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POSSIBILITY FOR ISRAEL CABINET CRISIS HEIGHTENS; COMPROMISE REJECTED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The possibility of a Cabinet crisis was heightened today as a result of a decision taken by the political committee of the Achdut Avoda to reject all proposals advanced by Premier David Ben Gurion's Mapai party for a compromise solution. The Premier's quarrel with the Cabinet members of the left-wing Achdut Avoda centers around his charge that they revealed a secret Cabinet plan to send a "leading personality" to West Germany to negotiate Israel security matters with the Bonn Government. He demands that they either apologize publicly or resign.

The sentiment of the Achdut Avoda meeting, which was attended by the party's two Cabinet members and its Knesset deputies, was that the party had committed no "disloyalty" against the government or against the security of the state and therefore would accept no "punishment" as suggested by Mr. Ben Gurion.

As of today then, the ball was back in Mr. Ben Gurion's hands. It is understood that he agreed to a 48-hour postponement of a decision yesterday only because of urgent appeals from the Progressive Party which hoped either to work out a compromise between the Mapai and the leftists or convince the General Zionist Party to enter the coalition in place of the Achdut Avoda and the Mapam.

Progressives to Submit Compromises to Cabinet Meeting Today

A Progressive Party spokesman revealed today that Premier Ben Gurion still insists on the resignation of the Achdut Avoda or the entire Cabinet must resign. He revealed, however, that his party would submit to tomorrow's extraordinary Cabinet session three possible compromises designed to end the current crisis. They are:

1. The Cabinet should denounce the Achdut Avoda's action as a violation of national security.

2. The Cabinet should sponsor a constitutional amendment giving the Premier the right to demand the resignation of any Minister found "by a qualified majority" of the Cabinet to have divulged Cabinet secrets.

3. The Cabinet should hold a series of Cabinet discussions designed to establish an official foreign policy line which would permit the Ministers concerned with this policy to carry it out without asking further Cabinet approval and without risking Cabinet crises after acting on it.

Meanwhile, political observers here believed that Mr. Ben Gurion has become less eager to oust the leftists from the government in the face of the Progressives' reluctance to enter a Cabinet based on a single vote majority. The General Zionists and the religious parties currently in the opposition apparently have asked too high a price for entrance into a broader coalition.

Another activity of Cabinet members during the past 24 hours was the discussion of the possible wording of a Cabinet denunciation of Achdut Avoda's action, coupled with a change in the personnel of the party's representation in the Cabinet. A change in Achdut Avoda representation appeared close to Mr. Ben Gurion's heart.

Communists Make Futile Gesture in Knesset; Are Voted Down

Meanwhile, the Israel Communist Party made a new, futile gesture in relation to the crisis-torn Ben Gurion government today when it introduced a motion to censure the government for aligning itself with the "NATO-Nazi regime." The motion was voted down 65 to six, with 22 abstentions. Only the Communists voted for censure.

The Premier refused to make formal reply to the Communist charges. He called from his seat that it would be "below the Knesset's dignity" for him to reply. The General Zionists and the Herut deputies abstained. Even the Mapam and Achdut Avoda parties voted with the government.

MOSHE SHAPIRO, ISRAEL MINISTER, LEAVES HOSPITAL; HAD FIVE OPERATIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Moshe Shapira, Israel's Minister for Religious Affairs, quit Hadassah Hospital today after undergoing five operations since October 29 when a madman's bomb burst under the Cabinet table in the Knesset, injuring five Ministers.

HAMMARSKJOLD INSPECTS U.N. TROOPS ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAELI FRONTIER

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 23. (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld arrived in Gaza today to visit the UN armed forces on the Egyptian-Israeli frontier, it was announced here today. He was accompanied on a special plane by UNEF Commander Lt. Gen. E.L.M. Burns. They set out on a tour of units.

James J. Wadsworth, deputy United States representative to the United Nations, praised the work of the UN Emergency Force today. He declared: "A measure of UNEF's success lies in the fact that during 1957 not one casualty was incurred along the borders where the Force is deployed. Previously, in the same areas, hundreds of lives were lost each year."

