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ISRAEL CABINET CRISIS NEARS SOLUTION; BEN GURION OFFERS PROPOSALS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The possibility of a solution to Israel's ten-day-old Cabinet crisis, based on an amendment of the present Government's platform, emerged today from discussions between Prime Minister David Ben Gurion and his coalition partners.

Informed sources said this resolution of the conflict, touched off when the left-wing Achdut Avoda published details of a secret Cabinet decision to send a special emissary to West Germany in behalf of Israel's security needs, would probably require formal resignation of the Cabinet Monday. This would be followed by immediate reconstitution for a vote of confidence based on the projected amended platform.

The sources said that the amendments would be of a nature to prevent recurrence of "leaks" of Cabinet meeting actions and to establish coalition party agreement on the substance of the dispute over the purchase of arms from West Germany.

The Achdut Avoda newspaper reported today that Premier Ben Gurion had submitted to the party proposals for amendment of the Cabinet platform and that the party would decide on the proposals before the regular Cabinet meeting next Sunday. The paper said arms must be obtained without servile conditions from any source, "even Germany if they cannot be obtained elsewhere."

The proposed amendments reportedly would make it possible for a two-thirds Cabinet majority to force the resignation of a Cabinet Minister found guilty of acting contrary to a Cabinet majority decision; would present to the Knesset an amendment to the state secrets law making possible the prosecution of Cabinet Ministers divulging secret decisions of the Cabinet; and would declare that the Government was authorized to obtain arms from any source if no political conditions were attached to such acquisitions.

Menahem Beigin, Herut Party leader, charged tonight that Premier David Ben Gurion had disclosed military secrets when, during the Knesset debate two days ago he disclosed the object of the mission to Germany. The Ben Gurion statement, the rightist leader asserted, invited the Arab states to launch an onslaught against Germany to force Bonn to reject an arms deal with Israel.

Mr. Beigin told a meeting of his party's national executive that there was no truth to Mr. Ben Gurion's statement that the weapons Israel sought could only be obtained in Germany. He insisted they could be purchased elsewhere. The Israel Government, Mr. Beigin demanded, must scrap its policy of seeking guarantees and must embark on a policy of concluding pacts--first with France and later with the United States. Such treaties, he held, would provide Israel with far better guarantees than any statements could

Israel's Naval Gazette Stresses Submarine Danger for Israel

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Indicative of the great significance attached to anti-submarine warfare by Israel is the publication of a number of articles and an editorial in Israel's Naval Gazette dealing with submarine warfare in the second World War and modifications since.

The Gazette stressed the seriousness of submarine warfare against the beleaguered Jewish State, but noted that it was dangerous not only for Israel but for the entire Middle East region. Surrounded on three sides by hostile Arab nations, Israel has only its maritime lifeline to bring in the bulk of food and economic supplies necessary for the continued existence of a nation.

The same issue also discussed the tactical aspects of submarine warfare during the late World War, with particular emphasis on fighting the undersea craft. Israel's Navy now includes two frigates purchased from Britain which were designed for anti-submarine warfare and were equipped with the most effective World War II depth charge set-ups. More recent developments in the field, however, are forcing Israel to look for new devices, the Gazette reported.

Germany Mum on Selling Arms to Israel; Russia Attacks Israel

BONN, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- A German Government spokesman refused today to comment on reports that Israel Premier David Ben Gurion would seek to buy arms from Germany. He said that nothing was known in Bonn of such plans. Informed German sources said today

that the German Government almost certainly will reject any Israeli attempt to buy arms in West Germany. They said the government was not prepared to jeopardize its position in the Middle East by supplying arms either to Israel or to the Arab nations.

From Moscow it was reported that the Soviet Army newspaper "Red Star" today attacked the State of Israel in connection with reports that Israel was negotiating with West Germany for Israeli admission to NATO. Israel Premier Ben Gurion denied the reports in Jerusalem Tuesday. "Red Star" charged Mr. Ben Gurion was trying to ally Israel more firmly than ever with the "colonial powers" in their plans against the Arab states. It also said that by joining NATO, Israel would become allied with a nation (Germany) that "murdered hundreds of thousands of Jews."

SOVIET AMBASSADOR IN ISRAEL DISCUSSES ISSUES WITH PROGRESSIVE PARTY

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Soviet Ambassador Alexander Abramov's playing host last night to leaders of the Progressive Party at a dinner were viewed by political observers here today as a demonstrative gesture of approval for a group which favors a neutralistic Israel foreign policy. It was also noted that Ambassador Abramov recently talked with leaders of the leftist parties in the government, but not with the Mapai leadership.

The Ambassador spent three hours talking with Moshe Kol, party secretary Itzhak Artyzi and Knesset deputy Gershon Shoken. It is understood that among the subjects covered in the conversation were various aspects of Israel's foreign policy and the current Cabinet crisis. Yesterday, Mr. Abramov visited a Youth Aliyah village at Kiryat Yearim and inspected the progress which the children had made.

Meanwhile, it was learned here today that Israel was invited to exhibit at the World Congress for Town Planning to be held in Moscow during September, 1958. Government departments and the Jewish Agency are preparing photographs, colored charts, sketches and blueprints to be included in congress publications of urban and rural planning, housing and settlement projects. Material to be exhibited has already been sent to the congress and proofs of items to be included in the publications in Hebrew, Russian, French and English have been received here.

U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS IMPROVED CONSIDERABLY. YEAR-END REPORT SHOWS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Considerable improvement in the relations between the United States and Israel took place during 1957, it was pointed out here today in a year-end analysis. This was attributed to the growing realization in Washington that Israel is strongly pro-Western while Soviet Russia is gaining more and more ground in the Arab countries.

Last winter Israel-American relations were at their lowest ebb. Pressures were exerted to force Israeli withdrawal from the Sinai Peninsula and the Gaza Strip. A system of assurances and guarantees was gradually evolved. The blockade of the Akaba Gulf was ended. American tankers for the first time brought oil to Elath. The United Nations Emergency Force was installed at strategic Sharm el Sheikh and in the Gaza Strip. Frontier friction eased, although Egypt continued to bar Israeli passage in the Suez Canal.

Gradually, Israel-American rapport was restored. International attention shifted to continuing Communist penetration of the region. The Eisenhower Doctrine was formulated, guaranteeing U.S. support against outright Communist aggression. Ambassador James P. Richards toured the area to promote Western interests and to enlist support for the new doctrine.

But an openly pro-Soviet regime emerged in Syria. Jordan tottered on the brink of collapse. U.S. arms shipments to Jordan only aggravated the situation. Egypt extended its identification with the Communist bloc. America officially feted King Saud of Saudi Arabia despite the King's extreme anti-Jewish and anti-Israel bias. The United States was motivated by a desire to improve relations with Arab regimes "friendly" to the West. But when the Soviet-inspired Turkish-Syrian crisis flared, King Saud and other "friends" of the West failed to support the United States. They expressed publicly their backing of pro-Communist Syria.

Quietly, Israel and America grew closer. Economic aid was resumed. Israel was authorized to purchase at bargain prices up to \$35,000,000 in surplus American agricultural commodities. But at year's end an Israeli application for a \$75,000,000 Export-Import Bank loan for irrigation remained pending.

Israeli diplomats indicated gratification when the United States stood aloof from an Arab diplomatic campaign to force Israel back to its 1947 United Nations partition boundaries. This month's NATO conference saw failure of this Arab attempt to reduce Israel. The Arabs sought to exact this from the west as a price for their "support" against Communism.

The NATO conference went on record in favor of preserving the "independence and sovereignty" of Middle Eastern states. Meanwhile, there emerged growing and encouraging talk of greater economic assistance to the Middle Eastern area to strengthen it against Communism by elevating living standards.

JEWS IN BOLIVIA ENJOY EQUAL RIGHTS; FEAR NO ASSIMILATION. LEADER REPORTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Although there are only 4,000 Jews in Bolivia, they do not fear assimilation because there is a strong Jewish cultural life in the country and almost no intermarriage, Rabbi G. Friedlander, chief rabbi of Bolivia, who is now on a visit to the United States, declared here today.

