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U.S. MIGHT AID JORDAN IF ATTACKED BY ISRAEL, EISENHOWER STATES

WASHINGTON, April 17. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower pointed out to his press conference today that the United States could go to the aid of Jordan in the event of aggression by either Israel or the Soviet Union. The President said the 1950 Tripartite Declaration could be applied if Israel attacked Jordan, while the United States might support Jordan under the Eisenhower Doctrine if Communist aggression occurred.

(From Jerusalem it was reported that President Eisenhower's statement in Washington this morning that the United States would go to the aid of Jordan if that country were attacked by either Israel or the Soviet Union, aroused little interest in Israel. Israelis feel that international trouble is not imminent and that any implied warning by Mr. Eisenhower should concern Syria and possibly other Arab states because the United States is aware that Israel has no intention of intervening in Jordan.)

President Eisenhower indicated that if the Arabs interfered with U.S. ships in the Gulf of Akaba, the United States would look to the World Court. He said the United States had announced its readiness to consider Akaba Gulf an international waterway and will continue to so consider it until a World Court rules otherwise.

He insisted that the United States had not changed its policy on maritime passage through the Gulf or the Suez Canal but he had not heard of U.S. ships having asked permission to transit the contested waters to Elath. Nor had he heard of a reported U.S. undertaking to avoid the Akaba Gulf while negotiating on Suez. Mr. Eisenhower said the United States still has some hope of solving the general Suez issue without resort to the United Nations Security Council.

Eban Confers with State Department on Passage through Suez

Israel Ambassador Abba Eban stressed today the importance of the maintenance of Israel's shipping rights in the Suez Canal controversy. He discussed this and other issues today in an hour-long meeting with William Rountree, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

Mr. Eban said impressions were exchanged of the situation in Jordan. But he declined to comment on President Eisenhower's press conference statement of today indicating that America might aid Jordan in the event of Jordanian-Israel hostilities. He said he first wanted to see the full text of the statement.

The Ambassador told newsmen of the Akaba Gulf shipping question--that he thought too much was being made of alleged misunderstandings and procedural complexities involving the transit of U.S. shipping. He said he knew of no misunderstanding between Israel and the United States on that matter. He indicated that in the course of normal commerce another U.S. ship might visit Elath.

Mr. Eban sought to impress Mr. Rountree with the importance of maintaining international law on Suez and referred to Security Council resolutions and the 1888 convention. He said the canal could not be "merely an Egyptian lake." Israel, he stated, had the same rights to use the canal as any other nation. He emphasized the importance of avoiding Suez discrimination against Israel shipping. On economic aid, Ambassador Eban said it was known that such aid would be resumed but that more detailed action must be awaited.

ISRAEL EXPECTS TO RECEIVE U.S. FINANCIAL AID WITHIN FEW DAYS

JERUSALEM, April 17. (JTA) -- Israel expects to receive within the next few days \$16,000,000 of a \$20,000,000 American grant-in-aid for the year ending June 30, it was reported reliably today.

It was also reported that four to five million dollars worth of surplus agricultural products also were expected before the end of the year. Both grants in aid and agricultural surplus supplies to Israel were suspended when the Sinai campaign was launched.

James P. Richards, the special ambassador for the Eisenhower Doctrine, will arrive in Israel May 5, it was officially announced.

U.S. REJECTS PROPOSAL TO ADMIT JEWISH REFUGEES FROM EGYPT

WASHINGTON, April 17. (JTA) -- The Administration has turned down a proposal to offer Egyptian Jewish refugees haven in this country under the emergency parole provision of the immigration act, it was learned here today. In effect, the Administration's position is that the entire question of granting asylum in the U.S. to Egyptian Jewish refugees is a matter for Congress to handle.

The Administration's views were expressed by Deputy Attorney General William P. Rogers in a letter to Republican Senators Clifford P. Case of New Jersey, and Irving M. Ives and Jacob K. Javits of New York. An exchange of letters between the three Senators and the Justice Department was released today by Senator Case.

