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ISRAEL WATCHING PRO-SOVIET DEVELOPMENTS IN SYRIA, SEES FUTURE THREAT

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- Israel is closely following developments in neighboring Syria where Communist elements have taken over key security posts, including that of Chief of Staff of the Syrian Army, and a pro-Soviet officers' clique moved towards complete domination of the regime, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

The Israel spokesman said that there was no immediate threat in the latest developments but the situation could evolve dangerously for Israel some time in the not too distant future. Israel therefore, he added, could be expected to follow the situation closely.

It was learned today that Israel officials were giving consideration to the question of a complaint to the United Nations against the Soviet Union and Syria over Syrian acts and threats of aggression and Soviet threats against the peace and security of the Jewish State.

Israelis were not so much concerned over the prominence the Soviet propaganda machine gave to Syrian threats against Israel as they were about the warnings the Soviet propagandists voiced that Israel was endangering its existence as an independent state. Such threats by one United Nations member against another, Israelis asserted, were not compatible with the United Nations Charter and represented a threat to the peace.

Thus far, no decision had been taken here as to whether Israel should appeal to the United Nations on this score. It was assumed here that much depended on the attitude of the United States on this question. The United States, spearheading a move to secure United Nations denunciation of Soviet aggression in Hungary, might prefer to have all interest concentrated on this one issue.

On the other hand, it was noted here, the West might rather prefer to reveal the entire scope and full consequences throughout the world of Soviet penetration tactics, exposing to the Asians, a Soviet menace that might strike nearer home to them than Hungary.

Zeineddine May Continue to Represent Syria at United Nations

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Aug. 18. (JTA) -- The fact that Farid Zeineddine, the Syrian Ambassador, was declared persona non grata in Washington, does not mean that he will not continue to head the Syrian delegation to the United Nations, it was pointed out today. The United States, by virtue of its agreement with the United Nations, must give him the necessary visas for attendance at the United Nations if the government makes the request.

The ousted Syrian was considered one of the most violent enemies of Israel and of the Jewish people and frequently descended into such depths of vituperation as to embarrass even his Arab associates.

The Washington Post & Times-Herald said editorially that the ouster of Zeineddine "is no cause for regret in itself for he has been spokesman and mentor here for the fanatical fringe of the Arab bloc." While deploring the ouster as giving Soviet propaganda "a wonderful handle," the editorial said the action had probably been taken to bolster Jordan and "perhaps, too, it was intended to hearten Israel which has renewed border trouble with Syria."

EGYPTIANS CLEAR ISRAEL-BOUND FREIGHTER AT SUEZ CANAL

HAIFA, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- Rumors that Egyptian officials were interfering with passage through the Suez Canal of the Israeli-chartered Norwegian ship, S.S. Mars, were dispelled today by a radio message from the ship as she entered the waterway.

The message, received here from the 4,000-ton freighter, said the ship had been late for the first convoy entering the Canal Saturday and had to wait for the second one. The Mars, carrying a cargo from the Philippines, was due here tonight.

Passage of the Mars marked the growing traffic of Israel-chartered freight through the Canal in both directions since the Sinai operation.

FRENCH MP'S PLEDGE TO WORK FOR FRANCO-ISRAEL ALLIANCE

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- A 22-man French parliamentary delegation wound up a ten-day visit to Israel this week-end and its leader said it was convinced that a French-Israel alliance would not only serve French and Israel national interests but also the cause of peace and freedom throughout the world.

Jacques Soustelle, former Governor-General of Algeria, leader of the delegation which came here at the invitation of the Israel Government, said at a reception here that the mission had surveyed the possibilities of such an alliance and would actively advocate it to the French public and leadership.

The delegation represented all democratic parties in the French Parliament but was unofficial in character. M. Soustelle and his associates had meetings with Premier Ben Gurion and other members of the government during their visit and explored the question of a formal alliance. They were told by the Israel Premier that he considered an alliance already existed between France and Israel and that a formal pact therefore was not necessary.

BONN SPOKESMAN CONFIRMS DELAY IN FORMAL RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

BONN, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- The question of establishment of normal diplomatic relations between the West German Federal Republic and the State of Israel will not be decided before the Bundestag elections which will be held on September 15, Federal press chief Felix von Eckhardt said today.

"At this time, no change is envisaged in the present state of affairs," he told an enquiring reporter.

Israel has maintained a purchasing mission in Cologne for the past four years with de facto diplomatic status. One section of the mission performs consular functions. West Germany is not represented in Israel.

JAPANESE MISSION TO STUDY PROSPECTS OF TRADE WITH ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- A Japanese industrial mission is expected to visit this country next month to survey possibilities for expansion of trade relations between the two countries. A Foreign Ministry spokesman said today that Israel is deeply interested in developing trade relations with Japan which, he said, could use Israel phosphates, potash and cement.

