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BUCHAREST SAYS 'HUMANITARIAN GROUNDS' MOTIVATE RELEASE OF JEWS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- The Bucharest Radio broadcast a statement today officially confirming that the Rumanian Government, acting on "humanitarian grounds," had authorized the emigration of Jews from Rumania who had been separated from their families during World War II and subsequently.

The broadcast denied that "a massive exodus" of Jews was taking place from Rumania and other Communist countries to Israel and accused "Western imperialists" of spreading such reports with the deliberate intention of harming relations between Rumania and the United Arab Republic.

The broadcast asserted that the 1956 census showed there were 146,000 Jews in Rumania and declared that "only a small percentage" of them desired to go to Israel.

The Bucharest emission, quoted here by radio monitors, was believed to be the first official public statement by the Rumanian Government on the unexpected change in its policy to permit the Jews to leave the country.

The broadcast denied reports of anti-Semitism in Rumania and indignantly rejected suggestions that Rumania was forcing the Jews to leave.

Moscow Radio Promises Arabs Soviet Jews Will Not Go to Israel

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- The Soviet radio, in an Arabic-language broadcast beamed to the Near East, categorically denied today that Jewish emigration to Israel would be permitted from the Soviet Union. The Soviet commentator called reports that Soviet Jews would be permitted exit to Israel "fabricated news... inspired by colonialist circles which aim at implanting the seeds of doubt and distrust of Soviet policy among the Arabs."

The broadcaster asserted that there had been no change in the policy of "sincere friendship followed by the Soviet Union toward the Arabs." He declared that "it must be understood by all that the principles of Soviet foreign policy are unchanged and that this policy has always aimed at supporting fully the Arab people."

VIENNA EXPECTS INCREASED FLOW OF EMIGRANTS FROM RUMANIA TO ISRAEL

VIENNA, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- New peaks in the flow of East European Jews to Israel were reported today as two Israel ships, the Artza and the Herzl, sailed from Naples with Rumanian and Polish Jews for Haifa while two more ships chartered by the Jewish Agency were to sail from Italy tomorrow.

Jewish Agency offices indicated here today that they expect the quickened tempo of the migration movement to continue and began to make preparations to handle an inflow here of several hundred daily.

A special train carrying 313 Rumanian Jews and 70 Jews from Poland left Vienna last night. Other Rumanian Jews left this morning for Israel on two El Al planes. Another 200 will be moved by air from Vienna tomorrow.

In recent days each train arriving here from Rumania has brought large groups of Jews. The Jews from Poland are being sent off the same day by the Jewish Agency from Vienna to Italy where they board ship for Haifa. Jews from Rumania remain here for a day.

The emigrants are escorted from Vienna to Naples by special Jewish Agency escorts. The Austrian authorities cooperate fully with the Jewish Agency officials and permit the stay over of the Rumanian emigrants although their transit visas are usually good only for a 24 to 48 hour period. Austrian policemen are assigned to each train carrying Jewish emigrants and escort them to the Italian frontier to facilitate their journey.

Jewish Agency officials here tended to disbelieve reports published abroad that Rumanian non-Jews, posing as Jews, had left Rumania in the Jerusalem transports. They said that no non-Jews had arrived here so far among the emigrants. There have been a few cases of inter-married couples but their number is trivial because inter-marriage is rare among Rumanian Jews. It was reported here that the Rumanian authorities have made difficulties for such couples, particularly when they have children whom the Rumanian officials considered non-Jewish.

Officials involved in handling the migration through Vienna expressed belief today that action by Rumanian officials at the Rumanian-Hungarian border in removing some emigrants from the Vienna-bound trains, as arrivals reported here yesterday, involved nothing more serious than technical formalities.

They said these cases would probably be straightened out in a day or two and the emigrants who were detained would be released to rejoin their families.

