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OBSERVANCE OF PASSOVER STARTS TONIGHT; AID TO REFUGEES MARKS HOLIDAY

NEW YORK, April 14. (JTA) -- Jews throughout the world will begin celebration of Passover tomorrow evening to mark the liberation of Jews from ancient Egypt and to note that this year the story of the Exodus from bondage in Egypt is being repeated by tens of thousands of Jewish refugees from Egypt and other lands of tyranny.

The United Jewish Appeal, in a Passover report to Jewish leaders, today estimated that more than 3,000 Jewish refugees, including 1,000 from Egypt, will be brought to Israel during the Passover week. The report also said that wherever Jewish emigrants may be when the sun sets tomorrow, even on the high seas, UJA agencies will provide them with matzoth and other special supplies which they must have for a proper observance of Passover.

Four hundred Jews aboard the S.S. Fairsea, which sailed from Bremerhaven, Germany, March 31 to bring them to new homes in Canada, have aboard 2,000 pounds of matzoth and 800 pounds of matzoh meal. Two hundred and fifty Jewish refugees bound for Australia aboard the S.S. Waterman, which sailed from Rotterdam, Holland March 28, have 1,250 pounds of matzoth and 500 pounds of matzoh meal. The food for these seders at sea was provided by the Joint Distribution Committee, as part of a program which is distributing more than 630,000 pounds of matzoth and matzoh meal in 14 European countries.

Many of the refugees who will share in this distribution come from countries where proper observance of Passover is impossible. Adults among them will be eating matzoth for the first time in years, and children for the first time in their lives. The largest portion of the supplies JDC is providing goes to Hungarian Jews still in refugee centers in Austria. Immigrants awaiting transportation to Israel in transit camps maintained by the Joint Distribution Committee and the Jewish Agency in France, Austria, Italy and Greece will also benefit from special allocations for Passover supplies.

150,000 Jews in U.S. Armed Forces to Observe Passover in 65 Lands

Seders will be celebrated by Jews in the armed forces. Chaplains will tell the ancient story of liberation to some 150,000 service men in 65 lands overseas. The National Jewish Welfare Board has arranged to supply thousands of pounds of matzoth and other kosher foods for Passover to Jewish service men from Greenland to Korea. In addition, the agency has sent 4,000 individual Passover food boxes to Jews who will have to "go it alone" at remote stations. These include men on maneuvers, aboard smaller ships at sea, and at lonely weather outposts in the Arctic. Some supplies will be dropped by helicopter.

In a Passover message to American Jewry on behalf of the Government and the people of Israel, Israel's Premier David Ben Gurion expressed confidence that "the Jews of America, who have the privilege of living in the classic land of freedom" will do everything in their power to ensure that all Jewish refugees who are now arriving in Israel "may be speedily integrated in the ranks of the builders of Israel." The message, cabled to William Rosenwald, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, emphasized that Israel expects between 100,000 and 120,000 new immigrants this year.

Mr. Rosenwald, in his own Passover message to American Jewry on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, said: "As we celebrate the Passover in our free United States, let us remember that the brave people of Israel need our help more than ever before in making it possible for them to absorb at least 100,000 of today's homeless, persecuted, oppressed or impoverished Jews. Only by giving and doing more than ever before can we make Passover come true all over again for the tens of thousands of Jews overseas, in Egypt, in Eastern Europe, in North Africa, who are eating of the bread of affliction in the days of the modern Pharaohs and who need a helping hand to freedom which only we can extend."

Mrs. Rose Halprin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency, in a Passover message to the Jews in the United States, said: "Israel, during the last months, has undergone a crisis of major proportion. This crisis tried the spirit of the people, but they stood the test. It, nevertheless, retarded the consolidation program on which the development of Israel's economy and culture depends, on which the absorption of the immigrants is

contingent. The people of Israel are carrying on heroically. American Jewry will continue to stand at their side, supporting them with the means to carry forward the work of creating a self-sustaining State, by extending maximum support to the United Jewish Appeal and Israel Bonds. We are happy in the realization that this duty is being fulfilled."

Abraham Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization, said in a special Passover message that "the most direct relationship which American can have to Israel's efforts to maintain her independence and freedom, is to be found in helping her maintain her economic strength through the purchase of Israel Bonds." He cited the new oil pipeline from Elath to Beersheba as an outstanding example of the way in which Israel Bond funds are being utilized to strengthen Israel's economy. "The new pipeline," he pointed out, "cost \$7,700,000; \$5,500,000 of this sum was provided through Israel Bonds. As a result of this use of Bond funds, Israel will be able to save as much as \$1,000,000 a month in oil transportation costs."

Leaders of other central Jewish organizations similarly issued Passover messages. They included Dewey D. Stone, national chairman of the United Israel Appeal; Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America; Dr. Miriam Freund, Hadassah president; Abner Bregman, president of United Hias Service, and heads of rabbinical organizations.

Many thousands of American Jews will this year commemorate the slaughter of six million Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis, as well as the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising, as part of their traditional seder on the first two evenings of the Passover holiday. The commemoration will take the form of a reading, in English and in Hebrew, of a brief "Ritual of Remembrance," which has been endorsed and circulated by a committee of prominent communal leaders and rabbis of all denominations.

ISRAEL PREPARED FOR PASSOVER; TOURISTS ARRIVING FROM MANY COUNTRIES

TEL AVIV, April 14. (JTA) -- Additional tourist planes were arriving here today with visitors from all over Europe today even as the Israeli people prepared for their first Seder night tomorrow.

All sorts of Passover supplies are available throughout Israel and food is plentiful. Basic necessities are priced within reason, chiefly because of a heavy program of subsidization by the government, begun several months ago, to guarantee that every family would be able to afford and to obtain holiday foods. The distribution of matzo and such delicacies as white sugar has been completed and every Israeli housewife is ready for the biggest and most joyful meal of the year.

Tourists are arriving by huge trans Atlantic planes normally not used for traffic to this part of the world. The Belgian Sabina lines, Dutch KLM and Air France topped the list of airlines flying in last-minute pilgrims from Belgium, Holland, France and Italy. El Al, the Israel national airline, has accelerated its schedule of charter flights to move in immigrants from all over Europe and India.

The Chief Rabbis of Israel have decided to hold a special Passover celebration beginning May 15 to enable American Jews to make the pilgrimage to Israel. Many American Jews who would have made the trip did not because of a State Department ban, lifted two weeks ago, on travel to Israel. There is precedent in the Talmud for such a celebration, which, it is expected, will also bring many rabbis who could not leave their congregations during the festival to Israel as pilgrims. The second Passover decision was announced by Dr. S. Cahane, director general of the Ministry of Religion.

For the first time in the history of the Israel Army, seder services will be conducted by American citizens as students at the American-sponsored Bar Ilan University scatter into various army camps to read the Haggadah. One of the students accepted for this volunteer service is 18-year-old Daniel Kirshblum, son of Rabbi Max Kirshblum, member of the Jewish Agency executive and one-time president of the Mizrahi Organization of America.

Most members of the Israel Cabinet will spend their seder nights at kibbutzim. Premier David Ben Gurion will be present at one of the collective settlement services. President Ben Zvi will officiate at a service in his own home. Col. M. Goren, Chief Chaplain of the Israel Army, will conduct a seder service aboard an Israeli warship off the port of Elath.

Meanwhile, 115 men, women and children, members of the ancient Samaritan sect, crossed from Israel into Jordan via the Mandelbaum Gate in Jerusalem Friday to proceed to Mount Gerizim to hold their eight-day Passover celebration as members of the sect have done since the days of the Second Temple. At the conclusion of the eight days, the Israeli members of the sect will bid farewell to Jordanian Samaritans for another year and will return home. Despite the current tension between Israel and Jordan there were no incidents Friday and none are anticipated during the return trip.

