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ISRAEL CABINET DISCUSSES STAND ON THE MERGER OF ARAB COUNTRIES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet today discussed the latest developments in the Middle East created by the formation of the Jordan-Iraqi federation and the Egyptian-Syrian merger, and the implications these mergers may have for Israel.

For the time being, the Israel Government is abstaining from any official comment on the unifications. This silence indicates the restrained attitude which is now being displayed by Israel, as compared with the immediate warnings voiced by Israel when the Iraqi-Jordanian union was mooted in autumn, 1956.

Observers analyzing this difference are of the opinion that it stems from the fact that, in 1956, Israel was concerned not so much about the general plans for an Iraqi-Jordanian union as with the immediate threat to move Iraqi troops into Jordan to the Israel frontier. Another factor is probably the fact that Soviet penetration in the Middle East was less pronounced in 1956 than it is at present, and this too influences Israel's attitude.

However, the overwhelming difference between the present feelings in Israel and those which prevailed in 1956 lies in the fact that, in 1956, Israel was tense and jittery because of the threat of Soviet arms newly-obtained by Arab countries. The lightning victory in the Sinai campaign gave Israel confidence and self-assurance that the Arabs alone cannot defeat Israel without overt military assistance from the outside. And the Israelis believe now that the Soviet Government would not risk open intervention which may start a major, possibly global, conflagration.

In Israel, the Iraqi-Jordanian and the Syria-Egyptian mergers are, therefore, now being judged by the criterion whether these mergers substantially change the existing balance of power in the area. It is the prevailing opinion that, while the consequences of the mergers may become grave for Israel, the mergers do not imply an immediate major change in the balance of power between Israel and the Arab countries.

Jordanian-Iraqi Merger May Affect Status of Arab Refugees

One important aspect of the present situation, being closely watched in Israel, is the effect of Iraqi-Jordanian federation on the status of the half-million Arab refugees in Jordanian territory. Jordan is the only Arab country that has given the Arab refugees full citizenship rights. However, because of the country's meager resources, the refugees cannot find work in Jordan, and continue to live in refugee camps.

Iraq has abundant resources, coupled with a shortage of manpower. The question is whether the new federation will give equal rights to all Jordanians, including refugees. If that were done, then the refugees might be able to seek employment in Iraq and have a chance to resettle in Iraq.

Israel, meanwhile, has not yet decided whether to initiate a possible move in the United Nations that the new Iraq-Jordan Federation be limited to one UN membership instead of the present two, separate memberships. Nor has any Israeli decision been taken as yet regarding the two seats now being held by the partners of the "United Arab Republic," Egypt and Syria.

A Bagdad announcement yesterday stated that Iraq and Jordan intended to retain their separate United Nations representations. The attitude of the Cairo Government is not clear on the UN representation issue, and there were some vague indications that the Egypt-Syria union might itself decide to relinquish one UN seat.

The Jordanian Radio, which until now identified itself as the "Hashemite Broadcasting Service," changed its identification tonight to the "Arab Federation Broadcasting Service."

JORDANIANS FIRE ON ISRAELIS AT MT. SCOPUS; THREE ISRAELIS WOUNDED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Three Israeli policemen, members of the patrol on Mt. Scopus, were wounded tonight when Jordanians opened fire from positions in the demilitarized zone in the August Victoria area. The Israeli police garrison returned the Jordanian fire.

BOTH ARAB "FEDERATED" BLOCS ARE HOSTILE TO ISRAEL, SHARETT WARNS

LONDON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- In spite of the fact that the two "federated" Arab blocs have deep differences of their own, both federations have in common "a negative background of hostility to Israel," Moshe Sharett warned here last night. Israel's former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister spoke at a campaign dinner of the Joint Palestine Appeal, at which the sum of 60,000 pounds sterling was contributed.

"The rift between the two Arab unions," stated Mr. Sharett, "does not mean necessarily that they are ready for settlement with Israel. Their attitude is aggravated by the fact that a big power bases its Middle East policy on hostility to Israel. In the cases of both federations, Arab unity is forged for the negative purposes of rivalry amongst themselves and of struggle against Israel."

