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## BEN GURION GIVES HIS OWN DEFINITION OF WHO IS A JEW; DRAWS ON PSALMS

JERUSALEM, July 2. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben Gurion drew on Jewish Scripture today to give his definition of a Jew in the current Cabinet crisis over official state identification of Jewish status for citizenship.

The Prime Minister's definition, citing the fifteenth Psalm, was given in a letter to Rabbi Judah L. Maimon, first Minister of Religions in Israel, who had sent a communication to the Prime Minister in behalf of the decision of the United Religious party to quit the coalition on the issue.

(Psalm 15 defines as he "who shall sojourn" in the Tabernacle of the Lord, the individual who is righteous, speaks the truth, does not slander or do other evil to his fellow, does not reproach his neighbor, despises a vile person, fears the Lord, testifies truthfully even if it hurts him to do so, does not loan money for interest or take a bribe against the innocent.)

Asserting that Psalm 15 "is the essence of Jewishness," the Prime Minister asked: "Why should he that observe the Sabbath and Kashruth be considered a Jew but he who lives according to the Psalmist definition not be considered a Jew?" The Prime Minister added in his letter that Israel's Declaration of Independence defined Israel as a country ruled by law and not by the laws of Halacha, the Jewish legal tradition.

Extracts from Mr. Ben Gurion's lengthy letter to Rabbi Maimon, released late this afternoon, revealed that the government does not intend to legislate on religious matters. "The government decision," the Premier wrote, "is not binding on rabbis in matters of marriage and divorce."

While the proclamation of Israel's independence declared freedom of religion and conscience to be among the basic principles of the State of Israel, Mr. Ben Gurion continued, it did not say that the Jewish State should be governed by religious law, but on the contrary that the state should not be theocratic in nature.

"The state guaranteed every Jew who wishes to observe religious law all facilities to do so and has undertaken the obligation to make provision for the religious needs of the public at state expense, though there are undoubtedly in the state many people who do not observe religious law," he said. "As far as I know there is not a single person in the government or Knesset, not excluding the Communists, who has any idea of preventing a religious Jew from observing the 613 Commandments in their entirety."

### Makes Distinction Between Religious Jew and a Jew by Nationality

The letter further declares that the government does not consider itself authorized to decide who is a religious Jew. The question it had to consider was who is a Jew by nationality.

"It is a fact," Mr. Ben Gurion wrote, "perhaps a bitter fact that in matters of religion and religious law there is no unity among the Jewish people and in America there are Orthodox, Conservative, Liberal and Reform rabbis. There are many Jews who belong to neither one or the other, but are in my opinion Jews as long as they do not become converted to another religion."

The letter concluded by stating that many persons believe that they belong to the Jewish people although they do not observe Jewish law. As long as he remains in the government, Mr. Ben Gurion pledged, he would endeavor to prevent strife over religion. "I see danger in a war against religion and in a war for religion," he warned.

## SYRIAN TROOPS SUBJECT ISRAELI FARMERS TO SHOT AND SHELL

TEL AVIV, July 2. (JTA) -- Syrian troops opened fire today on Israeli workers in fields adjacent to the Dardara settlement south of Lake Huleh.

The Syrians laid down a heavy rifle fire interspersed with machinegun bursts and mortar shells. Afterwards, sniping continued for some time. Two Israelis were wounded.

ISRAEL CONVOY TO MT. SCOPUS REACHES DESTINATION WITHOUT INCIDENTS

JERUSALEM, July 2. (JTA) -- The regular fortnightly Israel convoy crossed Jordanian lines today and arrived at the isolated Israel enclave on Mt. Scopus without incident, despite threats of renewed interference earlier this week by Jordanian newspapers.

It was the first convoy to make the trip since the recent visits of United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold and his executive assistant Andrew Cordier. The executive assistant was the third UN official assigned by Hammarskjold to seek an easing of Jordan-Israel conflicts over various phases of the Jordan-Israel Mixed Armistice Agreement, particularly those involving Israeli access to Mt. Scopus.

