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ISRAEL CABINET APPROVES NEW BUDGET OF 1,335,000,000 ISRAELI POUNDS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The draft of a 1,335,000,000-pound regular and development budget for the 1959-1960 Israel fiscal year was approved last night by the Cabinet in an extraordinary session.

It was reported that the budget figure included an added 50,000,000 pounds for development expenditures to meet criticisms of two left-wing parties, Mapam and Achdut Avodah. Mapam objections included a charge that cuts in the development budget were aimed specifically at Minister of Development Mordecai Bentov, a member of Mapam.

Meanwhile, Premier David Ben Gurion has reportedly called on Development Minister Mordecai Bentov, Mapam leader, to retract publicly the allegation that the Premier had indicated to him that if he was unhappy in his dispute with Minister of Finance Levi Eshkol over economic matters he could resign. A release of letters between Mr. Bentov and Mr. Eshkol last week revealed an exchange of unusually personal language.

It was reported today that Mr. Ben Gurion and Foreign Minister Golda Meir supported Mr. Eshkol's objections to the Bentov trip to Japan for other than economic reasons. According to the report, Mr. Bentov -- without consultations with the Foreign Ministry -- asked the American Jewish Congress to arrange for a meeting between him and India's Premier Nehru during his intended visit to Asia.

U. S. SIGNS PACT WITH EGYPT; WILL SEND \$25,000,000 WORTH OF WHEAT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The United States Government signed yesterday an agreement to sell the United Arab Republic 200,000 tons of wheat and 100,000 tons of flour worth an estimated \$25,000,000 and payable in Egyptian currency. Cairo signed a similar wheat agreement with the Soviet Union yesterday.

This is the first sale of American wheat to Nasser since the Suez campaign of two years ago. Shipments are expected to begin March 1 and continue for three months.

This development was seen as one of a series which observers here feel point to an improvement in relations between Washington and Cairo. Another such indication was the approval, expressed in high Washington circles, of West Germany's anticipated offer of \$50,000,000 in credits for the building of projects connected with the Aswan dam in Egypt.

HAMMARSKJOLD PLEDGES TO PERPETUATE U. N. AID TO ARAB REFUGEES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold pledged yesterday that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the Palestine Arab refugees would "continue to exist until we find a solution to the refugee problem."

Mr. Hammarskjold made this promise, which appears to fly in the face of prevailing sentiment among Western delegations at the last General Assembly, at a reception in his honor yesterday at the residence of the Egyptian military governor of Gaza.

Replying to various inflammatory addresses by Arab refugee leaders who referred to the refugees' eventual return to their "stolen homeland," the U.N. Secretary General said: "I know the truth and the circumstances of your problem and my feelings are similar to yours." The Arab press also reported his expressions of hope that his actions would serve the best interests of the refugees and that he would "not betray the trust" put in him.

Observers here noted that Mr. Hammarskjold's present mission in the Middle East included -- at his suggestion -- a study of the refugee problem in preparation for recommendations of a solution which would not perpetuate UNRWA and the refugee problem beyond 1960. His statement that UNRWA will continue until a "solution is found" to the refugee problem, was seen as prejudicing his recommendations.

GUARD AT WEIZMANN INSTITUTE ARRESTED; CHARGED WITH ESPIONAGE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- A guard at the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovoth has been arrested and will shortly be brought to trial on charges of espionage, police officials announced here today. The name of the arrested man was not revealed.

The suspect, who has been under detention since November, will face two charges: passing information to a foreign agent with the intention of violating the security of the state, and passing information without authorization with intent to harm the security of the state. The first charge carries a maximum sentence of 15 years in prison, while the latter may bring up to a life term.

During an extensive investigation, security agents learned that the supernumerary policeman, who came to Israel ten years ago, had maintained contact with a foreign agent in Israel. That agent apparently encouraged him to go abroad last July. While abroad he made contact with another foreign agent and underwent special training to prepare him for espionage in science.

Following his return to Israel, the suspect showed an unusual interest in what was going on in the laboratories and tried to make friends with scientists, according to the charges. He was present at important social functions, frequently coming without an invitation. While on duty, he entered laboratories--despite regulations which forbade it.

The Weizmann Institute has a number of nuclear science projects in progress and, like other institutions of higher learning in Israel, is working on research contracts for the United States armed forces.

The special policeman, who speaks Hebrew, Yiddish and Russian, was teaching himself English, apparently in order to further his friendship with Institute scientists, most of whom use that language. He was a member of an anti-Communist group whose headquarters are in Germany and his trip abroad was taken on the pretext that he was attending in Germany an international convention of the organization. He was also present at the last nuclear science conference in Geneva and mixed with Israeli scientists.

It is known that the accused man has an 18-year-old son living in his country of origin. This young man is the child of his first marriage. In Israel, he lives with his second wife, a Polish Christian, and a ten-year old son.

