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### MOSCOW COMMENTS ON JEWISH EMIGRATION FROM RUMANIA; CITES RUMANIAN DATA

MUNICH, March 9. (JTA) -- A Moscow broadcast, quoting an article in the Soviet newspaper Trud, organ of the labor unions, today criticized reports that about 250,000 Jews from Rumania will reach Israel "within the next two or three years." The articles stressed that "according to the 1956 census in Rumania, there are only 146,264 Jews there."

The article especially attacked the Israel Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion. It said that the Israel Prime Minister "is pleased when anti-Semitism prevails somewhere, for it provokes emigration to Israel."

An attack on Israel has also appeared in Lvovskaya Pravda, Communist daily newspaper published in Lvov, the Soviet part of Galicia. The article said "bourgeois-nationalist propaganda" is being spread in Jewish communities in the Lvov district "with the help of reactionary circles in Israel."

### RATIONING OF CONSUMER GOODS MAY BE RESUMED IN ISRAEL, MINISTER WARNS

JERUSALEM, March 9. (JTA) -- Rationing of consumer commodities, suspended in the last month, may have to be resumed, Pinhas Sapir, Minister of Trade and Industry, warned here today. He issued a statement calling on Israelis not to throw away their old ration books because "you might be needing them again."

The government is giving intensive study to the problem of increased prices that have followed the increase in various taxes and customs duties, and the abolition of subsidies for some basic foodstuffs. There is a possibility that special sugar allowances for children may be reinstated. The government re-studies of the price structure have become necessary as a result of higher price increases on commodities than expected as a result of the recent economic changes.

Some of the taxes imposed only within the last week on certain commodities like sugar and coffee may be relaxed, and some of the new income taxes imposed on Israelis may be lightened, especially those that affect wage-earners in the lower-income bracket. These changes in fiscal policy were indicated last night in Tel Aviv at a public meeting by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol.

Protests against "suffocating taxes" were voiced at the meeting, and Mr. Eshkol conceded that some "relaxation" might be necessary. The commodity market here is unstable, and prices continue climbing. An emergency meeting was scheduled for today between a group of Israeli industrialists and Mr. Sapir. Wage policies as well as the scheduling of prices for commodities depend on the outcome of various demands for easing the new taxes.

The government today appointed a parliamentary committee to recommend retrenchments in government expenditures. The move follows demands for such cuts due to the heavy expenses being incurred as a result of the new wave of mass immigration into Israel. Members of the opposition, in the coalition government, are advocating a slash of five percent in government expenditures, and a freeze of new appointments on the Civil Service lists. It has also been proposed that all government jobs becoming vacant--whether by retirement, resignation or dismissal--be left unfilled.

### EGYPT DETAINS SHIP SAILING FROM HAIFA; ISRAEL MAY PROTEST TO U.N.

JERUSALEM, March 9. (JTA) -- For the first time since the Sinai campaign of 1956, Egypt has stopped a non-Israeli ship attempting to pass through the Suez Canal, after leaving an Israeli port. The ship, flying the Liberian flag, left Haifa last week, bound for the Far East. It has not yet completed its Canal passage.

Israeli authorities prefer at this time to believe that the Egyptian interference with this Canal passage may be due to technical, rather than political, reasons. However, the authorities indicated, Israel may complain against this interference to the United Nations Security Council, or it may "take other steps."

Meanwhile, there is concern here regarding another ship, a Greek freighter, which has also attempted to pass through the Suez. The Greek vessel left Haifa last Friday and was due to go through the Canal Saturday afternoon, but port authorities at Haifa have not yet received a report about its completion of the passage.

## ISRAEL REJOINS ARMISTICE COMMISSION; 1,700 COMPLAINTS WIPE OFF

JERUSALEM, March 9. (JTA) -- Israel today resumed its participation in the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission, and the immediate result, at today's full meeting of the Commission, was an agreement to wipe off the docket about 1,700 complaints from both sides accumulated since Israel suspended its MAC participation in the middle of 1956.

