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## EISENHOWER SAYS U. S. IS COMMITTED TO ISRAEL ON AKABA, NOT ON SUEZ

WASHINGTON, April 3. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower today drew a distinct differentiation between U. S. commitments to Israel on the Gaza Strip and Gulf of Akaba, on one hand, and the U. S. attitude on Israel's Suez transit rights on the other.

A press conference questioner sought to elicit from Mr. Eisenhower his view on Egypt's barring of Israel shipping from the Suez Canal in light of the President's February 20 assumptions. The President replied that he thought mention of Israel's use of the canal was in different terms than references to the Gaza Strip and Gulf of Akaba. In correspondence with Israel Premier Ben Gurion, President Eisenhower said, Mr. Ben Gurion did not mention the canal matter as one of the assurances he would need to withdraw Israel forces.

Mr. Eisenhower said Egypt was claiming certain belligerent rights in denying passage to Israel vessels. He did not know how this would be settled. But on the Akaba Gulf and Gaza issues, where we did say we would use our good offices, the President indicated America considered itself under obligation.

The President brushed aside a question of whether Egyptian President Nasser's denial to Israel of Suez shipping rights showed a decent respect for world opinion. Mr. Eisenhower said he would not speculate or characterize on the reliability of Nasser or any other individual carrying responsible positions in the world. He added that the United States is going to support positions it has taken and would support the United Nations efforts to achieve justice for all in the Near East.

## Eban Meets with Head of U. S. Export-Import Bank on Loan

Israel Ambassador Abba Eban called on U. S. Export-Import Bank president Samuel Waugh today in an effort to renew consideration of Israel's pending application for a \$75,000,000 Export-Import Bank loan for water development.

A mission to study the loan application was scheduled to depart for Israel last October, but it was cancelled when hostilities broke out in the area. It is thought that Ambassador Eban today urged Mr. Waugh to resume plans to send the study mission to Israel. Mr. Eban was accompanied by Meir Sherman, Israel economic minister here.

## BEN GURION INDICATES POSSIBILITY OF JEWISH MIGRATION FROM RUSSIA

TEL AVIV, April 3. (JTA) -- "A possibility has appeared" of immigration of Russian Jews to Israel, Premier David Ben Gurion declared today in an address delivered at ceremonies opening a new newspapermen's center in this city. The Premier described the possibility as "not certain but not unrealistic."

The Jewish youth of the Soviet Union is "full of a desire to immigrate," Mr. Ben Gurion said, because of restrictions on Jewish students in Soviet universities. A recent visitor had disclosed, he added, that Soviet universities had established a Jewish quota of 1.5 percent of the student body. Previously, the Premier stated, the quota had been ten percent.

Mr. Ben Gurion revealed that the Soviet authorities were jamming Israel's Yiddish language broadcasts beamed at the USSR. He also reported that despite Soviet press charges of "Israeli atrocities," but Jews and non-Jews in the USSR were speaking of the Israeli Army's exploits.

Meanwhile, in anticipation of a large influx of immigrants, a fund of 5,000,000 Israeli pounds (\$2,750,000) was established today for the construction of new centers for care of the newcomers. The project is under the joint auspices of the Ministries of Labor and Education, and the program will be carried out with the cooperation of the absorption department of the Jewish Agency.

The new wave of immigration into Israel brought to this country the families of 371 professionals in the three months ending February 28, according to the Jewish Agency. Of the total, 48 physicians and 96 other professionals found employment immediately, while the others are awaiting appointment to various posts.

## ISRAEL MAY STILL FACE MILITARY STRUGGLE, GOLDA MEIR TELLS KNESSET

JERUSALEM, April 3. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, warned the Israeli people today that a political and military struggle may still lie in front of them. Winding up a five-hour debate in Parliament on the Foreign Ministry's budget, Mrs. Meir bluntly stated that the Israel Government would not agree to the stationing of United Nations troops at Nitzana--as demanded by Cairo--or on any other portion of Israel's soil.

Premier Ben Gurion, who participated in the debate, told the Parliament last night that nothing has been endangered by Israel's withdrawals from the Sinai peninsula. He refuted charges by Menachem Beigin, Herut leader, that the withdrawals were disastrous.

