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ISRAELI FIGHTER PLANES INTERCEPT FOUR EGYPTIAN MIG'S NEAR BEERSHEBA

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- A patrol of Israeli jet fighters today intercepted four Egyptian MIGs over Israel territory only 20 miles from Beersheba and promptly engaged them.

Two of the Egyptian planes turned tail and fled as soon as they spied the Israeli Mysteres, an Israel Army spokesman revealed tonight. The other two made a fight for it but soon gave up and streaked for the border.

Four weeks ago Israeli fighters on patrol over the Negev sighted a flight of Egyptian MIGs and shot one down.

JEWISH AGENCY BOOSTS IMMIGRATION ESTIMATES; EXPECTS 100,000 NEWCOMERS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency, again boosting 1959 immigration estimates, predicted today that the total this year will surpass 80,000 newcomers and may even approach 100,000.

The Israel budget drafted several weeks ago assumed an immigration of 40,000. But Dov Joseph, Jewish Agency treasurer, predicted earlier this week that the total would be above 50,000. The increase was understood to be due to the latest developments in several East European countries which have liberalized exit policies for Jews to a larger extent than had been expected.

The impact of the corresponding absorption burdens has led officials to plan a special effort to increase income from the United Jewish Appeal. Levi Eshkol, Israel's Finance Minister, who is now in the United States, will be followed next week by Abraham Harman, Jewish Agency executive member, and it was considered possible that Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, would soon make another visit to the United States.

It was also reported that it has been suggested that even Prime Minister David Ben Gurion should visit the United States for that purpose, in order to stimulate maximum aid of U.S. Jewry for the absorption of the newcomers.

Jewish Agency Establishes Transit Camps in Vienna, Athens, Naples

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency has established three transit camps in Vienna, Athens and Naples to handle the wave of Israel-bound immigrants anticipated from Eastern Europe. Eran Laor, European member of the Agency, announced here today on the eve of his departure for Vienna to inspect the temporary facility there.

A large number of the immigrants are being flown from Europe directly to Israel to cut down on their stay in the transient set-ups, Mr. Laor revealed. The remainder travel by sea. In all, 7,000 immigrants are expected to make their way to Israel this month, an increase of 2,000 over the December figure.

Three-Day Conference on Aid to Israel Opens in New York Today

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Wider economic aid to Israel in 1959 to help her provide employment and housing for the stepped-up influx of immigration, most of it from Eastern European countries, will be planned at the three-day national conference of 500 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada which opens tomorrow at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel under the auspices of the Israel Bond Organization.

Levi Eshkol, Israel's Minister of Finance, arrived in the United States yesterday on a special trip to report on Israel's economic achievements and needs at this week-end meeting. The conference will also be addressed by Israel Ambassador Abba Eban. Other speakers at the conference will be Abraham Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization, Dr. Joseph Schwartz, vice president; Ira Guilden, national campaign chairman; Samuel Rothberg, chairman of trustees; Lawrence G. Laskey, chairman of the executive committee, and others.

HAMMARSKJOLD'S VISIT TO MIDDLE EAST MAY RESULT IN PRESSURE ON ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Israel can expect increasing pressure in the coming months to make concessions on the Palestine Arab refugee question, experienced observers here believe. They base the prediction on developments revolving about United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold's present visit to the Middle East and indications from abroad.

One of the purposes of Mr. Hammarskjold's trip to the Middle East was the disquiet of UN member states over the refugee situation. With the UN Relief and Work Agency for the refugees due to die in 1960, many states would like to see steps taken toward a solution of the problem. The Western Powers and many neutrals agree that Israel cannot bear sole responsibility for a solution of the problem, but seem to feel that an Israeli contribution would help break the ice.

Pressure for Israeli actions expected on four points: Israeli acceptance of the principle of the refugee's right to choose freely between repatriation under conditions set by Israel and compensation; Israel's declaration of willingness to accept a "symbolical number" of refugees; initiation of compensation payments even before a final solution is achieved, and some measures of UN control over abandoned Arab property and income therefrom.

TURKEY DENIES COMMUNIST REPORTS OF PLOTTING WITH ISRAEL AGAINST ARABS

ISTANBUL, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Turkey denied last night that Ankara was making a "secret anti-Arab deal" with Israel. Reports of a so-called deal were launched in the Arab states. The semi-official Anatolian News Agency carried the following statement:

"It is learned that some unfounded, ridiculous reports are circulating in brotherly Arab countries that Turkey, with the United States and Britain, has concluded a secret agreement with Israel against the Arab countries. This is unfounded propaganda which is a new manifestation of the international Communist provocation and is designed to undermine relations between Turkey and the West with the Arab countries."

ISRAEL RECOGNIZES CASTRO REGIME IN CUBA; SENDS FORMAL COMMUNICATION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Israel today extended formal recognition to the new regime in Cuba. Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, in a cable to the new Cuban Foreign Ministry, said Israel wished to continue relations and sincere friendship and mutual understanding with Cuba.