The three Senators originally asked the Justice Department to "immediately" extend the parole provision of the immigration act to offer haven in the U.S. to Egyptian Jewish refugees. They pointed out that the Egyptian Jewish refugees "are no less deserving of sympathetic assistance" than the Hungarian refugees.

SOVIET PREMIER PLEDGES MOSCOW'S AID TO ARABS AGAINST ISRAEL

LONDON, April 17. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union will continue to support the Arab states in their "struggle for freedom and independence," Soviet Union Premier Marshal Nikolai Bulganin stated last night, according to a report received here.

In a speech at a Kremlin meeting honoring an Albanian visiting delegation, the Premier said that the "enemies of peace" were still carrying on "intrigues" in the Middle East, and "imperialists" are still attempting to "sharpen tension between Israel and the Arab states." He pledged that the USSR would watch the situation in the Middle East alertly.

ISRAELIS NOT PERTURBED BY IRAN'S CALL NOT TO SELL OIL TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, April 17. (JTA) -- Israel Government sources refused today to comment on a report from Teheran that the Iranian Government had called on the international group which operates the country's oil industry to refrain from selling oil to Israel.

Israeli economic circles were not impressed by the Iranian move. They noted that Iran's was not the only oil available in the Persian Gulf and that oil could be obtained from the international consortium which handles Iranian oil and from independent producers both in Iran and other parts of the Persian Gulf area.

In a move seen only as a gesture of friendship toward the Arab countries, Iran asked the National Iranian Oil Company, which controls one-eighth of the country's oil, "to avoid all transactions with Israel." However, both the Iranian Government and its oil company admit they cannot force compliance by the 17 American, British, French and Dutch companies which market Iran's oil abroad.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT GIVES DRUZE POPULATION EQUAL COMMUNITY STATUS

JERUSALEM, April 17. (JTA) -- In another of a series of moves to give the Druze community equal status with the Jewish community in Israel, the Israel Government decided today to grant the Druze population the status of an independent religious community.

Thus, Israel's 20,000 Druze will have their own religious courts and keep their own marriage registrations and other rights accorded to all other religious communities in this country. It will also make the Arab-speaking Druze population independent of the Moslem community.

U.S. ENVOY ATTENDS SEDER IN ISRAEL; BEN ZVI CONDUCTS SEDER IN NEGEV

JERUSALEM, April 17. (JTA) -- Israel spent the first day of Passover in a heat wave unusually severe for this time of the year. Temperatures dropped for the second day and encouraged adults and children to flock into the streets of cities, towns and villages.

Government announcement revealed today that President Itzhak Ben Zvi had conducted a seder at the Negev kibbutz of Saad. In Jerusalem, United States Ambassador Edward B. Lawson was a guest at a seder officiated over by Israel Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog. Another guest was Britain's Chief Rabbi, Dr. Israel Brodie, who this morning preached a sermon in Jerusalem's Yeshurun Synagogue.

An unusual seder was held under the wings of jet planes at the Air Force base at Lydda. Officiating was Maj. Gen. Moshe Dayan, Army Chief of Staff, and among the guests were high army officers and a number of French citizens currently in Israel. All army posts held public seders.

The Navy's official seder was held aboard the destroyer Haifa, formerly the Egyptian warship Ibrahim el Awal, which was captured on the first day of the Sinai offensive when it attempted a hit-and-run shelling of the port of Haifa. In the port of Elath, Rabbi M. Goren, the army's chief chaplain, held services aboard a corvette.

BUNDESTAG APPROVES GERMAN SETTLEMENT OF SLAVE LABOR COMPENSATION

BONN, April 17. (JTA) -- A law limiting to six months the period during which former slave laborers in the Auschwitz plants of the IG-Farben chemical trust can file claims against the firm was adopted here unanimously by the Bundestag, lower house of the West German Parliament.

The \$7,150,000 out-of-court settlement signed in February by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and the trustees of IG-Farben was contingent upon the adoption of this law before the end of April. Since the settlement won the approval of an IG-Farben shareholders' meeting earlier in the month, two major obstacles have been removed from its path.

