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ISRAEL TO MAKE FINAL DECISION ON WITHDRAWAL TODAY; KNESSET TO MEET

JERUSALEM, March 3. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet met today for four hours and will meet again tomorrow "for final conclusions" in connection with Israel's pledges to withdraw her armed forces from the Gulf of Akaba and the Gaza Strip. These pledges were made last Friday by Israel's Foreign Minister Mrs. Golda Meir in a statement at the United Nations General Assembly. Arrangements for withdrawal, however, were snagged by a statement at the same session of the Assembly by United States delegate Henry Cabot Lodge.

Mrs. Meir made it clear in her declaration that Israeli troops would withdraw on the "assumption" that the United Nations would assume responsibility for the territory "until there is a peace settlement or a definite agreement on the future of the Gaza Strip." However, Mr. Lodge told the Assembly that the future of the Gaza Strip "must be worked out within the framework of the armistice agreement" between Israel and the Arab states.

The two main points of difference between what Israel expected Mr. Lodge to say and what he said are believed to be: 1. Ambassador Lodge was not supposed to make any reference to the armistice agreement in view of the fact that UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold maintained that Egypt has the right to return to Gaza under the armistice pact. Mr. Lodge mentioned the armistice agreement three times. 2. Mr. Lodge was expected by Israel to declare that the United States does not expect Egypt to return to the Gaza Strip. He failed to mention this.

Cabinet Studies New Appeal from Eisenhower to Ben Gurion

Today's meeting of the Cabinet was devoted to a study of an appeal sent last night by President Eisenhower to Premier David Ben Gurion calling for "the utmost speed" in carrying out Israel's pledged withdrawal and promising that the United States would "to assure that Israel's hopes do not prove not to be in vain." President Eisenhower addressed the appeal to Mr. Ben Gurion following an urgent conference by telephone with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles from whom Israel Ambassador Abba Eban sought "clarification" on Mr. Lodge's statement in the UN Assembly.

The Cabinet also had before it a report from Mr. Eban on his talk yesterday with Secretary Dulles. It is understood that the report was not entirely satisfactory and that the Israel Government apparently hopes to obtain further clarification from Washington within the coming 24 hours. It is also understood that Premier Ben Gurion may make a statement tomorrow to the Israel Parliament, which will meet immediately after the Cabinet reaches its final decision on withdrawal.

General Zionists and Herut Seek Resignation of Ben Gurion Cabinet

The Eisenhower letter to Mr. Ben Gurion softened somewhat the negative impression created in Israel by Ambassador Lodge's statement at the United Nations. The evening newspapers took a somewhat milder tone tonight. However, the right-wing Herut Party, which is not represented in the government, continued to call mass meetings throughout the country for tomorrow to demand the resignation of the Ben Gurion Cabinet. Similarly, the General Zionist Party, which is also in the opposition, decided tonight to put forward a motion of non-confidence in the government at tomorrow's session of Parliament.

The Achdut Avodah, the left-wing group in the Cabinet, which was reported last night to have indicated that it will vote in Parliament against the government's decision to withdraw the Israel troops from the Gaza and Akaba areas, today adopted a "wait-and-see" attitude, thus preventing for the time being a split within the Cabinet. At the same time, Achdut Avodah leaders, addressing a conference today of Gaza Strip settlements, said that the evacuation of the Gaza area by Israel is worse than any possible sanctions against Israel.

The question of withdrawal is not now so much a question of external relationships, but an internal problem. There is no unanimity in the Cabinet--not even within the Mapai--whether the assurances thus far obtained are satisfactory, government sources indicated today. If the Cabinet is unable to reach a clearcut decision, it is expected that the entire question will be thrown into the Knesset for a vote. In the event

a majority does not support troop withdrawal, the entire understanding in this regard will be disrupted, government sources said.

The position of the various government parties on the withdrawal agreement as it stands at the moment is, reportedly: Mapai, divided; Progressives, approve; Poale Mizrahi, undecided; Ahdut Avodah and Mapam, officially undecided but inclined to oppose the terms of the current agreement.

