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EISENHOWER DISCOUNTS SAUDI THREAT TO ISRAEL SHIPS IN AKABA GULF

WASHINGTON, March 27. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower discounted today reports of a threatened move by Saudi Arabian troops to deny Israel passage of the Gulf of Akaba and the Strait of Tiran.

The President told his news conference that he did not know just what the movement of these troops meant but that he would doubt that it has any great significance so far as the use of the Gulf of Akaba as an international waterway would be concerned. He noted that the actual passage through which shipping would make its way is much nearer the western (Egyptian) than the Eastern (Saudi Arabian) shore.

Asked to comment on reports of a new Syrian raid on Israel, he said that there has been a long history here of disorder, riots, raids back and forth and different kinds of moves in the war of nerves.

(New Arab hit-and-run attacks occurred yesterday at opposite ends of Israel, according to an announcement in Tel Aviv. One passenger in an automobile was wounded about 30 miles north of Elath, Israel's southern Negev port, when the car was ambushed from two sides of the road.

Heavy rifle and machinegun fire broke out during the night from Syrian positions east of Lake Huleh aimed at the Dardara settlement. Israelis returned the shots in an exchange which lasted 20 minutes. No Israeli casualties were reported.)

Reports by press associations have placed Saudi Arabian troops just outside the Jordan port of Akaba, at the head of the gulf, preparing a move to close the body of water to Israel shipping. It was reported that the Saudi troops would move into the port as soon as the British evacuate it. The Saudi Arabian Government has declared that the gulf is an Arab waterway and Israel ships would be barred.

U.S. LINKS TOURIST TRAVEL TO ISRAEL TO RETURN OF DIPLOMATS' FAMILIES

WASHINGTON, March 27. (JTA) -- The State Department does not intend to approve passports for Israel-bound American tourists until approximately 440 dependents of U.S. diplomatic personnel are able to return. This was made known today by State Department sources.

The U.S. dependents were removed when hostilities erupted last Autumn. Their return is linked to the development of conditions that, in the U.S. opinion, would permit resumption of economic and technical assistance programs. The United States Government is now yet convinced that conditions of peaceful stability prerequisite to a return of dependents are prevailing.

In the view of the State Department it would be unfair to approve tourist passports before separated American families are re-united.

(In Jerusalem, the Chief Rabbis of Israel appealed to the State Department to abolish the current ban on travel to Israel to permit the traditional Passover pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Chief Rabbis Isaac Halevi Herzog and Isaac Nissim made the appeal in a letter in which they noted that such Passover visits have been an uninterrupted custom for 3,000 years.)

With the first Passover Seder less than three weeks away, the American Jewish Congress has renewed its appeal to the State Department to lift the ban on travel to Israel so that American Jews can celebrate the holiday there. Dr. Israel Goldstein, AJC president, declared in a telegram to Secretary of State Dulles that "conditions in Israel have long since returned to normal" and the United States is the only country which continues to ban travel to Israel, raising a "serious question" as to whether the ban "is being employed as an instrument of foreign policy or as a form of economic sanctions against Israel."

ISRAEL WILL NOT ASK INTERNATIONAL COURT FOR RULING ON AKABA AND SUEZ

JERUSALEM, March 27. (JTA) -- Israel does not see any need to submit the question of freedom of navigation of the Suez Canal or the Gulf of Akaba to the International Court of Justice at The Hague, nor does Israel intend to make any move in that direction, a spokesman for the Foreign Ministry stated here tonight.

The statement was apparently aimed at remarks made at a press conference in Washington yesterday by Secretary of State John Foster Dulles who declared that the United States was studying ways of getting an advisory opinion from the International Court on whether the Akaba waterway was international in character. Mr. Dulles indicated that the U. S. believes that some United Nations organ--either the Security Council or the General Assembly--should seek the advisory ruling.

Earlier, Israeli circles had indicated that the Jewish State, like other maritime powers, considered the Strait of Tiran and the Suez Canal international waterways. If Egypt holds differently, these circles emphasized, let her seek a ruling.

ISRAELIS DISCOUNT CONCESSION BY EGYPT IN ACCEPTANCE OF REFUGEE SUPPLIES

JERUSALEM, March 27. (JTA) -- Israel's agreement with the United Nations for transshipment from Haifa of food and other goods for the Arab refugees in the Gaza Strip is a one-time arrangement, according to a spokesman for the Israel Foreign Ministry here.

The Egyptian Government has apparently agreed at last to permit moving the goods piled up at Haifa from that port directly to the Gaza Strip. The Foreign Ministry spokesman said there is no need to magnify Egypt's newly-expressed willingness to accept such a shipment via Israel as a move having any real significance.

Any other interpretation, said Israeli sources, would only give an exaggerated impression that United Nations Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjold has obtained an important concession in his Cairo talks with Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser. If acceptance of these supplies from Haifa now "is the only concession Mr. Hammarskjold has obtained from Nasser," the Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "then the Secretary-General's achievements seem meager indeed."

