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VCYAGE OF TANKER TO ELATH WAS NOT AMERICAN TEST OF ARAB BLOCKADE

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- State Department spokesman Lincoln White stressed today that the voyage of the U.S. oil tanker Kern Hills to Elath was not an official U.S. Government-sponsored deliberate test of the Arab blockade.

Mr. White said the visit of the freighter should be regarded instead as a logical application of U.S. policy to regard the Gulf as an international waterway. He said the State Department did not get word about the ship until last Friday when the Israel Embassy advised the State Department. The Embassy was said to have then informed the United States that the ship would dock on the following day.

According to Mr. White, it should be recalled that the ship was under charter of the Israel Government. The State Department spokesman quoted Secretary of State Dulles as saying that no ship would be instructed to call at Elath, but that a U.S. ship might go there in the course of normal commerce. He conceded that the United States could have stopped the Kern Hills if the voyage was felt unwise.

American Oil Tanker Leaves Elath; Next Tanker Due Early in May

TEL AVIV, April 9. (JTA) -- The American tanker Kern Hills left the port of Elath this morning after unloading its cargo of 16,000 tons of crude oil and ships fuel. The next tanker is scheduled to arrive at Elath early in May.

Testing of the new Elath-Beersheba oil pipeline will be started Friday. There is a good possibility that a new asphalt road between Elath and Beersheba, scheduled to be completed in a year, may be ready by this Fall, Mordecai Namir, Minister of Labor, told the Knesset in Jerusalem today.

Israel Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, in a cable addressed to Israel Bond leaders in New York, revealed today that the bulk of the \$7,700,000 for the construction of the Elath-Beersheba pipeline was derived from Israel bonds. The Finance Minister stressed the importance of the "historic day when the first oil tanker has made its way to King Solomon's port on the Red Sea. The cargo of this tanker, flying the flag of your great country, will initiate the trial operation of the Elath-Beersheba oil pipeline, which is a notable stride towards economic independence," he stated in his message.

"Our joy on seeing freedom of navigation established for ships of all nations through the Gulf at Elath may well be matched by your satisfaction in seeing your efforts for Israel Bonds in action, creating the channel through which petroleum will flow to turn the lathes of our industry and power the irrigation pumps of our agriculture," Mr. Eshkol continued. "The call of the hour is for increased efforts on behalf of Israel Bonds to enable us to create on this hallowed soil a nation dedicated to the ideals of liberty and construction, free politically and strong economically, devoted to democracy for all."

World Will Benefit from Free Passage in Akaba Gulf, Eban Says

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban told a Georgetown University audience here tonight that developments in the Gulf of Akaba "may well mark a profound change in Israel's geopolitical stature."

He said development of Elath port by maintenance of free navigation in the Strait of Iran "offers great advantages not only to Israel but also to the rest of the world." He suggested that the Elath route provided an alternative to the Egyptian-dominated Suez Canal. He claimed that "an additional gain" of recent weeks was "that the U.S. has assumed a deep moral responsibility for helping assure tranquility in our area."

"The United Nations has taken up a special responsibility in Gaza," Mr. Eban told his audience. "Whether that responsibility is exercised well or not, it nevertheless exists. Time will show whether the UN can effectively express the desire of the world community to see Gaza lose its previous character as a springboard for Egyptian violence against Israel."

A revolution had taken place in world opinion as a consequence of Israel's recent struggle, the Israel Ambassador said: "Never has Israel stood higher in the trust and affection of multitudes throughout the world," he declared. But he added that it must also be recorded that the fundamental causes of tension have not been removed. He also warned that Nasser may yet prove victorious over the West on the Suez question.

U.S. EXPORT-IMPORT MISSION TO STUDY \$75,000,000 LOAN TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- A special Export-Import Bank mission to Israel, cancelled when the Israeli Sinai campaign started, will probably leave next month for an on-the-spot study of Israel's request for a \$75,000,000 loan, it was learned today. The decision to send the mission followed discussions between Israeli Ambassador Abba Eban and Samuel C. Waugh, Export-Import Bank president, initiated by Mr. Eban last week.

Resumption of loan negotiations followed the lifting last week of the American ban on travel to Israel in the restoration of normal diplomatic and economic relations by the Eisenhower Administration with Israel.

Israel wants the \$75,000,000 credit for developing irrigation projects on the coastal plain. The mission is expected to leave with instructions to determine whether Israel has enough ground water to support the irrigation project and whether there is any question about Israel's ability to repay. Repayment obligations on loans of \$135,000,000 from the bank in 1954 have been met on schedule.

ISRAEL PARLIAMENT VOTES 930,000,000 POUND BUDGET FOR 1957-58

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament passed today the first reading of the 1957-58 budget which calls for an expenditure of 930,000,000 pounds. The second and third readings of the budget bill are expected later this week before the House recesses for Passover.

Premier David Ben Gurion started today a vacation which will extend until the end of the Passover holidays. The place where Mr. Ben Gurion is vacationing is kept secret.