At that time, Israel announced it would not sit in the Commission--which is composed of two Israelis, two Jordanians, and a chairman representing the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. Israel's refusal to continue sitting in the Commission was due to its contention that the Commission was "totally ineffective" when it came to halting Arab infiltration into Israel or marauding by Arab gangs coming into Israel from the Jordanian side of the frontier.

After voting to quash the 1,700 complaints and counter-complaints from both sides, the full Commission at today's resumed meeting decided to attempt to implement the principle forbidding both sides to fire at persons crossing the frontier, if those persons are unarmed.

## GOLDA MEIR MEETS WITH STATE DEPARTMENT; WILL LEAVE U.S. THIS WEEK

WASHINGTON, March 9. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, held a half-hour conference today with Christian A. Herter, acting head of the State Department. After the conference, Mrs. Meir described the visit as a "courtesy call." In response to a question, she said that she is terminating her current visit to the United States at the end of this week, and returning home via Paris.

High-ranking U.S. officials and members of the diplomatic corps today attended a luncheon honoring Mrs. Meir. The luncheon, tendered by Ambassador Abba Eban, was attended by the British, Turkish, Mexican and other Ambassadors. Others in attendance included Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, Secretary of Labor James Mitchell, and a number of U.S. Senators. C. Douglas Dillon, Under Secretary of State for Economic Affairs, attended with William Rountree, Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern Affairs, and other State Department officials.

Brig. Gen. M. Elan, Israeli Army staff officer in charge of logistics, met in Washington today with high-ranking officials of the Department of Defense and U.S. Armed Forces. He conferred especially with officials concerned with logistics, and was a guest at logistics installations in the District of Columbia area. The Israeli General was welcomed by U.S. military authorities. Gen. Elan is deputy Chief of Staff of the Israel defense forces, and heads the logistics section.

Ambassador Eban was awarded honorary citizenship of the State of Maryland at a ceremony held in Baltimore yesterday, the Embassy of Israel announced.

## BEN GURION STRESSES ISRAEL'S ROLE AMONG AFRO-ASIAN NATIONS

TEL AVIV, March 9. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben Gurion declared here today that he does not foresee world war. Addressing the national convention of the Progressive Party, he declared:

"I do not share fears of a third world war. I know that America would not attack Russia. And, from my study of Communism, I know that it would refrain from such stupidity. Communism knows that, though it might destroy the West, it might also destroy the East."

However, the Prime Minister added, the cold war has another aspect, through its influence on the Afro-Asian nations which achieved independence, or are on the verge of independence during a period of revolution. "Those nations," he said, "do not want Communism. But, at the same time, they cannot afford pure capitalistic regimes."

Israel, said the Premier, has been approached for help by the new Afro-Asian states because "it has created a new society by combining freedom of creative man with some cooperation and equality."

A demand that the Progressive Party, which is at present the only non-Socialist group in Israel's coalition government, be given another Cabinet post was voiced at the convention by the Progressives' president, Dr. Pinhas Rosen, Minister of Justice.

## ERICH KOCH, NAZI LEADER, SENTENCED TO DEATH; KILLED THOUSANDS OF JEWS

VIENNA, March 9. (JTA) -- Erich Koch, Nazi gauleiter for parts of Poland and the Ukraine, convicted in a court at Warsaw last week as a war criminal responsible for the killing of at least 400,000 people, most of them Jews, was today sentenced by the Warsaw court to death.

Koch's sensation-filled trial, during which he denied any complicity in the many murders, and, at the same time, sneered and jeered at his accusers, lasted four months. Among the many witnesses brought by the Polish Government to testify against him were Jewish survivors from Nazi death camps who had been brought from a number of foreign countries, including Israel.

## ISRAEL WILL HAVE ADDITIONAL 500,000 JEWS BY 1964, DR. SCHWARTZ SAYS

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., March 9. (JTA) -- The prediction that Israel will absorb additional 500,000 Jews by 1964 was made here last night by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice president of the Israel Bond Organization, in winding up the four-day national inaugural conference of the organization, at which the new \$300,000,000 Israel Bond issue was launched.