"A diplomatic victory was achieved that was never greater," the Prime Minister declared, adding that even if Israel had not achieved everything, the Sinai campaign and the Israeli diplomatic offensive afterwards had resulted in the breaking of Egyptian power in the Gaza Strip and in the Sinai Peninsula.

The withdrawals had averted the threat of isolation from powers from whom Israel may require "sinews of war" for a possible "third round," the Premier told the Parliament. He said he would not be surprised if the Soviets offered more arms to the Arabs, and emphasized that any other action than withdrawal would have closed the door to acquisition of needed arms by Israel.

Not only was the stature of Egyptian President Nasser lowered in the United Nations and with his Arab neighbors, the Prime Minister said, but the opening of navigation in the Gulf of Akaba will make Elath a second Haifa and perhaps greater than Haifa.

Mr. Ben Gurion warmly supported the praise of Abba Eban expressed by Mrs. Golda Meir, Israeli Foreign Minister, during the debate. The Prime Minister added that a thousand Ebans could not accomplish in terms of public opinion what the Sinai operation did in exposing Egyptian aggression and fedayeen murders.

### Israel May Erect Mined Fence Along Gaza Strip Frontier

JERUSALEM, April 3. (JTA) -- Israel may proceed on her own to erect a mined fence along the Gaza Strip frontier in the event the United Nations Emergency Force, which proposed such a barrier, is unable to implement the suggestion, senior Foreign Ministry officials told the press today.

Commenting on the report by UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold that UNEF troops should assist Egyptian forces in patrolling the border, these officials said that the proposal indicated that "Nasser's onslaught on UNEF has succeeded in depriving it of all authority."

In the light of these developments, the Israelis said, "it seems essential to us to turn to new devices to prevent incursions from Gaza." The fence appears to be the only effective means available at present and Israel is willing to contribute labor, material and money for the barrier. All this would be unnecessary, they stressed, if Nasser would renounce belligerency claims.

### Police Comb Central Israel in Search for Fedayeen Unit

TEL AVIV, April 3. (JTA) -- Security forces were combing central Israel today in search of a fedayeen unit from Jordan which fired on and wounded two Israeli policemen last night.

Meanwhile, an Arab shepherd boy, an Israeli national, was killed south of the village of Tibeh when he stepped on a mine planted by Jordanians. Stones were thrown from the walls of the Old City of Jerusalem last night into the new city.

Syrian gun positions on the eastern shore of Lake Huleh opened fire on Israeli units which replied. There were no casualties among the Israeli troops.

## ISRAEL INAUGURATES OLD AGE PENSION SYSTEM; 15,000 PERSONS TO BENEFIT

JERUSALEM, April 3. (JTA) -- Israel inaugurated today its social security system, releasing the first of some 15,000 monthly checks which will be sent to about seven per cent of the population. Under the scheme, men at 70 and women at 69 become eligible for old age benefits.

The first beneficiaries of the program, 30 men and women representing a cross section of Israel's naive and immigrant population, were participants in a ceremony at Jerusalem's City Hall.

## CUBAN GOVERNMENT TRANSFERS ITS LEGATION FROM TEL AVIV TO JERUSALEM

HAVANA, April 3. (JTA) -- The Cuban Government has authorized the transfer of its legation in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem. This was learned today following a special audience granted David Ferdman, Israel Charge d'Affaires here, by President Fulgencia Batista.

FRANCE READY TO GRANT LONG-TERM AND SHORT-TERM CREDITS TO ISRAEL

PARIS, April 3. (JTA) -- The French Government is prepared to grant Israel long-term credits for the purchase of producers' goods and short-term credits for consumer items, Levi Eshkol, Israel Finance Minister, declared here today before departing for Israel.

Mr. Eshkol informed newsmen that France was interested in selling Israel producers' goods because it would provide French workers with employment while it did not commit French products which otherwise could earn dollars. He did not disclose the amount of credits discussed with French officials. In response to questions, he said that France wanted to help Israel build a pipeline with Israel's own resources.