FEW ISRAELIS EXEMPT FROM ASSESSMENT FOR COMPULSORY IMMIGRATION LOAN

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- Finance Minister Levi Eshkol told the Israel Parliament today that just about every wage-earner in the country will be subject to assessment for the new 40,000,000-pound (\$22,220,000) loan imposed by the Government to help finance the cost of settling the new immigrants reaching Israel from Eastern Europe.

The loan assessment will approximate a ten percent increase in the wage-earners' income tax. The loan is repayable in 20 years and bears four percent interest.

A bachelor earning \$85 or more a month is subject to assessment for the loan, as is a married couple with income of \$110 or more monthly. A father of two children will be subject to the loan if his income is more than \$140 a month. The father of three will be affected if he makes more than \$170.

The Knesset resumed debate on the proposed budget for 1959-60 today. Since the estimates were originally presented two months ago, they have been swelled by an additional 185,000,000 pounds (\$102,000,000) to make the total 1,522 million pounds (\$845.6 million).

All of the additional budget requests except a 20,000,000 pound (\$11.1 million) item for drought relief for farmers, is in connection with the East European immigration.

Funds to offset these allocations are to be derived from the compulsory loan, from increased purchase taxes ranging up to 50 percent of the price of the commodities and higher customs. Additionally, additional contributions through the Jewish Agency are expected to bring 50,000,000 pounds (\$27.7 million) and a further 15,000,000 pounds (\$8,333,000) is earmarked from advance sales of Israel bonds.

SPECIAL FUND ALLOTTED TO SPEED WATER SEARCH IN NEGEV AFTER DROUGHT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- The Ministry of Development announced a special allocation of 1,000,000 pounds (\$555,000) today to speed up the search for water in the Negev, the southern desert. The action was a result of the severe drought in Israel this year which cost the country most of its winter crops. Most of the allocation will be used to finance additional geological surveys and to increase the number of borings.

ISRAELIS DIG OUT AFTER WINTER'S WORST STORM TIES UP COUNTRY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- Life in storm-battered Jerusalem slowly began returning to normal today as traffic, which had been paralyzed last night, moved slowly over slippery snow-covered streets. Side streets were full of stalled cars, but no major accidents were reported.

The unseasonal snow, which hit the Negev overnight, killed more than 200 sheep belonging to a Bedouin tribe. In many places in the Negev, the wind-tossed snow quickly melted and caused numerous small floods.

The Tel Aviv public works department dispatched snow-clearing equipment to the north, to dig out a number of Galilean settlements. The Port of Haifa radioed storm warnings to all ships at sea, suggesting that they put in at the nearest ports for shelter, as high seas endangered all water traffic. An Italian liner, the S.S. Anoteria, loaded with Jewish immigrants, had to take refuge at a port in Cyprus, according to a report received in Haifa.

ISRAELI CITIES CHALLENGE PLANNED INCREASE IN WATER CHARGES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- Emergency increases in water rates, proposed by the Ministry of the Interior to municipalities as a step to conserve water resources depleted by the lengthy winter drought, were protested today by officials of two of Israel's largest cities. The new rates are to enter into effect April 1.

The deputy mayors of Jerusalem and Haifa informed the Ministry that there was no waste of water in their cities and therefore no need to apply the Ministry "complicated rating system" to water users.

The waters of Lake Tiberias are potable, and thus no expensive purification facilities will be needed for use of the lake's waters for domestic consumption, a scientific report completed today by Technion scientists established. As a result of the survey, plans can now be made to pipe Tiberias waters to remote areas where the waters will be used both for irrigation and drinking purposes.

A new laboratory and pilot plant to de-salt brackish water, financed by the American Cultural Program for Israel, has been opened at the Negev Research Institute in Beer-sheba. The method used in the pilot plant is "electrical filtering" of water through salt-accumulating membranes.

FRENCH PREMIER, ISRAEL ENVOY DISCUSS MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS

PARIS, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- Premier Michael Debre and Israel Ambassador Yaakov Tsur met last night for a 30-minute discussion on Middle East questions. The Israeli envoy said later that he had had a "most sympathetic hearing" and expressed the conviction that "there has been no change in the very fine relations which have existed between our two countries."

