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ISRAEL WILL EXERCISE HER RIGHT OF SUEZ CANAL PASSAGE "SOON"

JERUSALEM, March 31, (JTA) -- Israel will "definitely" and "soon" exercise her right to passage of shipping through the Suez Canal, Foreign Ministry officials declared here today in comment on President Gamal Abdel Nasser's statement in Cairo that Egypt would continue to bar Israel passage through the canal and the Gulf of Akaba until the Arab refugee issue is settled. He insisted that both matters were part of the same problem.

The Israeli officials, however, stressed that there was no connection between Suez Canal passage, an international right of all nations, and the refugee issue which is part of an Arab-Israel settlement.

Israeli newspapers warned the West today that Col. Nasser's linking of the issues of right of passage with a solution of the refugee problem was a form of blackmail which boded ill for other nations, too. They pointed out that Nasser could just as logically close the canal to French vessels until Algeria were evacuated and to British shipping until the British quit Aden.

IRRITATED ISRAEL URGES U.S. TO LIFT TRAVEL BAN AS PASSOVER NEARS

JERUSALEM, March 31, (JTA) -- Top Israeli Government circles are becoming increasingly irritated by the State Department's refusal to cancel its ban on travel to Israel, imposed when Israel troops marched into the Sinai Peninsula, it was learned here today. It was also disclosed that Israel is making "constant representations" to Washington to lift the ban.

Although official spokesmen restrict their comments on the continuation of the ban to "we see no reason for such an attitude," government sources point out that before the Israeli troops were withdrawn from the Akaba and Gaza areas, it was made clear that lifting of the ban on Israel tourism would be entirely dependent on Israel's actions and would not have to wait until the conditions had been fulfilled for simultaneous raising of the barrier for travel to the Arab states. The ban was imposed on most of the Middle East at the same time.

Official spokesmen have not indicated any readiness to characterize continuation of the travel limitation as pressure on Israel. But this has not kept the press from commenting that the State Department's attitude is inconsistent with customary relations between friendly nations.

Particularly disturbing to the Israel public has been the fact that the ban has religious overtones, because it means that for the first time in history American Jews will not be permitted--unless the ban is raised--to make the Passover pilgrimage to Israel. This point was underscored in an appeal by Israel's two Chief Rabbis which was recently handed United States Ambassador Edward B. Lawson for transmittal to Washington.

Hadassah Appeals to Dulles to End Restrictions on Travel to Israel

NEW YORK, March 31, (JTA)-- Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, called upon Secretary of State Dulles today to lift restrictions on travel by Americans to Israel, asserting that the ban "constitutes a form of economic sanctions against the State of Israel, creating hardships for that nation by preventing countless numbers of Americans from visiting that country, especially during the forthcoming religious holiday season." Dr. Miriam Freund, president of Hadassah, disclosed the contents of a special resolution to this effect unanimously approved by the organization's National Board. It was sent to Secretary of State Dulles.

Meanwhile, the State Department ban on American travel to Israel will not be lifted at the present time, the American Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry has been informed.

The Chamber said the information was contained in letters from the State Department and the Department of Commerce.

56TH ANNUAL CONVENTION OF BRITISH ZIONIST FEDERATION OPENS; 1,000 PRESENT

LONDON, March 31. (JTA) -- The 56th annual conference of the British Zionist Federation, which opened here last night, split into work sessions of constituent political parties today as each faction considered Zionist political developments here and abroad since the last convention.

At the inaugural session, the 1,000 delegates from Britain and Ireland heard Eliahu Elath, Israel Ambassador to the Court of St. James, warn that while Israel has been behaving with "great restraint and patience," neither "our friends nor our enemies should interpret that patience as surrender or lack of determination. The concessions we have made so far," the Ambassador continued, "have only strengthened our confidence in the justice of our cause, and have in no wise diminished my government's resolute appreciation of precisely how far it can go without jeopardizing Israel's vital interests."

Tomorrow's foreign policy statement in the House of Commons by Prime Minister Harold Macmillan is being awaited eagerly, the conference was told by Barnett Janner, Member of Parliament and President of the Federation. He will watch Mr. Macmillan's statement, Mr. Janner said, "for evidence that Israel will not be pushed aside again." Only such evidence, declared Mr. Janner, will furnish "the acid test of the comity of nations."

Israel M. Sieff, honorary president of the Federation, made a plea for a broader base of financial assistance from British Jewry to Israel. He told the conference that only about 28,000 of Britain's 100,000 Jews are contributing funds in aid to Israel, and declared that "there are obviously people who are escaping their responsibility."

Return of Egypt to Gaza is Threat to Peace, Mrs. Meir Tells Britons

LONDON, March 31. (JTA) -- The return of Egypt to the Gaza Strip is "definitely a serious threat to peace," said Israel's Foreign Minister Golda Meir in a BBC radio interview for British listeners this weekend. She placed responsibility for this development on "those at the United Nations who were to implement policies--and that happens to be Mr. Hammarskjold." Mrs. Meir expressed the opinion that UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold and United States Secretary of State John Foster Dulles "may be in agreement on the legal side of the question of Egypt's rights in Gaza" but differ on "what Egypt's de facto status in Gaza should be."

The Israel Foreign Minister criticized Britain's Foreign Minister Selwyn Lloyd for suggesting a "frontier compromise" to Israel. "There is no reason in the world," she declared, "why Israel should give up one little piece of our sand in the Negev or one rock in Galilee. We don't think it is just, we have no intention whatever to compromise on our area-- we haven't too much to give away."