The Jordan press had warned that convoy passage would not be permitted unless Israel agreed to open the Issawia road without restrictions. The road, one of three leading to the Arab village, was closed by Israel to all but UN observers after the May 26 Jordan attack which cost the lives of Col. George A. Flint, head of the Mixed Armistice Commission, and four Israel police. Since then, Israel has reopened the road which, like the Issawia village, is in Israel territory behind Jordan lines, from sunrise to sunset for use by Issawia villagers.

ISRAEL'S INTERNATIONAL POSITION GREATLY IMPROVED, EVALUATION SHOWS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., July 2. (JTA)-- As Abba Eban, chairman of Israel's delegation here, visited Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold today, prior to departure for Israel, an evaluation of Israel's current international position revealed that:

1. At the United Nations, none of the Western governments is thinking at present of pushing toward fundamental settlement of the basic Arab-Israeli disputes, but are interested rather in consolidating the present period of relatively stable Arab-Israeli relations.
2. A vast improvement is discernible in the relations between Israel and many governments in Europe, Latin America, Asia and Africa.
3. Israel has recuperated entirely from the heavy loss of good will it encountered among high officials of the United States Government as a result of the 1956 Sinai campaign. An illustration of U. S. attitude toward Israel is the fact that, during the fiscal year that ended this week, Israel had received from the U. S. a total of \$90,000,000 in development loans, scientific aid, technical assistance and agricultural commodities. On the very last day of the last fiscal year--last Monday--Israel obtained more than \$6,000,000 worth of agricultural surpluses from Washington.

Mr. Eban's visit to Mr. Hammarskjold followed by two days a similar conference, held in Washington, with Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. The Israeli diplomat expects to leave next Tuesday and will return late next month or early in September. Despite reports of forthcoming changes among Israel's top-ranking representatives both here and in Washington, it is known that Mr. Eban will again head Israel's delegation here when the General Assembly convenes on September 16.

Israel's major policy, to be followed at the next Assembly, will be among the subjects of Mr. Eban's consultations with his government. Another topic, it is understood, will be the relations between Israel and American Jewry. Israelis here are known to be of the opinion that Israel must recognize American Jewry as being thoroughly American in character. From that thesis follows the belief among Israelis here that, while Israel's existence may be a central factor in the American Jewish community, Israel must not try to dictate the course of Jewish development in this country.

ISRAEL ENVOYS FROM WASHINGTON, MOSCOW AND PARIS DUE IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, July 2. (JTA) -- Israel's ambassadors in the capitals of three major world powers--United States, Soviet Union and France--are due in Jerusalem this month for consultations, it was revealed today. Authoritative sources denied, however, that an "ambassadorial conference" is in the offing, asserting that it is coincidental that these three are coming home at the same time.

Ambassador Abba Eban, coming from Washington, is combining his vacation with his annual consultations on the agenda of the forthcoming United Nations General Assembly. Though Mr. Eban's tour of duty is coming to a close, it is expected he will stay on in the United States until at least the end of the General Assembly, at which he will again head the Israel delegation.

Ambassador Joseph Avidar is returning from Moscow upon completion of his tour of duty in the USSR. Ambassador Joseph Tsour, who is also nearing completion of his present tour will, presumably discuss future plans with the Foreign Ministry. He will fly home as soon as he completes a round of meeting with top French leaders, probably including Premier Charles de Gaulle.

GOLDA MEIR LEAVES HOSPITAL: WILL RESUME FULL DUTY AS FOREIGN MINISTER

JERUSALEM, July 2. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister is to leave Tel Aviv Hospital today after a successful operation, it was learned today. She is expected to resume her full work schedule in the Foreign Ministry in about ten days.

#### GERMANY CALLS WITNESSES FROM U.S. AND ISRAEL FOR NAZI GUARDS TRIAL

BONN, July 2. (JTA) -- The former commander of a Nazi concentration camp near Riga and two other SS guards will go on trial September charged with the murder of thousands of Jews, Russians and others, the West German Attorney General announced today after a preliminary investigation whose report encompasses 500 pages.