Rabbi Friedlander said that before World War II there were only 30 Jewish families in Bolivia. Most of the 4,000 Jews now residing there were admitted as refugees from Nazi Europe. About two-thirds of them are Jews from Poland and one-third came from Germany.

About 3,000 of the Jews live in La Paz, the rabbi reported. They are chiefly engaged in trade and in industry. The economic situation leaves no room for complaints. Nor can the Jews of Bolivia complain about the rights which they enjoy. There is no anti-Semitism in Bolivia.

Jewish cultural life in Bolivia, Rabbi Friedlander said, is developing normally. There is a Jewish theatre in La Paz, a Jewish center "Circulo Israelita," eight synagogues and a Jewish all-day school which is attended by 400 children. The school enjoys government support and its graduates are accepted into the La Paz College.

Rabbi Friedlander, who is also the director of the Jewish school, revealed that about 30 percent of the pupils in the school are children from non-Jewish families. Some of them come from the homes of high government officials and leading Bolivian personalities. These children study Hebrew, Jewish history and other Jewish subjects and master them as well as do the Jewish children. The school has a staff of 36 teachers, of whom six are Jews. The Jewish teachers are assigned to teaching Jewish subjects.

"All in all we can say that 80 percent of all the Jewish children in Bolivia receive a systematic Jewish education," Rabbi Friedlander stated. "The remainder are also not estranged from Jewish education, but receive it through private teachers. We are certain that our children will grow up to be good Bolivians and good Jews at the same time."

NUMBER OF JEWS IN JAPAN DWINDLES; SMALL GROUPS LIVE IN THREE CITIES

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- There are only three cities today in Japan where small groups of Jewish residents can be found, according to a report published by World Jewish Congress headquarters here. In Tokyo there are about 100 Jewish families, 30 Jewish families reside in Kobe, and in Yokohama there are 15 families. Before the outbreak of the last war there were 2,000 Jews in Japan.

"The small communities in these three cities," the report said, "are quite different from all other Jewish communities in the Far East and Southeast Asia in that practically the entire membership consists of business people of various national origins who are there on a temporary basis only. In spite of the smallness of these communities, they manifest a keen sense of belonging to the Jewish people. The very presence of an Israel Embassy in Tokyo stimulates, in the Jews of Japan, the will to identify themselves with things Jewish."

In the 1930's the only important Jewish community was in Kobe, which not only took care of its own religious and cultural requirements but also contributed much toward the needs of numerous refugees from Nazi oppression, particularly those from Poland and Lithuania, who arrived there via Vladivostok in the early months of 1940, thanks to the liberal attitude of the Japanese authorities, who granted them transit visas and prolonged their permits for temporary stay on Japanese soil. The wanderings of these escapees from the Nazi inferno took them from Kobe to Shanghai, India, Australia, the United States, Canada, Israel and Latin America. After the end of World War II and the destruction of the Kobe Jewish Center building, most of the Jews moved to Tokyo.

"The World Jewish Congress organization department," says the WJC report, "sought persistently to arouse and maintain the interest of the Jews of Japan in the affairs of the Jewish people at large, and as a result of its efforts the Jewish Community of Japan, with headquarters in Tokyo, affiliated with the WJC on March 4, 1953. Two months later a new Jewish Community Center was opened in Tokyo in the presence of Prince Mikasa, brother of the Emperor of Japan, and of Princess Mikasa. Through this event, interest in the religion, culture, and history of the Jews received added impetus. Organized as a religious corporation under the Corporation Law of Japan, the Center, whose facilities include a synagogue, library, and social rooms, has a membership of about 100 families with a number of non-Jews as honorary and associate members," the report concluded.

PRESIDENT OF OSE IN MOROCCO DECORATED WITH FRENCH LEGION OF HONOR

CASABLANCA, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The French Government's Legion of Honor was today presented to Jack Sabah, president of the Moroccan OSE Committee and a vice-president of the World OSE Union. The award was made by Andre Guibart, Consul General of France in Casablanca.

AMERICAN LABOR ZIONIST CONFERENCE TO DISCUSS ISRAEL'S SECURITY

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Israel's security situation will be discussed at a special conference of several hundred delegates of the Farband-Labor Zionist Order, which will take place here this week-end.

The conference will also formulate plans for the celebration of Israel's tenth anniversary by the 300 chapters of the order. It will also proclaim an intensive membership campaign to be conducted until October, 1958 when the 19th national convention of the organization takes place.

MIAMI GROUP EXPANDS INVESTMENT IN HOTELS IN ISRAEL; ACQUIRES "ACCADIA"

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Israeli-Miami investors group which owns the luxurious "Dan" Hotel in Tel Aviv has purchased the Accadia, a seashore hotel in Herzliyah, and will reopen it for the tenth anniversary celebrations in April next, it was reported here today.

The group has also joined the King David Hotel in partnership and is financing the restoration of the site of the hotel which was bombed under the British administration. The Miami group is establishing a tour promotion company in the U.S. to promote tourism in Israel especially in view of the 10th anniversary year, the report said.

YEMENITE DANCE TROUPE ARRIVES THIS WEEK-END IN U.S. FOR PERFORMANCES

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Inbal, Israel's Yemenite dance company, will arrive here this week-end to prepare for its first American tour early in January under the auspices of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation. The group has just completed a successful tour of the Continent.

The troupe will open in New York January 6 for a three-week stay, after which it will spend three months touring Philadelphia, Washington, Detroit, Cleveland, Chicago, Princeton, N. J., and Montreal and Toronto in Canada. At the completion of its American tour, the company will return to Europe to perform in France, Italy, Belgium and the Scandinavian countries before returning to Israel.

In New York, Mayor Robert F. Wagner will receive the company at City Hall and will officially proclaim the week of January 6 as "Inbal Week." Ambassador and Mrs. Abba Eban head the list of sponsors of Inbal's American tour.

THREE AUTHORS WIN PRIZES FOR BEST WORKS OF JEWISH LITERATURE IN 1957

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Zvi Kessel prizes for the best works of Jewish literature in 1957 were announced here today. The awards, \$250 each, were voted to novelist Z. Diamont of New York, Dr. Mark Dvorszecki of Tel Aviv and Abraham Golomb of Mexico.

Mr. Diamont will receive the prize for a book of short stories in Yiddish, Dr. Dvorszecki will be given the award for his memoirs in Hebrew on life in the Vilna ghetto under the Nazis, and Mr. Golomb will be honored for his volume on 50 years of Jewish education which was published in Brazil. A fund for the prizes was established in 1947 by Zvi Kessel, local industrialist, and is administered by the Jewish Central Committee of Mexico.

BRITISH JEW ESTABLISHES CHAIR IN FINE ARTS AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

LONDON, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Jack Cotton, a Jewish communal leader of Birmingham, has made a gift of 70,000 pounds sterling (\$196,000) to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem for the endowment of a chair in architecture and fine arts, it was announced here today by the British Friends of the University.

The gift will make possible the establishment of a Department of Fine Arts at the University. Such a department is viewed as a first step in meeting Israel's needs for trained personnel to staff its museums and art institutions.

NEW YORK JEW ESTABLISHES CHAIR FOR JEWISH STUDIES AT BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

WALTHAM, Mass., Dec. 26. (JTA) -- A chair in Judaic Studies has been established at Brandeis University in memory of Pincus Glickman by his son, Louis J. Glickman of New York, the University announced here today. Mr. Glickman, a philanthropist, has underwritten the establishment of the chair and his gift has been augmented by some of his friends.

FUNERAL SERVICES TODAY FOR RABBI FRISCH; WAS REFORM JUDAISM LEADER

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow at Temple Emanu-El for Rabbi Ephraim Frisch, rabbi emeritus of Temple Beth-El in San Antonio, Tex., since 1948, who died Tuesday at his home here. He was 77.

A graduate of the Hebrew Union College, he organized in 1915 the New Synagogue of New York which eventually became part of Temple Emanu-El in Manhattan. Author of a number of textbooks on Reform Judaism, he was a former editor of the Central Conference of American Rabbis Yearbook.