In a message to the opening session of the Women's International Zionist Organization which started its world convention here last night, Premier Ben Gurion declared that he could not yet give assurances that Israel's struggle for security from the Gaza Strip and freedom of navigation of the Akaba waterway would end as Israel desired or not. The Premier said that beside Israel's creative force and deep belief in its ability and in the future, the people of Israel have "great hopes in the mutual feelings between Israel and the Jews abroad."

Ben Gurion Receives U.S. Ambassador; Tells Him Reply Not Ready

JERUSALEM, March 3. (JTA) -- United States Ambassador Edward B. Lawson was received today by Premier David Ben Gurion and was informed that the Cabinet had reached no final decision yet over the hitch which developed in the troop withdrawal issue. The Ambassador handed Mr. Ben Gurion the official text of President Eisenhower's letter to him, which reads:

"My dear Mr. Prime Minister: I was indeed deeply gratified at the decision of your government to withdraw promptly and fully behind the armistice lines as set out by your Foreign Minister in her address of yesterday to the General Assembly. I venture to express the hope that the carrying-out of these withdrawals will go forward with the utmost speed.

"I know that this decision was not an easy one. I believe, however, that Israel will have no cause to regret having thus conformed to the strong sentiment of the world community as expressed in the various United Nations resolutions relating to withdrawal.

"It has always been the view of this government that after the withdrawal there should be a united effort by all of the nations to bring about conditions in the area more stable, more tranquil and more conducive to the general welfare than those which existed heretofore. Already the United Nations General Assembly has adopted resolutions which presage such a better future. Hopes and expectations based thereon were voiced by your Foreign Minister and others.

"I believe that it is reasonable to entertain such hopes and expectations and I want you to know that the United States, as a friend of all of the countries of the area and as a loyal member of the United Nations, will seek that such hopes prove not to be in vain."

Eban Says He Will State Israel's Final Policy at United Nations Today

WASHINGTON, March 3. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban today said that he will be in a position tomorrow to announce at the United Nations General Assembly the final decision of the Israel Government on the withdrawal of troops. He cited the position stated by Foreign Minister Golda Meir on Friday as the present policy of Israel.

Participating in a national television program, Mr. Eban made it known that Israel intends to send ships through the Strait of Tiran after it withdraws its troops and will combat, under Article 51 of the UN Charter, any aggressive acts against her shipping. He also stated that Israel would regard continued blockade of its shipping in a reopened Suez Canal as a warlike act.

Mrs. Meir, in her declaration Friday at the UN General Assembly, said that Israel is ready to withdraw fully and promptly from the Akaba area "in the confidence that there will be continued freedom of navigation for international and Israeli shipping in the Gulf of Akaba and through the Strait of Tiran." The United States and "other leading maritime powers" had signified their intention to exercise their rights of free and innocent passage in the Gulf and the Strait, she stated. Israel was resolved to "protect" ships of its own flag doing so, and any armed interference would be regarded by Israel as an attack entitling her to take all necessary measures in self-defense, under Article 51 of the Charter, she declared.

As for Gaza, the Government of Israel was making a complete withdrawal on the assumption that the take-over of Gaza from the military and civilian control of Israel would be exclusively by UNEF and that the United Nations would take over administration of the area "until there is a peace settlement, to be sought as rapidly as possible, or a definitive agreement on the future of the Gaza Strip."

If conditions were created there which indicated a return to the previous conditions of "deterioration," she said, Israel reserved its freedom "to act to defend its rights."

HEAD OF UNITED STATES AID MISSION IN ISRAEL RECALLED BY WASHINGTON

TEL AVIV, March 3. (JTA) -- Dr. Lincoln Hale, head of the United States Operation Mission in Israel, was recalled by Washington and left for home today. Effective today, the locally hired staff of the aid mission was cut by 40 percent.

EGYPT MUST NOT BE PERMITTED TO RETURN TO GAZA, BEN GURION INSISTS

LONDON, March 3. (JTA) -- Israel seeks concrete guarantees that the Egyptians will not be permitted to return to the Gaza Strip nor interfere with shipping through the Akaba waterway, Premier David Ben Gurion declared in a cabled message published today by the Sunday Dispatch.