However, added Mr. Sharett, "theoretically, constructive chances of Arab-Israel synthesis stand undiminished." These possibilities, he declared, "serve as an ever-present challenge to Arab statesmanship." In practice, he pointed out, "Israel must heed the lessons of the past, and rely more on her own strength and such international support as she is able to enlist, rather than on the wisdom and sanity of the Arab opponents."

"If the merger of Syria and Egypt is to serve as a nutcracker against Israel, the nut must be strong enough to break the arms of the would-be cracker," Mr. Sharett said.

Knesset Communist Calls on Israeli Arabs "To Be Prepared"

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- A call to the Arabs in Israel "to be prepared" for a reunion with Palestinian Arabs "from whom they have been separated by imperialistic forces" was issued today by the Arab Communist leader in Israel, Emile Habibi, who is a member of the Israel Parliament.

The call, published in the Arab-language Communist newspaper Al Itichad, tells the Arabs in Israel that "the train is approaching" and urges them to pay attention to "the whistle of the train." The same paper carries an article by another Arab Communist leader, Fuad Hourri, member of the Nazareth Municipal Council, urging the Arabs in Israel "to regain their rights by force." At the same time, he calls upon the Israeli Arabs to boycott the 10th anniversary celebrations of Israel's independence.

Britain, France Pleased with Merger of Jordan and Iraq

LONDON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The governments of Britain and France make no secret of the fact that they are pleased with the merger of Jordan and Iraq into a federation. A Foreign Office spokesman said here that this move will help stabilize the situation in the Middle East. He obviously had in mind that the Jordan-Iraqi bloc will serve to counteract the pro-Soviet stand of the Syrian-Egyptian bloc.

In Paris, official circles indicated that the Jordan-Iraqi federation may help to bring about renewed French influence in the Arab world. A Foreign Office spokesman there said that the French Government looks with sympathy on this federation as a check to the ambitions of the Egyptian-Syrian bloc.

Reuter's news agency, reporting a broadcast this week-end by King Hussein of Jordan on his merging with Iraq, quoted him as referring to Israel as follows: "On this day, we turn our hearts toward Palestine and we promise before God to work as before to achieve our rights, which were stolen by the enemy. We will not lay down our arms until we have achieved our aims."

(In Washington, the State Department gave the same cautious endorsement this week-end to the Iraq-Jordan union it extended to the United Arab Republic of Syria and Egypt two weeks ago. Lincoln White, the State Department spokesman, said that the United States believed that "closer relationships in the Arab world is a matter for the Arabs themselves to decide.")

JORDAN ORDERS ITS WASHINGTON EMBASSY TO MOVE FROM "JEWISH" HOTEL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Jordanian newspapers reported today their government was "shocked" to learn that its Washington Embassy was located in a hotel owned by Jews. The Amman government announced it had "ordered" the embassy to move.

(The Hotel Twenty-four Hundred, where the Jordanian Embassy has its headquarters, has long been known in Washington as a place where kosher food is available by pre-arrangement, and where the Mizrahi--Orthodox Jewish Zionists--often hold their conventions.)

U.S. GIVES LARGE GRANT TO ISRAEL FOR RESTORATION OF BIBLICAL SITES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Two grants totaling 640,000 Israeli pounds were awarded here today by Edward B. Lawson, United States Ambassador to Israel, the largest of the grants--600,000 pounds--being earmarked for restoration of Biblical and historical sites. Some of these date back to the era of the Christian Crusades.

Both grants came from funds of the American Information Media program. The larger sum was given to the Israel Society for Landscape Improvement, headed by Gen. Yigal Yadin, former Chief of Staff of the Israel defense forces. The second sum, of 40,000 pounds, was given to ZOA House as the first installment of a scheduled 70,000-pound grant for reconstruction of the Goodman Auditorium.

JEWISH SITUATION IN TUNISIA NORMAL; EMIGRATION FROM ALGERIA PLANNED

PARIS, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Despite the tense situation in Tunisia, due to the French bombing of a Tunisian village, the situation of the Jews there is normal, according to reports received here today by the Jewish Agency.

