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JEWS IN BEIRUT IN DANGER; REBELS THREATEN TO BLOW UP THEIR QUARTER

LONDON, June 23. (JTA) -- A threat from Moslem extremists to blow up the Jewish quarter of Beirut, capital of revolt-torn Lebanon, was reported in the press here today.

A dispatch from Beirut said that the Jewish community had received an "ultimatum" from Adnan Hakim, leader of the extremist Moslem Najjada Party, to remove from its synagogue and nearby buildings alleged caches of arms and ammunition. The "ultimatum" was published in the newspaper Al Siassa, which sides with the opponents of the embattled Chamoun government.

The Beirut rabbinate immediately denied that any arms or ammunition were stored in the synagogue or in Jewish homes. The "ultimatum," of whose genuineness the leaders of Beirut's 3,000 member community are not assured, demanded removal of the alleged weapons by noon today.

The World Jewish Congress here, estimating that there are 10,000 Jews in Lebanon today, said that although there have been arrests of Jews in Lebanon since the establishment of Israel, nevertheless Lebanon remained the only Arab country in the Middle East "with a stable and practically unmolested Jewish population." The Lebanese Jews occupy important economic positions, mainly as business men and professionals. "But the economic lot of the former Syrian Jews--a large portion of the Lebanese Jewish community--is worse and they have not been granted Lebanese citizenship because of Syrian pressure," the WJC emphasized.

Israel's Non-Interference in Lebanese Crisis Stressed by Minister

BUFFALO, N. Y., June 23. (JTA) -- Israeli Minister to the United States, Yaacov Herzog, said here today in a television interview that "Israel's policy in regard to the Lebanese crisis is one of total restraint and non-interference and this has been Israel's line in relation to all aspects of the intra-Arab conflict."

Speaking on a TV program sponsored by the Buffalo Council for World Affairs, Mr. Herzog described as entirely without foundation a newspaper report that Israel had considered sending troops into Lebanon.

Mr. Herzog commented on the relationship of the Israel-Arab dispute to the origins of the cold war in the Middle East. He said "three events have ushered in the cold war in the Middle East: the evacuation of the Suez Canal zone in 1954, the Baghdad Pact in February 1955, and the Egyptian-Czech arms deal in the same year. The Israel-Arab dispute had no direct association whatsoever with any of these events."

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT AGREES TO RE-OPEN ROAD ON MT. SCOPUS TO ARABS

JERUSALEM, June 23. (JTA) -- Israel agreed today, in the wake of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold's visit, to re-open the road from Issawia village on Mt. Scopus for the use of the Arab villagers. Agreement, conditional on the villagers not creating further incidents on the height, was given at a meeting today between Foreign Ministry officials and Andrew W. Cordier, Mr. Hammarskjold's executive assistant who has been negotiating between Israel and Jordan for the past week.

Late yesterday, Premier David Ben Gurion reported to the regular weekly session of his Cabinet on his three-hour conference Saturday night with Mr. Hammarskjold. Also discussed by the Cabinet was the course of talks with Mr. Cordier.

The Israeli press reported this morning that during the Ben Gurion-Hammarskjold meeting it was indicated that Israel would return to the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission if Jordan showed willingness to implement Article VIII of the armistice pact which guarantees Israel the right to resume normal operations on Mt. Scopus.

Speculation was rife here about the reason for Mr. Hammarskjold's visit to Jerusalem. Observers were inclined to doubt that the UN chief had made a visit to Israel's capital merely to discuss the opening of a dirt road, one of four available to several hundred Arab villagers.

ISRAEL CABINET SETTLES ISSUE OF "JEWISH" IDENTITY; ADOPTS DEFINITION

JERUSALEM, June 23. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet adopted last night two amendments to the new identity cards issued recently by the Ministry of Interior and which have created dissension within the government.

The Cabinet vote yesterday backed the Ministry of Interior's decision that any applicant for a card who declares himself a Jew shall be so identified and, provided he does not profess any other religion, will be considered of the Jewish faith. Children will be considered of the Jewish faith if both their parents declare themselves Jews.