The Japanese mission will include a representative of the Japanese shipbuilding industry who will seek an agreement for construction in Japanese yards of tankers for Israel. Japan would presumably be prepared to extend credits to Israel for the construction of tankers.

Pinhas Saphir, Israel Minister of Trade and Industry, will leave in November for a trip to Japan, Burma, the Philippines and other far Eastern countries, and will discuss possible credit arrangements in Tokio. He will be accompanied by two senior officials of the Finance Ministry.

Two Japanese mining experts, representing Tokio mining interests, arrived in Israel this week-end for talks with the Israel Mining Corporation, the governmental agency in control of mining in the country. The experts want to survey Israel mining prospects.

HISTADRUT BODY APPROVES TEN MILLION POUNDS SHIPYARD PROJECT

TEL AVIV, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- The secretariat of Hevrat Haovdim, the Histadrut holding Company, voted approval of a project for construction of a shipyard at Haifa by Solel Boneh, Histadrut's construction subsidiary, the Zim-Israel Shipping Company and the Israel Government. The first stage of construction of the joint venture will require a capital investment of ten million pounds (\$5.5 million).

The secretariat also approved plans to expand existing cement factories near Haifa and Ramleh to increase present annual output from 600,000 tons to 890,000 tons.

ISRAEL PARLIAMENTARY DELEGATION TO TOUR LATIN AMERICA

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- A 17-man delegation representing both Government and Opposition parties in the Israel Knesset will leave for South America the end of this month. It will visit the Argentine, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay at the invitation of the Parliaments of those countries. The delegation will be headed by M. Argov, chairman of the Knesset Foreign Affairs Committee. No Communists are included in the delegation.

ZVI SHAREF RESIGNS AS SECRETARY OF ISRAEL GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- Zeev Sharef, Secretary of the Israel Government since 1948, has resigned that post, a non-elective position with ministerial status, it was announced today. He will continue in government service as Director of State Revenue in the Israel Treasury to which position he was appointed in 1954. As Secretary of the Government, Mr. Sharef was attached to the Prime Minister's office.

FEAR NEW CUSTOMS DUTIES WILL BOOST SOME PRICES IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- The Ministry of Finance was under heavy fire today from Israel exporters, manufacturers and importers over far-reaching changes in customs regulations which increase some duties as much as 50 percent but which eliminate a whole series of special import levies. The new regulations establish import duties on a number of raw materials hitherto imported duty-free.

Finance Ministry experts insisted that the abolition of the special levies should, in practice, offset the increased customs duties and should result in a net customs increase of less than ten percent. They asserted that any price increases caused by the higher tariffs should be eased by the liberalization of import licensing permitting a larger volume of imports.

Critics of the Government action complained that the imposition of customs duties on raw materials would result in higher prices on finished goods for the Israel consumer. They warned that it would have a bad effect on Israel's export markets.

Among the varied commodities affected by the new regulations were sheared wool, artificial silk, plastic yarns, coffee, edible oils, onions, typewriters and watch parts. Textile manufacturers, who held an emergency meeting this week-end to protest the new tariff regulations, asserted that the high customs duty on wool would destroy Israel's export market for finished goods. There has been no increase in the price of foodstuffs affected by the new regulations and wholesale grocers said today that they would continue to make shipments at the old prices.

WORLD-FAMED RABBI OF BELZ DIES IN ISRAEL AT AGE OF 78

JERUSALEM, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- Rabbi Aron Rokeach, the world-famous Rabbi of Belz, died early this morning from the effects of a hemorrhage as hundreds of his disciples maintained vigil in the crowded corridors and outside the Shaare Zedek hospital. He was 78.

He was laid to rest this afternoon in Jerusalem's Har Menuhot cemetery overlooking the Judean hills. Har Menuhot cemetery has been considered Israel's most sanctified burial grounds since the Mount Olives cemetery in old Jerusalem was seized by the Jordan Arab Legion in the War of Independence. It remains one of the Jewish sacred places under Jordanian control.

The Rabbi of Belz came to Israel in 1943 from Nazi-occupied Poland after protracted negotiations between the Nazis and the Joint Distribution Committee and other Jewish organizations for his release. A substantial sum was paid to the Nazis for the rabbi's freedom.

He reportedly had 50,000 followers in pre-Hitler Poland and an estimated 10,000 in Israel, as well as disciples in most orthodox Jewish communities throughout the world. Some 200 of his American followers annually flew to Israel in chartered planes to worship with him during the High Holy Days.

More than 20,000 persons took part in the funeral procession, the entire procession of mourners including hundreds of elderly sages, walking the three miles from the Romemia quarter in Jerusalem to the cemetery site.