The defendants, Gustav Sorge, Wilhelm Schubert and Martin Kmittler, were all released from Soviet prisoner of war camps to Germany on condition that West German courts try them for war crimes. Specifically, they are charged with the murder of 420 Jews, churchmen, Socialists and Communists and the execution of 19,800 Russian prisoners of war. An additional 100 Jews were murdered by one defendant during the pogroms in Germany in November, 1938.

Some 315 witnesses were questioned in the preliminary inquiry. At least 161 witnesses were called from other countries--in Europe, the United States and Israel. Two of the defendants, Schubert and Kmittler, were serving life sentences in Siberia when they were turned over to the Bonn repatriation authorities. Schubert was commander of the Riga camp where, the indictment charges, Jews were literally "worked to death" building an air base for the Luftwaffe.

In Bayreuth, two former SS officials, one a judge and the other a police inspector, testified today at the trial of former concentration camp guard Martin Sommer that at an SS trial in 1943 he had confessed to the murder by poison or air injection in a blood vessel of at least 50 prisoners at Buchenwald.

The judge, Dr. Konrad Morgan, presided at the SS trial of Sommer and other camp personnel including its commandant H. Koch who had embezzled huge sums from the Nazis. In the course of the 1943 trial it was found that prisoners who knew of the activities of the SS thieves had been systematically murdered by Sommer. Today, Sommer asserted that his confession in 1943 was "forged" and that he had been trying to cover up the murders of the camp doctor.

#### AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE PROPOSES PLAN FOR SABBATH OBSERVANCE LAW

NEW YORK, July 2. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee came out today with a statement, issued by its president Irving M. Engel, favoring the enactment of "fair Sabbath law" which would make it legal for observant Jews to keep their business enterprises open on Sundays, if they are closed on Saturdays for religious reasons.

The American Jewish Committee president also suggested that an Interfaith Advisory Commission be formed of representatives of the major religions to "explore, investigate and consult jointly and constructively" on the possible methods of Sabbath observance legislation. "A report by such a commission, which would take into consideration the diverse needs of the various groups, could then serve as a basis for reasoned and effective legislation," Mr. Engel pointed out.

Predicting that the Sabbath observance legislation is likely to be an issue in a number of states across the country in the future, Mr. Engel warned of the danger of community conflict wherever this issue will arise. He expressed the belief that the creation of an Interfaith Advisory Commission can bring into harmony differences between contesting groups and make conflicts unnecessary.

#### Cites U.S. Supreme Court Decision to Support Its View

Mr. Engel referred to the recent more stringent Sunday closing law adopted by the New Jersey Legislature and the defeat of a bill for fair Sabbath law in New York. He emphasized that the present statute provisions as to Sunday observance could not be based on religious considerations. He argued that since under the American Constitution there is no state religion, no state can legislate a religious Sabbath.

The AJC leader cited an 1896 U.S. Supreme Court decision which described the fundamental theory behind Sunday observance laws as follows: "Opinions may differ, and they really do differ, as to whether abstaining from labor on Sunday is a religious duty; but but whether it is or not, it is certain that the legislature has prescribed it as a civil duty."

It follows therefore, Mr. Engel argued, that present Sabbath laws are designed to insure at least one day of rest and recreation and to further the physical, moral and mental well-being of the population. This, rather than a religious consideration, is the essential basis upon which Sunday observance legislation rests, he pointed out.

"In the selection of Sunday as the chosen day of rest we can assume that the states have not violated the constitutional restriction against religious preference but have merely acted to accommodate the majority--who observe Sunday as the Sabbath. Therefore, as a matter of simple justice and fair play--and to avoid any suggestion of religious preference--should not a similar accommodation be extended to those who in good conscience believe the Sabbath ought to be observed on a day other than Sunday and actually do keep their businesses closed on that day?" Mr. Engel asked.

"Denied such equal consideration by the laws of New York and New Jersey, an appreciable segment of the population of these states is compelled to refrain from business

on two days--Sunday and their own Sabbath, he continues. He goes on to point out that many states, to avoid discriminating against any religious group, have adopted what has come to be termed a "fair Sabbath law." Such laws exempt from the Sunday closing requirement those places of business which are closed for religious reasons on another day of the week--provided that public worship on Sunday is not disturbed.