Mrs. Meir today entered Beilison Hospital for what was described as a routine three-day check-up. Prior to her visit to the United States last autumn to attend the United Nations General Assembly, Mrs. Meir underwent surgery at the hospital.

CINEMA OWNERS IN ISRAEL AGREE TO DISCONTINUE IMPORTS OF GERMAN FILMS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Picketing and boycott by former partisans and organizations of Nazi victims in Israel have forced cinema owners to agree to call off the importation of further German-language films for exhibition here.

However, the cinema owners association is continuing negotiations with the picketing group to permit showing of those films which have already been brought into Israel. Many of these were brought here by immigrants who used this means of transferring capital which otherwise they would have been forced to abandon when they emigrated.

MAPAI "YOUTH" WING, LED BY DAYAN, SHOWS STRENGTH AT PARTY'S ELECTION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Some 125,000 Israelis, totalling 75 percent of the party membership, participated in the intraparty elections in the Mapai movement, it was revealed today.

Although final results will not be known for about a week, it is already certain that such "youth" leaders as Gen. Moshe Dayan and Shimon Peres, director general of the Defense Ministry, are already assured of election to the party's central leadership.

Counting is still proceeding in most branches, but it is believed that the new Dayan-led "youth" group made a strong showing in party clubs. However, they were trounced in lodges with a strong trade union membership.

QUICK ACTION AGAINST LOCUSTS REDUCED DAMAGE TO CROPS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Quick action with crop-dusting planes and trucks against Israel's worst locust invasion in 43 years this winter reduced the damage to crops to the least of any of the invasions, the Ministry of Agriculture reported today.

Crop losses were also reported by the Jordanian press to be substantial in the Arab country. A shortage of fodder resulting from the drought and insect damage has forced farmers to sell sheep at \$1.50 a head and camels at \$5.50.

JEWS DISSATISFIED WITH DILATORY HANDLING OF THEIR CLAIMS BY AUSTRIA

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Dissatisfaction with dilatory Austrian Government handling of Jewish claims for indemnification was voiced here today at an annual meeting of the Council of Jews from Austria in Great Britain. In a resolution, the delegates appealed to the Vienna authorities to meet the just demands of Jewish victims of Nazism without further delay.

ANTI-SEMITISM GROWING IN GERMANY, LONDON TIMES REPORTS; LISTS INCIDENTS

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Anti-Semitism seems to be growing again in West Germany, despite the fact that there are less than 30,000 Jews living there, the Times of London reported today.

"Apparently the mere memory of the Jewish race seems sufficient to goad a number of Germans into making anti-Semitic statements," the Times said. The daily listed a number of recent acts involving anti-Semitism, including the incident involving Ludwig Zind, the Offenburg High School teacher convicted of shouting publicly that "not enough Jews were gassed," and the suspension Wednesday of two restitution officials of Hesse.

The Times suggested that the renewal of German anti-Semitism might be explained by the survival in public office of so many ex-Nazis. It pointed out that while the West German Federal Government has made financial restitution to Jewish victims of Nazism, the continuance of former Nazis in office "could keep the poison flowing and suggest to others that anti-Semitism will be condoned."

GERMAN ADVOCATING EXTERMINATION OF ALL JEWS FACES TRIAL

BONN, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The trial of Reinfried Freuneck, a German male nurse charged with having publicly declared that "all the Jews should be exterminated" will resume tomorrow in Berchtesgaden when the chief witness against him will testify from a sanatorium bed in that town.

The trial opened here with the prosecutor charging that Freuneck had violated the law against spreading racial hatred when he called for the extermination of Jews and offered to "volunteer to give poison injections to all surviving Jews." Co-complainants against Freuneck are two members of the Weiden Jewish community.

A committee of former prisoners at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp protested today that two of the witnesses who appeared at the trial of former Sachsenhausen camp guards Gustave Sorge and Wilhelm Schubert were themselves implicated in the killing of numerous prisoners.

They named witness Fritz Kornemi, chief of police in Cologne, as a former investigator for the Chief of the SS Security Section who organized a conspiracy against the prisoners in the camp, and shot 27 of them including three members of the Reichstag. The second witness, Cologne policeman Kurt Erdman, was identified as chief of the political section at Sachsenhausen who assisted in the executions ordered by Kornemi.

GERMAN POLICEMAN SUSPENDED FOR MAKING ANTI-SEMITIC REMARKS IN CAFE

FRANKFURT, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- A policeman in the town of Koeppern, a small mountain town in Hesse, has been suspended for making anti-Semitic remarks in a cafe owned by Kurt Sumpf, a Jewish resident of the town. The suspension was announced by the provincial Ministry of Justice.

The policeman, Johann Gallus, assigned to investigate the beating of Sumpf by 13 residents of Koeppern, is alleged to have made anti-Semitic remarks in the cafe. The 13 were subsequently indicted for beating Sumpf and for other attacks on the members of the Sumpf family.

