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BEN GURION SEEKS TO AVOID CABINET CRISIS; CONFERS WITH PARTY LEADERS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion conferred today with leaders of the parties in his coalition government in an attempt to fashion an accord on questions which threaten the continuity of the present cabinet.

The issues involve the general authority of the rabbinate in the personal affairs of the Jewish population. They have been thrust in the limelight by the controversy over the integration of about 900 Christian wives of newly-arrived Jews from Poland, many of whom married non-Jewish women in Russia long before they were repatriated to Poland. Also, by the resentment over the fact that an uncircumcized child of an immigrant was buried last week in a section of a cemetery away from other Jews.

During his meeting today with the leaders of the United Religious Movement--Mizrachi and Hapoel Hamizrachi--Premier Ben Gurion was told flatly that they will resist any attempt to undermine the rabbinate's authority on matters affecting religion and the issuance of birth, marriage and death certificates. They asserted that there is no discrimination or coercion by the rabbinate with regard to the Christian wives of Jewish immigrants.

The Premier also met today with leaders of the leftist groups in his cabinet, as well as with Progressive Zionists. These partners in his coalition government requested complete abolition of military rule in the Arab-populated border areas. Military rule in these areas has been diminishing progressively, but the coalition parties apparently feel that the time has come for abolition of all restrictions.

The discussion between Mr. Ben Gurion and the religious leaders on one hand and with the leaders of the other groups on the other are expected to continue throughout the week. It is understood that the leftist groups in the cabinet--the Mapam and Achdut Avodah--are also requesting the appointment of their members to Israel's foreign service.

NEW CRISIS IN U. N. ARMISTICE BODY; SYRIA EMULATES JORDAN'S NON-COOPERATION

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A new crisis involving the United Nations machinery in Palestine flared today following a four-hour meeting of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission. The session dealt with an Israeli complaint against Syrian killing of an Israeli two weeks ago.

While the background of the situation is not known, the Syrians announced after the meeting that they would not cooperate with Col. Christian Moe, UN chairman of the MAC. This follows Jordan's non-cooperation move which necessitated the flying of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold last week to Jordan and Israel.

The Israelis, for their part, said little. Their communiqué was vaguer than usual, noting that there were both official and unofficial talks during the meeting. The communiqué mentioned no decisions taken at the meeting and even failed to mention Syrian announcement in reference to Col. Moe.

It was learned here last night, after a meeting of the Israeli Cabinet, that UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold is expected to visit Egypt between Christmas and New Year's unless some urgent problems--such as Egyptian detention of an Israeli fishing trawler and her crew of six--are settled beforehand in New York.

According to reports current here, Mr. Hammarskjold admitted to Premier Ben Gurion the UN's impotence in relation to implementing its resolutions guaranteeing Israel freedom of passage through the Suez Canal. If one of the great-power opposes it, implementation is impossible, Mr. Hammarskjold is said to have conceded.

The Premier is understood to have warned the Secretary General that withdrawal of the UN Emergency Force from the Strait of Tiran might cause a major incident since Israel will not tolerate Egyptian attempts to interfere with Israeli shipping from Elath.

(At the United Nations today it was confirmed that after a visit to Stockholm on December 20, Mr. Hammarskjold will fly to the Gaza Strip. While in the area he is also expected to confer with Egyptian authorities.)

WINTER STORM CAUSES HEAVY DAMAGES IN ISRAEL; COMMUNICATIONS CRIPPLED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The first gale and rainstorm of the winter which has held Israel in its grip for the past three days was reported today to have claimed its first life in addition to causing heavy damage to crops, disrupting communications and washing out roads and bridges.

The settler lost and presumed drowned lived in the Ashdod area, one of the worst hit by flood waters which, pouring out of the surrounding hills, cut the Tel Aviv-Askelon highway and bridges in the area. Police units managed to establish temporary contact with the isolated area today and army engineers put up an infantry bridge at the site of a destroyed permanent structure to keep essential supplies rolling in. Last night, army half tracks managed to get a doctor into Ashdod to assist a mother give birth to her child.