AMERICAN-OWNED PAPER MILL IN ISRAEL TO EXPAND PRODUCTION

NEW YORK, March 27. (JTA) -- Announcement of a \$9,000,000 expansion program for the American-Israeli Paper Mills at Hadera, Israel, was made here today by Pinhas Sapir, Israel's Minister of Commerce and Industry, and Joseph M. Mazer, chairman of the company's board of directors. The program will double the company's present production capacity.

The firm's mill in Israel supplies 40 percent of the country's newsprint, book, bond and kraft papers and other paper products. A second paper mill will be built under the expansion program, and a pulp mill be installed to make it possible to use as raw materials various domestic agricultural residues and other by-products heretofore considered useless.

The expansion program will also double the number of employes, from 200 to 400, and will furnish indirect employment to 500 other workers. Israel will be saved \$4,000,000 a year in foreign exchange; the company has been saving Israel \$1,000,000 a year in foreign exchange until now.

PROSECUTION OFFERS NEW EVIDENCE IN TRIAL OF ISRAELI POLICEMEN

JERUSALEM, March 27. (JTA) -- Additional evidence that two Israel army officers and nine border patrolmen acted against orders on October 29 when they shot and killed 47 Arab villagers for violating curfew orders, were pushed by the prosecution today in the military trial of the 11 accused. An army officer testified that one of the accused, Lt. Gabriel Dehan, refused to go back to his headquarters to check on instructions about shooting at the villagers when requested to do so.

ISRAEL SHIPPING POTASH TO FAR EAST FROM PORT OF ELATH

TEL AVIV, March 27. (JTA) -- Two thousand tons of potash is to be shipped from Elath to the Far East in Israel's first transport of heavy goods from the Akaba Gulf port to the Orient. The potash is now being loaded at Elath.

Unloading of the Danish freighter Brigitte Toft, which has been anchored in the Gulf of Akaba, was begun today after the Costa Rican freighter Catherina Madre cleared Elath's single jetty. The Catherina Madre has sailed for Massawa, Ethiopia, with a cargo of cement and other items.

Regular service on an Israeli shipping line from the Gulf of Akaba port of Elath to South America, Africa and the Far East will soon be in operation, M. Tzur, director of the Foreign Trade Department of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, predicted today.

MADRID BROADCASTS ATTACK ON JEWS IN PROGRAM BEAMED TO LATIN AMERICA

MONTEVIDEO, March 27. (JTA) -- An attack on Jews broadcast by Radio Madrid in a Spanish language program beamed to Latin American countries was heard here today.

The Spanish Government broadcast an article by the Bonn correspondent of the Falangist newspaper "Arriba" criticizing the return of Jews to West Germany. The broadcast alleged that "almost the entire German fur industry, one of the most prosperous and productive, is in Jewish hands."

The broadcast said that "in Berlin, which is the city these silent invaders prefer, they are well on their way to owning the famous Quadriga on top of the Brandenburg Gate. For the time being, they are in the bookstore business, publish some papers, own many of the Berlin hotels, and hold many posts in the judicature. It would seem that judeships are particularly attractive to them and, naturally, they can obtain these posts in view of the German origin of most of them."

An allegation was made that "Jews are flowing into the Federal Republic at the rate of some 400 a week. Most of them, something like 95 percent come from Israel," the Radio Madrid announcement said.

OLLENHAUER PREDICTS EARLY ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL-BONN RELATIONS

BONN, March 27. (JTA) -- Dr. Erich Ollenhauer, leader of the German Social Democratic Party and possible successor to the Federal Chancellorship after next September's elections, called again today for the establishment of diplomatic relations between West Germany and Israel.

Dr. Ollenhauer made his statement upon returning from Israel where, for a week, he was a guest of its government's leading political party, the Mapai. "Both my party and I have, for a long time, advocated the establishment of normal relations with Israel," he told a Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent, "and I am convinced that the Federal Government will soon make a positive decision in this matter for the benefit of the peoples of the two countries, Germany and Israel." During his visit to Israel, he stated, it was his "impression that, in spite of certain difficulties, the same feeling exists there."

(Prior to emplaning at Lydda Airport late yesterday, Dr. Ollenhauer told newsmen that he was happy to have had the opportunity of visiting Israel and intended to strengthen relations between Bonn and Jerusalem.)

ISRAEL NEWS BRIEFS

HAIFA, March 27. (JTA) -- Two ships arrived at Haifa today bringing 600 immigrants, most of them refugees from Egypt, as the tide of immigration to Israel continued to mount.

Officials now estimate that immigration during March will total 8,800 persons, nearly 1,000 more than were originally expected this month.

TEL AVIV, March 27. (JTA) -- The investigation of the terrorist organization held responsible for the assassination of Dr. Israel (Rudolph) Kastner will be completed within ten days, a police spokesman announced today. He said formal charges against members of the organization, believed to be linked to the Stern Gang of the British mandatory regime, would be filed even before the end of the ten-day period.

TEL AVIV, March 27. (JTA) -- Four Arab and eight Jewish workers have been dismissed by the Haifa oil refineries because of their affiliations with extreme leftist and Communist organizations. The dismissals were ordered by the Defense Ministry which called the workers security risks.

TEL AVIV, March 27. (JTA) -- Drilling for oil began in two widely separated areas of Israel today. One well is being sunk near Zakim, north of the Gaza border. The second is going down near Massada, west of the Dead Sea.

PARIS, March 27. (JTA) -- A 2,000-year-old vase found intact in diggings in Galilee was presented here today to President Rene Coty by a delegation representing the European Conference for Solidarity With Israel which is under way here this week.

JERUSALEM, March 27. (JTA) -- Meir Grossman has been named chairman of the Jewish Agency executive in Jerusalem during the temporary absence of Dr. Nahum Goldmann.

JERUSALEM, March 27. (JTA) -- Israel will withdraw from the 1958 Brussels World Exposition as a result of the elimination from the new budget of a one million pound allocation for an exhibit there.

PARIS FESTIVAL BARS 'ANNE FRANK' AS POSSIBLE SLUR TO GERMANY

TEL AVIV, March 27. (JTA) -- Israel's famous Habimah Theater, invited to participate in the "Nations' Theater" Festival in Paris, will not play "The Diary of Anne Frank" as originally planned by the Paris theater management because French Festival officials fear the "Diary" might cause "ill feeling against the Germans," it was learned here today.

The Paris Festival managers have imposed a ban on performances of the "Diary" not only against Habimah but also on German and American troupes which had scheduled performances. The Parisians have informed the Israelis that one of the goals of the festival is to aid better relations among nations and they fear the "Diary" might hinder that purpose.

Habimah will perform "The Dybbuk" and the Greek tragedy "Medea" in Paris. After the festival, Habimah expects to produce the "Diary" as well as "Anna Christie" and an Israeli play "Bearvot Hanegev" during a six week tour of Paris, Amsterdam and possibly Switzerland and England.

380,000 BUSHELS OF WHEAT SHIPPED TO ISRAEL BY CANADIAN GROUP

MONTREAL, March 27. (JTA) -- A shipment of 380,000 bushels of Canadian wheat is on the way to Israel, bringing the shipments of wheat to Israel within the last three months up to 1,130,000 bushels valued at a total of \$2,700,000. The figures were announced here today by Sigmund Unterberg, manager of the Canada-Israel Corporation, a joint enterprise established by the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Zionist Organization of Canada.

ARGENTINE JEWS LAUNCH NATIONWIDE ISRAEL BOND CAMPAIGN

BUENOS AIRES, March 27. (JTA) -- Two hundred leaders of all sections of Argentinian Jewry gathered here last night for the opening of the nationwide State of Israel bond campaign. A unanimously-adopted resolution pledged Argentinian Jewry to repeat in 1957 its 1956 record bond sales.

JEWS MAY REQUEST MILITARY SERVICE DEFERMENT DURING PASSOVER

NEW YORK, March 27. (JTA) -- Local draft boards have been instructed to give "favorable consideration" to requests of Jewish young men not to be scheduled for physical examinations or induction into the armed services during Passover, the National Jewish Welfare Board announced today.

A communication from Gen. Lewis B. Hershey, director of the Selective Service System, to the JWB Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy gave Jewish registrants scheduled for induction or pre-induction examination the right to request deferment.

CIVIC, RELIGIOUS GROUPS TO PARTICIPATE IN INTERGROUP MEETING

WASHINGTON, March 27. (JTA) -- Representatives of more than 40 women's civic and religious organizations and governmental agencies have registered for the first National Women's Conference on Intergroup Relations, sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Women. The parley will open here next Wednesday.

It is expected that some 300 women's leaders will spend three days considering intergroup problems in areas where women's influence dominates or can be made effective. These include: the family, school, church or synagogue and the local community.

U.S. SCIENTIST NAMED TO HEAD ISRAEL UNIVERSITY PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

TEL AVIV, March 27. (JTA) -- An American scientist, Dr. Max Jammer, was named today to head the physics department at Bar-Ilan University, the American Mizrahi-sponsored university in Israel.

Dr. Jammer is slated to expand the university's physics curriculum from the present four courses it offers to ten by the next academic year. Dr. Jammer has lectured at Harvard University and has done research at Princeton University's Institute for Advanced Study.

BRITISH WOMAN WINS WYNDHAM-DEEDES SCHOLARSHIP FOR STUDY IN ISRAEL

LONDON, March 27. (JTA) -- For the first time, a woman has been awarded the Wyndham-Deedes Travel Scholarship, entitling the winner to visit Israel for advanced study. The award, presented annually by the Anglo-Israel Association, was given today to Miss Pamela Haddy, 28. A graduate of the University College of London, who has done graduate work at the London School of Economics and Cornell University in the United States, she is now a lecturer on economic and social subjects at Birmingham University.