Asserting that, during the past eight years, American economic support through Israel bonds has been the "backbone of Israel's economic progress," Dr. Schwartz pointed out that in its second decade of independence, Israel "must embark on a great new pioneering effort in the Negev to absorb additional 500,000 Jews by 1964."

Outlining the details of the proposed use of the proceeds from the new bond issue, Dr. Schwartz said: "The primary objective of the new bond issue is to provide investment funds to increase domestic production as well as to expand industrial and agricultural production for export. Since its formation, the State of Israel has, to the maximum extent possible, channeled funds into production investment: to increase cultivated and irrigated farmlands; to establish industrial plants and to develop the natural resources of the country; to build an adequate transportation and communications system; and to stimulate housing for accommodation of new immigrants."

The officers of the 1959 campaign to raise a minimum of \$75,000,000 through Israel bonds were announced by Abraham Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization. They are: Ira Guilden, New York financier who was named national campaign chairman; Lawrence G. Laskey, of Boston, chairman of the executive committee; Samuel Rothberg, of Peoria, national chairman of trustees of Israel bonds; Mrs. Joseph Cherner, of Washington; and Dr. Schwartz, vice president.

## JEWSH LEADERS PLAN CONFERENCES IN MANY CITIES TO AID U. J. A. DRIVE

NEW YORK, March 9. (JTA) -- City-wide conferences of major local Jewish organization leaders to mobilize the most extensive possible popular support for the 1959 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal are getting under way in communities across the country, Philip M. Klutznick, president of the newly set up Conference of Presidents for the 1959 Campaign of the United Jewish Appeal announced today.

The Conference of Presidents is a direct outgrowth of an ad-hoc committee formed by the emergency conference of major national Jewish organizations, held in New York last month. The Conference issued a declaration, expressing its determination to act in the emergency created by a mounting immigration of Jews from Eastern Europe. The ad-hoc committee--now the Conference of Presidents--was charged with the task of following up the emergency conference declaration, which called on the respective constituencies and members of the participating organizations throughout the country to give every possible assistance to meet the imperative immigration needs, including maximum support to the 1959 campaign of the UJA.

In two cities--Pittsburgh and Boston--leadership meetings have been held this week. In two others--St. Louis and Chicago--conferences are set for March 18 and 22, respectively. Mr. Klutznick, in reporting Conference developments, expressed his gratification at the indication of increased activity on the part of the cooperating organizations in UJA campaign-aid efforts. He announced that an aggregate of more than 500 representatives had already been designated by the participating groups in collective local community efforts in behalf of the 1959 UJA drive.

## Z. O. A. Mobilizes Full Scale Support of the U. J. A. Emergency Drive

NEW YORK, March 9. (JTA) -- A full-scale mobilization of Zionist forces in support of the emergency UJA campaign to finance the current mass immigration of Jews from Eastern Europe to Israel got under way yesterday with the convening in Boston of the first of three large area conferences summoned in response to a call by Abraham A. Redelheim, president of the Zionist Organization of America.

Key workers and leaders of ZOA regions and districts in all areas across the country have indicated their decision to attend these conferences, reflecting the fullest expression of Zionist initiative in rallying massive support for the special UJA campaign. In his call announcing the convening of the three geographically distributed area conferences, Mr. Redelheim underscored the great challenge posed by the new influx of East European Jews whose "absorption into the hard-pressed Israel economy is not the responsibility of Israel alone, but the responsibility of the Jewish people everywhere, particularly American Jewry."

The first ZOA area conference, in Boston, was attended by ZOA leaders from communities in New England, Connecticut and Rhode Island. The conference was addressed by Meir Grossman, member of the Jewish Agency executive in Jerusalem, and Dewey Stone, chairman of the United Israel Appeal and national co-chairman of the United Jewish Appeal. Pittsburgh will be the site of the second area conference, to be held on Sunday, March 22.