Under the German Civil Code, the legal period of grace for the filing of claims would normally have extended until 1958. Since the \$7,150,000 can be pro-rated and distributed only when it is known how many claims have been filed altogether, both parties favored an abridgement of the period of grace through legislative action. The new law still requires assent by the Federal Council and the signature of President Heuss.

After the six-month period of grace has expired, both the Conference on Jewish Material Claims and IG-Farben will be entitled, by virtue of the settlement terms, to withdraw their signature during the following three months. If no such action is taken, the settlement will then enter into force.

To verify application by Auschwitz survivors and administer payments, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims has set up a trusteeship corporation under German law in Frankfurt. Dr. E.G. Lowenthal, a veteran Jewish communal worker, has been named executive secretary. Eligible for compensation under the settlement are all Jewish or political inmates of Auschwitz concentration camp employed for slave labor in nearby IG-Farben factories--chiefly the Buna-Monowitz synthetic-rubber plant, but also Fuaertengrube, Heydebreck and Janina. So far, 6,000 former slave laborers have already registered. The amount of payments will depend upon the total number of qualified claimants who apply, and is to be varied in accordance with the length of the period during which the slave labor was performed.

WARSAW RADIO CRITICIZES POLISH NEWSPAPER FOR ANTI-JEWISH ARTICLE

LONDON, April 17. (JTA) -- The Warsaw radio today broadcast criticism of what it described as an anti-Semitic article in the Polish newspaper "Gazeta Zielonogorska."

The broadcast quoted the paper as alleging that a great percentage of repatriates from the Soviet Union are Jews who "treat Poland only as a springboard for further travel--to Israel." The newspaper asked why Poland's repatriation money should be spent "on ungrateful Jews who want to leave Poland as soon as arrangements can be made."

In the opinion of the broadcaster, the article should never have been published. "It increases anti-Semitic sentiments; it is anti-humanist; it discourages many Jews, who would like to stay and work in Poland, from settling down," the broadcast said. The controversial report was written by Ryszard Rowinski after visiting a repatriation center.

CATHOLIC RELIGION TO BE INTRODUCED IN ITALIAN SCHOOLS; JEWS AFFECTED

ROME, April 17. (JTA) -- A considerable increase in registration in private Italian Jewish schools was foreseen today following an announcement by the Ministry of Education that a 1955 decree requiring education in the Catholic religion will be fully applied commencing with the next school term.

The decree, No. 503, states that education, particularly in the elementary schools, must have as a basis, education in the religion professed by the majority of Italian citizens. The overwhelming majority of the Italian people is Catholic. The Union of Italian Jewish Communities is planning to publish new textbooks for use in the Jewish schools in which principles of the Jewish religion would form the basis, rather than Catholic doctrine.

Sharp criticism of the decree was voiced here by a special congress of the parents-teachers association of the public schools. The congress protested that the elementary school curriculum was not based on the Italian Constitution but on the principles of the 1939 Concordat between Italy and the Vatican.

U. N. BODY HEARS JEWISH PLEA FOR DEALING WITH QUESTION OF REFUGEES

GENEVA, April 17. (JTA) -- A proposal for the establishment of "permanent machinery" within the United Nations as well as outside it for dealing with the question of refugees at the moment such problems arise rather than later, was proposed here today by Dr. Gerhard Riegner, representative of the World Jewish Congress.

The WJC representative told the UN Human Rights Commission that if an international document on refugees is adopted to establish the right of asylum of anyone fleeing persecution or threat of persecution, "it must be based on community action comprising the United Nations as well as those still outside the organization." He called for "positive and effective guarantees in favor of persons forced to flee their homes."

BUENOS AIRES JEWISH COMMUNITY HOLDS ELECTIONS; 18,000 JEWS VOTE

BUENOS AIRES, April 17. (JTA) -- The Labor Zionist ticket, identified with the Mapai Party in the world Zionist movement, emerged today as the leading party in the Buenos Aires Jewish Community following elections yesterday. The Labor Party slate elected 30 people to a 90-member council which will subsequently nominate the community's ten-man praesidium.