The reports came via Algeria, where Zionist leaders from the larger North African cities have just concluded a conference. The conference adopted a decision to intensify Zionist activities throughout North Africa and to prepare for sizable emigration from Algeria to Israel.

BONN DEPUTY CHARGED WITH SEEKING HIGH FEES FROM RESTITUTION CLAIMANTS

BONN, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Charges that the chairman of Parliament's Restitution Committee is taking advantage of his position by acting as attorney for some 30,000 restitution claimants, some of whom are charged fees of as high as 45 percent of the payments they receive, were aired yesterday in the Bundestag, lower house of Parliament, here.

The accusation was made against Social Democratic deputy Otto Greve by deputy Jacob Diel, a member of Chancellor Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party. This "restitution scandal" is attracting wide attention in view of the fact that some West German politicians have been contending that the entire policy of paying compensation to former victims of Nazism should be reviewed, because, they say, "the costs are too high."

Greve has denied that he represents 30,000 compensation clients. He insists that he is attorney, in his private law practice, for about 50 compensation applicants. However, he has conceded that indirectly, through other attorneys, he has been authorized to act as counsel for about 7,000 or 8,000 other clients living abroad. Diel is demanding that a special parliamentary investigation be authorized by the Bundestag and that, meanwhile, Greve be removed from the Restitution Committee chairmanship.

POLITICAL PARTIES IN ARGENTINE COMPETE FOR "JEWISH VOTE" IN ELECTIONS

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Almost every party in the forthcoming Argentinian Presidential and Congressional elections, first elections there since Peron's ouster, includes Jewish candidates, according to information received today by the World Jewish Congress here.

Jews figure prominently in the lists of the two major Argentine parties, Union Civica Radical Intransigente, whose Presidential candidate is Dr. Arturo Frondizi; and Union Civica Radical de Pueblo, whose leader, Dr. Ricardo Balbin, is the party's Presidential nominee. The two parties are wings of the old Radical Party; the Frondizi group being more extreme in plans for nationalization and freedom from any alien influence. When the United Radical Party opposed Peron in the last elections in 1952, Balbin and Frondizi headed the ticket for offices of President and Vice President, respectively.

Dr. Frondizi's party has nominated Jews as gubernatorial candidates in two provinces. These candidates are Dr. Luis Gutnisky for Formosa Province, and Dr. Angel Edelman for the Province of Neuquen. Neither area has anything like a decisive Jewish vote, but both men are considered having good chances of success.

Dr. Gutnisky's nomination, the WJC learned, resulted in the Christian Democratic Party waiving a previous demand that the Formosa provincial constitution should stipulate that only a Roman Catholic can be Governor. Isaac Breyer, a member of the WJC Consultative Council in Argentina and an active Zionist and communal leader, is one of four Jews campaigning for Congress seats as Frondizi party representatives from the Federal capital.

In Formosa province, Dr. Balbin's list includes a well-known businessman, Jose Cohen, who is campaigning for the Senate. Many Jews are candidates for Congressional seats under Balbin's colors. A third Jewish candidate for Governor is Jose Brusilovsky, who is running on the Socialist Party ticket in the Province of Santa Fe. There are also Jewish candidates on lists of the Christian Democratic Party and Partido Laborista. The latter is a workers' group which, organized shortly before Peron came to power, joined him and then suffered at his hands.

On the eve of the elections, Dr. Frondizi issued a message to the Jewish community, referring to the fact that this is the first time that there are Jewish nominees for provincial governments, and expressing his party's friendship towards all minority groups. The message added the party's interest and sympathy in the creation and development of Israel, and expressed a desire to see contact between Israel and Jews of Argentina strengthened, so that both countries might profit culturally, economically and politically.

Alejandro Gomez, who is seeking the Vice Presidency with Dr. Frondizi, stated in Buenos Aires that if his party wins, Dr. Frondizi and he will go to Europe and Israel early this year. Praise for Israel as a true example of democracy came from the Socialist Party's Presidential nominee, Dr. Alfredo L. Palacios, who visited Israel during the Sinai campaign period.

In the Province of Entre Rios, the Conservative Party issued a memorandum recalling that Jewish migration into Argentina had been facilitated, "thanks to the immigration laws of the old Conservative governments."

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY URGED TO CHECK ANTI-JEWISH BIAS IN STUDENT CLUBS

PRINCETON, N.J., Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The Princeton Undergraduate Council today moved into the controversy over charges of bias in Princeton's private eating and social clubs by sending a petition to the University administration asking whether University officials condoned religious discrimination by the clubs.

A number of private student groups also were drafting petitions to University officials, asking the immediate construction of an alternate to the traditional system under which sophomores are chosen for membership in the 17 clubs by invitation.

In this year's selection, 23 sophomores, including 15 Jewish students, complained that they had received bids from only one of the clubs, the Prospect, and asserted that this was an effort to dump them in the "least desirable" club. The Prospect club is made up almost entirely of Jewish students. The 15 Jewish sophomores signed statements asserting they believed they had been discriminated against on religious or racial grounds, a stand rejected Thursday by Dr. Robert F. Goheen, Princeton University president.

Picketing and counter-picketing was another development on the campus. Ralph B. Schoenman, 22, of Burbank, Calif., picketed a campus building, carrying signs that challenged the administration and students to change the club system immediately. Then, seven club members began a counter-picket with signs poking fun at Schoenman, who, when he was a sophomore, was the only member of his class who refused to apply for a bid to the eating clubs.

The petition of the Undergraduate Council, official voice of Princeton's undergraduate students, asked the University to set a date for the completion of an alternate eating and social house for which University officials announced plans last year when there was similar controversy over the club pledging system.

Asking the administration how it planned to "remedy" the problem of the men who remain out of clubs this year, the Council challenged: "Does the University administration condone the existence of private autonomous groups within the Princeton community which assert their right to discriminate religiously?"

AMERICAN CHRISTIAN CONFERENCE URGES THREE-FAITH PARLEY ON PALESTINE

ATLANTIC CITY, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- A resolution calling for a meeting of representative leaders of Christianity, Islam and Judaism, for the purpose of "lessening the tensions engulfing the Holy Land," was issued here today by the national conference of the American-Christian Palestine Committee, at the conclusion of its three-day conference on Middle Eastern problems. More than 200 delegates from various parts of the country, including many clergymen and educators, attended the parley.

"It is of the utmost importance that these three faiths find a way of reconciling and jointly furthering their spiritual goals in the land sacred to all," the resolution said. It warned that "unless the major religions make peace with one another, there may even be a red flag flying over all the Holy Places, and there will be nothing left to differ about." The American Christian Palestine Committee also urged the United States Government to:

1. Press for the acceptance by the Arab states and Israel of the Johnston plan for the division of the waters of the Jordan River in the interests of not only the states concerned, but also of the Arab refugees.
2. Initiate such measures as may be necessary to guarantee the present borders between the Arab states and Israel against violation by force.
3. Recommend both in the United Nations and elsewhere the resettlement of the Arab refugees in the territories where they now reside, with compensation to be made to both Arab and Jewish refugees for abandoned or lost properties.
4. Contribute to the creation of a Middle East development authority in which both the Western Powers and the nations of the area are to be invited to cooperate, "which would open up vast new areas for the settlement of the refugees."

PITTSBURGH JEWISH LEADER NAMED CHAIRMAN OF "GUARDIANS OF ISRAEL"

NEW YORK Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Alexander Lowenthal, Pittsburgh Jewish leader, has been appointed national chairman of the Guardians of Israel, it was announced today by Abraham Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization. The Guardians of Israel are men who purchase a minimum of \$1,000 in Israel bonds each year.

MORRIS STONE, FATHER OF NATIONAL U. J. A. LEADER, DIES AT 89; FUNERAL TODAY

BROCKTON, Mass., Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Morris L. Stone, father of Dewey D. Stone, noted American Jewish leader, died here today at the age of 89. Funeral services will be held tomorrow at the Congregation Adas Aachim, of which he was a member.

Active in Jewish affairs during his lifetime, Mr. Stone was a life member of the Zionist Organization of America. He is survived by six children, 11 grandchildren, and 26 great-grandchildren.