Replying to a message of sympathy for the people of Israel at this critical hour from Charles Eade, editor of the Dispatch, Mr. Ben Gurion expressed happiness at the new understanding abroad of Israel's "valid fears and legitimate needs." If such understanding, he continued, "finds expression in solutions now being worked out in Washington, Israel will accept them. If not," he warned, "we shall continue to oppose schemes which are unjust and which endanger our very security."

"The distressing element in our current situation," the Premier pointed out, "is that our struggle is not against an enemy but against a friend--the Government of the United States. It is our earnest hope that the wisdom and sense of fair play of the American people will prevail over considerations of mistaken political expediency."

"Before withdrawing our troops from either the Gulf of Akaba or the Gaza Strip," Mr. Ben Gurion stressed, "we require concrete guarantees that the vessels of all nations will be free to move through the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Akaba and serve the Israel port of Elath. The Egyptians must never again be allowed to set up their coastal guns on the tip of the Sinai Peninsula which the Israel Army knocked out on November 3, 1956 and since when the years-old blockade was lifted and passage free to the ships of all countries."

"The second guarantee we require is that on no account will the Egyptians be allowed to return to the Gaza Strip. It does not belong to Egypt. It never did. They occupied it in 1948 when they invaded Israel and until they were driven out in November, 1956 by Israel forces they did nothing for the welfare of the Arab inhabitants of the Strip. All they did was turn this area into a base for fedayeen raids against Israel citizens. On no account must either their army or their administration be permitted to re-occupy the Gaza Strip," Mr. Ben Gurion insisted.

\$35,100,000 RAISED AT U. J. A. NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN MIAMI BEACH

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., March 3. (JTA) -- More than 900 American Jewish leaders at the national inaugural conference of the United Jewish Appeal today gave a demonstration of their concern for the thousands of Jewish refugees now fleeing oppression in Egypt and other countries by contributing a record start of \$35,100,000 in gifts to launch the 1957 nationwide campaign of the UJA.

The amount represents the largest starting sum ever achieved by the UJA, and probably the largest ever secured by any American philanthropic cause at the opening of its campaign. It compares with the \$26,500,000 brought forward here at this time last year by a similar gathering of UJA's top supporters and Jewish communal representatives.

William Rosenwald, general chairman of the UJA, declared today's outpouring of gifts "an inspiring indication of the resolve of American Jews not to let Jewish refugee lives be lost as they were in the Hitler period, and not to let today's refugees become a social and economic burden for the people of Israel, who are receiving most of them."

The UJA leader pointed out that the \$35,100,000 includes contributions to two UJA fund-raising efforts--the Appeal's regular 1957 campaign and a special UJA Emergency Rescue Fund for an "over and above" amount of \$100,000,000. The Rescue Fund seeks to save 100,000 new Jewish refugees expected in 1957. The proceeds to the regular campaign are for further help for 525,000 recent immigrants in Israel and distressed Jews overseas already being aided by UJA.

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman of the UJA, told the conference that 10,000 Jewish men, women and children are leaving Egypt, North Africa, Hungary, and other East European countries monthly "in search of safety and freedom." Most of them, he stated, could look only to Israel for resettlement.

Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, who was scheduled to be one of the speakers, was heard briefly over a special close circuit telecast from New York in greetings to the delegates. The delegates were also greeted by Reuven Dafni, Israel Consul, and were addressed by Governor Abraham Ribicoff of Connecticut and by Charles Jordan, European director of the Joint Distribution Committee.

Israeli Chief Rabbis Appeal to U.S. Jews for Increased Aid

JERUSALEM, March 3. (JTA) -- Jews in the United States and other countries outside Israel were urged by Israel's two Chief Rabbis today to increase their financial support for the Jewish Agency's programs in behalf of transporting immigrants to Israel and for housing them and finding them employment in the Jewish State.

The message, by Rabbis Isaac Herzog and Itzhak Nissim, called on the Israeli people to assist in the spiritual and physical absorption of the immigrants into the life of the country. It praised the all-out efforts of the Jewish Agency and concluded: "Let's prove to the world that there's unity among the Jewish people."

LABOR ZIONIST PARLEY IN LONDON BACKS ISRAEL'S STAND ON WITHDRAWAL

LONDON, March 3. (JTA) -- Unless Israel's contemplated withdrawal from Egyptian territory leads to increased security for Israel, greater stability for the area and more prestige for the United Nations, the withdrawal could lead to new hostilities and a conflagration in the Middle East, the annual British Poale Zion conference declared in a resolution adopted here today.

The 200 delegates of Britain's Labor Zionist movement expressed disquiet about the withdrawal negotiations in Washington and at UN headquarters, and regretted the UN's inability to deal with the fundamental problems of the Middle East situation. They pointed out that Egypt's claim to belligerence against Israel and hostile actions over the past eight years had violated the UN Charter and invalidated Egypt's moral and legal rights to the Gaza Strip. Finally, the delegates expressed their solidarity with the people of Israel and confidence in their ability to find "the best way out of the present crisis."

Herbert Morrison, Labor Leader and Foreign Secretary in the last Labor Government, told the conference that neither the United States nor Britain had been effective at the UN in security justice for Israel and protection against aggression--and that both had supplied the Arabs with more arms than Israel. President Eisenhower and Secretary of State Dulles, he charged, had sought to bring unfair pressure on Israel. It would appear, Mr. Morrison continued, that the Secretary of States had not promised "real action or guarantees that his country would seek effective UN action." It would be "scandalous" if Israel were "double crossed," he concluded.

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ROME, March 3. (JTA) -- The Union of Italian Jewish Communities approved today and pledged full solidarity with the State of Israel's demand for adequate security and navigation guarantees before pulling its troops out of the Akaba and Gaza areas.

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BRUSSELS, March 3. (JTA) -- The European Conference of the Resistance, composed of Resistance fighters, former political prisoners and deportees from Germany, France, Belgium, Italy, Holland and Luxemburg, called on the United Nations today to provide Israel with adequate guarantees against Egyptian aggression and for freedom of navigation in the Suez and Akaba waterways.

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ZURICH, March 3. (JTA) -- Both Jews and non-Jews crowded a demonstration here called by the Swiss Zionist Federation to express support of Israel's position in the current Middle East crisis. Chief speakers were Dr. Willy Spuehler, prominent member of the Swiss Parliament, and Drs. Jacob Zucker and Hans Klee, president and vice president, respectively, of the Zionist Federation.

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MONTREAL, March 3. (JTA) -- A mass meeting of Montreal Jews, sponsored by the United Zionist Council of Canada, today called on the Government of Canada to insure that Israel withdrawal from the Gaza and Akaba areas would not mean the "restoration of Egyptian belligerency and a return of disaster." Michael S. Comay, Israel's Ambassador to Ottawa, lauded the Canadian Government's "understanding" of Israel's position.

LONDON OPENS EXHIBITION OF RECORDS OF JEWISH SETTLEMENT IN ENGLAND

LONDON, March 3. (JTA) -- An exhibition of records of Jewish settlement in England, dating from the twelfth to the late nineteenth century, was on display today at the Public Record Office in London, the official repository of historic state documents. The exhibition, prepared for display last year as part of the observance of the British Jewish Tercentenary celebration, was delayed because of other commitments.

Medieval records in the collection illustrate the position of the Jews until the 1290 expulsion and the resettlement 300 years ago, including the famous petition presented to Cromwell in March, 1656 by leading Marranos. The petition is considered to have been the basis on which the Jews were readmitted. The documents include an official letter of appointment of Sir George Jessel as Master of the Rolls, the first practicing British Jew to become a Minister of the Crown and a judge.

U. S. HEBREW EDUCATORS HOLD ANNUAL CONFERENCE ON ADULT EDUCATION

NEW YORK, March 3. (JTA) -- Certificates of proficiency in Hebrew, awarded on the basis of the Hebrew University's worldwide examinations, were presented to a group of young men and women who passed the 1956 tests, at a conference on Hebrew teaching methods here.

The parley was sponsored by the Jewish Agency, Jewish Education Committee and Histadrut Ivrit of America to explore specifically methods of adult education. This is the second annual conference of American Hebrew Educators on adult education problems.