ISRAELI TROOPS PROTECT CONSTRUCTION CREW THREATENED BY JORDANIANS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Israeli troops today provided a protective guard for a work gang bringing power lines into the Israeli half of the village of Beit Safafa, on the outskirts of Jerusalem. Jordan troops yesterday halted the work.

The Arab village, divided in half by the demarcation lines, has never had electricity. However, the Israelis have begun preparations for the introduction of power to the section which lies inside Israel. The power will be supplied by Jerusalem's grid.

When workers for the power company began putting up poles and stringing lines yesterday, Arab Legionnaires threw stones at them. When this failed to halt the Israeli construction crew, the Arab troops ordered the Israelis--at gunpoint-- to halt their work. The day was lost as a working period but today an Israeli military force accompanied the workers and work was resumed.

5,000 IMMIGRANTS ENTERED ISRAEL IN DECEMBER; 25,500 DURING YEAR

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Total immigration to Israel during December will reach 5,000, the largest monthly figure recorded for several years. S. Z. Shragai, director of the Jewish Agency's Immigration Department, reported to the Agency's executive today.

Five hundred immigrants, chiefly from Eastern Europe, have arrived in Israel in the past two days. There are a large number of young people and children among them. Reporting on immigration prospects in connection with a discussion of next year's increased budget needs, Mr. Shragai said that the total immigration for 1958 would be 25,500 persons.

FIRST TOURISTS FROM GREECE LEAVE FOR ISRAEL; INCLUDE GOVT. OFFICIALS

ATHENS, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The first organized Greek tourist party to leave for Israel departed yesterday for a two week visit to the Jewish state. The 30-member party includes senior government officials, university professors and leading non-Jewish citizens of Athens.

MOSCOW CONTINUES TO BLAST ISRAEL; SAYS BEN GURION IS "PUPPET" OF U.S.

LONDON, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The barrage of anti-Israel broadcasts continued today over the Moscow radio, with Israel being presented to Soviet listeners as a "puppet" of the "imperialist colonizers", particularly of the United States.

The broadcast continued to urge the people in the Soviet Union to acquire an anti-Israel book published recently by the State Publishing House under the title "The State of Israel; Its Position and Policy". It emphasized that "the facts presented in this book show that during the armed intervention by Britain and the United States in Jordan and Lebanon, the Israeli ruling circles were in collusion with the aggressors and provided the territory of their country as a transit base for their troops and also for the flyover of the U.S. and British planes."

"It is quite reasonable to ask what fosters the unaccommodating bellicosity of the Israeli rulers," the broadcast continued. "The answer to this question should be sought not in casual events or in the diplomatic mistakes of individuals who form part of the Israeli Government, but deeper. The causes are to be found in the vicious nature of the basic political line of the circles at the helm of the Israeli state."

"The group of extreme bourgeois Zionists now in power in Israel fail to see, nor do they wish to see, the historically dictated doom of imperialism and its inevitable end. On the contrary, they hope, with the aid of colonialism to strengthen and widen the boundaries of the Israeli state. Thus the state of Israel has been made to become the forward post of imperialism in the Near East and a battle line (point d'appui) of expiring imperialism," the Moscow radio asserted.

"The United States and the other imperialist countries are having their way with Israel, thanks to their close contacts with the main Zionist parties which form the government coalition in Israel," the broadcast said. "The main role in this coalition is played by the ruling party, Mapai, headed by Premier Ben Gurion. This party stands for an aggressive policy in relation to the Arabs. It is characteristic that it is this very pro-U.S. party which was one of the instigators of Israel's attack on Egypt. Another party which supports U.S. imperialism in Israel is the Herut Party."

Z. O. A. PRESIDENT SEEKS TO REMOVE "MISUNDERSTANDINGS" WITH ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Abraham A. Redelheim, president of the Zionist Organization of America, told a press conference here yesterday that "if there are today no more than several thousand American residents in Israel, it is due rather to the discouragement of such immigration through the failure by Israel authorities to create the conditions which would facilitate such settlement of Americans and Canadians."

The ZOA president urged that Israel's immigration concepts should be "changed and adapted, at least in part, to the Western standards of present day pioneering." At the same time, he appealed to the leadership of Israel to help remove "all misunderstandings and misconceptions which have arisen in relation to the issue of pioneer immigration from America to Israel and which have plagued the relationship between the Zionist movement and members of the Israel Government."

Mr. Redelheim voiced the view that the encouragement and assistance of American aliyah to Israel is one of the central tasks of the Zionist movement. However, he emphasized that there are two equally major requisites for the successful promotion of such aliyah. He cited these as the availability in Israel of adequate housing for the accommodation of American settlers and the creation in this country of a climate to make aliyah an ideal of self-enrichment rather than an avenue of escape from anti-Semitism and discrimination. "The sooner this realization will find acceptance in Israel the brighter will be the prospects of the success of an aliyah program," Mr. Redelheim said.

