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DE GAULLE ASSURES ISRAEL OF "SOLID" FRIENDSHIP; LAUDS ISRAEL'S COURAGE

PARIS, June 4. (JTA) -- Premier Charles de Gaulle confirmed today France's close friendship with the State of Israel, in a message replying to congratulations from Israel Premier David Ben Gurion on his investment as Chief of Cabinet.

The de Gaulle message, handed to Israel Ambassador Yaacov Tsur by Premier de Gaulle's secretary, declared: "I thank you for your kind message which expresses such noble sentiments. I greet the courageous Israeli nation with which France has solid links of friendship and shares the same spiritual ideals. I hope, like you, that man's wisdom will consolidate and insure peace."

The Government of France has decided to open a consular agency and a cultural center at Eilat, Israel's port on the Gulf of Akaba, it was revealed here today. France is the first nation to take such action with respect to Israel's rapidly developing southern port city.

JORDANIANS FIRE ON ISRAEL CONVOY TO MT. SCOPUS; ONE ISRAELI WOUNDED

JERUSALEM, June 4. (JTA) -- An Israeli soldier was seriously wounded here today in a new outbreak of "unauthorized" fire from Jordan troops stationed near the Mandelbaum Gate. The firing was aimed at Israelis preparing to ascend Mt. Scopus in the regular bi-weekly convoy, which left later and climbed the height without further incident.

Today's firing, at two separated intervals, provided a baptism by bullets for Canadian Col. James Ricky, who succeeded the late Lt. Col. George A. Flint as chairman of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, and in this capacity was present to inspect the Israeli convoy. Col. Flint died May 26 of wounds received when he attempted to rescue a number of Israeli policemen shot down on Mt. Scopus during six hours of withering fire from Jordanian snipers.

In the first burst of fire today, no one was hurt. Jordanian officers present at the convoy's marshalling site hastily explained the "unauthorized" nature of the firing. Israeli officials accepted the explanation and, after a period of quiet, resumed the marshalling of men, vehicles and supplies.

Once again an "undisciplined soldier" let loose with a Sten gun, seriously wounding an Israeli soldier in a platoon in position near the still unmoving convoy. The Jordanian officers renewed their assurances that there was no intention of interfering with convoy and eventually it took off for Mt. Scopus.

10,000 DEMONSTRATE IN JERUSALEM AGAINST MIXED BATHING; 12 ARRESTED

JERUSALEM, June 4. (JTA) -- Ten thousand men and women marched in a protest demonstration in Jerusalem today, under the leadership of the Agudas Israel, in an attempt to prevent the opening within a month of a pool in the heart of Jerusalem where mixed bathing will be permitted.

Protests against the pool have occasioned disturbances and even riots in the past, and today's demonstration very nearly turned into a pitched battle. The march had been authorized by the police authorities but could not get under way for an hour after its scheduled start because a crowd of some 1,000 youths gathered on its outskirts to jeer at the demonstrators and shout: "We Want the Pool."

The parade started only after mounted police scattered the hecklers. Several scuffles occurred and the police detained a dozen youths, most of them from the ranks of the hecklers. It was headed by prominent rabbis and Agudah deputies in the Knesset. In the rear marched some 3,000 girls, women and mothers pushing infants in baby carriages. Some 500 yeshiva students assisted the police in maintaining order, circulating among the marchers and on the outskirts of the formation.

Prayers were recited at various points along the line of march. In each instance, they were preceded by the blasts of 13 shofars. The Neturei Karta, spearhead of the movement against the pool, shunned today's demonstration because it had applied for and received an official permit. The ultra-Orthodox sect will hold a separate demonstration later in the week.

ISRAEL OPENS NEW POWER STATION; U.S. CONTRIBUTED $13,750,000 TO PROJECT

TEL AVIV, June 4. (JTA) -- Israel's electric power capacity was increased by 20 per cent last night when a new power station at Ashdod, site of a newly developing industrial-port complex on the Mediterranean coast, was opened. The United States, through its economic operations mission here, financed over one-third of the 70,000,000 pound ($38,500,000) cost of the installation.

