRIVE FOR PHARMACY SCHOOL IN ISRAEL LAUNCHED IN U.S.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Confidence in eventual permanent settlement of Israel's political difficulties was indicated today with announcement of a nation-wide drive to raise \$1,000,000 to build a school of pharmacy at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem.

The drive was announced by Dr. Ivor Griffith, president and dean of the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy and Science, who will be chairman of the campaign. Griffith is a past president of the American Pharmaceutical Association.

ANTI-JEWISH TELEVISION PROGRAM SUSPENDED IN MEXICO; CONDUCTED BY ARAB

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Intervention by the Jewish Central Committee has brought about the suspension of an anti-Jewish and anti-Israel television program conducted for a full hour every Tuesday. The program was directed by an Arab propagandist, Christian Arabs here, embarrassed by the anti-Jewish nature of the program, sent letters to the Jewish Central Committee condemning its anti-Jewish incitement.

J. N. F. TO PLANT FOREST IN MEMORY OF SWEDISH DIPLOMAT WHO SAVED JEWS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund announced today plans to plant a Wallenberg Wood to memorialize the late Swedish diplomat who helped save thousands of Hungarian Jews from death in the final months of the Nazi regime. The Soviet Union recently admitted that Mr. Wallenberg had been arrested in Budapest in 1945 and since died in a Moscow prison.

QUEEN MOTHER OF HOLLAND HONORS HEROES WHO DEFENDED JEWS UNDER NAZIS

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 28. (JTA) -- Queen Mother Wilhelmina attended yesterday the 16th annual commemoration of the strike of Amsterdam workers against the first deportation of Dutch Jews by the Nazis. The Queen laid a wreath at the foot of the monument to workers killed in the strike.