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IMPROVEMENT IN PROSPECTS FOR ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE SEEN BY DR. GOLDMANN

JERUSALEM, July 10. (JTA) -- The Zionist Actions Committee started its two-week session here today with an address by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, in which he expressed the opinion that "we are entering upon a period where the possibility of an Arab-Israel peace is becoming more practicable than at any other time before."

At the same time, he warned that the very improvement in peace prospects in the Middle East holds a new danger--that of an imposed solution unacceptable to Israel. He held that there are two reasons for his impression that the possibility of an Arab-Israel peace is now becoming more visible:

1. The Arab leaders, although they do not admit it, are beginning to accept the fact that Israel is here to stay and are beginning to adjust their thinking to this fait accompli.

2. The Big Powers are beginning to realize the danger to the peace of the world posed by the chaotic situation in the Middle East, and are ready to deal with it more effectively than ever before.

Dr. Goldmann insisted that the major powers do not want war, not even the Soviet Union which has been unfriendly toward Israel and has encouraged extreme Arab nationalism. This is particularly true, he added, "after the changes which have taken place in its (the USSR) leadership."

In predicting that an attempt may be made to impose a peace settlement unacceptable by Israel and detrimental to the future of the Jewish State, Dr. Goldmann said: "This means that more than ever the Jewish people, Israel's most reliable ally, will have to be ready to defend Israel's vital interests and the Zionist movement will have to continue to mobilize the people for this work."

He noted that the all-out support of Jews throughout the world of Israel during the Sinai campaign "justifies the conviction that it will continue to live up to its historic responsibilities in any future political crisis."

Calls for Action on the Situation of Jews in Communist Countries

Turning to the question of immigration, which he called the second most important development of the current period after the Sinai affair, Dr. Goldmann said that the renewal of mass immigration from Europe had an "extraordinary historical meaning." Not only does this bring to Israel "elements which are badly needed for the building of the country" but it opens up the prospects of "bringing back to the fold of Jewish life those Jewries which have seemed to be lost to our people."

No longer is it a Quixotic illusion," he said, "to hope that other countries, including the Soviet Union, will open the doors for Jewish immigration to Israel." He stressed that the time has come for the Jewish people to deal more actively and publicly with the problem of the life and future of Eastern European Jewish communities which represent the main remnants of the Nazi holocaust. "They are in danger of spiritual disintegration and of being lost to our people," he said. "It is primarily the problem of their ability and their right to exist as Jews."

Dr. Goldmann charged that Jews were being discriminated against in the Eastern European countries, especially in the Soviet Union where they do not enjoy equal facilities and rights which other national minorities enjoy. The Jewish people, he went on, cannot give up its vital interest in these three and one-half million people and the time has come to put this problem "on the agenda of international public opinion."

The tragic situation of Jewish life in Russia is not, Dr. Goldmann insisted, the result of a social ideology on which the Jewish people cannot and does not take a position. It stems from the specific anti-Jewish policies of the Stalinist regime which "unfortunately" have not been changed by his successors.

ISRAEL ENVOY EXPRESSES CONCERN TO STATE DEPT. ON SYRIAN ATTACKS

WASHINGTON, July 10. (JTA) -- Israeli Minister Reuven Shiloah today called on William Rountree, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, to acquaint him with recent developments on the Israeli-Syrian border. Mr. Shiloah expressed concern over the increasing frequency of acts of murder in this area.

U. S. GOVERNMENT ASKS ISRAEL AND SYRIA TO USE RESTRAINT AT BORDER

JERUSALEM, July 10, (JTA) -- The United States Government today asked the Government of Israel to use restraint in handling the situation on the Syrian border where an Israeli settlement was shelled yesterday by Syrian military positions. The request was delivered to the Foreign Ministry by U. S. Charge d'Affaires William Baxter.

Dr. Walter Eytan, director general of Israel's Foreign Ministry, told Mr. Baxter that Israel has shown restraint and is willing to cooperate with the United Nations to prevent a recurrence of such incidents. He emphasized, however, that Syria must not show any further signs of aggressiveness. It is understood that a request for restraint was also presented by the United States to the Syrian Government through the American Embassy in Damascus.

The Cairo radio, in a Hebrew broadcast today, announced that the joint Arab command--Egyptian and Syrian--had become operative since last midnight and had moved up to the "front"--the scene of yesterday's ten-hour clash between entrenched Syrian gunners and Israeli border patrols.

The Cairo commentator quoted a Syrian communique made after last midnight as authority for the announcement of the operational status of the joint command. The Syrians also said that the Egyptian representative on the joint command had assured his Syrian allies of Cairo's fullest cooperation in the event of need.

Meanwhile, a Syrian sniper wounded an Israeli combine operator working in the fields of Dan settlement, north of Gonen, where yesterday's battle occurred. The first shot hit the Israeli in the hand, a second damaged his rifle which was standing beside him.

QUIET RESUMED AT ISRAEL-SYRIAN BORDER; U. N. INVESTIGATING 10-HOUR BATTLE

TEL AVIV, July 10, (JTA) -- Wrecked and silenced Syrian gun positions east of the Israeli-Syrian border and a damaged Israeli armored car west of the border were the only signs today of yesterday's 10-hour battle in which one Israeli civilian was killed and ten troops and police wounded. A United Nations white flag was seen this morning near the wrecked Syrian positions, indicating that UN investigators were collecting information for a report.

Work in the Israeli settlements along the border returned to normal today while preparations were made in Kiryat Shmoneh, an upper Galilee settlement, for the funeral of the settler, Attaia Hamous, who settled in Israel two years ago. During the night sporadic fire from Syrian positions was aimed at Hehavot Habashan but no casualties or damages were reported.

Heavy Syrian army movements were observed today on the hilltops overlooking Israel's fertile Huley valley. The battle yesterday, one of the most serious clashes on the Syrian border in recent months, developed with machinegun fire from Syrian nests at an Israeli border patrol. Israeli armored cars, rushed to the scene to help extricate the trapped and wounded police, became the target of heavy mortar fire. Israeli troops then opened return mortar fire of heavy mortar fire and knocked out a number of Syrian gun posts.

U. N. Observers Report Normalcy Restored on Israel-Syrian Front

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., July 10, (JTA) -- Reports reaching the United Nations headquarters today from UN observers on the Israel-Syrian frontier said that quiet continues along the border and that the UN officials were keeping the area under close observation.

UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, who is currently in Geneva, intervened urgently yesterday to get the heads of the Israel and Syrian Governments to accept the cease-fire ordered in the Huleh area by Col. Byron V. Leary, Acting Chief of Staff of the UN Truce Supervision Organization.

A UN spokesman here revealed that Mr. Hammarskjold's action was taken through UN headquarters here after he was informed of the border clash, which only ended after 10 hours and four UN cease-fire demands. Mr. Hammarskjold's plea also asked the heads of both governments to take action to forestall a repetition of such incidents. The UN spokesman did not make public the messages sent to Premier David Ben Gurion and President Shukri al-Kuwatly.

Arab Leader Disclaims Knowledge of Talks on Refugee Problem

NEW YORK, July 10, (JTA) -- Reports that talks concerning the fate of the Arab refugees have been going on with "any person who can legitimately claim he can speak on behalf of the refugees" were denied today by Dr. Izzat Tannous, director of the Palestine Arab Refugee Office in New York and secretary general of the Arab-Palestine Office for Refugees in Beirut, Lebanon.

"If any talks were held at all, then the persons who attended were no more than Zionist stooges serving their own personal ends," he said in a statement. He added that the Palestine Arabs were determined to resist any idea of resettlement outside the borders of Palestine.

ISRAEL FOREIGN MINISTER STARTS HIGH LEVEL TALKS IN FRANCE

PARIS, July 10. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, opened her official visit to France today by conferring with French Foreign Minister Christian Pineau. Tomorrow, Mrs. Meir will conclude the official portion of her visit by meeting with Premier Maurice Bourges-Maunoury.

Neither French nor Israeli official sources would comment on the Pineau-Meir meeting. Later, Mrs. Meir lunched with the France-Israel Committee, composed of deputies of the French National Council. A communique is expected late this evening. The Israeli Minister also saw Guy Mollet, former French Premier, today. At the conclusion of her official visit, Mrs. Meir will proceed to Brittany for a short vacation.

STRIKE OF 1, 800 TEXTILE WORKERS IN ISRAEL ENTERS THIRD MONTH

TEL AVIV, July 10. (JTA) -- The strike of 1, 800 workers against the ATA textile manufacturing plant and retail shops entered its third month today with the police reporting a new violent incident. The company manager, J. Abramov, was assaulted today and suffered a skull fracture.

For the past two days, Mr. Abramov had noticed that two men were following him. Today, when he arrived home dogged by his two shadows, he went into the house and picked up a camera. He stepped outside and attempted to photograph the two. Instead, they took the camera away from him and hit him over the head with it. They fled and have so far not been apprehended.

This is not the first instance of violence in the strike, which is estimated to be costing the Israel economy 50, 000 pounds daily in lost wages and production. Both strike breakers at the plant and would-be customers at the retail outlets have been assaulted.

The walk-out commenced May 10 when management refused to grant wage increases and fringe benefits, arguing that since the enterprise was not making enough to pay dividends to stockholders it could not afford increased labor costs. Instead, management suggested it be allowed to institute a series of efficiency dismissals, regardless of seniority, in order to put the plant on a more productive plane.

Four Cabinet Ministers--Mordecai Namir, Mrs. Golda Meir, Pinchas Saphir and Peretz Naphthali--have attempted to mediate, but failed. Premier David Ben Gurion has unofficially pressed the leader of the strike, Yoseph Almogi, secretary of the Haifa Labor Council, to modify the strikers' demands, but also to no avail.

Although the Histadrut executive council was reluctant in the beginning to back Mr. Almogi, it has meanwhile decided to throw its weight behind the strikers. Meanwhile, Hans Moller, principal stockholder of ATA and its manager, has grown more insistent on his demands for efficiency dismissals, regardless of the outcome of the strike. New mediation efforts by Cabinet members are considered likely.

WORLD OSE CONFERENCE CLOSES IN PARIS; SHABAN ELECTED PRESIDENT

PARIS, July 10. (JTA) -- The five-day international conference of the World Union OSE, Jewish Health Organization which enjoys consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council, concluded here today after hearing reports on the activities of the organization in North Africa, Israel and other countries, and following the naming of a nine-man board to draft the CSE program for the next 12 months. Abel Shaban, South African Jewish leader, was elected president of the Central Board of the organization.

The conference, which was held at the UNESCO House here, dealt particularly with the reorganization of the OSE in Israel and discussed the situation in which CSE institutions find themselves at present in North Africa. It was reported that the organization has 29 branches located in 23 countries throughout the world. The American delegation at the conference was headed by Boris Pregel, industrialist, and Dr. L. Wulman of New York.

SAN FRANCISCO VOTES TO BAN RACIAL AND RELIGIOUS BIAS IN EMPLOYMENT

SAN FRANCISCO, July 10. (JTA) -- The San Francisco Board of Supervisors voted yesterday final passage of FEPC legislation banning discrimination in employment on grounds of race, religion and national origin. The measure will become effective within 30 days when Mayor George Christopher names a seven-member commission.

The commission's function will be, under the municipal ordinance, to hear and conciliate complaints. If it fails in conciliation, the commission is empowered to refer the matter to the City Attorney for court action.

PLAN TO SETTLE MIDDLE CLASS LATIN AMERICAN JEWS IN ISRAEL REPORTED

TEL AVIV, July 10. (JTA) -- The economic department of the Jewish Agency is completing plans which would assist Latin American Jews to settle in Israel, L. Dultzin, head of the department revealed today. Mr. Dultzin asserted that several thousand middle class Latin American Jews are prepared to settle in Israel, but that absorption facilities are not yet available for them.

SHOLEM ASCH, CELEBRATED JEWISH NOVELIST, DIES SUDDENLY IN LONDON

LONDON, July 10, (JTA) -- Sholem Asch, most celebrated Jewish author of the age, whose latter years were involved in controversies over his novels dealing with early Christianity and who has been living in Israel since last year, died here early this morning following a brain hemorrhage. He was 77.

Mr. Asch and his wife arrived here from Israel about three weeks ago for a three-month stay with their daughter. His death was sudden. Friends who spent the day with him yesterday said he had been in good spirits and with no signs of the illness which hospitalized him in Israel for several weeks last spring. At the time of his death, he was engaged in writing a novel on Biblical patriarchs.

The funeral will take place Friday. It will start with services at the West London Synagogue, a Reform house of worship. He will be buried at the Golders Green Jewish cemetery.

Mr. Asch and his wife had been guests last Friday of Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Elath and Mrs. Elath. During that visit the novelist spoke of the great happiness he had found living in Israel, and that he had discovered a peace of mind in the Jewish State which he had not known in his many years of wandering through the world.

He told the envoy that he regretted he had not settled in Israel when he was young and spoke of plans for a book about Israel, particularly its youth among whom, he said, he had found emotions and idealism rare anywhere in the world. Mr. Elath went today to the Asch home to convey personally the condolences of the Government of Israel and his own sympathy.

Mr. Asch became a controversial figure in Jewish life during the '30s when, after a large number of successful novels on Jewish life, he published "The Nazarene," a story of the life of Jesus. The controversy deepened when he followed this with "Mary" and "The Apostle." Explaining his writings about early Christianity, Mr. Asch said he was trying to build a bridge between the Jewish and Christian faiths.

By far the most prolific and widely known Yiddish writer of the first half of the 20th Century, Mr. Asch wrote novels, short stories, essays and plays. All his work was written in Yiddish and subsequently translated into English, Hebrew, French, German, Russian and other languages. He settled in the United States in 1914 and subsequently became an American citizen. He was for many years a member of the staff of the Jewish Daily Forward in New York. He was also an indefatigable collector of Jewish art and ceremonial objects.

U.S. STUDENTS LEAVE TODAY FOR A YEAR OF STUDY AT JERUSALEM UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, July 10, (JTA) -- Eighteen American collegians will sail from here tomorrow, on the Israeli liner S.S. Zion, to spend a year of study at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, it was announced at a reception in their honor today by Prof. Oscar I. Janowsky, chairman of the Academic Council of the American Friends of Hebrew University.

The students, ranging in age from 18 to 22 years, and hailing from 14 institutions of higher learning, represent the third annual contingent of Americans to participate in the special one-year course of study at the Hebrew University.

Sponsored by Hebrew University and the American Friends of the Hebrew University working in partnership with the Jewish Agency and the Israel Consulate, the project is directed by Dr. Janowsky who is director of Graduate Studies at the College of the City of New York. He emphasized that the program is arranged for students who have completed at least two years of undergraduate work at U.S. or Canadian institutions of higher learning.

The curriculum has been designed for those students who wish to acquire an extensive knowledge of the Hebrew language; to be introduced to the fundamentals of Jewish thought, history and literature; and to learn about Modern Israel in its Middle Eastern setting. The American students will be the first group of Americans to live at the dormitories recently erected at Hebrew University's new campus at Givat Ram, Jerusalem.

MIAMI JUDGE APPROVES ADOPTION OF CATHOLIC CHILD BY JEWISH PARENTS

MIAMI, July 10, (JTA) -- Circuit Court Judge John Prunty today officially approved adoption of six-year-old Hildy McCoy by Mr. and Mrs. Melvin B. Ellis, Jewish couple who cared for the child since she was 10 months old.

Judge Prunty said the child "shall be hereafter known as Hildy Ellis." He ruled the Ellises fit and proper persons to adopt the child and that the child's best interests would be promoted by this adoption. The child's mother, a Roman Catholic, had sought to regain custody.

HABIMAH PERFORMANCE AT INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL RECEIVES WARM WELCOME

PARIS, July 10, (JTA) -- The Habimah Theatre's presentation of "The Dybbuk" at the International Drama Festival here last night received thunderous applause from an audience replete with prominent French leaders and foreign diplomats, including Israel's Foreign Minister, Mrs. Golda Meir and Israel's Ambassador, Yaacov Tsur.