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## ISRAEL CABINET VOTES TO RECOMMEND DIRECT ELECTION SYSTEM FOR MAYORS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet voted yesterday to recommend a change in the system of electing municipal mayors from indirect to direct elections. The Cabinet passed the measure after a heated dispute during which one Minister walked out, it was learned today.

Until now, Mayors have been elected by City Councillors who, themselves, are chosen on party lists and not on the basis of individual choice. Prime Minister David Ben Gurion sponsored the bill changing the system to direct elections. The bill was opposed by the leftist parties. Leading the opposition was Minister of the Interior Israel Bar Yehuda, of Achdut Avodah, who tried strenuously to line up support for his views, especially from the Progressive Party.

Before a vote was taken on the measure, Mr. Bar Yehuda and Mr. Ben Gurion exchanged heated arguments, and the Interior Minister walked out of the Cabinet meeting. The bill was passed, providing for a ministerial committee which will formulate new legislation to be presented to the Parliament.

## DEVALUATION OF CURRENCY IN FRANCE MAY AFFECT ISRAEL-FRENCH TRADING

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Devaluation of the French franc is expected to result unfavorably as far as Israeli-French trade is concerned. Devaluation means that Israel will be able to buy less in the French market with the francs available to Israel under the terms of the trade agreement between the two countries.

Treasury circles predict that the new French loan to Israel will not be affected by the devaluation of the French franc, since that loan was negotiated in terms of dollars. However, an earlier \$15,000,000 loan may be affected, since it was pegged to the French franc. If that earlier loan is affected, this will be the second time its purchasing power has gone down, its value having dropped due to a previous French devaluation in Aug., 1957.

It is too early to measure how the coming into existence of the Common European Market will influence trade between France and Israel. The very nature of the Common Market, however, automatically puts Israel in a less favorable position than member countries of the Common Market, when it comes to selling Israeli products to France.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange and Bourse were quiet today, and no reaction was felt here to the monetary changes in Western Europe. Small increases were registered yesterday afternoon in the dollar and gold prices before the Bourse closed.

Israeli export circles were puzzled by the fiscal changes in Europe, but there were no instructions from the Government Treasury or from the Bank of Israel. It is believed that reports to come in from Israeli economic attaches in various European capitals will enable Israeli exporters to consider the situation resulting from the fiscal changes in Europe.

Israeli exporters may face fiercer competition in European markets. They may have to cut prices and increase quality of production to meet competition.

## DROUGHT IN ISRAEL AFFECTS WATERS OF YARKON RIVER; PRAYERS FOR RAIN HELD

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Special prayers for rain were recited in synagogues throughout the country today, as the drought continued to parch the Israeli lands that have felt very little or no rain at all during this winter's "rainy" season.

Bedouin tribes in the southern Negev sought vainly for new pastures--and found none. The lack of rain has affected the subterranean wells. Even the waters of the Yarkon River, which feed waters to parts of the Negev, were extremely low.

Coupled with the damages caused recently by the swarms of locusts, the drought is affecting Israel's agricultural economy to an extent which is beginning to provoke great concern in government circles. As a result of the two misfortunes, the prices of fodder have risen. Irrigation has also been reduced because of the drying-up of water sources.

## JEWISH AGENCY DISMISSES 500 EMPLOYEES; INTRODUCES ECONOMY MEASURES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency is implementing the decision to reduce its staff for economy reasons by dismissing 500 members of the Agency staffs, it was reported here today. Four hundred members of the administrative staff have been dismissed, and 100 more will be dismissed in the next three months.

The Jewish Agency executive today approved unanimously a plan to take the Israel Government into partnership in Zim Navigation Company. The line is now owned jointly by the Agency and by Histadrut, the Israeli Federation of Labor.

In the past, the Government had granted loans amounting to tens of millions of pounds for purchase of new ships under the German-Israel Reparations Agreement. Under the new plan, these loans would be converted into a direct investment in the navigation company on the part of the Government.

The Agency executive approved the dates February 26-March 6 as the period for the next session of the Zionist Actions Committee. Dr. Nahum Goldmann, world president of the Agency, is expected to arrive here February 8.

## ISRAELI JOURNALISTS END BOYCOTT OF KNESSET; COMPROMISE REACHED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The parliamentary correspondents who have been boycotting Parliament for a week returned to their assignments today, after a compromise was worked out, calling for a month's trial of new regulations to which the correspondents had objected.

The meeting was between the correspondents, newspaper editors, and Parliament's House Committee. It was decided that, while the month's trial of the new rules is being made, the joint committee will try to formulate new regulations.

The press correspondents had started their boycott of Parliament's sessions when new rules were put into effect, forbidding them to mix with members of parliament in the building's restaurant and lounges.

## JEWS, MOSLEMS, CHRISTIANS AND DRUZES IN ISRAEL ESTABLISH JOINT BODY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- An Israel Interfaith Committee was established here last night--to foster cultural interchanges among the various religious communities in this country, and to advance mutual understanding while fighting against discrimination.

