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CANAL USERS' DECISION ON SUEZ FREES ISRAEL'S HAND, AIDE SAYS

JERUSALEM, May 13. (JTA) -- In view of the decision of the Suez Canal Users' Association to permit ships of member nations to pass through the Suez Canal, paying the tolls to the Egyptian authorities under protest, Israel "probably will feel free to send our ships through the Canal," a Foreign Ministry spokesman said here today.

(In London, British acquiescence was announced to Parliament by Prime Minister Harold Macmillan. His statement came under immediate and severe attack from veteran Laborite leader Herbert Morrison who complained of significant omissions in the statement, notably any affirmation of the right of Israeli shipping to use the Canal. The Government statement will be debated later in the week.)

The Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman said that an Israeli ship would be sent to the Suez Canal "at a suitable time." He explained that the suitable time would be determined by both political and economic considerations. The spokesman said it was unlikely that the ship would be sent within the coming week but declined to prophesy on the date.

The spokesman said Israel maintains the position that if the Egyptians stopped this ship, their action would be "an act of war" under the definition in international law.

Israel, France Conferring in Paris on Suez Situation

Israel feels a sense of urgency in this question, the spokesman said, because of the great importance of the Canal to Israel and because there is no other way of testing the intention of President Nasser of Egypt to honor the Constantinople Convention of 1888 assuring freedom of passage of the Canal to all shipping.

The spokesman stressed that Israel still maintains a policy of active cooperation on the Canal question with the maritime nations, especially France. He disclosed that Israel is now conducting talks with the French on the Canal question in Paris. He said that up to now, Israel had no intention of making a move which would have broken the maritime powers' boycott of the Canal, but, in view of the users' association decision, this intention was no longer so firm. The French attitude, the spokesman declared, is still a most potent factor in Israel's considerations. The fact, however, that Israel is keeping in close touch with France, he noted, does not necessarily mean that Israel will follow the French line exactly.

France was the only member of the users' association to refuse to agree to use the Suez Canal on Nasser's terms.

ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO USE AKABA, SUEZ STILL UPHELD BY BRITISH GOVERNMENT

LONDON, May 13. (JTA) -- The British Government's view remains that the waters of the Gulf of Akaba and the Straits of Tiran and Sanafir have international status and are not the territorial waters of the littoral Arab states, Selwyn Lloyd, Britain's Foreign Secretary, declared in Commons today.

Replying to persistent queries from Laborites during the question period, Mr. Lloyd supported a view he attributed to Dag Hammarskjold, United Nations Secretary General, that the UN Emergency Force should not be used to make a permanent settlement of the status of Tiran and Sanafir, the two tiny islands in the passageway leading from the Red Sea to the Gulf of Akaba.

The Foreign Secretary agreed with Laborite Sir L. W. Ungoed-Thomas that Egypt's exclusion of Israel from the Suez Canal could not be justified under the 1888 Constantinople Convention and was a breach of international law and of Security Council resolutions. "Our view," he reiterated, "is that under international law Israeli ships are entitled to go through that canal." He added that "it would be very much better if we could get that problem legally determined as quickly as possible."

He refused to go along with a request that the British Government propose an "open skies" aerial inspection plan for disarmament of the Middle East. Mr. Lloyd insisted that while Israel favored such a plan, it was not feasible unless all the states affected agreed and that such a project should not be imposed from without but only after consultation with the states involved.

SEN. FLANDERS ASKS GREATER RECOGNITION OF NASSER, SUEZ SEIZURE

WASHINGTON, May 13. (JTA) -- Sen. Ralph E. Flanders, Vermont Republican, called on the Senate floor today for greater recognition of the Nasser Government and "acceptance of the nationalization of the Suez Canal" as part of an American program for the Middle East.

Meanwhile, he suggested "support for Israel in negotiating for the Gaza Strip as new area required for settling Jews displaced from adjoining territory."

He urged assurances to the Arabs on limitations of Israeli boundaries and future population.

