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SYRIANS RENEW FIRING IN LAKE HULEH AREA; NO ISRAELI CASUALTIES

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Syrian machine guns and automatic weapons renewed their firing along the border in the Lake Huleh area last night, an Israeli military spokesman announced today. There were no casualties among the Israelis and fire was not returned.

From the pattern of intermittent bursts, observers believe that the Syrians still expect an Israeli retaliatory thrust across the demilitarized zone. They illuminate no-man's land with searchlights all night long and fire occasional bursts without apparently seeing targets.

UNLIMITED TRANSFER OF PROFITS PLANNED IN ISRAEL FOR FOREIGN INVESTORS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Unrestricted freedom to transfer profits abroad will be guaranteed foreign investors in Israeli business and industry under a new economic program being prepared by the government, it was announced here today.

The program will be submitted to Parliament soon in the hope it will achieve passage before the end of the current fiscal year. It is aimed at attracting capital investment to Israel. When passed, the measure will be retroactive to last April. Hitherto, foreign investors were limited to ten percent a year in the export of their profits in the form of foreign currency.

The new plan would exempt from customs, excise and purchase imposts all materials needed by enterprises given official authorization. The investor's property will be exempted from inheritance taxes. The investor will also receive income tax concessions for the first five years after the investment is made. Approved enterprises will receive concessions in relation to the foreign currency loans they require and in loans of Israeli pounds.

Israel Eases Restrictions on Importation of Automobiles

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Israel Government, continuing its liberalization of foreign currency controls, announced today an easing of restrictions on importation of passenger automobiles.

The liberalization began Sunday with announcement that Israel travelers will be able to buy foreign currency up to \$100 each from banks at practically a free rate of around two and a half pounds per dollar.

The relaxation on importation of cars provides that both new and used foreign-made automobiles will require only a formal permit for importation. However, such imports will be liable to heavier import duties than in the past. Under the new regulations, anyone in Israel wishing to import a car will be able to obtain the necessary foreign currency at the official rate of 1.80 pounds per dollar.

On entry of the car, however, the buyer will have to pay a duty of up to 11 Israel pounds per kilogram of the weight of the car. Under this arrangement, a 1958 car of the lowest-priced standard American makes would cost upwards of 14,000 pounds which is \$7,700 at the official rate and \$5,600 at the free rate.

Another easing of currency controls was indicated in a ruling that the free purchase of \$100 by travelers will be available also for certain payments by Israel citizens for obligations abroad, including the support of aged parents, insurance premiums and certain imports.

Because Israel received permission from the International Monetary Fund for the new arrangements, it was widely predicted that the free two and a half dollar rate would become the new official rate of exchange after the national elections in 1959.

RAINFALL SAVES CROPS IN ISRAEL; LENGTHY DROUGHT THREATENED FIELDS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Israel farm authorities reported today that rainfall during the past few days saved crops in most parts of Israel threatened by a lengthy drought. However, they added that more heavy rains were needed to assure normal yields. The drought still continues in the Negev, they reported, and crops in some areas there are considered lost.

ISRAEL CABINET VOTES DOWN PROPOSAL ON MUNICIPAL ELECTIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Israeli Cabinet voted down last night a proposal that elections for municipal and local councils be held on different dates from next Summer's national elections.

During the discussion of the bill to amend the municipal election procedure, Premier David Ben Gurion favored direct elections of mayors, but a vote was deferred until next week. At present the local council balloting, like that on the national level, is based on proportional representation by party slate rather than by direct vote for individual candidates.

A decision to allow non-Israeli residents to vote in the local elections was also deferred by a narrow margin--again overriding the Premier.

JERUSALEM MUNICIPALITY BANS TAXI STANDS ON SABBATH AND HOLIDAYS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Jerusalem municipal council has banned taxi stands on the main streets of the city on Sabbath and during Jewish holidays. The action was taken at a meeting of the council last night.

A proposal to allow residents of any side street to bar vehicular traffic on the Sabbath if a majority of the residents sign a petition to this effect, was turned down by the councillors.

BEN GURION GREETES UNESCO SEMINAR ON ADULT EDUCATION; HELD IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The success of Israel's adult education program will be of immense significance in the building of a nation from immigrants from tens of nations, Premier David Ben Gurion stressed in a message of greetings to the session here of an International Seminar on Adult Education sponsored by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization.

Zalman Aranne, Minister of Education, and Reuven Barkatt, head of the Histadrut's political department, greeted the parley today. The meeting is attended by delegates from 16 European, Asian and African nations.

AUSTRIA SEEKS "EXPLANATION" ON DRIVE AGAINST GERMAN FILMS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Austrian Minister in Israel called today at the Foreign Ministry to request an explanation of picketing of motion picture theatres in Israel which show German-language films, most of which are made in Austria.

The Foreign Ministry pointed out that in Israel, as in any other democratic country, groups of citizens have the right to express peacefully their likes and dislikes. The Austrian diplomat was assured that the Government of Israel has no intention of banning the importation of Austrian films.

Members of organizations of former partisans and others who fought the Nazis in Europe began Sunday night picketing local cinemas showing German films. The picketing has been scheduled to last one week. Under the pressure, one motion picture house announced it will replace the German film it is showing currently with an American import. However, the motion picture owners association has issued a statement claiming that foreign currency restrictions prevent their importing and showing American films, forcing them to turn to the European market.

ATLANTA JURY DEADLOCKED ON VERDICT IN SYNAGOGUE BOMBING TRIAL

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The jury considering the case of George Bright, first of five defendants charged with bombing The Temple here last October 12, remained deadlocked today for the second successive day. Yesterday, the jury reported to Judge Durwood Pye that it was locked at nine to three, but the judge sent it back for further deliberations. There was no indication how the 12 were divided on the question of guilt.

In the event of a mistrial, it was reported, the state will ask for an immediate retrial. Meanwhile, Reuben Garland, attorney for defendants Robert Bowling and William Allen, asked that his clients be tried next.

RADIO ALGIERS CARRIES JEWISH PROGRAM FOR FIRST TIME; MARKS CHANUKAH

ALGIERS, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- For the first time, Radio Algiers broadcast today a special program dedicated to the Jewish holidays. The broadcast was devoted to Chanukah. Today's program, which will be repeated on December 13, the last day of Chanukah, was prepared by the Israel Radio and consisted of traditional prayers and Israeli folk tunes.

GERMANY TO NEGOTIATE COMPENSATION FOR NAZI VICTIMS IN EIGHT LANDS

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The West German Government, in a diplomatic note to Britain and seven other European countries, has expressed willingness to negotiate on compensation for victims of the Nazis who are not covered by existing compensation laws, it was disclosed here today.

The note apparently was in reply to several representations made by the eight countries to the Bonn Government in recent years. The note reminded the Government of the eight nations that in such negotiations, "the limited possibilities and the extensive compensation liabilities already assumed must be taken into account," it was reported.

JEW NAMED MINISTER IN NEW CABINET OF THE CENTRAL AFRICAN FEDERATION

SALISBURY, Southern Rhodesia, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Benjamin Disraeli Goldberg, former Parliamentary Secretary for Home Affairs, was today named Minister of Health and Education in the new Cabinet of the Central African Federation.

Irish born and Rhodesian educated, Mr. Goldberg is an attorney practicing in Umtali where his family is well known. A student of Australian immigration procedures, Mr. Goldberg was formerly responsible for immigration in Southern Rhodesia.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF U. N. DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS OBSERVED IN U. S.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The importance of the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights was stressed tonight at a dinner at the Waldorf Astoria addressed by UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold; Mrs. Oswald B. Lord, U.S. representative to the United Nations; and Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt. The dinner marked the observance of the 10th anniversary of the UN Declaration of Human Rights. Jacob Blaustein, national chairman for the observance of the anniversary, introduced the speakers.

The dinner was the climax of an all-day conference at the Roosevelt Hotel at which the effect of the Declaration was discussed. Speakers also discussed the international implications of the human rights scene in the United States; what needs to be done to implement the principles of the declaration, and a program for the next decade. Mr. Blaustein was chairman of the morning meeting, and Philip Klutznick, vice chairman of the observance, presided in the afternoon.

On the occasion of the anniversary of the Declaration, the World Jewish Congress addressed a letter to the president of the United Nations General Assembly proposing to end UN delay in the preparation of human rights' Covenants. The WJC urged that each General Assembly adopt and recommend for ratification a Covenant embodying one right or a group of rights. The letter was signed by Dr. Maurice Perlzweig. For more than four years the General Assembly has been examining drafts of two Covenants for the implementation of the Universal Declaration following several years' preparatory work by the UN Commission on Human Rights.

"We cannot overlook the melancholy fact that the international community has so far failed to adopt the Covenants on Human Rights for which the Universal Declaration was intended to be the preparation and prologue," Dr. Perlzweig said. "Though the draft texts of these instruments have been before the General Assembly for a number of years, and though many distinguished delegates have labored over them with exemplary devotion, the end of all this work is not yet even in sight."

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF DENMARK HONORS TRYGVE LIE AS HUMANITARIAN

COPENHAGEN, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Denmark conferred last night the honorary title of "Ben Adam" (humanitarian) on Trygve Lie, first Secretary General of the United Nations. The award is made annually to an outstanding personality for services to mankind and to the Jewish people.

The award, made to Mr. Lie in the tenth anniversary year of the State of Israel, recognized his role in bringing about the creation of the state. In his speech of acceptance, Mr. Lie described the growth of Israel and the in-gathering of a million refugees as a "fantastic adventure." He warned that there was still danger for Israel and that this peril was increasing with political development in the Middle East.

Mr. Lie said Israel is one of the genuine creations of the United Nations. He stressed that this creation was sponsored jointly by the Soviet Union and the United States. He deplored the fact that in recent years the USSR had forgotten its sponsorship responsibilities and has favored other countries in the Middle East.

Israel Ambassador Zvi Avnon, who also addressed the assemblage, hailed Mr. Lie's role in the passage of the November 1947 partition resolution which gave recognition to the Jewish State. He called the decision an "unflinching and courageous stand" of men of vision, like Trygve Lie.

TORONTO COURT RULES AGAINST CLOSING STORES ON RELIGIOUS HOLIDAYS

TORONTO, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Toronto Judge H. J. M. Donley has ruled that under Canadian law no municipality has the right to force retail shops to remain closed on religious holidays.

The case arose when some 25 retailers were summonsed on Good Friday last Spring for keeping their shops open. Among the shopkeepers were bakers, grocers and even a seller of Jewish prayer books and religious articles. All were doing business in Forest Hill Village, a suburb of Toronto.

When a local magistrate held that the retailers had violated a local ordinance, they took the case to a higher court. The definitive ruling here, based on an earlier decision of the Supreme Court of Canada, held that only the Federal Government had the power to enact laws forcing shop closings on religious holidays. The attorney for the defendants was S. M. Harris, chairman of the Ontario Joint Public Relations Committee of B'nai B'rith and Canadian Jewish Congress.

COUNCIL OF JEWISH FEDERATIONS ISSUES MANUAL ON FUND-RAISING DRIVES

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A new book designed to provide a practical blueprint for maximum philanthropic fund-raising by Jewish communities has been issued by the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, it was announced today by Herbert R. Abeles, President of the council.

The 142-page manual, titled "Building the Successful Campaign," brings together the best thought and experience of a group of outstanding campaign and community organization experts from all parts of the United States and Canada. It also contains many practical illustrative aids covering important aspects of campaigning.

In announcing issuance of the publication, Mr. Abeles noted that the manual fills a long-felt need to meet changing conditions in Jewish community fund-raising. "It will provide an invaluable guide for seasoned campaigners and an excellent text for new leadership," he said.

Each chapter of the manual contains practical guides for organizing and operating campaigns. The publication includes an introduction by Joseph Willen, executive vice-president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, and a summary by Isidore Sobeloff, executive vice-president of the Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation.

CHURCH IN SO. AFRICA URGES NAMING OF CHRISTIANS ONLY TO PARLIAMENT

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Dutch Reformed Church of the Southern Transvaal has issued a call for the nomination as members of Parliament only "men of impeccable Christian character and behavior," it was reported here this week-end.

The Johannesburg Star reported that all ministers of the church had been asked to tell their congregations to use their personal influence to ensure that only persons of the Christian conviction are sent to the House. The Reformed Church appeal called for the adoption of a "clear attitude" in reference to this problem.

However, at the consecration ceremony of a new synagogue today in Randfontein, the Dutch Reformed Church presented a leather-bound copy of the Jewish Bible to Chief Rabbi Louis I. Rabinowitz as a goodwill gesture. Prime Minister Hendrik F. Verwoerd sent his personal and the government's greetings to the opening of the synagogue. The greetings were delivered by Dr. C. P. Mulder, M. P.

SYNAGOGUE IN HOLLAND CELEBRATES 100TH ANNIVERSARY; MAYOR ATTENDS

THE HAGUE, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Leyden Town Council hid Torah Scrolls in the Town Hall during the Nazi occupation to prevent their being destroyed by the Nazis, it was announced here today by the president of the local Jewish congregation. He made the disclosure during the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the Leyden Synagogue.

It was also revealed that citizens throughout the town took in and hid hundreds of their Jewish neighbors, thereby saving their lives. The Mayor and Town Councillors attended today's ceremony.

DR. GOLDSTEIN HONORED AT CITY HALL; COMPLETES 40 YEARS IN RABBINATE

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Goldstein was honored at a City Hall ceremony today marking his completion of 40 years in the rabbinate. Rabbis A. Alan Steinback and Harold H. Gordon, president and executive vice president, respectively, of the New York Board of Rabbis presented him with a scroll, signed by Mayor Robert F. Wagner and others, including Israel Consul General Simcha Pratt and Charles H. Silver, president of the New York City Board of Education and of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, of which Dr. Goldstein is the spiritual leader.