ISRAEL CABINET DISCUSSES JORDAN CRISIS; CAUTIONED BY STATE DEPARTMENT

JERUSALEM, April 14, (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet today discussed the crisis in Jordan, which is being closely watched in Israel in view of the possibility that the Arab country may be carved up among Syria, Iraq and Saudi Arabia. Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, reported to the Cabinet on the Jordanian situation and how it may affect Israel. (In Washington, it was reported today that the State Department has urged Israel to exercise restraint in the face of possible developments in Jordan.)

A Foreign Office spokesman said after the Cabinet meeting today that Israel is watching developments in Jordan and will not intervene as long as the situation remains internal. However, he added that the entrance of foreign armies into Jordan would constitute a menace to Israel.

Yesterday Mrs. Meir stated at a public meeting that "Israel will not look on indifferently" if foreign troops march into Jordan. She emphasized that Israel is interested in a maintenance of the status quo in Jordan and "views with concern" any interference in Jordan on the part of the neighboring Arab countries. Iraq and Saudi Arabia are officially still at war with Israel and have never signed armistice agreements with the Jewish State.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE URGES FIVE-POINT APPROACH TO MIDDLE EAST

NEW YORK, April 14. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee concluded today its five-day 50th anniversary observance with the adoption of a resolution urging the following five-point approach to the Middle East crisis:

1. An independent and adequate United Nations Emergency Force must remain in the Gaza Strip as long as necessary to guarantee that no raids or counter-raids, retaliation or counter-retaliation are undertaken.

2. The United Nations Emergency Force must remain as long as it is needed to protect freedom of navigation in the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Akaba.

3. Israel must be given equality of rights with all other nations with regard to freedom of navigation in the Suez Canal.

4. Regional plans should be devised to improve economic conditions within the nations in the area and to encourage economic cooperation among those nations.

5. Without awaiting a general settlement of all pending issues, immediate efforts should be made to encourage and implement plans for humane solutions of the Arab refugee problem.

In another resolution, the American Jewish Committee expressed "its disappointment and distress that our government has acquiesced to the policy of discrimination of the government of Saudi Arabia in excluding American soldiers and workers of the Jewish faith from United States installations in that country." The Committee urged the United States Government "to seek the abandonment of this affront to our country and its citizens."

The AJC called upon the government of the United States "to intervene with the Egyptian Government to put an immediate end to its persecution of Jews." It pointed out in a resolution that by mid-March of this year some 20,000 Jews were forced to leave Egypt and seek refuge in other lands. This expulsion, the Committee said, is continuing and "the indications are that the Jews who still remain will also become refugees, dependent on the aid of other countries and of charitable organizations."

Irving M. Engel, who was re-elected AJC president for the fourth term, announced that a total of \$675,000 has been raised by the National Development Program for the AJC Institute of Human Relations. The Institute will be housed in a modern eight-story building, and will also be the headquarters of the American Jewish Committee. The development program seeks \$1,500,000 from private sources to cover the cost of the land and the building.

Addressing the 1,400 leaders from 600 communities who attended the AJC Half-Century Banquet last night, Mr. Engel referred to the principles laid down by the founders of the American Jewish Committee 50 years ago. "Now, 50 years later," he said, "we are commanded by the possibility that within our lifetime the principle of human equality shall be woven not only into the laws of nations but into the hearts and minds of people everywhere."

Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee, cited "conquest of prejudice, victory over Communism, and the establishment of a new moral order" as the three major challenges confronting mankind today. Mr. Blaustein, who was chairman of the 50th anniversary planning committee, pledged that the American Jewish Committee would undertake these tasks by helping to "liberate ourselves and our fellow-men from the hate-filled scourges of past millennia so that future generations may enjoy the blessings of peace and the fruits of equality."

Sherman Adams, assistant to President Eisenhower, who was the principal speaker at the banquet, underscored the importance of eliminating bigotry. He brought with him a message from the President praising the American Jewish Committee as a "champion of liberty." Another speaker was Israel Ambassador Abba Eban.

KU KLUX KLAN RESUMES ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA IN FLORIDA

NEW YORK, April 14. (JTA) -- A resurgence of Ku Klux Klan activities in Florida aimed equally at Jews and Negroes was reported in the New York Herald Tribune today in the first of a series of articles by Robert S. Bird, a correspondent who made a personal investigation of KKK developments.