Chairman Hubert H. Humphrey of a Senate subcommittee studying the Middle East today described Arab "fear of Israeli expansionism" as "genuine." He told U.S. News and World Report that it was America's duty "to make it quite clear that we are opposed to expansionism or aggression from any quarter." He said this meant "boundaries between Arab countries and Israel must be adjudicated by negotiation if there's to be any realignment of those boundaries." He described present boundaries as "temporary" and as "demarcation lines for the armistice."

Sen. Humphrey described the Arab refugee problem as a "festering sore" and voiced hope that the United States would be able to prevail "upon both Israel and the Arab countries to do something about this."

He said "one way that you might get a start is for Israel to accept the fact of responsibility for repatriation of the refugees, and then, on a quota basis over a period of time, you could repatriate a certain number, if they want to come back and go through the process of being reintegrated. Therefore, the Arab States, having won their point, so to speak, will be in a more receptive mood to re-establish these refugees in other lands--Iraq, Syria, Egypt, and other places."

SYRIA ASKS EARLY SECURITY COUNCIL MEETING ON CHARGES AGAINST ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., May 13. (JTA) -- Syria today requested an early meeting of the Security Council, accusing Israel of violating the Israeli-Syrian armistice agreement by erecting a Bailey bridge across the Huleh swamps in the demilitarized zone. The United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, whose observers examined the bridge on the demand of the Damascus government, have held that the span does not constitute a military artery as the Syrians had charged.

Col. Byron V. Leary, acting chief of staff of UNTSO, will leave Jerusalem for Damascus tomorrow, at the invitation of the Syrian government, to discuss the ruling that the structure is not a military thoroughfare but "could" be used "for military purposes if a government desired to use it in such a manner.")

Today, Rafik Asha, head of the Syrian delegation, conferred with Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold and then sent a letter to Henry Cabot Lodge, president of the Security Council, demanding that the Council meet to discuss the Syrian complaint. The Council may meet later this week in response to Syria's request.

Meanwhile, Abba S. Eban, chairman of Israel's delegation, conferred for 40 minutes today with Mr. Hammarskjold. While the meeting was described as a "courtesy call" by the Israeli diplomat, as the aftermath to Mr. Hammarskjold's visit to Jerusalem, some observers thought that Mr. Eban and Mr. Hammarskjold discussed not only the Syrian complaint but also the results of Mr. Hammarskjold's Jerusalem talks with Israel Prime Minister David Ben Gurion and other top leaders of the Israeli government.

U.S. AMBASSADOR IN ISRAEL COMING HOME FOR VACATION

JERUSALEM, May 13. (JTA) -- Edward B. Lawson, United States Ambassador to Israel, is leaving tomorrow for home leave in the United States, during which he will confer in Washington with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and, possibly, with President Eisenhower.

Today, Mr. Lawson paid courtesy farewell visits to Premier David Ben Gurion and Mrs. Golda Meir, Foreign Minister. Mr. Lawson is expected to be absent from his post for two months, and is scheduled to return here in July.

ISRAEL'S ARMS BUDGET SKYROCKETED SINCE CZECH-EGYPTIAN DEAL

TEL AVIV, May 13 (JTA) -- Israel's expenditures on arms, since Egypt made its cotton-for-arms deal with Czechoslovakia a year ago last summer, have exceeded "by many times" the total of 60,000,000 Israeli pounds raised through the government's special defence tax. That was disclosed here in a report on the work of the special defence tax board, made today by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol.

Mr. Eshkol declared that he was unable, on the grounds of national security, to disclose the exact amount spent by Israel for defence in the last 18 months. However, he said, the booty of armaments taken by Israel from the Egyptians, during the Sinai campaign, has been valued "at many tens of millions of pounds."

SOUTH AFRICAN CHIEF RABBI CHALLENGES GOVT. ON COLOR BAR IN WORSHIP

JOHANNESBURG, May 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Louis Rabinowitz, Chief Rabbi of the Federation of Synagogues, challenged the Nationalist Government of South Africa today in its attempts to extend its apartheid (segregation) policy to religion.

In an article in the current issue of the "Zionist Record," he rejected the amendment to the Native Laws Bill which would bar Negroes from white churches in this country. Despite the fact that "we have no native Jews in South Africa," Rabbi Rabinowitz declared that the synagogues were "open to everyone of any creed or color" and that Negroes "would be admitted to services in exactly the same way as Europeans."

The Chief Rabbi stressed that "Judaism makes no distinction between white and black" and that Jewry included the black Jews of Cochin, the dark-skinned Yemenite Jews, the Negro Jews of Harlem and the Falashas of Ethiopia. He underlined the fact that there was no color bar in Israel.

The Jewish attitude toward the government attempt to bar common worship, Rabbi Rabinowitz said, was: "Under all circumstances, without reservation, the native Jew would be and is permitted to join the European Jew in the common act of worship in the synagogue to God, the Father of all men."

PARLIAMENT DEBATES BILL TO END DISCRIMINATION IN BRITAIN

LONDON, May 13. (JTA) -- A plea for passage of a bill designed to end racial discrimination in Britain was voiced in Commons today by Sir Leslie Plummer, Labor MP, who introduced the measure several months ago.

Speaking during the second reading of the bill, Sir Leslie detailed the history of persecution suffered by the Jews in the last 2,000 years and outlined the contributions of Jews to Britain's economy, science, literature and music. He scored the refusal of some hotels to admit Jewish guests and their exclusion from some social affairs.

R. M. Bell, a Conservative, opposed the bill, declaring that in no country in the world was there "less feeling on account of race" than in Britain. The Jewish community, he continued, "has lived here happily, enjoying full equality in law for many generations."

NAMING OF GESTAPO MEN TO TOP GERMAN POLICE POSTS SCORED

COLOGNE, May 13. (JTA) -- A Cologne policeman and official of a police union has protested the appointment of former Gestapo officials to responsible police jobs in the German states and cities.

Georg Buerke, chairman of the local police division of the Public Services Union, termed "intolerable" the appointment of ex-Gestapo men to executive positions in the police hierarchy. He said the trade unions would never agree that such people were "acceptable" for top jobs.

Mr. Buerke was followed by Samuel Kessler, one of the few surviving Cologne Jews and now a Social Democratic municipal councilman, who appealed for support of all citizens and the police in efforts to prevent neo-Nazi activities.

A local court sentenced Wolfgang Ilges, an attorney, to four years in prison, after finding him guilty of being an accessory in the murder of 120 prisoners of war, most of them Jews. Ilges was Gestapo chief in the East Prussian city of Tilsit.

RUMANIAN PUBLICATION ON JEWISH RELIGION BEING CIRCULATED IN U.S.

NEW YORK, May 13. (JTA) -- The Rumanian government is attempting to prove to Jews in the United States that Rumanian Jews enjoy freedom of worship, it became evident here today. The Bucharest government's official firm engaged in foreign trade is soliciting among American Jews subscriptions to the "Review On the Religion of the Jewish Community," a publication which was formerly issued once a month but which now comes out fortnightly.

Copies of the "Review" received here reveal it to be an eight-page newspaper, containing two pages in the Hebrew language, two in Yiddish, and four pages in Rumanian. Photographs in the "Review" show the Rumanian grand rabbi surrounded by children who are presumably pupils of a Talmud Torah, a young boy wearing a prayer shawl and skull cap conducting a Temple service, and illustrations from old editions of the "Haggadah," the order of the service for Passover.

CHAIRMAN OF BRITISH PIONEER WOMEN ELECTED TO BOROUGH POST

LONDON, May 13. (JTA) -- Mrs. Jeanette Miller, national chairman of the Pioneer Women of Great Britain and wife of Dr. S. A. Miller, a vice president of the Zionist Federation, has been declared the victor in an election for the Golders Green ward seat on the Hendon (London) Borough Council. Mrs. Miller ran as a Laborite.

RABBINICAL LEADER SCORES U.S. FAILURE TO ADMIT EGYPTIAN JEWS

KIAMESHA LAKE, N. Y., May 13. (JTA) -- Sharply criticizing the "shabby morality" of the United States Administration, Rabbi Aaron H. Blumenthal, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, today called on Protestant, Catholic and Jewish clergymen in this country "to cope jointly with man's inhumanity to man, both here and abroad."

Rabbi Blumenthal addressed the opening session of a three-day meeting of the Rabbinical Assembly which convened here this morning. The Assembly is the national association of more than 600 spiritual leaders of Conservative congregations with an aggregate membership of more than 1,000,000 worshippers.

The Administration in Washington, Rabbi Blumenthal charged, lacks "the will" to admit Jewish refugees from Egypt, fearing it might "offend" Egypt with the suggestion that Egypt is persecuting Jews. "Had the Administration wished to admit these refugees," Rabbi Blumenthal declared, "it would have found ample legal justification, and the American people would have shown just pride in the humanitarianism of its government." For acting promptly during the crisis in Jordan, however, the head of the Assembly asserted, the Administration deserves commendation for "vigorous action in the face of Communist threats."

Labor Zionists Hit U.S. "Abdication" to Saudi Arabia

NEW YORK, May 13. (JTA) -- The State Department was accused here today by the Farband-Labor Zionist Order of "abdication moral leadership" through America's agreement with King Ibn Saud of Saudi Arabia for "discriminatory practices against Americans of Jewish faith." The accusation was made in a letter to Secretary of State John Foster Dulles, signed by Meyer L. Brown, president of the Farband, and Louis Segal, general secretary.

HISTORIANS SEE MAJOR CHANGES IN JEWISH COMMUNITY BY YEAR 2000

WASHINGTON, May 13. (JTA) -- Major changes in the Jewish community of the United States and transformation of its religious and cultural values were forecast here this week-end by two well known historians of the American Jewish scene.

In separate articles in the current National Jewish Monthly, publication of B'nai B'rith, Profs. Oscar Handlin of Harvard and Jacob R. Marcus of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, predict that under the impact of suburban life, choking off of immigration, decreasing anti-Semitism, intermarriage and pressures to conform to a non-Jewish homogeneity, the American Jewry which survives in the year 2000 will be substantially different from what it is today.

Pulitzer Prize winner Dr. Handlin asserts that "the danger is not so much that the Jewish community will disappear, but that its culture will become a museum piece, preserved out of curiosity and ancestral piety, but devoid of meaning."

Dr. Marcus, one-time president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, sees: "A tight Jewish community will have to come into being (and) a new fusion type of religion may well be in the making." He believes that distinctions among the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform wings of Jewry will be erased by amalgamation.

1,000 AMERICANS PLANNING TO VISIT ISRAEL THIS SUMMER

NEW YORK, May 13. (JTA) -- A total of 1,000 Americans, half of them professionals, are planning to participate in seminar workshops in Israel this summer under the auspices of the Jewish Agency in cooperation with American educational institutions, the Agency announced. The visitors are organized in 12 different study groups interested in specific phases of Israeli life and culture.

Professors of Bible and Hebrew in American colleges and universities, rabbis and educators, Jewish communal and social workers, students of Hebrew in public High Schools, graduates and senior students of American Hebrew teachers colleges and rabbinical seminaries, and leaders of various youth organizations have registered for their respective workshops. The college professors of Bible and Hebrew, the majority of whom are Christians, will be led by Dr. Abraham I. Katsh, director of the Department of Hebrew Language and Culture of New York University.

JEWISH AGENCY RECEIVES SOCIAL SERVICE AWARD FOR IMMIGRANT PROGRAM

NEW YORK, May 13. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency was honored this week-end for its unique "ship-to-settlement" program for immigrants in Israel. The Social Service Division of the United Jewish Appeal presented the Agency with its second annual award for Outstanding Social Service Achievement. Henry A. McCarthy, New York City Commissioner of Welfare, presented an illuminated scroll emblematic of the award to Mrs. Rose Halprin, acting head of the Jewish Agency.

VIENNA TO NAME MUNICIPAL HOUSING PROJECT FOR THEODOR HERZL

VIENNA, May 13. (JTA) -- The City of Vienna will name a municipal housing project in honor of Dr. Theodor Herzl, founder of modern Zionism, who spent most of his life in this city.