Immediately after Rabbi Rokeach was pronounced dead, his body was removed from the hospital to the nearby Belzer Yeshiva from which the funeral procession started.

Augmented by Hassidim brought by special planes from Belgium, Switzerland and England, the group of weeping men, women and children moved steadily through Jerusalem's western suburbs through roads closed to all other traffic.

WORLD CONGRESS COORDINATING BODY TO MEET IN ZURICH

LONDON, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- Members of the coordinating committee of the World Jewish Congress from the United States, Europe and Israel will meet in private session in Zurich August 24-25.

The meeting, under the chairmanship of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president, will consider plans for the fourth plenary assembly of the world organizations in 1958. Political and organizational issues will be discussed.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION SLOWED DOWN, NOT HALTED, GOVT. EXPLAINS

OTTAWA, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- The Canadian Government's policy on immigration which has come in for considerable criticism in recent weeks, was explained here by Government spokesmen to a conference of voluntary organizations and Church groups as representing, not a change of policy and curtailment of immigration, but as the usual slowdown of immigration before the winter months, it was disclosed today.

Acting Minister of Citizenship and Immigration D. Fulton, presided at the conference. Col. Laval Fortier, the deputy minister, and ranking officials of the department also attended. The Canadian Jewish Congress and the Jewish Immigrant Aid Society (JIAS) were among the participating organizations.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS BACK EISENHOWER ON CIVIL RIGHTS PROGRAM

BOSTON, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- Delegates to the 62nd annual national convention of the Jewish War Veterans of America were on record today as opposing the action of the U.S. Senate in tacking a provision for jury trials to the civil rights bill. The convention ended today.

Reaffirming support of the program recommended by the President's Commission on Civil Rights, the delegates also hailed the "good work" being done by various states and organizations in furthering programs of legislation and education to end racial and religious discrimination.

"Appropriate officials" of the Eisenhower Administration were urged in another resolution "to take immediate steps to remedy the unwholesome and dangerous situation at the Dhahran Air Base" in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Deal Brings 'Disgrace' to U.S.

The resolution cited provisions of the American lease on the base which require the United States Government to accept Saudi Arabian conditions for the exclusion from the base of American Jews, "thus making the United States discriminate between Americans on the basis of religious belief." The resolution urged action to eliminate such provisions.

Acceptance of this arrangement has brought "disgrace" on the United States, National Commander William Carmen, Newton, Mass., told the delegates Saturday night.

He promised that the JWV "will not rest until the uniform of the American serviceman is honored by the insignia it bears, regardless of who or what the creed or color may be of the man inside."

He said that "we are grateful that at last the world has come to realize the chicanery, baselessness and danger to the free world that Nasser has come to be."

In an earlier session Prof. Martin Dworkis, executive officer of the school of public administration and social service of New York University, said that "the heavy-handed and clumsy diplomatic blundering" of Secretary of State John Foster Dulles was directly responsible for the war in the Middle East last year.

HIGH COURT REJECTS APPEAL IN NEW ORLEANS SYNAGOGUE CASE

NEW ORLEANS, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the minority group in Congregation Chevra Thilim, which won a district court injunction against mixed seating, said today that the Louisiana Supreme Court rejection of an appeal meant that there would be no mixed seating for the coming High Holy Day services.

The preliminary injunction was issued on July 29 in civil district court by Judge Frank T. Stitch, following a lengthy hearing in which a number of outstanding rabbinical authorities testified for the plaintiff group.

The Supreme Court turned down a request by the majority group for a suspensive writ which would have suspended the injunction pending further proceedings.

It was explained that no further court action could be taken by the officers of the congregation, who were barred by the injunction from instituting any family seating plan, until Judge Stitch's court was reconvened after the summer vacation.

If Judge Stitch issues a permanent injunction, the proceedings would be subject to review by the state supreme court, a process which could involve several months.

Judge Stitch's ruling was hailed by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and the Rabbinical Council of America, rabbinic arm of the association of orthodox congregations, in a statement in New York.

The statement called the injunction ruling "a major advance toward the safeguarding of basic religious rights."

HIAS HEAD BIDS CONGRESS CONSIDER NEEDS OF REFUGEES AND ESCAPEES

NEW YORK, Aug. 18. (JTA) -- Members of the House and Senate Judiciary Committees, now considering proposals for changes in United States immigration laws, were urged today by United Hias Service, the Jewish migration agency, to remember the condition of thousands of unsettled refugees and escapees.

In telegrams to the Committee members, Murray I. Gurfein, president, urged "in your consideration of pending immigration legislation, that you not forget the great concern that exists for unsettled refugees and escapees in Austria, Germany, NATO countries, Egypt, the Middle East and North Africa."