Mr. Wadsworth made the statement after presenting to Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under Secretary of the UN, a check for \$12,000,000 as a special contribution from the United States Government, to meet the deficit incurred by UNEF operations in 1957.

First Deputy Foreign Minister V. V. Kuznetsov of the Soviet Union, who has been here since September, was reliably reported today to have suggested to the United Nations that Bulgarian and Czechoslovakian troops be added to the United Nations Emergency Force stationed on the Egyptian-Israeli frontier.

At a secret meeting with topmost UN officials, Mr. Kuznetsov was understood to have been told that the Czechoslovak troops would certainly be unacceptable for duty with UNEF, especially since Czech arms were the first to have been shipped to Egypt under the Soviet-Egyptian arms agreement in 1955. Mr. Kuznetsov was said to have been told that Polish troops might be accepted, but he rejected that alternative.

Top members of the Secretariat in charge of UNEF activities were at the same time reported pleading with Colombia not to withdraw its contingent from UNEF. The Bogota Government is said to be planning to withdraw from UNEF because of the financial complications attendant upon participation in the force. Colombia is understood to have been told that if it withdraws its UNEF contingent the United Nations may be forced to ask the countries in the Soviet orbit for military personnel to keep UNEF at full strength.

26,000 ISRAELIS RECEIVE OLD AGE GRANTS; 62 PERCENT OF THEM ARE WOMEN

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Over 26,000 persons receive old age grants under the terms of the National Insurance Act which came into effect last April, it was reported here today. Of the beneficiaries, 62 percent were women.

Payments ranging from 29 to 88 Israeli pounds are granted to men between the ages of 65-70 and women from 60-65 who have retired or whose part-time salary does not exceed 75 pounds per month. Individuals with dependents may earn up to 100 pounds.

100,000 JEWS ATTEND CHANUKAH FESTIVALS IN KEY AMERICAN CITIES

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- More than 100,000 persons attended Chanukah Festivals for Israel Bonds to celebrate Israel's tenth anniversary in major cities of the United States and Canada. Admission to these events was by purchase of Israel bonds.

Chanukah festivals for Israel took place in New York, Chicago, Philadelphia, Omaha, St. Louis, Cleveland, Boston, Los Angeles, Toronto and other key communities. These festivals featured musical and dramatic salutes to Israel, starring outstanding American and Israeli actors, musicians, singers and dancers of opera, stage, screen and television. In New York City, the annual Chanukah Festival in Madison Square Garden attracted nearly 40,000 Israel bond purchasers at two sell-out performances.

Simcha Pratt, Israel Consul General in New York, addressing the second Chanukah festival here tonight at Madison Square Garden--attended by more than 18,000 persons--expressed the thanks of the Israel Government for the support of the Israel bond drive in the United States and stressed the importance of aiding Israel to attain economic independence.

"Israel is composed of a heroic synthesis, made up of builders in the field and the economic support of world Jewry as expressed in the purchase of Israel bonds," he said. "This solidarity has enabled Israel to compress 100 years of major capital development in ten years. Without this it would have been difficult, if not impossible, to keep the gates of the country open to the homeless who find in Israel their only hope for liberty and the fulfillment of a free life."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the Chanukah festival committee, announced that the 1957 New York total for Israel bond investments had passed the \$10,000,000 mark.

ISRAEL ARMY CAPTAIN INDICTED FOR SELLING ARMS TO ARAB SMUGGLERS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- An Israel army captain today faced a 22-year prison term after a military court found him guilty of selling 70 rifles and large quantities of ammunition to Arab smugglers. The weapons were stolen during the Sinai campaign.

The officer, whose name was withheld, was caught in a secret police trap while bringing arms to a Bedouin camp.

JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE TO HOLD PARLEY IN ROME; WILL SET ALLOCATIONS

ROME, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The world executive committee of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany will hold its conference in Rome for the first time, it was announced here today. The parley, at which important decisions on allocations for various projects will be made, will open on January 23 and continue for several days.

GERMAN MINISTER ASSAILED FOR URGING CURB ON COMPENSATION TO JEWS

BONN, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The Social Democratic Party, in an official statement published in its press agency, sharply criticized Justice Minister Dr. Fritz Schaeffer today for attacking compensation to Jewish victims of Nazism as dangerous to the German economy.

The Socialist statement said compensation payments to Nazi victims was Germany's "calling card" among the world nations. It charged Dr. Schaeffer with preparing a full-scale attack on the Bonn compensation program. Informed sources here said today the Social Democrats intend to raise Dr. Schaeffer's outburst in the first session of Parliament next month.

COMMUNIST GERMANY ORDERS STATE AGENCIES TO END DEALINGS WITH ISRAEL

BERLIN, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The East German Ministry for Foreign Trade was reported today to have issued instructions to all subdivisions to end any dealings they might have with Israeli firms. According to a reliable source, the circular ordered:

1. All conferences with Israeli businessmen concerning trade with Israel be terminated; 2. All state trade agencies must make certain that no merchandise go from East Germany to Israel; 3. No finished product shipped to Egypt may be made of parts produced of Israeli materials.

JEWS IN BRAZIL FORM ORGANIZATION TO IMPROVE RELATIONS WITH NON-JEWS

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A new national Jewish organization to work for the admission of refugees to Brazil and to develop a diversified program for the defense of the rights of Jews under Brazil's constitution has been formed here. Isaac Albagi, noted industrialist, was elected president of the organization known as the Brazilian Jewish Institute for Culture and Information.

The new group will also try to improve relations and mutual cooperation between Jews and other religious groups in Brazil. It will act in cases of anti-Jewish discrimination, and will develop a public information service for the strengthening of public opinion with respect to fundamental liberties and human rights.

N. Y. STATE INSTITUTIONS ORDERED NOT TO DEAL WITH FIRMS BENT ON BIAS

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 23. (JTA) -- A special order instructing all New York State departments to seek out and end discriminatory practices in the state government or any private firms dealing with it was issued here yesterday by Gov. Averell Harriman.

A 13-point statement, which pointed out that as an employer of 85,000 persons the state had an obligation to set an example for other employers in the state and nation, instructed state departments to make sure they did not discriminate. It also told them not to issue licenses, award contracts, fill job orders, grant financial subsidies or assistance or offer vocational guidance to firms which did practice discrimination. The Governor ordered periodic checks to make sure that the policy remained in effect.

18 AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS ARRANGE PILGRIMAGES TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Eighteen national Jewish organizations have taken the leadership in arranging the first of what is expected to be a series of nation-wide pilgrimages to Israel during the festival year 1958-1959, it was made known today by the American Committee for Israel's Tenth Anniversary Celebration.

These include: The American Association for Jewish Education; the American Jewish Congress; B'nai B'rith; National Council of Jewish Women; Hadassah; Histadrut; Miz-rachi Hapoel Hamizrachi; Mizrachi Women's Organization; Women's American ORT; National Federation of Hebrew Teachers and Principals; Pioneer Women; State of Israel Bonds; Union of American Hebrew Congregations; United Jewish Appeal; United Synagogue of America; Women's League for Israel; Young Israel; Zionist Organization of America.

The formation of a committee on community organization, and a committee on tourism and pilgrimages to Israel, to advance programs for the celebration of the 10th anniversary of Israel by Americans, was announced today by Senator Herbert H. Lehman and Dr. Israel Goldstein, general chairman and chairman of the American Committee for Israel's 10th Anniversary Celebration. Rabbi Irving Miller of New York has accepted the chairmanship of the committee on community organization, and Lawrence G. Laskey of Boston, the chairmanship of the committee of tourism and pilgrimages.

The celebration will help to guide local communities in the establishment of representative groups, under whose auspices appropriate observances of the 10th anniversary will take place in 1958 in the period of April to December.

ISRAELI VESSEL GIVES EMERGENCY MEDICAL AID TO TWO SHIPS IN MID-ATLANTIC

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The Israeli passenger liner S.S. Zion, due to dock in New York Friday with 300 passengers from Haifa and Naples, made two emergency medical pick-ups in mid-Atlantic within three hours yesterday, the American-Israeli Shipping Line, agent for the Zim-Israel Navigation Company, owners of the vessel, announced here today.

The S.S. Zion, commanded by Capt. Bernard Berkowitz, launched life boats yesterday afternoon to take on an injured Swiss seaman of the Swiss-owned Liberian freighter Corcorado off the Azores. An hour later, the Israeli vessel again switched course to take on a Greek sailor of the Panamanian freighter Canopus. The sailor was suffering from perforated ulcers. The Zion has a fully-equipped and staffed hospital bay.

31,000 FAMILIES IN ISRAEL BENEFIT FROM "CARE," TOUSTER REPORTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Approximately 31,000 families in Israel have benefited from CARE food packages sent them by relatives and friends in the United States, or by American organizations, it was reported here today by Ben Touster, president of the HIAS Immigrant Bank and treasurer of CARE.

In addition, Mr. Touster stated, about 100,000 children in Israeli elementary schools receive a glass of milk daily as a gift through CARE. At the same time, teenagers on training farms and vocational schools are provided with CARE tools and machinery to clear land and cultivate crops, to learn carpentry, mechanics and other skills, while libraries in the kibbutzim are provided with new American scientific and technical books sent by CARE to the Hebrew University.

"All this is part of \$7,000,000 worth of CARE supplies delivered to date in Israel, including 650,000 packages of food, work tools, plus separate shipments of educational, vocational, health and scientific equipment," Mr. Touster said in his report. "During the almost seven years United HIAS Service has participated in its management, as a member agency, I have been proud of the CARE aid Americans of all faiths have sent to our world neighbors of every race and creed. But the development of CARE's program for Israel has naturally been closest to my heart, just as it has been my prime responsibility as the United HIAS representative on CARE's board of directors."

J. W. B. ANNOUNCES MORE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR WORKERS IN JEWISH CENTERS

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Nearly three times the number of scholarships and work-study plans are available for young men and women interested in Jewish Community Center work as a career than was available a year ago, the National Jewish Welfare Board announced today.

The biggest increase is in the number of work-study plans, which this year number 24 as compared with three last year. Work-study plans are arrangements which make it possible for students to be employed by an agency and obtain their professional social work education at the same time. Scholarship plans this year number 20, compared with last year's ten. There are two loans available this year, while last year there was only one. Scholarships available have a total value of \$55,000, while work-study plans have a total value of more than \$100,000.

Sixty-one young men and women are currently studying group work in preparation for professional careers in YMHAs and Jewish Community Centers on scholarships and work-study plans, the JWB reported. Of this number, 34 students are enrolled in schools of social work on scholarships and 20 are working in community centers and studying for their degrees at the same time under work-study arrangements. Seven additional students are receiving their training under both scholarships and work-study plans.

NEW ROCHELLE CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATION DEDICATES \$1,000,000 CENTER

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Beth El Congregation of this city yesterday dedicated its \$1,000,000 community center on the northern outskirts of the city. Eventually the 1,000-family Conservative congregation will move its synagogue, school and gymnasium from their present downtown location to the new site. The dedication services featured a Chanukah lighting ceremony.

LIFE OF MARRANOS IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES STUDIED IN MEXICO

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Boleslaw Levin, well known Argentine Jewish historian has come to Mexico City to study material in the Mexican Government Archives for research on the Marranos in Mexico and other Latin American countries.

Mr. Levin has undertaken the project on the invitation of President Itzhak Ben Zvi of Israel who is interested in research on ancient Jews and Jewish tribes which have disappeared from history. The study is financed by Dr. George S. Wise, American Jewish sociologist and industrialist now living in Mexico.