In a report of a cross-burning night meeting at Inverness, Florida, north of Miami, the Herald Tribune reporter says that violent diatribes were delivered against the very existence of the Jewish people, who were blamed for a variety of matters including integration. John Kasper, nationally notorious anti-integrationist, and Bill Hendrix, Tampa KKK leader, were speakers at the meeting.

One of the speakers at the meeting, not otherwise identified by Mr. Bird, told several hundred Floridians that "a Jew is white on the outside and black on the inside," and "we've got to deprive him of his voting rights. We've got to segregate him to the same second-class citizenship that the n----r thinks he has but don't really have."

24 FRATERNITIES AT STANFORD UNIVERSITY PLEDGE TO ELIMINATE BIAS

PALO ALTO, Calif., April 14. (JTA) -- The presidents of 24 fraternities at Stanford University here pledged this week-end to make efforts to remove from their charters all racial and religious membership restrictions.

In a statement issued by the Interfraternity Council, the heads of the university's Greek letter societies said that they "neither endorse nor condone religious or racial restrictions placed on membership" and described such restrictions as "contrary to the ideals of the university, the fraternity system and the fraternity men at Stanford." Last month, the university issued a statement of policy opposing the continuation of discriminatory practices by fraternities.

NEW YORK UNIVERSITY ACQUIRES ANCIENT TORAHS FROM SOVIET UNION

NEW YORK, April 14. (JTA) -- A crate from the Soviet Union containing two ancient Torahs and microfilms of 160 rare old Hebraic manuscripts has been received by Dr. Abraham I. Katsh, chairman of New York University's Department of Hebrew Culture and Education, it was reported here this week-end.

The material in the crate was part of a cultural exchange arranged last year when Dr. Katsh spent two weeks in the USSR studying Hebrew and Jewish material available in the Leningrad and Moscow public libraries and the Oriental Institute. In return for the microfilms and others received before, Dr. Katsh has shipped some 250 books of ancient and modern Hebrew literature, grammar, history, linguistics and general research to the Oriental Institute and the Leningrad Library.

CORNELL UNIVERSITY ESTABLISHES CHAIR FOR BIBLICAL AND HEBREW STUDIES

ITHACA, April 14. (JTA) -- A professorship of Biblical and Hebrew studies has been established at Cornell University here with a grant from the Hebrew Culture Foundation, it was announced this week-end. Dr. Isaac Rabinowitz, currently Lamed Professor of Hebrew and director of Hebrew studies at Wayne University, Detroit, will fill the post beginning July 1.

NEW YORK WOMEN RAISE \$2,343,083 FOR JEWISH FEDERATION ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK, April 14. (JTA) -- Women's contributions to the 1956-57 campaign of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York reached the all-time high figure of \$2,343,083, it was announced today by Mrs. Leonard H. Bernheim, chairman of the Women's Division Board, at the Board's 35th annual meeting. The campaign funds were obtained from 43,355 women throughout Greater New York, an increase of some 10,000 gifts over last year.

JOEL MASTBAUM, NOTED JEWISH NOVELIST, DIES IN ISRAEL; WAS 75

TEL AVIV, April 14. (JTA) -- The funeral of Joel Mastbaum, 75, noted Yiddish novelist and newspaper writer who died here Friday, was held today. Mr. Mastbaum, who was born in Poland, arrived in Israel in 1933. On the 23rd of this month Mr. Mastbaum was scheduled to receive an award from the Israel section of the World Jewish Congress for his contributions to Jewish culture.

DR. JOSEPH HELLER, HEBREW SCHOLAR, DIES IN LONDON; EDITED MAGAZINE

LONDON, April 14. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph Heller, writer, scholar and Hebraist, died here today from injuries received in a recent automobile accident. He was 69. A native of Lithuania, Dr. Heller is known for his writings on the history of Zionism, philosophical thought, translations of Greek classics into Hebrew and the editing of the Hebrew magazine "Tarbut."