High winds and mountainous seas closed the port of Haifa. One vessel attempted to put out to sea for Cyprus but was forced to return shortly, after two of her crewmen were injured as a result of the pounding the ship took.

In addition to their other emergency tasks, Israeli police authorities were searching for the bodies of 14 Jordanians reported to have drowned in the swollen Jordan River and been washed down into Israel territory. So far there have been no signs of the bodies (A report from Amman said 24 were drowned when a bus in Jordan was overwhelmed by flood waters.)

ISRAEL'S STAND ON ALGERIAN ISSUE OUTLINED AT UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Israel backed in the United Nations a French proposal for democratic elections in Algeria to settle the troublesome Algerian question.

In an address to the General Assembly's political and security committee, Emile Najjar of the Israel delegation said that it would be "unforgiveably lighthearted" to attempt to solve the Algerian issue by supporting secession of the North African territory from France. He pointed out that for over a century Algeria had been an integral part of France and that its problems could be worked out "in the French family."

ISRAEL HAS USED UP HALF OF GERMAN REPARATIONS, TRADE MINISTER REPORTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Israel has used up half of the German reparations goods and services due it under the West German reparations treaty, Pinchas Saphir, Minister of Trade and Industry announced here today. There is still 1,700,000,000 deutschmarks in goods and services left to be paid, he reported.

At a press conference, Mr. Saphir disclosed that Israel has ordered 36 vessels from German shipyards outside the reparations agreement, including tankers and freighters. Germany will make delivery on these \$85,000,000 worth of ships between 1959 and 1962.

ISRAEL WILL NOT ACCEPT AN IMPOSED PEACE, AMBASSADOR ELATH SAYS

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Israel will not accept an imposed peace nor will it be cast in the role of another Czechoslovakia in 1938, Israel's Ambassador to England, Eliahu Elath, declared here today. He spoke before the annual dinner of the Anglo-Jewish Association.

Mr. Elath suggested that friendly nations bear these sentiments in mind if they are tempted to intervene in the Arab-Israel situation in the spirit of 1938. Mediators willing and able to assist the parties reach a settlement, he said, are welcome, but they cannot appoint themselves--and they cannot expect to bring ready-made "solutions" to the conference table or impose conditions in advance.

AUSTRALIAN FOREIGN MINISTER BLAMES RUSSIA FOR MIDDLE EAST TENSIONS

SYDNEY, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Immediate responsibility for the tensions of the Middle East rests with the Soviet Union, Robert G. Casey, Minister for External Affairs, told the Australian Parliament today. However, he stressed, much of the danger in the region stemmed from disputes between the countries of the Middle East.

Mr. Casey called American bases in the Middle East, as elsewhere, a deterrent to war. He called the Western policy in the area one of encouraging the Middle East countries to resist the Soviet threat to their independence.

SUDANESE CABINET JOINS ARAB LEAGUE IN DECISION TO BOYCOTT ISRAEL

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Sudanese Cabinet has approved a bill for the boycott of Israel "in accordance with resolutions adopted by the Arab League Council."

The British-protected sheikhdom of Bahrain announced today it has blacklisted the Eli Lilly International Corp., of the United States, as part of the Arab boycott against firms doing business with Israel.

AUSTRALIAN JEWRY OFFERS AID TO JEWS FORCED TO FLEE FROM INDONESIA

SYDNEY, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Australian Jewish community offered today its assistance to any Jews forced out of Indonesia in the current anti-Dutch disorders. The offer was made by Sidney D. Einfeld, president of the Executive Council of Australian Jewry, to the Dutch community in this city. He pledged that his organization would provide temporary accommodations and other care to Indonesian Jews expelled or fleeing from their country.