The Finance Minister further reported that private French interests, with whom he had also conferred, were interested in his propositions for credits and investment in private industry and business in Israel. He expressed satisfaction with the results of the recent Europe-North African Keren Hayesod conference, noting that Israel might have to take in 100,000 immigrants in 1958 and 1959 as well as this year.

TURKISH GOVT. RESUMES ISSUING PERMITS TO IMPORT GOODS FROM ISRAEL

ISTANBUL, April 3. (JTA) -- The Turkish Trade Ministry has granted the equivalent of \$3,245,000 in import licenses for a variety of Israel products, it was announced here today. The applications approved today were on file since last October when the last import licenses were issued.

While imports from Israel dropped off during the license freeze, the Israel-Turkish trade balance recovered from a previous lopsidedness favoring Israel. With the new permits, Israel will once again swing into the creditor's side of the ledger.

A year ago, Turkey owed Israel about \$4,000,000. Since that time Israel has bought \$11,000,000 worth of goods from Turkey and only exported \$7,000,000. The latest Israeli order here is for \$2,500,000 worth of oil cakes, soya beans, cattle and fish.

Meanwhile, Israeli contractors have been searching the Turkish market for new opportunities. Two private construction firms are well entrenched here, currently building factories and a road in this city. Another contractor has built hundreds of homes for members of the Turkish Parliament and for newsmen. Solel Boneh, the construction cooperative, which has completed contracts for NATO installations, is now in the field for private construction.

J. D. C. SUPPLIES PASSOVER FOOD TO NEEDY JEWS IN 14 EUROPEAN COUNTRIES

PARIS, April 3. (JTA) -- Jews in 14 European countries will receive some 481,000 pounds of matzoh and other supplies from the Joint Distribution Committee to help celebrate the coming Passover holiday, JDC's European headquarters here announced today.

Special provision has been made for 600 Jewish refugees aboard two vessels, one bound for Canada and the other for Australia, to observe Passover on shipboard. A total of 3,250 pounds of matzohs and 1,300 pounds of matzoh meal were placed aboard the ships before they left European ports late last week. For many of the children this will be the first seder they ever participated in and for a good many of the adults this will be their first taste of matzohs in years.

The largest share of JDC food will go to Hungarian refugees still in transit camps and hastily-rented lodgings in Vienna and other parts of Austria. Thirty thousand pounds of matzohs, 7,000 pounds of meal, 3,500 bottles of Passover wine and 5,000 pounds of kosher fat has been sent to the Hungarian Jewish refugees. For the Orthodox who prefer to bake their own matzohs, JDC sent 1,000 pounds of shmura flour. Large quantities of food were also diverted to France where an influx of Egyptian Jewish textiles are being resetteled.

(Of the 18,000 Hungarian Jews who fled across the border in recent months, only 4,400 remain in Austria, the JDC and United Hias Service revealed in Vienna today. A total of 1,675 of the refugees made their way to Israel.)

IMPRESSIVE CEREMONY MARKS BURIAL OF RABBI SCHLIFFER IN MOSCOW

LONDON, April 3. (JTA) -- The remains of Rabbi Solomon Schliffer, Chief Rabbi of Moscow, who died in his synagogue Monday, were buried yesterday in the Jewish cemetery at Vostriakovo, a Moscow suburb, according to a dispatch received here today from the Soviet capital.

More than 1,500 persons participated in the funeral services and a motorcade of 100 cars and buses followed the hearse to the cemetery, 12 miles south of Moscow. Present at the services, which included three hours of eulogies, were a representative of the Soviet Ministry of Cults and the Charge d'Affaires of the Israel Embassy. The Israeli diplomat laid on the grave a wreath reading in Russian and Hebrew "From the Israel Embassy."

AMERICANS OF ALL FAITHS URGED TO VISIT ISRAEL FOR PASSOVER AND EASTER

NEW YORK, April 3. (JTA) -- Americans of all faiths were urged today to visit Israel by Israel Ambassador Abba Eban. "Now that travel to Israel from the United States is possible without limitation we hope to greet thousands of Americans of all faiths during the coming week," Mr. Eban said in a statement.

"In particular we hope that the Passover and Easter seasons will bring a great wave of visits and pilgrimage and that those who had intended to come to Israel and had made other plans will now find it possible to revert to their previous intentions. I am confident that Americans of all faiths will use to the full this opportunity to manifest their affection and interest in Israel," Mr. Eban concluded.

Gottlieb Hammer, president of the American-Israeli Shipping Company, Inc., expressed satisfaction today with the lifting by the State Department of its ban on travel to Israel and said that the move augurs well for the 1957 tourist season now getting underway in Israel and Western Europe. The American-Israeli Shipping Company are the U.S. representatives and passenger agents of the Zim Israel Navigation Company, Israel's largest shipping firm.

Mr. Hammer pointed out that during the period of the travel ban which was imposed last October, the Zim Lines continued to maintain their regular Israel-flag passenger and cargo services from New York to Gibraltar, Naples and Haifa. The twin luxury lines, SS Israel and SS Zion kept to their schedule of sailings every three weeks without interruption, he said, and the company's modern passenger-carrying freighters maintained their monthly service from U.S. Gulf and South Atlantic ports.

"There will be a fast come-back of American tourists to Israel now that the five-month travel ban has been lifted," Joseph Han, director of the Israel Government Tourist Office in New York, stated today. "There has been increasing pressure from among the traveling public and the travel trade to visit Israel this spring and later this year," he said. "The number of inquiries about travel facilities received by the Tourist Office has been rapidly mounting in the past few months and has been greater than during any comparable previous period."

During the past three years American tourists visiting Israel numbered 59,000, constituting 42 percent of the total number of visitors in Israel. Expectations are that proportionately large numbers of Americans will visit Israel before the end of this year. El Al Israel Airlines will introduce next July its new turbo-prop service with a fleet of new 133-seater Bristol-Britannias, cutting travel time by almost 50 percent.

HADASSAH OPENS YOUTH ALIYAH CONFERENCE; WILL CONTRIBUTE \$2,210,000

NEW YORK, April 3. (JTA) -- The Hadassah will contribute this year more than \$2,210,000 for Youth Aliyah activities, it was announced here today at a special Youth Aliyah conference at which 700 Hadassah leaders discussed ways and means of rescuing and rehabilitating Jewish children from lands where Jews are oppressed. Hadassah is the official representative of the Youth Aliyah in the United States.

Addressing the conference, Mrs. A. P. Schoolman, national chairman of Hadassah's Youth Aliyah committee, reported that the Israel Government will spend this year more than \$1,000,000 from its development fund to expand housing and other facilities of Youth Aliyah's 248 absorption centers in Israel to accommodate the increased influx of young people, especially, from Egypt and East European countries.

Principal speaker at the conference was Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, world patron of Youth Aliyah, who returned earlier this week from North Africa, where she inspected Youth Aliyah schools and other facilities. Other speakers were Dr. Miriam Freund, national president of Hadassah, who returned recently from a special mission to Israel; James T. Farrell, noted author, and Mrs. Cecil Hyman, wife of Israel's Consul-General at New York.

Dr. Freund, who visited with Jewish refugee children from Egypt during her stay in Israel, said that the major problem confronting Youth Aliyah in handling the children from Egypt is psychological. "These children," she reported, "come to Israel bewildered, unhappy, uprooted from the only home they ever knew. They cannot forget how their homes were destroyed; how their loved ones were taken away as hostages to detention centers. As they try to adjust to their new environment in Israel, many unanswerable questions keep going round in their minds. In the face of this, Youth Aliyah must do all in its power to give them--and children from other parts of the world--a new sense of security."

DUBLIN JEWISH MAYOR LENDS AID TO ISRAEL BOND; ADDRESSES FIRST MEETING

OAKLAND, Calif., April 3. (JTA) -- Robert Briscoe, Dublin's first Jewish mayor who is now visiting the United States, last night made his first address for Israel Bonds in this country at a public meeting here. He will address five other meetings in various parts of the country calling for support of the current \$75,000,000 campaign for Israel bonds.

Mayor Briscoe is also speaking for the United Jewish Appeal. In his speech last night here, the Jewish Mayor of Dublin said that capital funds provided Israel through the Israel Bond campaign have been a "life belt" in the abnormal situation of the Jewish State's birth and struggle for survival.