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DULLES OPTIMISTIC ON MID-EAST AS HE LEAVES FOR BERMUDA

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Dulles said today the general trend of efforts to solve the Middle East crisis "is satisfactory and in the interests of peace." He made this observation at the airport here before departure for the Anglo-American talks in Bermuda. Mr. Dulles thought the Middle East would be discussed at Bermuda but would not necessarily be "overriding."

Expressing a measure of satisfaction with the way things are working out in the Middle East, Mr. Dulles said "we have made a good deal of progress toward a peaceful solution if you look at it over the last several months." He conceded there have been some "fluctuations" in efforts to solve problems, but stressed that the general trend was "satisfactory and in the interests of peace."

Israelis Find Hammarskjold's Views 'Not Encouraging'

In Jerusalem, Israel officials said today that Secretary General Hammarskjold's reaction to insistence by Foreign Minister Golda Meir on the question of Egypt's claim of belligerence was "not encouraging." While declining to elaborate, they indicated that Mr. Hammarskjold does not accord priority to this fundamental question, but precedes it with technical matters.

In New York, briefed on the American Government's stand on how it intends to honor its commitments to Israel, Mrs. Meir prepared late today to return to Jerusalem and report details to her government.

(The Washington correspondent of the Manchester Guardian said in a dispatch that newspaper published today that it may be "stated with authority" that President Eisenhower's letter of March 2 to Premier David Ben Gurion "was drafted by Mr. Dulles in the presence of Mr. Eban." That, he added, is why Mrs. Meir now speaks of coming to the United States to collect "a debt of honor.")

One of the final conversations Mrs. Meir had was with Henry Cabot Lodge, chairman of the United States delegation to the United Nations. She met with Mr. Lodge at his request, at her hotel. By that time, Mrs. Meir already had a report from Ambassador Eban, on his conversations at the State Department Tuesday night with Under Secretary Christian Herter.

Later today, Mrs. Meir and Mr. Eban met with other leaders of the Israel delegation to evaluate the series of discussions this week including the talks with Secretary Dulles and Mr. Hammarskjold. Mrs. Meir also conferred earlier with the delegates of Brazil, Colombia and Uruguay. The Brazilian and Colombian diplomats are members of the seven-nation advisory committee on the UN Emergency Force which has been conferring continuously with Mr. Hammarskjold on UNEF functions.

U.S. Asked to Reverse Course of Events in Gaza

Ambassador Eban said after his 80-minute meeting with Under Secretary Herter that the major topic was the importance of reversing recent events in the Gaza Strip. He said he had given Mr. Herter a full account of questions raised when Mrs. Meir met with Mr. Hammarskjold Monday.

Following the meeting, the State Department announced that "Israel Ambassador Eban reported to Under Secretary of State Herter on Mrs. Meir's discussion with Secretary General Hammarskjold and conveyed to us apprehension about what they regard to be a deteriorating situation in Gaza."

Asked if the Gaza situation could be reversed, Mr. Eban replied that it must first be agreed that it should be reversed. Asked if the United States had agreed that it should be reversed, the Ambassador said that the United States had "no misunderstanding" of what the Israeli position is. He said that "we believe that control (of the Gaza Strip) should be in United Nations hands."

Asked whether the United States had given any new assurances, Mr. Eban said his government had not sought any but only implementation of existing assurances. Asked how long he would continue to negotiate, the Ambassador said his government would continue diplomatic efforts and simultaneously watch developments on the scene. He added that Israel's action would be controlled not only by what is discussed but also by what happens.

BRITISH HOPE BERMUDA WILL MARK MID-EAST TURNING POINT

TUCKER'S TOWN, Bermuda, March 20. (JTA) -- A British spokesman expressed the hope today that the Eisenhower-Macmillan talks which open here tomorrow will make a positive contribution in the Middle East situation. "We hope that the 'Bermuda talks of 1957' will mark the turn of the tide in the Middle East," the spokesman stated.