The committee was established at a meeting at the home of Dr. Benjamin Mazar, president of the Hebrew University. In attendance were the elite among the country's intellectuals, Jewish, Moslem, Druze and Christian. Dr. Mazar was chosen chairman of the committee.

An honorary presidium was chosen, consisting of ex-Premier Moshe Sharett; Prof. Martin Buber; Zalman Shazar, of the Jewish Agency executive; Mayor Amin Djarjura, of Nazareth, who is a Christian; and Suhil Shukri, leader of the Moslems in Haifa.

## AMERICAN EDUCATOR LAUDS ISRAEL'S TREATMENT OF NATIONAL MINORITIES

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Israel could teach the nations of the world "a fine lesson on relations with minorities," a prominent American educator who is a member of President Eisenhower's Commission on Civil Rights, declared today.

The statement was made in Galilee by Dr. Robert Storey, after touring Arab areas in northern Israel. Dr. Storey is dean of Southern Methodist University Law School, and is also chairman of the United States Board of Foreign Scholarships which implements the American government's program of Fulbright scholarships.

## FRENCH GOVERNMENT URGED TO TRANSFER ISRAEL EMBASSY TO JERUSALEM

PARIS, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The French Government was asked today by Andre Blumel, president of the Zionist Federation of France, to move its Embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Such a move would serve as an example for the other Great Powers, M. Blumel stressed. He pointed out that it could draw no objections from the United Nations, since Israel had given every assurance of the protection of the Holy Places in the city. He asked the de Gaulle Government to make "de facto the de jure position of Jerusalem."

## ISRAEL AND LIBERIA CONCLUDE TREATY OF FRIENDSHIP AND COMMERCE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Israel and Liberia concluded a treaty of friendship and a commerce and navigation agreement, it was announced here last night. Israel has pledged to provide Liberia with experts, know-how and capital in industry, agriculture and irrigation.

## RUMANIA MAY PERMIT EVERY JEW IN THE COUNTRY TO EMIGRATE TO ISRAEL

PARIS, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Rumania issued more than 3,000 visas to Jews emigrating to Israel in November, exceeded that number this month, and may permit anyone of its 240,000 Jews to emigrate to Israel, the newspaper Le Monde here reported today.

A special registry has been opened in Bucharest, capital of Rumania, to facilitate registry of Jews who wish to leave for Israel, the French newspaper reported. Those who were given visas at first are Jews who registered for Israel emigration in the last three years.

According to Le Monde, the Rumanian Government's decision to let the Jews leave "is not a gesture of humanitarianism," but rather a decision by the authorities to "rid themselves" of a minority that can not be assimilated. The departure of the Jews, according to the newspaper's interpretation of the opinion of Rumanian government leaders, would also leave open a number of desirable jobs, and free certain economic sectors for other citizens of the country.

Members of the Communist Party in Rumania have reportedly pressed for the eviction of the Jews, so that Communists and their hangers-on could take over some good jobs now held by Jews. Le Monde believes that, in Russia, Premier Nikita Khrushchev would also be willing to permit mass emigration of Jews, but fears to do so lest he offend his Arab friends by aiding enlargement of Israel's population.

## 26,000 JEWISH NEWCOMERS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL IN 1958, AGENCY REPORTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Of a total of 26,000 new Jewish immigrants who arrived in this country in 1958, more than 11,000 came here in the last three months, according to figures disclosed today by the Jewish Agency. About half of the total of the new arrivals came from Eastern Europe.

The Agency also announced today the manner in which the monies will be used from the semi-compulsory 20,000,000-pound loan now being raised. All the funds will be used in connection with immigration. Half of the money will be spent on transportation, maintenance in transit camps and economic assistance to the immigrants upon their arrival in this country.

The funds will be used in connection with a further influx of immigrants, whose total this fiscal year is expected to top previous estimates by 16,000. The fiscal year ends next March 31st.

## GERMAN PROSECUTOR REJECTS REQUEST FOR BAN ON ANTI-SEMITIC LITERATURE

MUNICH, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- A request by the Bavarian Council of Jews for confiscation of anti-Semitic literature being printed here and distributed from a Munich office has been turned down by the Prosecutor pending further inquiries.

The Council had complained against the periodicals "Cel" and "Hidverok," published here by a Hungarian refugee group whose members formerly belonged to the anti-Semitic "Arrow Cross." The Jewish group also demanded confiscation of a book by Lajos Marschalko, called "The World Conquerors," which is written in the style of the notorious anti-Semitic forgery, "The Protocols of Zion."

According to the Prosecutor's office, Marschalko and his printer, H. Ledermueller, have admitted that they have printed some of the offensive material, but claimed that it was distributed only out of this country, particularly in England. The Prosecutor ruled that confiscation would be possible only if a copy of the English text is furnished to him.