Earlier, Mr. Tsur addressed the Institute of National Defense, a staff school for high-ranking officers, to whom he gave a 45-minute talk on Israel. He then answered questions for an hour and a half on Israel, its Army and its economy.

BERLIN MUST PROVE GOERING WAS WAR CRIMINAL TO SEIZE HIS ESTATE THERE

BERLIN, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- The West Berlin denazification board will have to prove that Field Marshal Hermann Goering, Adolf Hitler's second in command and commander of the German Luftwaffe in World War II, was a major war criminal and not a victim of the Nazis if it is to seize property he left in this city valued at about 1,000,000 marks (\$250,000).

Goering escaped execution as a major war criminal by committing suicide after his conviction by the Nuremberg War Crimes Tribunal. Despite that conviction, under existing law, his guilt will have to be proven here. Under the second denazification law, property of convicted war criminals in the City of Berlin is subject to confiscation although that is not the case in other parts of West Germany.

Goering's widow, Frau Emmy Goering, who lives with her daughter Edda in Bavaria, has managed to secure the return of jewelry and other property which had been confiscated. She is expected soon to recover Goering's luxurious yacht, now anchored near Krefeld. The Goering property in Berlin, which is subject to confiscation, is said to include camouflaged bank accounts, paintings and sculptures.

RASH OF ANTI-JEWISH INCIDENTS REPORTED THROUGHOUT WEST GERMANY

BONN, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- A spate of new acts of anti-Semitic vandalism has occurred in various parts of West Germany in the last few days, and authorities are blaming Communists, saying that East German agents are inciting the West German population.

It was disclosed today that, a week ago, a high police official at Zweibruecken was suspended from the police force in that city on charges that he had insulted a Jewish innkeeper at Riessweiler and had been responsible for vandalism committed in the inn owned by the Jew.

Last week-end, anti-Semitic slogans and swastikas were painted on the walls of the Jewish cemetery at Aberg. Cemetery desecrations, some of them involving Christian burial grounds as well as Jewish, have been reported from Freiburg and Essen. Chief Prosecutor Hans Schneider reported here today that anti-Semitic slogans have appeared frequently in the last few weeks on house fronts and walls in cities throughout West Germany.

GERMAN AUTHORITIES DENY UNDERGROUND AIDED NAZI'S ESCAPE TO CAIRO

STUTTART, Germany, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- The Baden-Wuerttemberg Ministry of Justice denied today, in a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that Ludwig Zind, the Offenburg school teacher sentenced for anti-Semitic remarks, had been aided by an underground organization in his flight last October to Cairo.

A spokesman for the Ministry said that Zind had used the passport of his brother-in-law, Helmuth Vollmer, who died last September in Offenburg. Zind's wife and sister-in-law were sentenced to ten weeks' imprisonment each on charges of aiding the teacher to escape, but the sentences later were commuted.

The Ministry spokesman said that an investigation by the Ministry into Zind's successful flight from justice did not reveal any conditions calling for disciplinary action against Dr. Rudi Meyer, the Offenburg prosecutor. Dr. Meyer had been charged with negligence for not keeping Zind under police surveillance while the teacher's appeal was pending before the Federal Supreme Court.

Zind had been sentenced to a year's imprisonment for declaring publicly that "not enough Jews had been gassed." He was sentenced April 11 for libel and defamation of the dead after a jury had found him guilty of insulting Kurt Lieser, a merchant of half-Jewish descent.

INDEMNIFICATION OFFICIALS SUSPENDED FOR ANTI-JEWISH REMARKS

WIESBADEN, Germany, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- Suspension of two officials of the Wiesbaden Indemnification Bureau was announced here today by Heinrich Schneider, State Minister of the Interior for Hesse.

The men were accused of making anti-Semitic remarks about Jewish claimants, and of singing anti-Semitic songs during a party held in their office last December.