It is understood that Prime Minister Macmillan, who arrived here today, will seek to impress on President Eisenhower the need to:

Act more firmly against Egyptian belligerence; refuse to appease the Arab states at Israel's expense; insist on free passage of all ships, including Israeli vessels, through the Gulf of Akaba; prevent Egypt from using blackmail with regard to Suez Canal passage, and take into consideration, in its policy planning, that the Arab-Israel issue has a slim chance of achieving a satisfactory solution through the United Nations because of the hamstringing activities of the Afro-Asian and Soviet blocs.

A joint statement outlining Anglo-American policy in relation to these questions is expected to be issued at the end of the four-day top-level parley.

(In London, a Foreign Office spokesman said that UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld will maintain constant communication from the Middle East with the conferees in Bermuda.)

British, Canadian Prime Ministers to Confer on Middle East

OTTAWA, March 20. (JTA) -- The Middle East will be one of the topics which Prime Minister Louis St. Laurent will discuss with British Prime Minister Harold Macmillan in Bermuda next Monday and Tuesday, Mr. St. Laurent told Commons today. He added that reports on the Middle East situation had recently been inaccurate.

In another statement to the House today, Minister for External Affairs Lester B. Pearson described as "without foundation" a report that the United Nations Emergency Force is moving out of the Gaza Strip.

U.S.S.R. REPORTED ADVISING EGYPT TO LET ISRAELI SHIPS THROUGH SUEZ, AKABA

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- British newspapers quoted unidentified diplomats from Iron Curtain countries today as reporting that Moscow is advising Egypt to permit the passage of Israeli shipping through the Suez Canal and the Gulf of Akaba. No confirmation of the reports was available tonight.

In Washington, Lincoln White, the State Department spokesman, said today that the United States expects that a satisfactory interim arrangement will be worked out on Suez Canal operation. Until this government learns that is not the case, he said, the United States is reserving judgment on Tuesday's Egyptian memorandum stating the conditions under which ships will be allowed through the Canal.

Costa Rican Freighter Tests Saudi Ban on Akaba Passage

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- The freighter Pandora, flying the flag of Costa Rica, left Israel's port of Elath on the Gulf of Akaba Tuesday night with cargo consigned to the port of Massawa in East Africa. The vessel was due to sail through the Strait of Tiran today in a test of Saudi Arabian refusal to recognize the right of innocent passage. The Pandora was formerly the Israel-flagged vessel Malkat Sheva (Queen of Sheba).

Since United Nations forces are in occupation of Sharm el Sheikh, overlooking the Strait from the Sinai side, there could be no question of Egyptian interference with the vessel.

Radio advices here today said that the captain of the Danish freighter Brigita Toft which was expected to pass through the straits on March 24 bound for Elath with cargo from Djibouti, has decided to await new instructions from the Danish Foreign Ministry at Copenhagen before venturing the passage.

BEN GURION, ON TOUR OF NEGEV SETTLEMENTS, EXPLAINS WITHDRAWAL DECISION

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, accompanied by his chief military advisors, made a surprise visit today to two key settlements on the Gaza Strip border.

The visit followed a decision by the Premier to shift his headquarters from Jerusalem to Tel Aviv to be in closer contact with the Israeli Defense Ministry and to concentrate on the security problem.

Ben Gurion told settlers at Nahal Oz and Nirim, principal targets of Egyptian fedayeen raids before the Sinai campaign, that "compelling reasons" had forced Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip. The Premier also told the settlers that the best security for the border areas was continuing strengthening of the army.

He was accompanied by Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, Israeli Army Chief of Staff, Brigadier Haim Laskov, in command of the Israeli southern defenses, and Shimon Perez, Deputy General of the Defense Ministry.