## ACTION AGAINST PERSONS SPREADING ANTI-JEWISH HATRED SOUGHT IN GERMANY

KIEL, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The Ministry of Culture was requested today by the Social Democratic Party in the Schleswig-Holstein Parliament to suspend a high school teacher, Lothar Stielau, who is accused of making racist remarks against Jews and Negroes. Stielau is district leader of the neo-Nazi Deutsche Reichspartei in Luebeck.

Reinfried Freunek, a male nurse in a Munich sanitarium, has been indicted on a complaint by the Weiden Jewish community of violating the state law prohibiting the spreading of national and racial hatred. The man is accused of having stated that "all Jews ought to be exterminated," and of having said that, if extermination camps were to be re-established, he would volunteer "to give deadly injections to the rest of the Jews."

East Germany may permit the Frankfurt prosecutor to inspect the personal records of Otto Schweinsberger, suspended public prosecutor in the Hesse Ministry of Justice, who is accused of having quashed court proceedings against an army official charged with murdering 75 Jews in the Caucasus during World War II.

Dr. Schweinsberger is under house arrest while the probe of his activities under the Nazi regime is under way. He was a judge during the Nazi regime. A week ago, when it was found that he had booked air passage for Cairo, police surveillance over his moves was tightened.

### ISRAEL HEALTH AUTHORITIES ALARMED AT INCREASING HAIFA AIR POLLUTION

HAIFA, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Attacking a problem of increasing alarm to Israel public health authorities, the sanitary engineering laboratories of Technion will shortly begin an air pollution survey of Haifa, it was learned here today.

Professor Alberto Wachs, head of the laboratories--who is a United Nations expert on health problems--pointed out that "unless appropriate action is taken, Haifa may experience the same fate as other industrial cities of the world, plagued by atmosphere pollution. The results can be not only public discomfort, but also damage and untold losses to industry and agriculture." Explaining some of the causes for this condition, Prof. Wachs pointed to the increase of industrial activity in the Haifa Bay area, and the specific climatic and topographical characteristics of this section of the country.

The District Office of the Ministry of Health, recognizing the inherent dangers of air pollution, appealed to the Technion sanitary engineers for a basic plan of action for the first stages of a survey to determine the extent and nature of the contamination. Both the Ministry and the Haifa Municipality have contributed funds for the execution of such a study. Technion will provide manpower and laboratory facilities as a public service.

According to the investigation plan, stations will be set up throughout Haifa and its environs to collect samples of dust and gaseous contaminants in the air. The samples will then be investigated in the sanitary engineering laboratories at Technion City to determine the over-all level of pollution in the area. The degree to which changing climatic conditions influence the contamination will also be measured. The results of the survey will provide a clear picture of the state of pollution, and thus make possible the adoption of measures of control.

### ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION REPORTS GRANTS FOR JEWISH INSTITUTIONS

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Two grants to Israeli scientific institutions, and one to a prominent Jewish community center in this city, were made in 1957 by the Rockefeller Foundation, according to the annual 1957-1958 report made public here today by Dean Rusk, president of the Foundation.

In the category of grants "with long-range relation to the world's food supply," a grant of \$50,000 was awarded to the National Physical Laboratory at Jerusalem, Israel. The fund is to be used for research in solar energy. To aid research in virology at the Virus Laboratory of the Israel Ministry of Health, a grant of \$62,000 was given to the Israel Foundations Trustees at Jerusalem.

Among the awards to aid the arts, the Young Men's and Young Women's Hebrew Association of New York (known as the "92nd Street Y") received \$20,600 for development of the Y's poetry center.

### U. S. GRANTS \$117,345 TO JEWISH VOCATIONAL INSTITUTION IN PHILADELPHIA

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- A three-year grant of \$117,345 for Sheltered Workshop of the Jewish Employment and Vocational Service from the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare has been approved by the State Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

The grant, allocated at \$39,115 per year, was made to intensify the program of the workshop and to extend its services to a greater portion of the community. It provides for the addition of seven professional psychologists and counselors to the workshop staff.

Leon C. Sunstein, Jr., JEVS president, explained that the agency's workshop operates to provide a short term work adjustment program to disabled people with emotional problems. "The purpose of the program," he continued, "is to increase the employability of these people so that they may be placed on jobs in private industry."

### 15 ARABS RECEIVE ISRAEL GOVERNMENT AWARDS FOR LITERARY WORKS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Fifteen young Arab citizens of Israel have been awarded government prizes for literary works including poetry novels, short stories and drama. Among the winners is a 13-year-old boy from a Northern Galilee village who won an award for a lengthy ode in classic Arabic, commemorating Israel's tenth anniversary.

### HARRY GREENSTEIN LEADERSHIP AWARD ESTABLISHED IN BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Louis J. Fox, retiring president of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Baltimore, who has been active nationally in the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, announced today the establishment of the "Harry Greenstein Leadership Award" to encourage the development of new leaders, and to provide recognition for young men who have outstanding leadership qualities.

The award is named in honor of the Welfare Fund's executive director, Harry Greenstein. Succeeding Mr. Fox as president of the Jewish Welfare Fund is Julius Offit, who will also serve as chairman of the 1959 Combined Campaign of the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund.