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U. N. CHIEF SEES IMPROVEMENT IN RELATIONS BETWEEN EGYPT AND ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., June 6. (JTA) -- Cautious optimism about Egyptian-Israeli relations was expressed today by United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld at a press conference here. He said that there had been some improvement over the situation existing before the Sinai campaign.

"There have been continuous developments behind the smokescreen and when the smokescreen is lifted, we may be delighted to see signs of solid progress," he declared. Pressed for clarification of this statement, he said it was a "feeling" of an improvement in the psychological situation.

The UN chief described the presence of United Nations Emergency Forces as having introduced a new element in the border situation, asserting "it gives us a period during which various matters can be discussed." Discussing the two landmining incidents reported last week, the UN Secretary General pointed out that both occurred near the demarcation line. He noted that one or two men can slip through the United Nations Emergency force lines, and said that while UNEF was not "watertight," there has been no "breakthrough" through it.

Touching on the question of stationing UNEF troops on the Israeli side of the demarcation line, Mr. Hammarskjöld said he would like to see "further developments along the lines indicated." He added this was not the time to raise the issue. At the same time he emphasized that the issue was in no way "dead." "We haven't reached a solution that is satisfactory to us or to others but we are pursuing the matter."

(In Naples yesterday, Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, commander of UNEF, said that the situation in the Middle East had "calmed down remarkably," but refused to estimate when his troops would be withdrawn from Sinai, the Gaza Strip and the islands in the Gulf of Akaba. Referring to the Akaba situation, Gen. Burns said his troops were prepared to take "preventive action" if the need should arise.)

Stresses Need to Give "Proper Weight" to the Armistice Pacts

Mr. Hammarskjöld dealt at some length with the question of the Israeli position on the 1949 armistice pacts. Asked whether the decision on the demilitarized zone in the Huleh area involving the request of the Security Council for greater cooperation by Israel with UN truce supervisory officials applied to all demilitarized zones, he declared: "Legally there is no difference. Politically, we are in difficulties."

Declaring that the Israel Government had given expression to the view that without the armistice agreements being cancelled, "somehow the Israel-Egyptian armistice agreement is not in effect at all," the UN chief stated: "I don't know how to characterize this ambiguous situation." He insisted on giving "proper weight" to the armistice agreements "because they are the only legal documents with which we have to work. I would be sorry to see them thrown out the window," he continued. "If they are not upheld and respected, we haven't got a springboard from which to jump."

The Secretary General said that an Israeli figure of 50 instances of thefts and incursions since the withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula was difficult to evaluate. He said that UNEF has difficulties in handling such events because it is not fully or immediately informed and has no ability to carry through investigations of its own.

Dr. Ralph Bunche, Under-Secretary General, said that on most of the reported instances the United Nations headquarters have had no reports at all. "We do know from sketchy information they are inconsequential," he stated. He stressed the fact that casualties had been reported only in the two landmining instances.

Emphasizes U. N. Stand on Arab Blockade Against Israel

Mr. Hammarskjöld said the Arab boycott, which has been extended to all ships touching Israel, was in line with the oft-repeated policies of the Arabs and evaluation of these policies has been given proper consideration by the United Nations. Observers here noted that the Security Council has twice condemned Egyptian blockade of the Suez Canal against Israeli shipping.

The UN chief was asked by correspondents whether the UNEF troops at Sharm el Sheikh would investigate the Saudi Arabian complaints of naval action by Israel. He

replied this was outside of UNEF's province. He indicated the United Nations had no way to investigate this problem and "we have not been invited to investigate."

Israel diplomats here last night termed the Saudi Arabian charges "a flat lie." It is believed here that Saudi Arabia is laying the groundwork for a formal request to the Security Council that it take up Arab claims that the Gulf of Akaba is an all-Arab waterway on which Israel has no rights.

Israel Denies Attacking Saudi Arabian Coastal Positions

JERUSALEM, June 6. (JTA) -- The Israel Government denied formally today Saudi Arabian charges to the Security Council yesterday that Israeli naval units had attacked Saudi Arabian coastal positions on the Gulf of Akaba last month. The Foreign Ministry said it had no knowledge of such incidents.

The Foreign Ministry reported that the "Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Akaba are very quiet. Shipping in the gulf is proceeding very normally." Observers here noted that the Saudi Arabian complaint referred to three Israeli frigates participating in the alleged actions. It is general knowledge that Israel has but two frigates in the gulf and at almost any time one or both can be seen lying in Elath harbor.

It is the belief here that the Saudi Arabian complaint is part of a propaganda scheme aimed at eventually forbidding Moslem pilgrimages to Mecca, via the gulf, on the grounds of "danger" from Israel. This belief was buttressed by the fact that the latest complaint said that the Israel navy had shelled the "pilgrimage route to Mecca."

Israel Condemns Arab Blacklisting of Norwegian Ship

JERUSALEM, June 6. (JTA) -- Israeli sources said today that even under the "illegal Arab criteria," there was no basis for the Arab blacklisting of the Norwegian ship, "Vestvard," which completed passage yesterday through the Suez Canal.

The Vestvard, which had unloaded at Elath after a trip through the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Akaba, was stopped at Port Said and then permitted to go through the Canal. Egyptian sources said the ship would never be permitted Suez transit again because it had been used to deliver cargo to Israel.

Israeli observers said the Egyptian action was a "striking example of arbitrary violation of freedom of navigation by Nasser while he claims 'observance' of the Constantinople convention."

U.S. Senate Hears Recommendation on Settlement of Arab Refugees

WASHINGTON, June 6. (JTA) -- Sen. Jacob K. Javits today urged the Administration to initiate a major drive in the Middle East now for "resettlement of Arab refugees in Arab lands."

Sen. Javits told the Senate: "There is an indicated breakdown of international support for the maintenance of the Palestine Arab refugees through the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees and notice of a new declaration of economic warfare on Israel by the Arab League."

The Senator recommended that the United States summon its ambassadors and plan a diplomatic campaign to win acceptance of the Johnston plan of regional water cooperation as a first step.

Blaustein Confers with Hammarskjold; Discuss Arab-Israel Problem

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 6. (JTA) -- Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee and former member of the American delegation to the United Nations, conferred today with UN Secretary General on various problems, including the Arab-Israel problem. The conference lasted two hours.

Israel is participating fully in the work of the United Nations Technical Assistance Board, contributing money and experts, and receiving assistance in its turn, according to the Board's annual report filed here today. A total of \$406,329 was spent by the TAB in Israel last year, the report shows. On the other hand, Israel has been contributing to the Board's work since 1952. The total Israeli contributions in money for the last five last five years is \$245,000.

The report credits the "systematic effort" made by the technical assistance department in the Office of Prime Minister David Ben Gurion with coordinating all technical assistance programs in Israel, with the result that "in practically every project there was mutual understanding and necessary cooperation."

Kuwait Ruler Reported Prohibiting Imports from Israel

LONDON, June 6. (JTA) -- Reports published in the press here today state that the Arab League announced that the ruler of the tiny oil-rich Arab sheikdom Kuwait has issued an order prohibiting anyone in his domain to import goods from Israel.

42,500 IMMIGRANTS ENTERED ISRAEL DURING THE LAST FIVE MONTHS

JERUSALEM, June 6. (JTA) -- Some 42,500 immigrants arrived in Israel in the first five months of the year, the Jewish Agency announced today. The number who arrived in May alone exceeded 12,000.

NEW FREIGHTER FOR ISRAELI SHIPPING LINE TO BE LAUNCHED IN GERMANY

HAMBURG, June 6. (JTA) -- The 9,500-ton "Har Canaan," a freighter built to handle 14,750 tons of bulk cargo such as grain, steel or coal, and constructed for a corporation which is affiliated with the private "El-Yam" shipping line in Tel Aviv, will be launched here tomorrow.

The new freighter is the third of four identical cargo ships being constructed under the terms of the German-Israeli Reparations Agreement and destined for the Recanat family, which purchases them from the State of Israel. The "Har Carmel" and the "Har Gilboa" were delivered earlier this year and are now employed as tramp steamers on the freight routes between Israel and European as well as American ports. The same assignment is envisaged for the "Har Canaan" and the "Har Tabor," the fourth ship of the series, which is to be launched in the summer.

Most of the merchantmen and passenger liners heretofore built in Germany were commissioned by Zim Shoham, Israel's national shipping line. "El-Yam" is the first private firm of Israel shipowners to have ordered, within the framework of the reparations pact, sea-going vessels on a large scale.

MORE NAZI VICTIMS CLAIM COMPENSATION FROM GERMAN CHEMICAL TRUST

FRANKFURT, June 6. (JTA) -- A delegation of the International Auschwitz Committee, representing former inmates of the Nazi death camp, conferred today with representatives of IG Farben, the German chemical trust, and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims on the question of adding claimants to the number estimated to share in a slave labor settlement agreed between IG Farben and the Claims Conference.

The provisional settlement approved by these two parties would pay some \$7,000,000 to surviving slave laborers at the synthetic rubber plant operated by I.G. Farben with Auschwitz inmates. It is the belief of observers here that if too many new claimants enter the picture at this late date, the German company will not ratify the pact. However, the International Auschwitz Committee, which convened its meeting here to discuss this problem, has many more claims to add. The Polish delegation alone offers 2,320 new names.

Meanwhile, an urn containing human ashes gathered from ditches where the Nazis dumped the overflow from their crematoria at the Auschwitz camp was buried today in the local Jewish cemetery. The urn had been brought to the conference of the Auschwitz Committee by the Polish delegation.

GERMANY WILL KEEP ALL PLEDGES ON INDEMNIFICATION, OFFICIALS SAY

DETROIT, June 6. (JTA) -- The West German Government will keep all pledges and treaties for indemnification and reparations for losses by victims of Nazism, according to a group of Bonn officials visiting Detroit.

The assurances included a statement that no pressures on the part of the Arab states or from the East Germans would deter the Bonn Government from carrying out its commitments to former victims of Nazism.

The visitors were Dr. Georg Blessin, member of the federal finance ministry; Kurt Brockhaus, member of the west Berlin senate; Dr. Hans Brenner, member of the Government of Rhineland-Pfalz. Dr. Ferdinand R.H. Friedensburg, Jr., German consul in Detroit and son of the Mayor of Berlin in pre-Nazi days, was host to the three Bonn representatives who addressed meetings of a Jewish congregation here. They urged claimants to file as soon as possible.

ATTEMPT TO BAR JEWISH CONGRESS FROM I.L.O. PARLEY ON BIAS FAILS

GENEVA, June 6. (JTA) -- Egypt sought yesterday to bar the World Jewish Congress from participating in discussions of discrimination in employment on the grounds that the Congress is a racial not an international organization.

The move, at a meeting of an interim committee of the International Labor Organization conference on discrimination, failed when ILO director general David Morse ruled that the WJC was an international organization with consultative status before the United Nations. The attempt to bar the WJC was made by Abdel Moghni Said Salama, a representative of the Egyptian Government.

ASHES OF JEWS KILLED BY NAZIS ENCLOSED IN BELGIAN MONUMENT

BRUSSELS, June 6. (JTA) -- Representatives of the Ministries of National Defense and Justice today attended ceremonies here at the dedication of a memorial to political prisoners who were killed by the Nazis during World War II at the Breendonck concentration camp.

An urn containing the ashes of Jews of the Belgian resistance movement who perished in the Nazi gas chambers at the camp in Auschwitz was enclosed in the monument marking the memorial. The solemn ceremony was arranged by the Central Consistory of the Jews of Belgium.

U. J. A. NATIONAL CONFERENCE TO HEAR REPORTS ON REFUGEE PROBLEM

NEW YORK, June 6. (JTA) -- Jewish community leaders from all parts of the country will gather this week-end in New York to hear up-to-the-minute reports of the Jewish refugee problem and on the Middle East situation. They will be addressed by Israel Ambassador Abba Eban; Dr. Nahum Goldman, president of the Jewish Agency; Senator Lyndon B. Johnson, majority leader in the Upper House, and others.

The purpose of the two-day conference is to raise \$50,000,000 in cash for the United Jewish Appeal from previously given pledges. In a statement issued today on the aims of the conference, William Rosenwald, general chairman of the UJA emphasized the growing needs of thousands of Jewish refugees who must be rescued from oppression and resettled in Israel and other free lands.

"It is sad but true that thousands of Jewish men, women and children are forced to wait in refugee reception centers in Europe and North Africa until we raise sufficient funds to transport them to new homes where they can begin new lives in freedom and hope," he declared. "The people of Israel literally are performing the impossible in their determination to take in every refugee who seeks shelter there. They are taxing themselves unmercifully; they are denying themselves things that we regard as basic; they are crowding up their schools, hospitals and other facilities to assist the newcomers.

"While we the Jews of America are not called upon to match the sacrifice of the people of Israel, we have a solemn responsibility in meeting this common burden," Mr. Rosenwald pointed out. "Saving the lives of refugees from Europe and North Africa is a common problem which every Jewish individual should regard as a communal responsibility. All we now ask is for every person to honor his pledge to the UJA's \$100,000,000 Emergency Rescue Fund and the regular 1957 UJA campaign. What we now need, more than ever, is cash, not promises."

ASSOCIATION FOR JEWISH EDUCATION IN U. S. FAVORS PENSIONS FOR TEACHERS

NEW YORK, June 6. (JTA) -- A permanent national committee, organized by the American Association for Jewish Education to deal with the acute shortage of teachers and administrators for Jewish religious schools, has adopted a bold program of action for the coming year which will give priority to improvement of the economic and social status of present Jewish educational personnel.

By a unanimous vote, the delegates of 51 national and local agencies represented at the first public meeting of the new committee, declared themselves in favor of a retirement program, group life insurance, hospitalization insurance, and loss of salary indemnity for all full time professional teachers, administrators, and supervisors now serving Jewish religious schools.

They further urged the AAJE to formulate national standards for a code of practice relating to the rights and responsibilities of the Hebrew teacher, the school, and the community. They also suggested that the American Association for Jewish Education will call upon the various Jewish federations and welfare funds to give their support to implement its program, and that the AAJE urge local communities throughout the country to initiate without delay those aspects of the committee's program which lend themselves to immediate implementation."

ANNUAL CONVENTION OF BNAI ZION OPENS TODAY; 500 DELEGATES ATTEND

MONTICELLO, N. Y., June 6. (JTA) -- The 48th annual convention of Bnai Zion, the Zionist fraternal order, will open here tomorrow with some 500 delegates from 16 states in attendance. The convention will launch a two-year golden jubilee celebration of the founding of the organization.

A principal speaker at the meeting will be Brig. Gen. S. L. A. Marshall, the U.S. Army's Chief Historian of the European Theatre in World War II and of the Korean War. Gen. Marshall was in the Middle East during the recent Israeli Sinai campaign.

THOUSANDS OF JEWS JOIN IN PILGRIMAGE TO TOMB OF KING DAVID

JERUSALEM, June 6. (JTA) -- Thousands of Jews made a pilgrimage to Mount Zion yesterday on the first day of Shavuot to recite prayers at the reputed site of the tomb of King David who, according to tradition, was born and died on Shavuot. Many devout worshippers maintained a night-long vigil at the tomb reciting the Psalms.

Many groups of religious youth made their way to the site where they danced and sang in a twilight lightened by the fires of Sephardic Jewish families who barbecued food for their praying menfolk. Synagogues throughout the country were decorated with traditional greenery and drew capacity congregations for the readings of the story of Ruth.

MOSS TURNER SAMUELS, JEWISH MEMBER OF BRITISH PARLIAMENT, DEAD

LONDON, June 6. (JTA) -- Moss Turner Samuels, Labor MP from Gloucester since 1945, died today. He was 65. Mr. Samuels was Recorder of Halifax since 1948.