As for stationing the United Nations Emergency Force on Israel's side of the frontier, she affirmed that her country will never agree to such a move. "As long as Egypt claims 'rights of belligerence'," she declared, "the same things, the same attacks would go on happening as they did when UN observers were on the border."

Israel Supports Idea of Barricade Along Gaza Border

JERUSALEM, March 31. (JTA) -- Israel gave its wholehearted support to a proposal of the United Nations Emergency Force to erect a physical, mined barrier along the Gaza-Israel frontier, Joseph Tekoah, head of the Israel Foreign Ministry's armistice division, revealed this weekend.

However, now as in 1955 when the proposal was first voiced, Mr. Tekoah told newsmen, Israel insists that both sides of the barrier be patrolled and the Gaza side by UNEF. He continued to oppose any suggestion that UN troops be placed on Israel's side of the barrier.

He lashed out at UNEF surrender last week to an Egyptian demand that the Gaza Strip border be patrolled by mixed patrols of UNEF and Egyptian-commanded police. He also hit out at those "who give directives to UNEF," charging that they do nothing to disabuse the Egyptians of the idea that UNEF is actually an "anti-Israel weapon."

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN OPENS MEETING IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, March 31. (JTA) -- The fourth meeting of the International Council of Jewish Women, convened for the first time in Israel, opened its six-day sessions here tonight with delegates from 15 countries on all continents present. They represent a half-million members.

Mrs. Beba Idleson, head of the Israel Women's Working Council and a member of Israel's Parliament, reported that women had made great strides along the path of political progress. There are ten women in Parliament, Israel's Foreign Minister is a woman, two women head municipal councils and women sit on the bench.

JEWS TO PRESS RIGHTS ISSUES AS U.N. GROUP OPENS SESSION TODAY.

GENEVA, March 31, (JTA) -- Under the chairmanship of Rene Cassin, president of Alliance Israelite Universelle, the United Nations Human Rights Commission convenes here tomorrow for its 13th session, with many items of importance to Jewry all over the world on its agenda. Israel is one of the 18 UN members on the Commission now.

One of the most urgent items, to be pressed by representatives of British-Jewish non-governmental organizations accredited for participation, will be the matter of freedom from arbitrary arrest, detention and exile. The Jewish leaders will charge that these human rights have been violated by Egypt through the arrest, imprisonment, exile and property sequestration practiced against Egyptian Jews in the last five or six months.

Other items will include reports from the recently concluded session at New York United Nations headquarters, of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Among these reports are world-wide studies of discrimination in education, employment, and religious and political rights.

M. Cassin has been chairman of the Human Rights Commission for the last year.

NEO-NAZIS BREAK UP MEETING IN STOCKHOLM WITH ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA

STOCKHOLM, March 31, (JTA) -- Five Swedish neo-Nazis disrupted a meeting on the Algerian question sponsored here this weekend by the World Federalist Movement with anti-Semitic and anti-Israel propaganda. Beside shouting anti-Jewish remarks and accusing Israel epithets, they also distributed anti-Semitic literature. Only the intervention of leaders of the World Federalist movement prevented the outbreak of fighting between Swedish student members of the audience and the neo-Nazis.

LITERARY AWARDS ESTABLISHED TO HONOR JEWISH GIRL KILLED BY NAZIS

TEL AVIV, March 31, (JTA) -- A set of annual literary awards honoring the memory of Anne Frank, the Jewish adolescent girl who died in a Nazi concentration camp and whose poignant story has been told to the world in a book and play, both entitled "The Diary of Anne Frank", was announced here today.

The Anne Frank Memorial awards will be awarded jointly by the American-Israel Cultural Foundation, the Hebrew Writers Association and the Israel PEN Club for unpublished poetry, fiction and drama. The awards have been made possible by anonymous donors in New York, the announcement revealed.

MOROCCAN GOVERNMENT MODIFIES RABBINICAL JUDICIAL SYSTEM BY DECREE

PARIS, March 31, (JTA) -- The Moroccan Government, by decree, has modified the existing rabbinical judicial system, it was reported here today from Rabat, capital of Morocco. The decree created nine regional tribunals and twelve "delegate" tribunals, the report said.

GRAND RABBI OF BELGIUM, DR. S. ULMAN, TO RETIRE ON ACCOUNT OF AGE

BRUSSELS, March 31, (JTA) -- Dr. S. Ulman, Grand Rabbi of Belgium will shortly retire, the Central Jewish Consistory of Belgium announced today. The reason for the retirement is Dr. Ulman's age, 74, the Consistory announcement stated.

Before becoming Grand Rabbi of Belgium, Dr. Ulman served as Grand Rabbi of Cairo and later of Antwerp and Amsterdam.

PARTY OF 558 POLISH JEWS ARRIVE IN ROME EN ROUTE TO ISRAEL

VIENNA, March 31, (JTA) -- A group of 558 Jewish emigrants from Poland arrived by train in Austria this weekend bound for Rome and ship passage to Israel. Among the Jewish immigrants were 211 children.

ARGENTINE ZIONISTS MEET TO PREPARE FOR TERRITORIAL FEDERATION

BUENOS AIRES, March 31, (JTA) -- A national convention of the Argentine Zionist Federation opened in Cordoba last night to initiate the task of converting the Zionist movement in this country into a territorial federation rather than a series of political parties affiliated with a central council.

The hundreds of delegates and guests heard Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, chairman of the Argentine Zionist Council, the convening body, outline the problems connected with organizing a territorial group and review the international situation. Other speakers were Zalman Shazar and Leon Dultzin, members of the Jewish Agency executive.