### JEWISH MAYOR ELECTED IN WORCESTER, SECOND LARGEST CITY IN MASS.

WORCESTER, Mass., March 9. (JTA) -- Joseph M. Kasdin, a Jew, was elected Mayor of this city--second largest city in the state--by balloting of the City Council here.

The election broke a deadlock of five weeks' duration. The former Mayor, James D. O'Brien, resigned late in January to become chairman of the State Alcoholic Beverage Commission. Since then, the Council could not agree on a successor. Finally, on the 327th ballot, Mr. Kasdin was elected.

The new Mayor, who is 45, now becomes, by city charter, also the president of the City Council, as well as chairman of the School Committee. The Mayor, in this city, performs no administrative duties.

### JEWISH YOUTH CENTER OPENS IN BRUSSELS WITH J. D. C. AID; 40TH IN EUROPE

BRUSSELS, March 9. (JTA) -- A new youth center for the Jewish Community of Brussels--the fortieth institution of the kind opened in Europe in the last five years--was dedicated here last night. The center is in a building remodeled and equipped with monies supplied by the Joint Distribution Committee and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, with the JDC additionally furnishing technical assistance. Responsibility for maintenance and operations of the Center now rests with the local Jewish community.

Charles H. Jordan, JDC director-general for overseas operations, attended the inaugural ceremonies. He pointed out that the Youth Center movement has added vital impetus toward revival of Jewish life throughout Europe. Prior to 1954, there was not a single center for Jewish youth in Europe, Mr. Jordan said, despite the fact that such centers are taken for granted in America as part of Jewish community life.

"Wherever these centers have been built," the JDC representative declared, "in Germany, France, Italy, Greece, Holland and the Scandinavian countries, they are proving themselves a focal point in Jewish life. They have become a major factor in the rebuilding of community life and institutions destroyed during more than a decade of Nazism and war."

The facilities of the new Center include a large auditorium, a gymnasium, classrooms, library, music and art studios and a snack bar. More than 100 members were enrolled in the Center prior to its dedication, and the full activity program is now under way. Speakers at the dedication exercises, in addition to Mr. Jordan, included Max Gottschalk, president of the Central Jewish Community of Brussels; and Charles Janssens, Mayor of the Borough of Izdies, where the Center is located.

### ORT TO GET REPORT ON VOCATIONAL TRAINING NEEDS OF THE FALASHA JEWS

GENEVA, March 9. (JTA) -- No decision on the possibilities of undertaking vocational and agricultural training by the World ORT Organization for the estimated 30,000 Falasha Jews in Ethiopia will be made by the ORT executive before June, it was learned here today.

Two ORT representatives, Robert Gilbert and Herman Guggenheim, who have made a study in Ethiopia among the Falasha Jews, will submit their findings to the executive of the organization in June. "A decision on their recommendations will be made only after the executive committee hears their report," an announcement issued by the ORT world headquarters here said.

### PIONEER WOMEN TO HOLD NATIONAL THREE-DAY CONVENTION IN CLEVELAND

NEW YORK, March 9. (JTA) -- The Pioneer Women, Women's Labor Zionist Organization of America, today announced that it will hold its national convention in Cleveland. The convention, which will open on September 13, will last three days, Mrs. Chaya Surchin, president of the organization, said.

One of the highlights of the convention would be the honoring of Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, who is this year being given international recognition for the completion of thirty years of political leadership in Israel. Pioneer Women will present Mrs. Meir with a citation in tribute to her distinguished record of service and leadership to Israel and the Zionist movement. Mrs. Meir is expected to attend the convention to personally receive the citation.

### JOSEPH MEYERHOFF NAMED PRESIDENT OF JEWISH CHARITIES IN BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE, March 9. (JTA) -- Joseph Meyerhoff, prominent Baltimore community leader, was named to succeed Abraham Krieger as president of the Associated Jewish Charities at the agency's 37th annual meeting here. Mr. Krieger retired from the presidency after three years of service. Mr. Meyerhoff, who has long been active in both local and national Jewish affairs, is presently president of the Palestine Economic Corporation, and a national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal.