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EGYPT ADVANCES BRIGADE INTO ISRAEL-SYRIAN FRONTIER; INCLUDES ARTILLERY

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- While Arab radio stations continued to broadcast charges that Israel was concentrating troops along the Syrian border, it was learned reliably today that the Egyptians have advanced an entire brigade into the Israel-Syrian front position where Syrians heavily shelled Israel villages early this month.

The transfer of the Egyptian brigade, it was reported, included its artillery and auxiliary units and the Egyptian commanding officer of the brigade was named second in command of the entire Israel-Syrian front.

Reports received from Galilee today establish that United Nations observers completed an inspection of the Israel side of the border and found no Israel army concentrations.

HAMMARSKJOLD LEAVES FOR MIDDLE EAST; SAYS HIS TRIP IS NOT POLITICAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold said today that his trip to the Middle East is "not a political mission but a Christmas trip." He made the statement at the International Airport prior to his departure for Stockholm whence he will proceed to the Middle East on December 23.

At the session of the UN Security Council this week where Israel's complaint against Syrian shelling of Israeli villages was dealt with it was decided--at Mr. Hammarskjold's suggestion--to authorize the Secretary General during his visit to the Middle East to look into the matter of Syrian attack against Israel as well as into the "underlying problems" affecting Israel and the United Arab Republic.

Today, Mr. Hammarskjold said that the primary reason for his going to the Middle East was to attend the opening of the newly-established Economic Commission for Africa which will convene for the first time at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, on December 29. "I will employ this opportunity to visit the United Nations troops on Gaza and on the international frontier," he stated. "As a matter of course, I shall take this opportunity to visit some of the countries in the region. I shall visit Cairo, of course, Jerusalem and Amman."

"I hope that what I will be able to achieve in these talks--although this is not a political mission but a Christmas trip--will prove to be of some importance in the general effort in which we are engaged, all of us, to move toward a peaceful world," he added.

In answer to a question whether he expects to see United Arab Republic President Nasser, the UN Secretary General said "yes." Delegates representing Jordan, Lebanon and Sweden were at the airport to say farewell to the Secretary General as was Joseph Tekoah, Israel's deputy permanent representative at the United Nations.

BRITISH-ISRAELI ECONOMIC RELATIONS DISCUSSED OFFICIALLY IN LONDON

LONDON, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Eliahu Elath conferred today with Heathcoat Amory, Chancellor of the Exchequer, on economic relations between Britain and Israel.

It is believed that among the subjects touched on by the two statesmen were the possibility of British investments in Israel and the extension of Israeli fund-raising campaigns in Britain. David Shoham, economic counsellor at the Embassy, accompanied Mr. Elath.

The Conservative Government today rebuffed a second attempt in two days by the Labor Party to force a public discussion of Britain's involvement with Israel and France in the Sinai-Suez operation.

Premier Harold Macmillan refused to issue a White Paper requested by Labor Party chairman Barbara Castle. The woman MP said there were allegations that members of the Eden cabinet were informed on October 10, 1956, that Israel, with the aid of France, would attack Egypt. Israeli units actually jumped off October 26.

The Jordan Government has extended its boycott to two London firms on charges that they are trading with Israel. The two firms, listed with 16 others by Jordan, are: Universal Stores, Ltd., owned by British Jewish financier Isaac Wolfson, and Harela, Ltd., a Jewish-owned clothing chain.

ISRAEL GOVT. READY TO TRANSFER ALL FOOD IMPORTS TO PRIVATE FIRMS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The newest move in the Israel Government's program of economic liberalization was an announcement today that the Government was ready to transfer all food imports to private business under certain conditions.

The principal condition, the Ministry of Trade said, was that private enterprises undertake to maintain a minimum stockpile of all basic commodities to meet six-months needs. At present, most basic foodstuffs are imported by Government agencies and only the marketing is done by private enterprise.

It was reported that Government officials were willing to provide credits to private business for handling of food imports. Previously the Israel Treasury had announced that Israelis traveling abroad could buy \$100 at practically the free rate and had eased regulations for the import of foreign-made automobiles.

PRESS RESTRICTIONS IN KNESSET IRK JOURNALISTS; BOYCOTT CONSIDERED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The Israel press struggle against Government restrictions on news-gathering was extended today when the Parliamentary Correspondents Association voted to consider a total boycott of Knesset coverage.

The Parliamentary correspondents, meeting a few days after an earlier dispute over a Civil Service order barring government workers from giving information to reporters, met to consider new "security" regulations which bar access to any place in the Knesset building except to the press gallery, which is separated from the floor of the Knesset by a half-inch thick bullet-proof glass barrier.

The correspondents said these restrictions made it impossible for them to carry out their public responsibility. They decided to ask the National Journalists Association, with which they are affiliated, to approve a ban on Knesset news coverage until the restrictions were removed.

Israel editors of daily newspapers also met today to discuss the restriction on journalists' visits to the Knesset restaurant. The editors agreed on a number of actions to be taken if the restrictive regulations were not removed. One action will be the calling of protest meetings in Tel Aviv, Haifa and Jerusalem. The editors also nominated a "special action committee" with the power "to take all steps necessary to preserve freedom of the press."

MAPAM OBJECTS TO CUTS IN GOVERNMENT BUDGET AFFECTING DEVELOPMENT

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The Mapai-dominated coalition Government faced new troubles today in the objections of the left-wing Mapam to Treasury-sponsored cuts in the Government budget. Mapam leaders reportedly were convinced that the cuts were aimed specifically at the Ministry of Development which is headed by a Mapam member, Mordecai Bentov.

The issues were discussed at a meeting of the Mapam secretariat officially convened to discuss the budget cut proposals offered by Levi Eshkol, Israel's Finance Minister. The secretariat said that the cuts would hinder future development projects and that the Mapai party intended to limit the functions of the Development Ministry.

The Mapam political committee was convened for a meeting on the questions while the evening press reported that Mr. Bentov had threatened to resign if the Development budget was not increased.

GENERAL ZIONISTS SUPPORT BEN GURION'S VIEW ON ELECTION OF MAYORS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The General Zionist Party has decided to support Premier David Ben Gurion's proposal that mayors be elected by direct ballot rather than by municipal councils themselves put into office under a proportional representation system, it was announced today. A committee of the centrist party which had been studying the proposition reported favorably today.

The original proposal by Mr. Ben Gurion, linked with other suggestions of electoral reform, was fought by some members of his own Cabinet and a decision was postponed. The General Zionists had not clarified their stand when the issue was discussed in the Cabinet last week.

BRAZIL NAMES WOMAN AS AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL; THIRD WOMAN TO SUCH POST

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Mrs. Odette Carvalho e Souza, head of the Brazilian Foreign Ministry's political and cultural department, was today named Ambassador to Israel. Israel has already agreed to the nomination.

Mrs. Carvalho e Souza is the third woman envoy to be accredited to Israel. The other two women heading foreign missions in Israel are Frances Hall, Charge d'Affaires of the Guatemalan mission, and Canadian Ambassador Margaret Meagher. Mrs. Carvalho e Souza is a career diplomat with a long and distinguished record of service in various Ministries and other governmental posts. She has represented Brazil in numerous international conferences at Geneva, the Inter-American Union and the United Nations.

GERMAN PARLIAMENT EXTENDS DEADLINE FOR FILING RESTITUTION CLAIMS

BONN, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The lower house of the West German Parliament voted today to extend the deadline for filing applications for individual restitution claims by victims of the Nazis. Action by the upper house is expected within a few days. The present cut off date for application filing is December 31, 1958. The proposed new deadline would be April 1, 1959.