The Indonesian Jewish community has dwindled since the end of World War II from some 2,000 to 450, chiefly Iraqi Jews with a sprinkling of European Jews. The main center of Jewish community life, meagre as it is, is in Surabaja where the only synagogue in the country is located. There are 80 families in that city, 30 in Jakarta where the Jewish community of Indonesia is located and a number of other families in Bandung. H. de Vries is president of the community.

Since the Indonesians took over control of their own country the economic position of the Jews has worsened. Together with other non-natives in the population, they have been forced out of business and well paid positions by government regulations and laws aimed at putting control of the economy in the hands of Indonesians.

The Jews of Indonesia have become increasingly restive under the economic disabilities and the anti-alien atmosphere complicated by the fact that the preponderant portion of the population is Moslem. Because of pressure from the Arab League, which is extremely active in the country, the Indonesian Government has withheld recognition from the State of Israel.

The World Jewish Congress was in communication with the community three weeks ago when an attempt was made to have Jacob Halevi of the British section, who was in the area, meet with community leaders in Jakarta. However, Mr. Halevi's plane landed very far from the city and, because of the state of martial law in effect at the time, was unable to contact the Indonesian Jews.

JEWS IN GERMANY ASK FOR EXTENSION ON FILING RESTITUTION CLAIMS

DUSSELDORF, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A demand for extension of the deadline for filing restitution claims arising out of Nazi persecution was voiced here by the Central Council of Jews in Germany. It asked a six-month extension until October 1, 1958.

The council also asked that victims of Nazism in areas like the Sudetan where Germans were expelled after the war receive restitution and compensation before the Germans who are granted loans and other advantages under a program known as "equalization of wartime burdens." The council asked that a representative of Jewish victims be added to the board of directors of the government bank which grants loans under this program.

ITALIAN GOVT. URGED TO SEEK COMPENSATION FROM BONN FOR NAZI VICTIMS

ROME, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A resolution was introduced in the Italian Chamber of Deputies today calling on the Italian Government to take diplomatic and other measures to guarantee that Italians who were deported to Nazi concentration camps be compensated by the Bonn Government as pledged.

The resolution, authored by Social Democrat Anelito Baronini, noted that agreement to compensate non-German victims of Nazism has been reached by Belgium, Britain, Denmark, France, Luxembourg, Norway and Switzerland.

In the Senate, Democratic Christian Sen. Giovanni Moro, who is also Minister of Education, has introduced a measure calling for the prevention and outlawing of the crime of genocide. It would provide sentences of 24 to 30 years for attempts to destroy a national, ethnic, racial or religious group.

MILAN ARCHBISHOP WITHDRAWS SCHOOL MANUAL; CONSIDERS JEWISH PROTEST

MILAN, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A protest by the Union of Italian Jewish Communities against a Catholic manual distributed in the Milan schools has drawn a promise from Monsgr. Montini, Archbishop of this city, that no further copies of the manual would be issued.

The Union protested derogatory remarks about Jews contained in the manual. Msgr. Montini expressed disapproval of these remarks and pledged that a second edition would not be published.

VIENNA JEWISH COMMUNITY NAMES BUILDING AFTER PRESIDENT KILLED BY NAZIS

VIENNA, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Vienna Jewish Community named its newly reconstructed headquarters building in honor of Desider Friedmann, the last president of the community before the Anschluss in 1938. Mr. Friedmann died in the Auschwitz gas chambers.

CANADA TO REMOVE DISCRIMINATION AGAINST NATURALIZED CITIZENS

OTTAWA, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Prime Minister John Diefenbaker has announced plans for amendment of the Citizenship Act which would "remove the discrimination that now exists between natural born and naturalized citizens in connection with loss of citizenship." The only bar to enactment of such legislation would be the crowded Parliamentary calendar.