Thus, the intention of the Legislature to provide a day of rest is served without requiring greater sacrifices of one religious group than is required of others, Mr. Engel states. The American Jewish Committee favors the enactment of this type of legislation wherever Sunday closing laws already exist or are adopted in the future, he declared.

#### B'NAI B'RITH PRESIDENT URGES U.S. JEWS TO ACTIVATE JEWISH EDUCATION

ST. PAUL, July 2. (JTA) -- Jewish parents were urged today to "fill the cultural gap between youth and senility" by applying to themselves some of the standards of Jewish education they propose for their youth.

"The emerging culture of American Jewry will advance more rapidly if the present adult generation will try nourishing with something more than a vacuous acceptance of responsibility through the experiences of its children," Philip M. Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith, said here in a speech to 1,200 delegates at the 90th annual convention of B'nai B'rith District 6.

A "one-sided emphasis which places the destiny of our cultural survival in the hands of Jewish youth is a case of passing the buck to that generation," Mr. Klutznick declared. He said that the same "mistaken attitude" is directed toward the State of Israel by many American Jews. "Israel's existence increases the status and dignity of American Jews," he stated. "But it is negligent to identify her as the guarantee of our own community's cultural survival. That responsibility is exclusively our own."

Declaring that the "learning process is not an exclusive mandate of youth but a continuing effort intended to last a lifetime," Mr. Klutznick recommended "a lot more cultural self-enlightenment" for Jewish parents. "This could be the strongest motivating force for expanding the cultural and education facilities for Jewish youth--the problem we're always talking about," he said.

#### RABBINICAL CONVENTION DISCUSSES NEED TO ATTRACT "UNCOMMITTED" JEWS

LIBERTY, N. Y., July 2. (JTA) -- There is a "dire need" for missionizing by Orthodox Jewry to draw into its orbit the "uncommitted" and unaffiliated Jews of America, Rabbi Bernard Weinberger, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, declared here today at the annual convention of the organization. The alliance represents 400 Orthodox rabbis throughout this country and Canada.

Addressing a session on "reappraisal of Jewish education today," Rabbi Ralph Pelcovitz, a former president of the alliance, declared that the widespread growth of the Hebrew day school movement "augurs well for the future of American Orthodoxy, but called for re-examination of the day school's curriculum to give the Jewish child a "more extensive and intensive familiarity with Jewish tradition." The rabbis also heard a dissertation by Rabbi Mordecai Savitsky of Boston on the ramifications of intermarriage.

#### ISRAEL HOSPITAL STARTS EXPERIMENTS ON HEART SURGERY WITH ANIMALS

JERUSALEM, July 2. (JTA) -- Open heart surgery has been tested on animals in Jerusalem's Rothschild Hadassah Hebrew University hospital where a heart-lung machine has been built and operated, officials reported today.

They said that in recent weeks successful experiments in such surgery has been carried out on animals after construction of an oxygenation section for the machine at the Hadassah Brandeis Vocational Center.

#### 1,000 JEWISH AND ARAB YOUTH IN ISRAEL MEET IN GOODWILL CONFERENCE

TEL AVIV, July 2. (JTA) -- The Jewish and Arab youth of Israel met today in another effort to gain understanding of each other's problems and of the nation in general.

Some 600 Arabs and 400 Jews met near Kfar Vitkin for an all-day multi-event gathering. Sandwiched in among folk dances, sports events and other performances were several speeches including one by Moshe Sharett, former Premier, who spoke equally fluently in Arabic and Hebrew and who was roundly applauded by the Arab young people.

At the end of the conference, all 1,000 young people set out on a two-day tour of the Negev to the port of Elath, to obtain a firsthand understanding of the nation's development problems.

#### AMERICAN YOUTHS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL TO ATTEND SUMMER INSTITUTE

TEL AVIV, July 2. (JTA) -- A party of 40 young Zionists from the United States arrived here today to attend a summer institute sponsored by the Jewish Agency. The Americans were greeted by representatives of the Maccabi movement and other Israeli youth groups.