Under the government-imposed proportional representation system, the Left Poale Zion elected 13 councilors, the Communists 12, General Zionists 12, Mizrachi 4, German Jews 5, Liberals (Progressives) 4, Hashomer Hatzair 3, Revisionists 3 and Bundists 3. Nearly 18,000 persons voted, the largest number ever to turn out for a community election.

ISRAEL MILITARY COMMANDER LEAVES FOR UNITED STATES TO HELP U. J. A.

TEL AVIV, April 17. (JTA) -- Brigadier Gen. Haim Laskov, commander of the Israeli Southern Defense Force and one of the commanders of the Sinai operation, left today for the United States to tour the country on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal's \$100,000,000 Emergency Rescue Fund and regular 1957 campaign.

Menahem Beigin, leader of the right wing Herut party, also departed for the United States today to continue what he called his "interrupted" tour. The Herut leader suspended an American visit to return to Israel earlier this year to lead an unsuccessful political fight against Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai peninsula. Moshe Drori, Herut general secretary, accompanied Beigin.

PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORPORATION REPORTS \$423,269 PROFIT DURING 1956

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA) -- Palestine Economic Corporation, largest and pioneer American development corporation in Israel, declared a four percent dividend for 1956, payable in common stock of the Corporation to stockholders of record, on May 15, 1957, it was announced by chairman Robert Szold today when he issued the corporation's 1956 annual report to stockholders for its 31st year of operation.

"The board of directors concluded," Mr. Szold stated, "that it is in Israel's present best interest to pay the dividend in stock rather than in cash in view of the corporation's decision to participate to the maximum in the erection of housing for Israel's large 1957 immigration and in the expansion of Israel's industry." The report to stockholders shows that Palestine Economic Corporation earned \$423,269 from operations, after taxes, during 1956 as compared with \$263,524 in 1955 and \$302,732 in 1954. The reserve for contingencies was charged with an amount of \$378,233 resulting from devaluations of the pound.

DROPSIE COLLEGE TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY; PLANS ANNOUNCED

PHILADELPHIA, April 17. (JTA) -- The Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning is inaugurating next month a series of academic conclaves and meetings in observance of its 50 years of chartered existence, it was announced today by its president, Dr. Abraham A. Neuman. The program of activities will be continued through the month of May reaching a climax on Founder's Day, May 22nd. In announcing the observance, Dr. Neuman said that basically it will be in the nature of a salute to scholars and scholarship.

Subjects of paramount interest will be discussed by these scholars and members of the Dropsie College faculty, including "Judaism and Christianity at the Parting of the Ways"; "Impact of East-West Struggle on Israel and the Middle East"; "The Place of Scholarship in Jewish Life"; "The Dead Sea Scrolls"; "Current Studies in Jewish Scholarship."

DR. NAHUM GOLDMANN TO ADDRESS INDEPENDENT ZIONIST CONVENTION

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization and of the Jewish Agency, will address the opening session of the National Founding Assembly on the Independent Zionists of America, to be held here during the week-end of May 18-19th, it was announced today by Mr. Ezra Z. Shapiro, of Cleveland, chairman of the Assembly Committee.

The two-day convention which will meet at the Biltmore Hotel will mark the formal launching of the movement. "The organization," Mr. Shapiro stated, "was formed for the purpose of mobilizing the resources of American Jewry--Zionist and non-Zionist alike--for work on behalf of Israel on a non-party basis, and of endowing pro-Israel activity with deeper spiritual meaning. The convention will select a permanent name, adopt a platform and elect a national administration."

FIRST ISRAEL VESSEL SAILING TO AUSTRALIA REACHES SYDNEY HARBOR

SYDNEY, April 17. (JTA) -- The first vessel flying the flag of Israel ever to sail into this Australian harbor arrived here Sunday. It was a tiny yacht manned by Yosef Havkins, an Israeli sailor, who is taking the vessel on a cruise around the world.