ISRAEL OBTAINING "FAIR AMOUNT" OF URANIUM FROM PHOSPHATES

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- Israel is extracting a "fair amount" of uranium needed for atomic research in this country from her own phosphates, Mordecai Ben Tov, Minister for Development, revealed here in connection with the 12-day session in Jerusalem of the 16-member Technical Advisory Board of the Ministry.

Since Israel's uranium is extracted as a by-product of phosphate production, the process is not uneconomical, he declared. He stressed that the greater the quantity of phosphates mined by Israel, the more uranium it will have available.

The advisory board consists of ten Israeli and six foreign scientists and engineers, headed by Sir Ben Lockspeiser, president of the European Organization for Atomic Research. Its chief point of order at this, the first session since the body was formed, is to establish a priority list for the development of Israel's mineral resources.

COST OF LIVING INDEX IN ISRAEL CONTINUES UPWARD SPIRAL

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- The cost of living index continued its almost uninterrupted climb last month and hit a new high of 259, the Treasury reported. The index is computed with September, 1951 as the base of 100.

Despite efforts by the government, through subsidies of basic foodstuffs, the index rose from 250 last December to 254 in January and 259 by the end of February. If the trend is not stemmed by April 15, a new series of wage increases will go into effect, and will almost certainly set in motion further price spirals.

NUCLEAR PHYSICIST AMONG 200 HUNGARIAN REFUGEES ARRIVING IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- The 200 refugees from Hungary who arrived at Haifa this week included a number of professional men, one of them a nuclear physicist, it was disclosed today. The scientist, a non-Jew married to a Jewess, will join the staff of the Weizmann Institute.

Nineteen orphans, many of whom were too young to remember their parents, who arrived here from Europe, have been taken to the Youth Aliyah school near Kfar Vitkin. Another group of 20 orphans is expected before the end of the month.

ISRAEL AGREES TO SUPPLY GHANA WITH ECONOMIC, TECHNICAL ADVISERS

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- Israel has agreed to a request from the new State of Ghana to supply it with economic and technical advice, Pinchas Saphir, Israel Minister of Trade, announced today. Mr. Saphir headed the Israel delegation to the Ghana independence celebrations.

He said today that an economic delegation from Ghana was expected soon in Israel and that a representative of Israel's recently established West African trade organization was now in Accra, the Ghana capital, surveying Ghana-Israel trade possibilities.

U. N. TECHNICAL AID PROGRAM TO BRING 49 EXPERTS TO ISRAEL IN 1957

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- Forty-nine experts will be provided by the United Nations Technical Assistance program to Israel during the current year in a substantial increase of such aid, Hart Shaaf, the UN Specialized Agencies resident representative, announced today.

He said the UN technical assistance budget for Israel has been increased more than ten percent and now totals \$450,000. Israel contributed 142,000 pounds to the UN technical aid program.

Israel provided seven experts to the UN program, mainly for Asian and Latin American countries. Israel's contribution in experts to the UN is increasing faster than the increase in UN experts sent to Israel, Mr. Shaaf said.

The 49 experts coming here this year will be assigned to 22 Israeli agencies. At the same time, 21 Israelis, mostly government officials and professionals, will go abroad for study. Equipment brought to this country under the UN aid program will be used at the Israel Technical Institute in Haifa, at the Kol Israel radio station and at the Ministry of Agriculture.

ISRAEL NEWS BRIEFS

GENEVA, March 20. (JTA) -- Eran Laor, European representative of the Jewish Agency, arrived here today from Israel to work on arrangements for transportation of refugees to Israel.

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- The Israel-American Oil Company began new borings for oil today on a site south of Eingedi on the Dead Sea. Other oil interests will resume drilling later this week at Kornub, in the Negev, near the site of Iraq Petroleum Company borings during the Mandate regime.

JAVITS ASKS U. S. TO LEAD WORLD BOYCOTT OF SUEZ CANAL

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- Senator Jacob K. Javits (R., N. Y.) called on the Administration tonight to lead the free world in a boycott of the Suez Canal in an effort "to bring Nasser to terms." In a speech to the biennial convention of the National Council of Jewish Women, he asked that \$250, 000, 000 of U. S. financial aid be assured for Britain, France, and other large users of the canal to help them bypass the waterway.

He also declared that the U. S. and the UN are morally committed to maintain the United Nations Emergency Forces at the Strait of Tiran and the Gaza Strip until peaceful conditions have been established.

Earlier in the day, the Council adopted resolutions dealing with immigration, civil rights, and foreign economic aid. It called for an immediate and basic revision of the McCarran-Walter Immigration Law. Citing the plight of the Hungarian and Egyptian refugees, it asked for a new law which would effectively grant permanent refuge to a fair share of the world's present and future escapees from persecution. It further called for the elimination of the national origins quota system and discrimination against naturalized citizens and for more humane deportation and exclusion proceedings and fair judicial review of all administrative decisions pertaining to immigration and naturalization.

The Council also voiced support for President Eisenhower's request for civil rights legislation and called on Congress to pass nothing less than the Administration's proposal. It also favored supporting economic aid to the underdeveloped countries of the world.

HADASSAH PRESIDENT ASKS U. S. TO REDEEM PLEDGES TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The Eisenhower Administration must make good its promises to Israel if the United States wants "to bolster the United Nations" and "make headway in the ideological struggle against the Soviet Union," Dr. Miriam Freund, president of Hadassah, asserted today.

Reporting at a press conference on her recent visit to Israel, Dr. Freund said "it does not appear that Nasser will change his policy simply because the United States announces that it 'stands firmly' by its 'hopes and expectations'."

"The United States must show the Arabs that it means what it says," she said, "and it must show Israel that an American promise means something and is not merely empty words."

She urged "immediate action to make Egypt abide by the decisions of the United Nations in respect to the Gaza withdrawal and the Suez Canal."

The Eisenhower Administration must give support to Dag Hammarskjöld, UN Secretary General, in his talks with Nasser by bringing "all its influence to bear," so that the UN official "can insist that the United Nations will not permit its force to be pushed out of Gaza and that the intent of the United Nations in sending UNEF there be carried out."

Dr. Freund reported that the people of Israel supported Prime Minister David Ben Gurion in his decision on Sinai withdrawal because they "accepted the fact that the Government of Israel and the people of Israel must have faith in the United States promise to uphold commitments made to Israel."

JEWISH LABOR GROUP HITS EFFORTS TO WEAKEN N. Y. STATE BIAS UNIT

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- Legislative attempts to weaken the structure of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination were attacked today by the New York civil rights panel of the Jewish Labor Committee. The attack came in a resolution addressed to Governor Harriman and leaders of the state Legislature.

The resolution lauded SCAD, called for manpower and financial strengthening of the unit, and granting it power to investigate and initiate complaints--powers not now part of its functions.

BRITISH CHIEF RABBI ASKS SPECIAL SERVICES FOR ISRAEL INDEPENDENCE DAY

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- Urging a public proclamation of "our sense of identification with the land and people of Israel," Dr. Israel Brodie, Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth, today issued his annual letter to rabbis of the British Commonwealth asking them to schedule special synagogue services on Israel's Independence Day May 6.

"At this time, when Israel is under attack from many quarters, it behooves us particularly to give expression of our gratitude to the Almighty for the miraculous rebirth of a Jewish State and publicly to proclaim our sense of identification," the Chief Rabbi declared.

B'NAI B'RITH OFFERS SCHOLARSHIPS FOR TRAINEES IN YOUTH GUIDANCE

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- Eight scholarships for high school graduates interested in learning how to guide children were offered here today by Camp B'nai B'rith. The scholarships, offered by the B'nai B'rith movement, provide practical student counselling with children, camp work experience and a variety of recreational and social activities. Board, lodging and tuition for the eight weeks after July 4 are free.