The lag in the processing of indemnification claims by victims of the Nazi regime is causing corruption in the handling of such claims, the press here charged today. The newspapers pointed to recent arrests of officials in the Rhineland-Pfalz Indemnification Bureau, who were charged with having accepted bribes, and said that this was due to the slowness of handling claims.

Charging that such occurrences provide anti-indemnification forces with ammunition, the press asserted that processing of claims from application to conclusion takes up to 18 months in Bavaria and two years in Northrhine-Westphalia. The newspapers contended that in Rhineland-Pfalz less than half of the budget set aside in the current fiscal year for compensation payments had been spent because of the drag in processing.

HITLER OFFICIAL TO FACE TRIAL IN POLAND FOR KILLING JEWS, POLES

VIENNA, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Frederick Tomke, a Hitler official known during the Nazi occupation of Poland as "Bloody Fritz," has been arrested at Nova-Sul, in the Lublin area, and is being held by Polish police for trial on charges that he was responsible for the murder of at least a hundred persons. Word of his arrest reached here from Warsaw today.

Tomke was a minor Nazi police official in the Lublin area but, according to the charges, made it his business to murder many Jews and Poles. He is alleged to have beaten some men to death during questioning at Lublin police headquarters. Others were shot by "Bloody Fritz" on the streets or near the railroad station because he suspected the victims of being anti-Nazi.

When Poland was liberated from the Nazis, Tomke seemed to have disappeared. Recently, however, he turned up as the owner of a tailor shop in Nova-Sul. Under his own name, he applied for a permit to emigrate to West Germany. A routine check of his emigration application showed readily that he was the same "Bloody Fritz" who had been presumably missing since 1945.

NAZI GENERAL ARRESTED IN GERMANY; ORDERED ANNIHILATION OF JEWS

BONN, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Former S.S. General Erich von dem Bach Zelewski was arrested three days ago, it was announced here today. He is said to have been responsible for many crimes against humanity. In 1941-42 he was S.S. chief of a unit attached to the German Army which conducted the mass annihilation of Jews.

Witnesses at the trial here of two former SS guards at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp testified today that any murder of inmates at the camp was rewarded with extra portions of such German delicacies as fried potatoes. The two defendants, Wilhelm Schubert and Gustav Sorge, to whose brutality numerous witnesses have testified in the trial thus far, took refuge in the position that they were "following orders."

U. N. BODY BLAMES ARABS FOR LOCUST INVASION OF ISRAELI FIELDS

LONDON, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- At a meeting of the Middle East regional organization of the Food and Agriculture Organization, a United Nations specialized agency, it was made clear today that the region was suffering one of its most costly locust invasions because of the Arab states' refusal to cooperate with Israel.

The meeting urged all countries cooperating in the regional organization--Israel is excluded and attached to the European region because of Arab refusal to accept her--to cooperate in fighting the pests, it was reported here from the Syrian capital.

(In Israel, meanwhile, new invasions of millions of red locusts were reported, moving northwestward out of Jordan and entering Israel in the vicinity of Elath, the port on the Gulf of Akaba.)

One hundred Palestine Arab refugees went on strike in the central office of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Arab refugees in Beirut, it was reported here today from the Lebanese capital. The strike was apparently called in response to instruction from refugee leaders who oppose the forthcoming centralization of UNRWA activities in Beirut.

FOUR SHIPS BRING PARTS OF SOVIET FACTORY FOR EGYPT TO ALEXANDRIA

LONDON, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The first of four ships carrying parts of a Soviet factory to be set up in Egypt has arrived in Alexandria, and the other three are due this week-end, it was reported here today. All four vessels will return to Soviet Russia with a combined cargo of 14,000 bales of cotton grown in Egypt and Syria.

SO. AFRICAN JEWISH LEADERS SEEK CLARIFICATION ON CHURCH'S PRONOUNCEMENT

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The South African Board of Jewish Deputies is seeking clarification of press reports that the Dutch Reformed Church in the Transvaal had urged its members to support only those candidates for Parliament who were "persons of unimpeachable Christian character," it was revealed here tonight by Gustav Saron, general secretary of the Board.

If the reports are accurate, he told a meeting of the Board, the church call is open to the interpretation that non-Christian--Jews--should not be supported for Parliament on religious grounds. The Board of Deputies, he continued, hoped this was not meant and is seeking clarification and reassurance from the church that it recognizes --as it has--the rights of Jewish citizens of South Africa to stand for and be elected to Parliament.

Mr. Saron also reported that the Board was making further representations to the government to reinstate in a draft measure governing universities in the Union the so-called "conscience clause" designed to protect teachers and students against religious discrimination. Academic circles also favor inclusion of such protective language.

ARGENTINE PRESIDENT LAUDS ISRAEL'S ACHIEVEMENTS; RECEIVES NEW ENVOY

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Arye Levavi, Israel's new Ambassador to the Argentine, presented his credentials today to President Arturo Frondizi in a colorful ceremony at Government House. The Ambassador was escorted from the Israel Embassy to Government House by a squadron of Mounted Grenadiers; his arrival for the audience was the signal for the playing of the Israeli national anthem by an army band.

After the formalities were over, the President invited Dr. Levavi for a brief conversation during which Dr. Frondizi told the envoy that "the Argentine people have followed with extraordinary interest and sympathy the first phase of the Jewish people's reconstruction and later, its independence. We have followed your outstanding achievements and know them well, the triumph, ability and sacrifice and the labor against natural difficulties," the President continued.

"Argentina is part of the western world, therefore we defend the western tradition, in which we include Israel. The Argentine delegate at the United Nations will support action in the direction of peace and democracy in the Middle East," Dr. Frondizi pledged.

THREE-DAY NATIONAL CONVENTION ON PROMOTION OF HEBREW IN U.S. OPENS

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- A three-day national convention of the Histadrut Ivrit, organization to promote the Hebrew language in the United States, opened tonight with delegates from all parts of the country attending.

The convention will discuss problems concerning the spreading of Hebrew culture among American Jewish youth, as well as the progress achieved in teaching Hebrew in a number of public high schools. It will be addressed by American Hebrew scholars and greeted by representatives from Israel.

MRS. JACK GOODMAN NAMED NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF U. J. A. WOMEN'S DIVISION

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The appointment of Mrs. Jack A. Goodman of Indianapolis, who served as National Women's Division chairman of the UJA for 1957 and 1958, as chairman for a third term in 1959, was announced today by Morris W. Berinstein, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. Mr. Berinstein spoke glowingly of the tremendous job Mrs. Goodman did in the 1957 and 1958 campaigns, praising her for her tireless energy and effort in visiting innumerable communities throughout the United States.

Mrs. Goodman is a leading figure in many national and civil welfare organizations. She was recently elected a fellow of Brandeis University. Named as "Woman of the Year" in Indianapolis in 1956 by B'nai B'rith, Mrs. Goodman is a former National vice-president of Hadassah, a past president of the Indianapolis Jewish Welfare Federation and a recipient of the Honor Award of the Indianapolis Community Chest. She was born in Vienna, reared in St. Louis and graduated from St. Louis Teachers' College.

ARGENTINIANS INCREASE INVESTMENTS IN RUBBER PLANT IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The Ingum rubber plant, established in Israel by Argentine investors in partnership with the Koor rubber plant here, has required additional capitalization and each of the partners has put up an additional 300,000 pounds, Alfredo Korn of Argentina announced today. Production from the Ingum plant is destined chiefly for export.

JOSEPH ZVI RIMON, ISRAELI POET AND AUTHOR, DIES IN TEL AVIV; WAS 69

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Joseph Zvi Rimon, Israeli poet and author noted for his writing on religious themes, died here today at the age of 69. Born in Poland, Mr. Rimon came to Palestine in 1909 and was for many years a school teacher.