The battle within the Cabinet found United Religious Party leader Moshe Shapira, the Minister for Religions, lined up against the left-wing Socialists led by Interior Minister Israel Bar Yehuda. Yesterday's compromise was seen as only temporary in the issue of "who is a Jew" on which the left takes the position that anyone who says he is, is.

Neither civil nor religious courts are required to accept the statement on the identity card as proof of Jewishness. Religious leaders argue that under the latest decision the matter of mixed marriages will be further confused, as will the situation resulting from the fact that members of some local Christian sects identify themselves as Jews, though of a different religious faith.

ISRAELI PARATROOPERS HOLD MANEUVERS; DROP FROM PLANES WITH GUNS

TEL AVIV, June 23. (JTA) -- More than 10,000 persons witnessed tonight an Israeli paratroop assault on a hilly position in the Askelon area as the Jewish State's crack troops engaged in maneuvers designed to test their battle readiness as well as specialized equipment.

The paratroopers, dropped from the skies and supported by Air Force units, hit the ground on a dead run and immediately organized and deployed to "take" a hill. Light and heavy equipment of all sorts was dropped with them, including guns and vehicles. Medical supplies were lowered to the ground by parachute and helicopters settled on the battle scene to remove the "wounded."

Afterwards, the guests were informed--for the first time--that it was paratroop units which formed the backbone of Israeli retaliatory raids at against Egypt, Syria and Jordan in recent years. These same units spearheaded Israel's advance into the Sinai Peninsula and pulled up short of the Suez Canal. Among the guests were several hundred members of a United Jewish Appeal group which will hold the first UJA conference abroad next month in the first such operation in UJA's 20-year history.

DE GAULLE GOVERNMENT IS STRONGLY PRO-ISRAEL, FRENCH ENVOY SAYS

TEL AVIV, June 23. (JTA) -- Israel now has "an even stronger friend" than before in Premier Charles de Gaulle, Pierre Gilbert, the French Ambassador to Israel said on his return from France where he conferred with the new French Premier.

(In Paris, the new Foreign Minister, Maurice Couve de Murville, received Israel Ambassador Yaakov Tsur yesterday. This was the first official contact between the new government of France and the Israel Embassy. A spokesman later revealed that the interview was held in an "extremely friendly" atmosphere. French foreign policy, with particular reference to the Middle East, was discussed.)

EX-PREMIER OF FRANCE DECORATED IN ISRAEL WITH GOLDEN "HAGANAH" EMBLEM

TEL AVIV, June 23. (JTA) -- Maurice Bourges-Manoury, former Premier of France, received today the same golden emblem signifying service in the Haganah, Israel's underground protective force and the basis of its present army. M. Bourges-Manoury was honored at a parade and ceremony which accompanied the presentation of service emblems to 1,500 Haganah veterans.

Yesterday, Bourges-Manoury was received by President Itzhak Ben Zvi after a tour of Elath and a hearty welcome by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion and other Israel officials on his arrival. The Prime Minister hailed the French official as the "architect of Franco-Israel friendship."

Hundreds of persons, including Israel defense leaders, were at the airport to give M. Bourges-Manoury a welcome which topped in cordiality even receptions for visiting state officials. The French visitor as Defense Minister signed the agreements for the supply to Israel of French Mystere jet planes and other heavy weapons before the Sinai campaign.

GOLDA MEIR'S CONDITION "VERY SATISFACTORY"; HOSPITAL ENDS BULLETINS

TEL AVIV, June 23. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir's condition continues "very satisfactory," a bulletin indicated today. The hospital authorities indicated that this morning's was the last bulletin they planned to issue on the condition of the Foreign Minister, who underwent surgery last week.

JEWISH CONSCIOUSNESS REPORTED STRENGTHENING AMONG JEWS IN U. S. S. R.