TWO GERMAN SCHOOLS CARRYING THE NAME OF ANTI-SEMITE TO BE RENAMED

KIEL, Germany, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The Schleswig-Holstein Ministry of Culture has announced that two schools in this province named for an anti-Semitic German writer, Adolf Bartels, will have new names shortly.

The decision to rename the schools followed public protests last November when Bartel's 96th anniversary was marked in his native town, Wesselburen. As early as 1907 Bartels viciously attacked Jews in a volume "Jewry in German Literature" and, somewhat later, in "Heine Genossen." His hate mongering was honored by the Nazi regime.

NEO-NAZI GROUP OF GERMAN STUDENTS FORMED IN BERLIN; FIRST IN CITY

BERLIN, Jan. 8 (JTA) -- For the first time since World War II ended, a German student group with neo-Nazi leanings has been established in this city.

The Federation of National Students, which is closely allied to the neo-Nazi German Reich Party, has an important plan in its platform the fighting of "increased foreign influence on German culture." Thus far, the student group has not received its charter to operate.

U. N. BODY TOLD OF SUPPRESSION OF JEWISH RELIGION; ASKED TO ACT

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The suppression of Jewish religion in a number of unnamed countries was cited today at a meeting of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities which is now in session here. The Subcommittee, a United Nations unit, is currently debating a report dealing with religious rights and practices in countries which are UN members.

Attention was drawn to the suppression of Jewish religion in some countries by Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, speaking on behalf of the World Jewish Congress. Pointing out that the United Nations has specialized agencies which concern themselves specifically with guarantees against discrimination in labor, on one hand, and education, on the other, Dr. Perlzweig told the meeting that the UN itself must guard the equivalent rights in the field of religion.

The WJC spokesman told the subcommittee that he personally, as a practicing rabbi, had experienced instances in synagogues "on three continents" where the Jewish religious services were conducted "as though they were clandestine." That experience, he said, showed that all religions must be given the right to practice their faiths publicly as well as privately.

The WJC representative also asked the subcommittee to establish among its basic rules a provision that parents must have the right to provide religious instruction for their children "in and through the religious community" of their own choice.

A third important freedom, said Dr. Perlzweig, must be the right of churches, synagogues and temples to have open contact with their religious community, nationally or internationally. "To deny facilities for cooperation in the service of common aims," he stated, "makes a mockery of freedom of religion."

FALK FOUNDATION GRANTS \$76,500 FOR THE AMERICAN ASSEMBLY CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The Maurice and Laura Falk Foundation of Pittsburgh has granted \$76,500 for the 15th conference of the American Assembly, it was announced here today. The parley, to be held between April 30 and May 3, will be devoted to a discussion of wages, prices, profits and productivity.

The American Assembly is a non-partisan conference and discussion unit under the auspices of Columbia University which was founded in 1950 by President Eisenhower, then president of Columbia. Participants include representatives of labor, industry, government and the public.

HAGANAH MEDAL AWARDED POSTHUMOUSLY TO GEN. ORDE WINGATE

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Charles Orde Wingate, 16-year-old son of the British war hero Gen. Orde Wingate, who died in an air crash in Burma, today accepted a Haganah medal awarded posthumously to his father.

Wingate was a British officer who befriended the Jewish community of Palestine in the days before and during the late World War, and who helped train the self-defense cadres which as the Haganah, protected the Jewish community against Arab massacres. He helped put the community on a war footing to resist the anticipated Nazi breakthrough by Rommel in North Africa.

DR. GERSHON GELBART, JEWISH EDUCATOR, DIES; ADVISED JEWISH AGENCY

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Dr. Gershon Gelbart, noted Jewish educator and educational consultant for the Department of Education and Culture of the Jewish Agency and the American Association for Jewish Education, died here today suddenly. A graduate of Herzliyah Gymnasium in Tel Aviv, Dr. Gelbart received his Ph.D. from Dropsie College where he held the Oscar S. Straus Fellowship.

For a number of years he was an instructor at Graetz College in Philadelphia and at the University of Omaha. More recently he lectured at the School of Education of New York University. After World War II, he was director of education for the Joint Distribution Committee in Italy. He devoted much of his time to research in Jewish education and was a member of a number of learned societies.

DR. JOSEPH THON, ZIONIST LEADER, DIES IN NEW YORK; WAS ACTIVE IN POLAND

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph Thon, veteran Zionist leader, died early this morning after a short illness in the French Hospital here. He was 50 years of age. Born in Zurawno, Poland, he came to this country in 1941 and became national director of the Tourist Department of the Zionist Organization of America.

An active Zionist since his early boyhood, Dr. Thon occupied many high posts in the Polish and world Zionist movements. Among the numerous posts he held were those of vice president of the General Zionist Organization of Poland in 1935 through 1939; member of the Administrative Committee of the World Zionist Organization of the World Jewish Congress.