The ZOA president also took issue with a statement made last week in New York by Shimon Peres, director general of Israel's Defense Ministry, criticizing the Zionist movement in the United States and declaring that he feels that the United Jewish Appeal has replaced the Zionist movement in this country and has become the backbone of American Jewish relations with Israel.

JEWISH RECORDS OF 19th CENTURY DISCOVERED IN A CHURCH IN POLISH TOWN

VIENNA, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Official, pre-war records of births, marriages and deaths of many thousands of Jews going back to the 19th century have been located in a church of the small town of Zaromb, half-way between Warsaw and Bialistok, according to a report in the latest issue of Folkstimme, Yiddish-language newspaper published in Warsaw.

A Catholic priest in the village notified the Jewish Historical Institute in Warsaw about the cache of official, vital records, and these have now been taken over by the Institute. No one knows how the records happened to have been saved in the church at Zaromb. The town of Zaromb was totally destroyed during World War II. Not a single one of the town's 3,000 Jews survived, all having been executed by the Nazis in fields outside the town.

PITTSBURGH JEWISH WOMAN APPOINTED ATTORNEY GENERAL OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG, Pa., Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Governor-elect David L. Lawrence has announced appointment of Judge Anne X. Alpern of Pittsburgh as Attorney-General of Pennsylvania, the first woman ever to be named to that cabinet post in the State's history.

Judge Alpern, who is active in Pittsburgh Jewish communal affairs and has served on the advisory board of the Pittsburgh Jewish Outlook, will resign from the Common Pleas Court to which she was elected in 1954. She will take office as Attorney General on Jan. 20.

In announcing Judge Alpern's appointment, the Governor-elect described her as having "exceptionally high qualifications" for the post. He added that "I am indeed pleased that she will serve as chief legal officer of the State as she did for the city of Pittsburgh for many years."

ARGENTINE JEWS HONOR NEW AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL; WAS ENVOY IN TOKYO

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- The DAIA, central representative organization of Argentine Jewry, gave a send-off luncheon yesterday to Dr. Rudolfo Garcia Arias, Argentina's new Ambassador to Israel, who will leave shortly before New Year's to take up his new post.

Dr. Garcia Arias is a career diplomat who is a former Ambassador to Tokyo and one-time Under Secretary in the Foreign Ministry. In a brief address, the new envoy referred to Israel as an "exponent of intelligence, culture and democracy."

Among the other guests at the function were Dr. Ariel Leavavi, Israel's new Minister to Argentina, and Dr. Gregorio Topolevsky, last Argentine Ambassador to Israel. Dr. Abraham Mibashan, DAIA president, presided.

UNIQUE VASES, ESTIMATED TO BE 6,000 YEARS OLD, FOUND IN GALILEE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- A group of unique vases, estimated to be 6,000 years old, were found recently in Western Galilee, the Israel Department of Antiquities announced today.

The stone vases were described as "unusual in shape, of excellent workmanship and of a type hitherto unknown in Palestine." They were discovered together with various flint implements and potsherds attributed definitely to the fourth millenium before the Christian era. It was assumed the vases were also of the same period.

JUDGE SILBER WINS TEL AVIV'S MUNICIPAL BIALIK PRIZE FOR 1958

TEL AVIV, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- Dr. M. Silber, Justice of Israel's High Court, was today awarded the Tel Aviv municipal Bialik Prize for Jewish studies. The award was made for his study of "The Law of Personal Status in Israel."

No prize was awarded in belles lettres, another field in which the Bialik Prize is given. The jury decided that none of the entries this year were worthy of an award.

DAVID A. BROWN DEAD; DIRECTED THE J. D. C. CAMPAIGN AFTER WORLD WAR I.

DETROIT, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- David A. Brown, who was one of the leading figures of the Joint Distribution Committee in the years after World War I, was buried here today following memorial services held at Temple Beth El Brown Memorial Chapel. The chapel was named in his honor when the synagogue was built 35 years ago. Mr. Brown died in New York City this week. He was 83 years old.

Brought to Detroit from Edinburgh, Scotland, Mr. Brown entered business in 1896, founding a number of firms. In 1921, as national chairman of the JDC, he directed a campaign to raise \$14,000,000, a sum considered fantastic at the time. The goal was oversubscribed.

He headed a commission to investigate the conditions of European Jews in 1922 and in 1924 toured the United States and Canada for the Palestine Foundation Fund. He served on the JDC board from 1920 to 1937 and the board of the Palestine Economic Corporation from 1926 to 1936. He toured the United States for the Keren Hayesod in 1924. His activities received recognition when he was awarded the Zeta Beta Tau Gottheil Medal in 1926.

M. GERTZ, WELL-KNOWN JEWISH WRITER, DIES IN RIGA; WAS 67 YEARS OLD

VIENNA, Dec. 25. (JTA) -- M. Gertz, well-known Latvian Yiddish writer and humorist, who was also known by the name, Hertz Movshowitch, has died in Riga, according to word received here today. Death, at the age of 67, came of a heart attack.