CHALLENGE INTRODUCTION OF PRAYER IN SCHOOLS OF LONG ISLAND DISTRICT

MINEOLA, L. I., N. Y., Feb. 25. (JTA) -- A legal dispute which may ultimately go as far as the U. S. Supreme Court has developed in the suburban community of Herricks over a prayer being recited by all 4,200 children in the district's seven schools.

Five parents, backed by the New York Civil Liberties Union, have brought suit against the Herricks School Board. They say that the prayer which now starts each school day constitutes a violation of the Constitutional guarantee of the separation of church and state.

Members of the school board, backed by what appears to be a majority of the parents in the school district, maintain that recitation of the prayer is in the best traditions of Americanism.

The case came before Nassau County Supreme Court Justice Bernard S. Meyer here yesterday. He reserved decision, pending the filing of briefs.

The prayer is one that was suggested to New York State schools in 1951 by the Board of Regents. It reads: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our country."

Proponents of the prayer say it is "innocuous." George Rundquist, executive director of the New York Civil Liberties, holds that it violates the principle of separation of church and state as well as the rights of individuals.

"We are not opposed to prayers," he declared today. "But we oppose their introduction into schools. When children speak of 'God'--the question arises: 'Whose concept of God?'"

WELFARE BOARD, U. A. H. C. REACH AGREEMENT ON PURCHASING SERVICES

NEW YORK, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- The National Jewish Welfare Board and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations have reached agreement on a plan to make available to the UAHC's 550 Reform temples the services and facilities of the JWB Central Purchasing Service, it was announced today.

Dr. Maurice N. Eisendrath, UAHC president, and Samuel D. Gershovitz, JWB executive vice-president, jointly announced the plan, which, effective March 1, will provide the Reform temples with catalogs and other mailings.

CALL TO MOBILIZE CANADIAN JEWRY TO AID EAST EUROPEAN JEWISH MIGRATION

MONTREAL, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- Canadian Jewish leaders began today an intensive drive to enlist all Jewish organizations in the country in an unprecedented campaign for funds to make possible maximum emigration of Jews from Eastern Europe to Israel.

Lawrence Freiman and Samuel Bronfman, co-chairmen of the National Fund Raising Council, in messages today to 150 leaders of major Jewish organizations in the country, summoned them to an emergency conference to be held in Toronto on March 8 to discuss a joint plan of action. The parley is expected to issue a call to Canadian Jewry to participate in the gigantic rescue effort.

OVER \$1,000,000 IN ISRAEL BONDS SOLD AT OPENING OF WEST COAST DRIVE

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- A total of \$1,250,000 in State of Israel Bonds was sold here at a dinner last night opening the bond campaign in this area.

Many Hollywood stars were present, among them actress Elizabeth Taylor, singer Eddie Fisher, and actors George Jessel, Eddie Cantor and Jack Benny. Miss Taylor purchased \$100,000 worth of bonds, and Mr. Fisher bought \$10,000 worth. A number of businessmen made up a "golden dais," each member of this group purchasing a minimum of \$50,000 worth of bonds.

N. Y. Women Open Drive to Sell \$1,500,000 in Israel Bonds

NEW YORK, Feb. 25. (JTA) -- A million and a half dollar campaign for sale of Israel Bonds was launched here today at a luncheon and fashion show conducted by the Greater New York Women's Division of the bond organization. Mrs. Isaac Stern, who presided, announced that \$250,000 worth of bonds were purchased by the 500 women in attendance.

U. N. NAMES ISRAELI AS CENSUS ADVISOR TO GHANA GOVERNMENT

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 25. (JTA) -- Benjamin Z. Gil, chief of the division of demographic and social statistics of Israel's Central Bureau of Statistics, was named by the United Nations today to help the new African republic of Ghana to conduct its first census as an independent nation. The appointment was made at the request of the Government of Ghana, under the United Nations Technical Assistance operations.