It is understood that the amendment will delete sections of the act which provide for denaturalization if a court conviction establishes disaffection or disloyalty to Canada. A naturalized citizen can also lose his status if while abroad "by act or speech" indicates disaffection or disloyalty. A native born citizen can only lose his status by becoming a citizen of another country.

WORLD AGUDAH DECIDES TO PROCLAIM FIGHT ON CONSERVATIVE JUDAISM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A call for a "holy war" against the Conservative movement was voiced here last night by Rabbi Morris Sherer, executive vice president of the Agudas Israel of America, at a meeting here of representatives of the world organization from eight countries. Rabbi Sherer told the conference that the Conservative movement, which recently announced a decision to set up world headquarters in Jerusalem, is a greater danger to Orthodox Judaism than Reform.

The 45 delegates resolved to "alert world Jews and especially the Jewish community of Israel" to the Conservative decision to establish here a world council of Conservative synagogues. Rabbi Sherer said the danger from Conservative Judaism sprang from the fact that it adheres to more of the traditions of Judaism and thus may confuse and mislead the people, particularly in Israel which, he said, was undergoing a religious revival.

JEWISH LEAGUE ASKS U.S. TO PUT ISRAEL'S SECURITY ON NATO AGENDA

CLEVELAND, Ohio, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The American Jewish League for Israel is urging the Eisenhower Administration to put the question of Arab-Israel border guarantees on the agenda of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization meeting to be held in Paris this month, it was announced today by Ezra Z. Shapiro, president of the League.

"The attitude of the Washington Administration that the NATO meeting is not the proper place to entertain this idea, and that such guarantees are not practicable until Israel and the Arab countries agree on permanent boundaries, is very difficult to accept," Mr. Shapiro said. "To refuse to guarantee the borders until there is such an agreement, is to postpone the agreement itself indefinitely. This refusal will encourage the Arab nations to be even more intransigent and to threaten more blackmail."

MAJ. GEN. DORI, PRESIDENT OF HAIFA TECHNION, HONORED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Major Gen. Yaacov Dori, president of the Israel Institute of Technology and Israel's first Chief of Staff, said tonight that science and technology can transform the Middle East and raise the pathetically low living standards of our neighbors.

Gen. Dori told the 800 guests that "if we were enabled to defeat our enemies ten years ago, it was because our technical skills were greater than theirs. If our success in the Sinai campaign a year ago seemed to be a brilliant military achievement, that too must be ascribed to the technological know-how which we have set in the very center of our national defense."

S. Ullmann, president of Philipps Bros. Foundation, announced a gift of \$100,000 to the Technion for the establishment of a chair in mining and metallurgy in memory of Arturo Gruenbaum. Another \$100,000 was donated anonymously for the Technion's campus construction program.

ISRAEL TO GET SUPERMARKETS; CANADIAN CHAIN WILL OPEN STORES

OTTAWA, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Bert Loeb, president of Supersol stores, said today on his return from Israel that plans had been completed for the erection of supermarkets by next summer in Haifa, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem. He said that Pinhas Sapir, Israel Trade Minister, had approved a charter for Supersol operations in Israel.

Mr. Loeb declared that Histadrut would not be a partner in Supersol plans to build a supermarket in every Israel city with a minimum population of 20,000. He said that the supermarkets would reduce food prices in Israel by 10 percent because of American "know-how" and a "revolution in present primitive distribution methods" in Israel.

HYMAN EDELSTEIN, CANADIAN JEWISH EDITOR AND POET, DEAD

OTTAWA, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Hyman Edelstein, former editor of the Montreal "Canadian Jewish Chronicle," a Canadian poet of distinction of both Jewish and English verse, and a well-known journalist, died in Kingston. He was 68 years old. He was editor of the Canadian Jewish Times 1913-14, editor of the Canadian Jewish Chronicle 1914-17 and publisher of the Jewish Weekly 1917-18. He was the author of "Canadian Lyrics and Other Poems," published in 1916 and republished in 1921.