ISRAEL CHARGES CZECHOSLOVAKIA WITH FRAMING LEGATION OFFICIAL

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- The Czechoslovak authorities deliberately framed Moshe Shatz, Israel legation secretary in Prague, and expelled him from Czechoslovakia eleven days ago on charges of espionage to intimidate Israeli diplomatic personnel and frighten them away from contact with Czech Jews, the Israel Foreign Ministry charged today.

In a full statement detailing the background of the case, the Foreign Ministry said that on March 27 Czechoslovak police surrounded a house in Prague where Mr. Shatz was visiting a friend. They entered, arrested and handcuffed Mr. Shatz, and then proceeded to empty his pockets.

To his personal possessions they added a pistol and a package of American cigarettes and then photographed their prisoner and his "possessions," identifying him as a spy for the United States. They demanded that Mr. Shatz sign a confession, but he refused.

"All this proves that the police acted according to a premeditated plan to stage the circumstances enabling the Czech authorities to 'justify' the baseless allegation that Shatz was engaged in espionage for the Americans," the Foreign Ministry statement declared.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE STARTS OBSERVANCE OF ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- A five-day meeting of the American Jewish Committee, marking the observance of the fiftieth anniversary of the existence of the organization, will open tomorrow at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel to review various aspects of Jewish life in the United States, as well as problems affecting Israel and Jews in other countries. Dag Hammarskjöld, Secretary General of the United Nations, will be the principal speaker at the opening session tomorrow evening.

More than 1,000 leaders from 600 Jewish communities throughout the country will attend the five-day deliberations which will conclude with the re-examination of the AJC's Statement of Views set forth in 1949, following the establishment of the State of Israel. A new Statement of Views will be adopted as a guidepost for American Jewish Committee activities in the years ahead.

The meeting will discuss the prospects for improved Arab-Israeli understanding, for the settlement of the Arab refugee problem, and for eventual Arab-Israeli economic cooperation. It will also discuss Jewish communal affairs in this country and the future for Jewish communities abroad.

In making the appraisal of changing patterns in Jewish community life in the United States, the assembled leaders will discuss the future of American Jewish life. They will clarify the role which AJC members should play in effecting changes in the Jewish community; what is the future of the AJC in the community; and what impact these developing community patterns will have upon the AJC national policies and programs.

JEWISH LEADERS IN HUNGARY TO COME TO SWITZERLAND FOR JEWISH PARLEY

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- Leaders of the Hungarian Jewish Community have accepted an invitation from the World Jewish Congress to discuss problems of mutual interest and the reestablishment of relations between the community and the WJC, the European executive of the Congress announced here today. The meeting will be held in Zurich April 26.

MEMBERS OF GERMAN CABINET TO ACT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITIC PUBLISHER

BONN, April 9. (JTA) -- Legal proceedings will be instituted against the publisher of an anti-Semitic pamphlet which has been mailed to members of the Bonn Cabinet, Minister of the Interior J. Schroeder told the Bundestag. He estimated that about 2,000 copies of the publication had been distributed. He did not name the booklet or its publisher.

West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano declared today that Egyptian threats of retaliation if Germany established diplomatic relations with Israel would have no effect on Bonn's decision. "The Federal Government does not permit itself to be subjected to such pressure," he declared in comment on a "warning" by Radio Cairo that Egypt would "draw the consequences" if relations were established between Bonn and Jerusalem.

West Germany's top trade union leader, Willi Richter, told the JTA today that he was deeply impressed with what he saw during his recent ten-day tour of Israel. The head of West Germany's powerful Trade Union Federation, was particularly laudatory of the role of the Histadrut in Israel's economic, social and cultural life. Herr Richter, who headed a six-man delegation invited to Israel by the government and the Histadrut, said that in the Bundestag, where he is a Social Democratic deputy, he will strive for the creation of "normal diplomatic relations" between West Germany and Israel.

ANTI-SEMITIC PAMPHLET DISTRIBUTED IN 300,000 COPIES IN CANADA

MONTREAL, April 9. (JTA) -- The Social Credit Service of Montreal is distributing an anti-Semitic pamphlet entitled "Salvation Island" in this area. Some 300,000 copies of the pamphlet, described as an "illustrated parable for young and old" have been spread throughout Canada.

Meanwhile, in Ottawa, Solon Low, leader of the Social Credit movement, disassociated his national party from the Montreal group and hit the distribution of the anti-Semitic booklet. He charged that the pamphlet "can only result in ill-feeling, racial prejudice."

ANTI-SHECHITA CAMPAIGNS IN ENGLAND CRITICIZED; SHECHITA TERMED 'HUMANE'

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- An attack on campaigns aimed at halting shechita, Jewish ritual slaughter of animals, is contained in the current issue of "Common Ground," official publication of the Council of Christians and Jews, which is headed by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The article calls shechita "at least as humane as any other method of slaughter now being practiced." It notes that impartial bodies, including one set up by the council, and non-Jewish veterinary experts have endorsed the Jewish contention that shechita is humane.