LONDON, June 23. (JTA) -- An increase and a strengthening of Jewish consciousness among Soviet Jews has taken place since 1948, according to a report made today by the foreign affairs committee of the Board of Deputies of British Jews to its general assembly. The report stated that the "withholding from the Jews, as from no other national group in the Soviet Union, of rights to communal organization is justifiably regarded as discrimination against the Jewish community."

The Board's committee proposed further approaches to the Rumanian Government to allow the reunification of families some of whose members immigrated to Israel and the others who are forced to remain behind. Following consideration of the report the delegates passed a resolution calling on Bucharest to permit reunion of these families and to allow Zionist leaders recently released from prison to go to Israel.

The defense committee reported that various British anti-Semitic organizations had fallen on hard times due to internal dissensions and lack of financial support. It noted that the League of Empire Loyalists is equally short of funds and members, while Mosley's Union Movement has failed to follow through on a widely advertised program due chiefly to lack of reception among British audiences. Barnett Janner was re-elected president of the Board.

WEST GERMAN PRESIDENT CONFERS WITH U. S. JEWISH LEADERS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- West German President Theodor Heuss and a group of American Jewish leaders conferred here for nearly two hours yesterday on restitution problems encountered by Jews seeking redress under West German legislation.

The meeting, held at the President's invitation in his Waldorf-Astoria suite, was said to have discussed frankly the problems involved. While it was understood that Dr. Heuss could not under German law make policy statements, an aide of the President noted that he had long been interested and active in behalf of restitution to Jewish victims of Nazism.

Present at the tea-and-talk session were: Jacob Blaustein, senior vice president of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; Irving Engel, president of the American Jewish Committee; Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee; Philip M. Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith; Frank Goldman, honorary president of B'nai B'rith; Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee; Dr. Israel Goldstein; Saul Kagan, secretary general of the Claims Conference; Senator Jacob K. Javits, and others.

EX-MINISTER OF LITHUANIA TESTIFIES ON NAZI MASS MURDER OF JEWS

ULM, Germany, June 23. (JTA) -- A Catholic functionary who was Minister of Agriculture in pre-war Lithuania testified to the torture and execution of Jews and other Lithuanians at the trial here of 10 former leaders of a special Gestapo squad sent to liquidate Jews and any opposition to the Nazis in Lithuania. Among the defendants is Col. Bernard Schweder-Fisher, one-time chief of police in Nazi-occupied Memel.

Monsignor Kieutativius told the court today that a large number of Jews and suspected Communists were rounded up one evening and imprisoned in a hotel in Memel where they were "interrogated" by Gestapo men. The next day, the former Agriculture Minister continued, the prisoners were dragged out, many women and children among them who were barely able to walk under their own power, and taken into a nearby woods and shot.

The witness declared that to his knowledge, no regular German Army units were involved in these murders. This is expected to be a major point of evidence, since at least one defendant is basing his case on the claim that the Wehrmacht was involved and were as responsible for the killing of over 5,000 persons as was the special Gestapo unit.

FORMER PROMINENT NAZIS OCCUPY LEADING POSTS IN EAST GERMANY, LIST SHOWS

BERLIN, June 23. (JTA) -- A booklet listing 29 leading governmental, cultural and economic leaders in East Germany who were once prominent Nazis was published here today by the "West Berlin Committee of Inquiry of Freedom-Loving Lawyers."

Among the 75 are 29 deputies in the East Germany Volkskammer--the equivalent of Parliament--editors of Communist newspapers and publications, administrators and teachers at institutions of higher learning in Communist Germany and heads of economic bodies including the Chamber of Foreign Commerce, a minister for the chemical industries and chairman of a water board.

The booklet asserts that while the methods of the East Germany regime are milder than those of the Nazis, there is nevertheless no free press, free speech, free elections, impartial courts, and guarantee against arbitrary arrest. It calls the regime totalitarian and asserts that there is no difference between the old Nazi security corps and the present state security police.

FIVE-DAY ANNUAL CONVENTION OF REFORM RABBIS OPENS TODAY IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, June 23. (JTA) -- Current patterns in religious education, activities among the Jewish youth, religion and science and the impact of environment on the synagogue will be among the subjects to be discussed at the five-day annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, central body of the Reform rabbinate, which opens here tomorrow. More than 500 Reform rabbis from all parts of the United States and Canada will attend the convence.

U. S. ORTHODOX GROUPS CONDEMN ANTI-ISRAEL DEMONSTRATION IN WASHINGTON

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- The United Religious Organization of America--composed of the Mizrahi and the Hapoel Hamizrachi groups--issued today a statement condemning the Neturei Karta Orthodox group which demonstrated against Israel last week in front of the White House in Washington.

The statement termed the demonstrators a "small irresponsible group of Jewish extremists" and said that their action "borders on denouncing Israel before the non-Jewish world." It emphasized that all rabbinical and religious bodies in the United States disassociate themselves from the Neturei Karta extremists.

The statement pointed out that the religious Jews of Israel are represented in the Jerusalem government, and that the Israel Ministry of Religion is spending millions of pounds annually to strengthen religion in the country. "It is, thus, an absurdity to talk about 'suppression of religion' in Israel, thus, an absurdity to extremist Neturei Karta group claims," the statement declared.

(In Tel Aviv last night, Rabbi Judah L. Maimon, aged and highly respected religious leader of Israel, called for excommunication of the Satmar Rebbe and his followers for the White House demonstration against Israel last week which he equated with treason against the State.)

PRESIDENT EISENHOWER LAUDS ROLE OF YIDDISH PRESS IN UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower paid tribute last night to the Yiddish-language press in the United States, declaring that "as the Yiddish-language newspapers tell the facts without fear or favor, they add strength to the national community."

In a special message to a dinner in honor of the Yiddish press at the Commodore Hotel at which more than \$750,000 for the economic development of Israel was provided by 700 civic, cultural and religious leaders, Mr. Eisenhower expressed his "pleasure to join in a salute to the Yiddish press." The Israel bond dinner accorded tribute to the editors and publishers of the Jewish Daily Forward and the Day-Jewish Journal, the country's two oldest Yiddish language daily newspapers. Guests of honor were: Alexander Kahn, general manager, and Hillel Rogoff, editor-in-chief of the Forward; Morris Weinberg, publisher of the Day-Jewish Journal, and David L. Meckler and Solomon Dingol, editors.

Simcha Pratt, Consul General of Israel, who was one of the principal speakers, said: "The Yiddish press has helped in the effort to develop Israel's economy, industry and communications and to assist Israel in bringing in and absorbing hundreds of thousands of immigrants. It is highly appropriate that the Yiddish press should be honored in behalf of State of Israel bonds, the principal means for the provision of capital needed to establish Israel's economy on firm foundations."

DR. NEUMANN REPORTS ON THE YEAR'S ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE HERZL INSTITUTE

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- A new approach to programming in Zionist cultural and educational work has drawn more than 22,000 persons to the Theodor Herzl Institute here during the 1957-58 season, it was reported today by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Institute.

"The Theodor Herzl Institute was established in 1955 by the Jewish Agency to serve as a center of Zionist studies and adult education in the New York area," the report said. "However, its many-faceted program, integrating Zionist issues with a study of Israel's development and problems of Jewish identification in the United States has attracted a large non-affiliated audience. Today, the Institute's influence extends far beyond its own lecture halls, and its approach has stimulated the programming of many groups throughout the United States.

Stressing that the success of the Institute "has surpassed our most optimistic expectations," the report emphasized that during the 1957-58 season more than 400 specialists, including many prominent personalities in academic and government circles in Israel and the United States, appeared on the Institute's lecture platform. A day and evening program of lectures and study groups was offered every week-day and special events were scheduled for Saturday nights and Sundays. In addition, the Institute's extension service provided program aid to their organizations.

Dr. Neumann paid special tribute to the "creative and imaginative approach to programming" introduced by Dr. Emil Lehman, director of the Institute.