The station is the first of three 50,000 kilowatt turbines to go into operation under the nation's electric power development program. A second will be working by the end of the year and a third will be producing power early in 1959.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Minister for Development Mordecai Bentov said that, in addition, his Ministry had planned the erection of power stations in Northern Israel and at Eilat. It was also planned to bring a high tension line into the Negev, he said. Finally, he revealed that three power stations would be erected to be fueled by bituminous rock.

James Haggerty, head of the U.S. economic aid mission in Israel, told the audience that Israel's need for electric power was second only to its needs for water and irrigation. He revealed that before this investment of 25,000,000 pounds, ($13,750,000) the U.S. had matched funds with Israel for other electric power projects to the extent of 40,000,000 pounds.

LOTTERIES FOR TOURISTS PROPOSED IN ISRAEL; TO ATTRACT VISITORS

JERUSALEM, June 4. (JTA) -- Proposals that the Israel Government hold free lotteries for tourists and grant "rain insurance" guaranteeing that tourists will not lose precious days due to inclement weather, were offered here today to stimulate world tourist traffic to Israel during the normally slow winter season.

The proposals were made at a forum held by the Government Tourist Office to explore methods of increasing tourist traffic during the off season. Lottery tickets would be distributed by travel agencies in the United States, at the Brussels Fair and in numerous cities on several continents, under the plan. It was also suggested that three drawings be held for a grand total of 1,000 prizes.

Since Israel boasts that tourists to this country "travel with the sun," it was recommended that the government offer "rain insurance." The insurance would guarantee tourists one cost-free day for each day lost due to rain.

"REASONABLE" ARAB-ISRAEL COOPERATION SEEN AS POSSIBILITY WITHIN DECADE

KIAMESHA LAKE, N.Y., June 4. (JTA) -- "Reasonable cooperation" between Israel and the Arab countries during the second decade of Israel's existence was considered a possibility by Israel Minister to the U.S. Yaacov Herzog, in an address to the B'nai B'rith convention now taking place here.

Talking on the prospects of the second decade, Mr. Herzog said that "it is not inevitable that the bloodstained frontiers remain a focal point of tension. In the dynamism of all developments they may become the gateway to reasonable cooperation and a renewal of the golden period of Moslem-Jewish friendship in the Middle Ages." Mr. Herzog also said that the Tenth Anniversary Celebrations in this country have lent confirmation of lasting impact to the tradition of American interest and sympathy for Israel's homecoming, rehabilitation and spiritual revival.

ISRAEL WANTS PEACEFUL CO-EXISTENCE WITH ARABS, CONSUL GENERAL SAYS

BRIDGEPORT, Conn., June 4. (JTA) -- Both Israel and the Arab states need peaceful co-existence for their mutual development, Israel Consul General Simcha Pratt told the Chamber of Commerce here. He spoke on the same subject at a convocation of the University of Bridgeport.

"We will work at it," he said, "and we have every reason to believe that our neighbors will benefit with us from a fruitful cooperation that will insure not just the Middle East, but the world in general."

Mr. Pratt said that despite Israel's many advances in many areas, the greatest disappointment is that no peaceful agreements with its neighbors have been achieved. "We are no nearer to that than we were in 1948," the Israeli diplomat asserted. He added, however, that "Israel's borders are now in a state of relative quiet and if that continues, we can look for peace."

Commenting on Israel's economic status, Mr. Pratt reported that 70 percent of the food required by Israel is raised within the nation, and last year exported $50,000,000 worth of citrus fruits. Today, he said, Israeli industries are turning out 1,500 manufactured products. He also reported that Israel imports $80 to $90 million worth of American-made goods every year.

In comparing American and Israeli educational systems, he stated that the Israeli system was patterned more after the European system, with less emphasis on recreation.

JEWISH REPATRIATES FROM RUSSIA TO POLAND HOPE TO PROCEED TO ISRAEL

VIENNA, June 4. (JTA) -- Some of the Jews repatriated from the Soviet Union to Poland "sit around with their bags packed," hoping soon to be able to go to Israel, according to a report in Die Folkshtimme, Yiddish-language daily newspaper published in Warsaw. The report deals with an analysis of the situation among 30 repatriated Jewish families in the Polish city of Czenstochov, Poland. In addition to the 30 repatriated families, there are also 400 other Jews in the city.

The question to whether to remain in Poland or to emigrate to Israel is constantly debated among the repatriates, according to Die Folkshtimme report. Some of the Jews who had been returned from Russia are criticized in the report because they even refuse to send their children to Polish schools. Unlike other Polish-Jewish communities in Poland, Czenstochov does not have a government-subsidized Yiddish school. Nevertheless, some of the repatriates organized a small Yiddish school of their own about three months ago. The school has an enrollment of only 14 children, however.

NAZIS GO ON TRIAL IN TWO GERMAN CITIES; CHARGED WITH KILLING JEWS

BONN, June 4. (JTA) -- Martin Sommer, the Nazi "killer of Buchenwald," went on trial at Bayreuth yesterday charged specifically with the murder of 53 Jewish inmates of the death camp.

For the past eight years Sommer has avoided standing trial, pleading ill health. In the original indictment against the former S.S. guard, the prosecution charged that between 1938 and 1943 Sommer killed numerous numbers of prisoners by injecting poison or air embolisms into their veins.

In Hamburg, Erich Dittrich went on trial today charged with complicity in the murder of 13 Jewish slave laborers at a mill he owned. The prosecution charges that in 1942 he selected 30 of his Jewish workers to be shot by Nazi police. Intervention of the factory foreman saved 17 ofthe victims.

(Twenty-one Nazi war criminals still remaining in Danish prisons will be released this year or next, the Danish Ministry of Justice announced today in Copenhagen. The majority of the Nazis had originally been condemned to death but their sentences were committed to life imprisonment. Their release will come after reviews, now pending, by the Ministry and the courts.)

F.B.I. EXPLAINS ITS LACK OF ACTION IN SOUTHERN SYNAGOGUE BOMBINGS

WASHINGTON, June 4. (JTA) -- The FBI has avoided a more active role in the investigation of Southern synagogue bombings in order to avoid giving local police an "excuse for relaxing their own efforts of for evading their own responsibility," Deputy Attorney General Lawrence E. Walsh said today.

Mr. Walsh replied to a communication from Sen. Jacob Javits in which the New York Republican had urged greater FBI action to stop the bombings. According to Mr. Walsh, who wrote on behalf of Attorney General Rogers, "the acceptance by the FBI of some shadowy responsibility for the investigation obviously could be used by local officers as an excuse for relaxing their own efforts or for evading their own responsibility and in the end it would certainly furnish no basis for ultimate Federal prosecution."

"By leaving local responsibility unambiguous and unclouded," the Deputy Attorney General said, "the attention of the nation has been focused upon the officers of the communities directly concerned to measure their response to violence and bigotry. Further, it has seemed obvious that the prosecution of this type of crime would be far more effective, its deterrence of future acts more certain, and its meaning to all the world more clear, if conducted by the outraged communities themselves rather than left to some outside force because of some assumed inadequacy of local will or leadership."

JEWISH PROPOSAL ON SUNDAY LAW TO BE VOTED IN NEW JERSEY LEGISLATURE

TRENTON, N.J., June 4. (JTA) -- An American Jewish Congress sponsored amendment to a proposed Sunday Law currently under discussion in the State Assembly here was sent to committee last night and is expected to be brought before the House next Monday for a vote. If adopted, the amendment and the Sunday Law will then go to the Senate for a final ballot.

The amendment would exempt from the Sunday closing provisions of the measure any shopkeeper who shuts down his business on another day of the week for purposes of religious worship. A number of Jewish groups favor the amendment, as does the New Jersey Seventh Day Adventist movement, a Protestant sect which holds the Sabbath as the proper day of rest.

LABOR CONVENTION HITS STATE DEPT. FOR TOLERATING ANTI-JEWISH BIAS

PHOENIX, Arizona, June 4. (JTA) -- The State Department was criticized for allowing discrimination by Saudi Arabia against "Americans who worship as Jews" in a resolution adopted by the Arizona AFL-CIO convention. The resolution charged that the Arab governments which discriminate against American Jews are dictatorships.

CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS SENDS STUDY MISSION TO RUSSIA

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- A party of five American clergymen left here today for an intercultural tour of Europe, the Middle East and the Soviet Union sponsored by the National Conference of Christians and Jews. Stops on their itinerary include Tel Aviv, Cairo, Moscow and other capitals of Communist East European countries.

The study group, kept small to facilitate an intimate exchange of ideas, will seek information on problems affecting religion in Europe and the Middle East, with specific reference to their effect on relations among religious groups in the United States. This is the first time such an American group, drawn from various faiths, will enter the USSR on a goodwill mission. Dr. Irving Lehrman, spiritual leader of Temple Emanu-El of Miami Beach, is the Jewish member of the study team.

LEADER OF REFORM MOVEMENT URGES WORLD CONVOCATION OF ALL RELIGIONS

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- A world convocation of leaders of all religions was urged here today by Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, following his return from a five-month global tour, during which he met with leaders of various religions. He suggested that the convocation should be held in 1960, after intensive consultations with the World Council of Churches, Vatican, and representatives of Hinduism, Buddhism, Shintoism, Islam and Judaism.

Rabbi Eisendrath also suggested that the religious groups of all faiths in the United States and throughout the world should consider "a more direct and forceful action against Communism to counteract the obvious intent of the Soviet leaders to destroy all organized religion behind the iron curtain." At the same time, he urged that the exchanges between Soviet and Western religious leaders should be continued and intensified "so that the freedom and vitality of religion in the democratic world will be brought home to the Russian people and may awaken the repressed yearning for religious fulfillment and religious liberty."

70 AMERICAN JEWS MEET IN PREPARATION FOR PERMANENT SETTLING IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency today announced that a group of American Jews have organized to settle permanently in Israel in a collective settlement based partly on agricultural and partly on industry to be financed by American investors.

More than 70 members of the group met at the premises of the Jewish Agency with S. Z. Shragai, head of the Agency's immigration department, who is now visiting the United States. Mr. Shragai promised the gathering the fullest cooperation of the Jewish Agency in the realization of their plans. The meeting took place under the chairmanship of Rabbi Itzhak Swift who reported that a group of friends of the projected settlement has been organized in New York to assist the settlers with investment capital.

$1,000,000 ISRAEL BOND DRIVE LAUNCHED BY JEWISH WOMEN IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- An intensive seven-month campaign in New York to raise $1,000,000 in Israel bond investment funds for the economic development of the Jewish State was formally opened here today by New York Women's Division of the Israel bond drive.

The special drive was launched at a reception for Colonel Shoshana Gershom, Chief of the Women's Army of Israel. The event was sponsored by New York Members of Chen, an honor society of American women dedicated to the up-building of Israel's economy whose voluntary efforts to sell State of Israel Development Bonds will spearhead the city-wide drive. Chen, which means "charm" in Hebrew, also is the name of the Women's Army of Israel.

CANADIAN ZIONISTS TO INTENSIFY COOPERATION WITH OTHER JEWISH GROUPS

TORONTO, June 4. (JTA) -- Greater zeal in the fund-raising activities of the Zionist Organization of Canada, with special reference to the United Israel Appeal, was pledged here today by Lawrence Freiman, newly elected president of the organization.

Addressing the closing session of the 34th annual ZOC convention, Mr. Freiman said he would intensify ZOC cooperation with other Canadian Jewish groups. "Great steps have been made in creating a further dimension of Zionist activities in Canada by cooperation with other groups," he stated. "To be realistic, these bonds must be strengthened and further developed in order to give coherence to the Jewish community of Canada. But let such cooperation not obscure the purpose of the Zionist movement. Canadian Zionist affairs in their relationship to Israel are our responsibility."

SIXTY SOCIAL AND COMMUNITY CENTER WORKERS COMPLETE TRAINING SEMINAR

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- Sixty professional social and community center workers completed the Jewish Orientation and Training Seminar of the Jewish Education Committee of New York and received their certificates yesterday at the closing exercises at the headquarters of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies here.