SENATE PASSES BILL EXEMPTING KOSHER POULTRY FROM INSPECTION

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- A bill authorizing the Secretary of Agriculture to exempt kosher slaughter of poultry from compulsory inspection was passed yesterday by the Senate. The bill will now be considered by the House.

The proposed legislation instructs the Agriculture Department to exempt "processing as required by recognized religious dietary laws" from government inspection. It would impose penalties on merchants for selling "unwholesome and adulterated" products.

VERMONT SENATE GETS BILL AGAINST RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

BURLINGTON, Vt., April 9. (JTA) -- The recent alleged barring of a Negro girl from a motel near Burlington has had its reverberations in the Vermont Senate when a bill was filed providing a \$500 fine for an owner of a place of public accommodations who discriminated against any race, color or creed.

The bill was filed by Senator Asa Bloomer of Rutland, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, which allowed, by unanimous consent, the late filing of this bill. Senator Bloomer, in 1947, served as the sponsor of an anti-bias bill suggested by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

FAMILY MEMBERS OF AMERICAN DIPLOMATIC PERSONNEL RETURN TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, April 9. (JTA) -- The first family members of United States diplomatic personnel in Israel, ordered out of the country when Israel marched into the Sinai Peninsula, returned here last night. Eleven women and children arrived at Lydda Airport from Cyprus.

(In New York it was announced that the first two American Jews to go to Israel for permanent settlement since the State Department lifted its ban on travel to the Jewish State left Monday night. The two, Irving Fisher and Edmund Blatt, residents of New York, are mechanics who plan to settle in the Negev. They registered for settlement with the Jewish Agency.)

ISRAEL LEGATION IN GHANA ELEVATED TO EMBASSY; TRADE TO BE PROMOTED

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- The Israel legation in Accra, capital of the month-old State of Ghana, has been elevated to the status of an Embassy, the Foreign Ministry announced today. Chanan Yavor, Israel consul in Accra, has been named First Secretary of the Embassy and Charge d'Affaires.

The Foreign Ministry also announced that the first Ghanaian student has applied for permission to study in Israel. Before Ghana became independent, Israeli economic and technical experts were welcomed to Accra and Israel was asked to extend economic and technical aid to the African country. An Israel-Ghana Shipping Company will shortly be organized to ply between Israel and Ghana, with possible stops at other Central and West African ports.

Sample shipments of Israeli goods, chiefly textiles, will shortly be sent to several East African countries recently visited by a delegation representing the Israel Manufacturers Association. The shipments to Uganda, Djibouti, Zanzibar, Aden and Ethiopia will come to about \$50,000 in value.

The members of the trade delegation report that Israeli-manufactured items have good prospects in these markets, particularly as far as quality is concerned. The goods are destined chiefly for upper income customers who seek quality in woolens and cottons.

ISRAEL TO ESTABLISH "ACADEMIC LABOR EXCHANGE" FOR PLACING SCIENTISTS

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- An "Academic Labor Exchange" to facilitate the placement and settlement of scientists, scholars and educators among the newly arriving immigrants will be established in the Premier's Office, it was announced here today. Doctors and engineers are snapped up almost immediately upon arrival, but economists require a "transition" period to study the new economy before they find positions.

About 100 Israeli students of technology have been invited to accept training this summer in 13 different European countries. The program is sponsored by the International Association For the Exchange of Students for Technical Experience. In the past six years, 500 Israeli students have gone abroad while 250 foreign students have come to Israel under the exchange set-up.

ISRAEL SOCIETY FOR BIBLICAL RESEARCH OPENS FIFTH CONFERENCE

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- Scholars, theologians and researchers from all parts of the country gathered here today for the fifth conference of the Israel Society for Biblical Research. Forty papers dealing specifically with the Prophets Isaiah, Hosea, Moses and Micah and the periods in which they lived will be read at the gathering.

Plans to establish a World Jewish Bible Research Society were revealed here today in connection with the opening conference of the Society. Zalaman Shazar, member of the Jewish Agency executive, will head a preparatory committee for the world research unit. Originally, the Israel unit was a small group but over the years the membership has grown and national conferences are now attended by huge crowds of scholars and Biblical students who hear dozens of scholarly and scientific papers.

ISRAELI AUTHOR WINS \$1,000 PRIZE SPONSORED BY U.S. JEWISH THEATRE

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- Israel Consul-General C. Hymen last night accepted the \$1,000 Golden Pen Playwriting Prize, sponsored by the Jewish Theatre for Children in New York, on behalf of Yehuda Hanegbi an Israel dramatist now living in Jerusalem. The presentation was made at the Herzl Institute here.

The Golden Pen Playwriting Contest is an annual event of the Jewish Theatre for Children, and was set up to encourage the creation of a children's literature of full-length plays on Jewish subjects. In the 1956 Contest, which was won by Mr. Hanegbi, close to 40 plays were submitted by American and Israeli authors and playwrights.