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STATEMENTS IN ISRAEL ON RUMANIAN EMIGRATION CRITICIZED IN KNESSET

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- The question of the emigration of the Rumanian Jews to Israel, and the Arab steps to halt it, was raised today in the Parliament by Herut deputies who accused Prime Minister David Ben Gurion of making statements which led to sensational reports in the press.

Haim Landau, leader of the Herut party, charged that these statements had brought about concerted pressure action by the Arab states on the Soviet Union and Rumania to halt the emigration. He also asserted that a speech by Shimon Peress, Director General of Israel's Ministry of Defense--later broadcast over the Israel radio--disclosed security information and "gave the enemy cause for protesting against Jewish immigration into Israel on military grounds."

Premier Ben Gurion, replying to the charges, expressed regret over the fact that official statements and broadcasts had been made in Israel which were likely to endanger the immigration from Rumania. He admitted that there had been official lapses. However, he said, most of the disclosures were made by the overseas press over which Israel has no control. He said some efforts had been made to induce the foreign press to restrict its reports on the emigration from Rumania, but they were not always successful.

POSSIBILITY OF RENEWED ARAB-ISRAEL FIGHTING SEEN IN WASHINGTON

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA) -- The possibility of new fighting between the United Arab Republic and Israel is seen in the diplomatic circles in Washington, according to a report published in the Wall Street Journal today.

The report, emanating from Washington, warned against the belief that "anything even approaching real stability" had been achieved in the Middle East and noted that "Arab-Israel feuding continues as bitterly as ever, if not as violently." The report added "diplomats fear new fighting could break out once Col. Nasser managed to cope with internal dissension within the Syrian portion" of his United Arab Republic.

The report said that the United States had quietly adopted a new policy toward the Arab countries of the Middle East which called for "not only tolerating but, in many instances, actually encouraging Arab neutralism. The State Department is seeking a neutralism that "doesn't appease Russia" in contrast to its "old, largely unsuccessful policy" which prodded the Middle East nations "to stand up and be counted on the West's side in the cold war," the paper reported.

Diplomats have come around to the realization, it explained, that it is "hardly realistic" to seek formal alliances in the Middle East in view of the danger of starting "the drums of Arab nationalism." Therefore, it added, "the State Department has consciously decided on a quieter, softer courtship of the Middle East, figuring to win friends more surely in that way than with a hearty embrace."

The new policy, the paper said, was part of a "basic change in U.S. diplomatic thinking, which affects the entire so-called under-developed portions of the free world." It asserted that American officials had "decided to accept neutralism as an almost inevitable fact of life in the Middle East, India and Africa, and to be duly thankful if the neutralists resist any shift toward Communism."

American economic aid offers to the Middle East are being "soft-pedalled," the paper said. "Middle East governments--notably that of the United Arab Republic's President Nasser are told that help is available but the Arabs have to come after it." Private Western businessmen, particularly from West Germany and Italy who are supposedly safe from charges of colonialism, "are being encouraged to build economic ties with Arab nations as a substitute or supplement for government moves."

WORLD BANK TEAM ARRIVES IN ISRAEL TO SURVEY CONDITIONS FOR LOANS

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- A World Bank Survey Team arrived here today for a three-week tour, the findings of which will be reported to chairman Eugene Black. The mission will establish the extent of international loans to be granted to Israel.

ISRAEL PRESIDENT LEADS CELEBRATION OF 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, March 11. (JTA) -- Three thousand prominent Israelis, led by President Ben Zvi, Cabinet Ministers, Knesset deputies and members of the diplomatic corps, assembled in the Mann Auditorium here tonight to mark the 50th year of the founding of Tel Aviv, Israel's first Jewish city.

Tel Aviv's most notable resident, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, in a message expressing regrets that he could not be present because of a pressing engagement, recalled the early days of the city. In a letter to Mayor Haim Levanon, the Prime Minister said he was a member of the small group "which still remembers Tel Aviv as a wilderness of sand with abandoned vineyards here and there."

The Prime Minister said Tel Aviv occupied one of the "foremost places among the marvels of the creative activities in the life of the community before statehood." He hailed Meyer Dizengoff, the founder and first mayor, "who always advocated the cause of Jewish labor. Indeed, Tel Aviv is the only town to be built by Jewish labor."

"As one of Tel Aviv's taxpayers, I am confident that all Tel Aviv citizens rejoice no less than I do that after the expulsion of the Arab invaders and the liberation of new Jerusalem, we succeeded in moving the Knesset and the Government from Tel Aviv to the historic capital, Jerusalem," he added. He lauded the Tel Aviv residents whose sons leave the city to join groups settling along the borders and in the arid zones.

GERMAN ENVOY TESTIFIES ON EFFORTS TO PREVENT GERMAN-ISRAEL REPARATIONS

BONN, March 11. (JTA) -- Herbert Blankenhorn, West German Ambassador to France and to NATO, testified today that the Foreign Ministry in Bonn learned in 1952 that Dr. Hans Strack--who is suing the Ambassador for alleged libel--had admitted to confidential meetings with a businessman active in opposing reparations talks with Israel.

Dr. Strack is suing Blankenhorn, Walter Hallstein, president of the European Common Market and Baron Vollrath von Maltzen. The former head of the Bonn Economic Ministry's Middle East Department contends that the three defendants slandered him by making reports allegedly accusing him of having accepted a bribe from the Egyptians to help prevent legislation sanctioning the German-Israel reparations pact.

A. Hertslet, the businessman named by Blankenhorn, promptly asked the public prosecutor for admission as a co-plaintiff with Dr. Strack. Hertslet asserted he too had been slandered and falsely accused. After hearing Blankenhorn's testimony, the court adjourned until tomorrow, when Prof. Ludwig Erhard, West German Minister of Economics, will testify.

AUSTRIA TO SIGN \$6,000,000 PACT ON COMPENSATION TO VICTIMS OF NAZIS

VIENNA, March 11. (JTA) -- The agreement setting up a fund of \$6,000,000 for partial compensation by the Austrian Government for victims of religious and racial persecution during the Nazi regime will be signed March 17, informed sources here reported today.

The agreement was negotiated between the Austrian Government and the United States, Britain and France. It provides compensation for confiscated bank accounts, securities, cash and mortgages, as well as for Nazi-imposed taxes on emigrants and special Jewish property taxes.

The Main Committee of the Austrian Parliament will approve the agreement this week, it was understood. The signing on March 17, it was reported, will probably not be by way of a formal contract but more likely in the form of a government memorandum.

HOLLAND DISAPPOINTED OVER GERMANY'S STAND ON PAYMENTS TO DUTCH VICTIMS

THE HAGUE, March 11. (JTA) -- The negotiations between the Dutch and West German Governments on compensation for Dutch victims of Nazi persecution is "very unsatisfying," Dr. Josef Luns, Dutch Minister for Foreign Affairs, told the Dutch Senate today.

He said the West German Government's attitude was very disappointing. The talks have been going on for several years with little result. It was learned reliably that Holland is claiming a minimum of 125,000,000 marks, mostly on behalf of Dutch Jewish victims.

ISRAEL IMPORT FROM U. S. REACHED \$85,000,000 IN 1958, GOVERNMENT REPORTS

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- Israeli imports rose in 1958 to \$225,000,000 compared with \$211,000,000 in 1957, according to a report issued here today by the Ministry of Commerce. More than a third of the imports came from the United States, whence the goods totalled a value of \$85,000,000 in 1958, as against imports from the U. S. A. totalling \$69,000,000 the previous year.

The largest single item accounting for the higher imports last year was machinery, which was valued at \$41,500,000. American grants last year financed 23 percent of all imports. In 1957, 16 percent of the imports had been financed by United States grants.

PARIS SEES ECONOMIC RELATIONS BETWEEN ISRAEL AND FRANCE GROWING

PARIS, March 11. (JTA) -- Economic relations between France and Israel are first rate now, and continue to grow steadily, informed foreign-trade circles declared here today.

In the last two months, these circles pointed out, Israel has placed orders in this country for more than two-thirds of the \$30,000,000 credit which France offered Israel after the Sinai campaign in 1956. More orders are being prepared now, and the total \$30,000,000 credit is expected to be exhausted soon.

Five ships are to be built for Israel in French shipyards, at a total cost of \$12,000,000, and Israel is also purchasing here \$6,000,000 worth of railroad equipment. In addition, Israel is buying \$2,000,000 worth of commercial planes and helicopters, a large quantity of prefabricated housing, and almost \$3,000,000 worth of semi-finished chemicals and other chemical products.

So far, there has been no formal discussion about further French credits, beyond the 1956 \$30,000,000 credit. However, trade between the two countries is growing steadily, and has now reached \$11,000,000 annually--twice the total of Franco-Israeli trade two years ago.

The foreign-trade sources revealed these figures in denying reports in the French press alleging that difficulties have developed in Franco-Israeli economic relations.

FRENCH INDUSTRIALISTS TO URGE CLOSE TUNISIAN-ISRAEL COOPERATION

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- A proposal will be made by a leading French industrialist to President Bourguiba of Tunisia for close Tunisian-Israeli cooperation in North African development projects, according to a statement made here today by General Georges Picot, president of the Mining and Industrial Equipment Company of France, and a member of a 25-man team of French industrialists now touring Israel.

Another suggestion he will make to Tunisia, Gen. Picot declared, will be that the country adapt the "Moshav" type of cooperative Israeli settlement. If that proposal is adopted by Tunisia, the French industrialist said, he will suggest that an Israeli expert from the Agricultural Research Institute at Rehovoth be invited by Tunisia to head the project.

Members of the French delegation expressed themselves as particularly interested in Israel's development of cooperative projects among the newly-independent states in Africa and Asia. Israeli observers here see, as a result of that French interest, increased Franco-Israeli collaboration in Afro-Asian cooperative projects.

BELGIAN INDUSTRIALISTS TO MAKE INVESTMENTS IN ISRAEL'S INDUSTRY

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- Several joint Belgian-Israeli industrial enterprises are expected to be formed as a result of a visit here by a group of Belgian industrialists, headed by Pierre van der Est, president of the Belgian Steel Manufacturers Association.

Members of the delegation expressed themselves at a press conference as "deeply impressed" by the high levels of various industrial enterprises they have visited in Israel. Particularly, they said, they felt that Israel's population has shown the type of "dynamism" which the Belgians consider an important factor in favor of Belgian investments here.

Approval by the Israel Ministry of Commerce and Industry of the establishment of a joint Belgian-Israeli company to produce spinning and weaving equipment was announced here by Minister Pinhas Saphir. The Minister disclosed the decision at a luncheon in honor of the Belgian bankers and industrialists prior to their return to Belgium.

Meanwhile, an announcement was made today that the Queen Elizabeth Archaeological Institute, at the Hebrew University, will be opened officially March 31. The Institute has been established by Belgian Jewry in honor of their country's Queen Mother. On April 1, another Belgian gift, the first museum of Nathanya, will be dedicated. A Belgian diamond industrialist, Romy Goldmans, donated that museum.

Within the next few months, the Belgian Ministry of Culture will send to Israel an exhibition of Belgian paintings of the 19th and 20th Centuries.

PINHAS ROSEN REELECTED PRESIDENT OF PROGRESSIVE PARTY IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, March 11. (JTA) -- Pinhas Rosen, Israel's Minister of Justice, was unanimously re-elected president of the Progressive Party today at the closing session of the third national convention. Moshe Kol, world director of Youth Aliyah, was re-named chairman of the executive.

Delegates approved a wide range of resolutions dealing with issues in politics, economics and organizations with special stress on changes considered necessary in the economic fields.

BOSTON JEWISH COMMUNITY TO GIVE PRIORITY TO THE 1959 U. J. A. DRIVE

BOSTON, March 11. (JTA) -- A major community implementation of the recent decision of the emergency conference of the major national Jewish organizations--to give priority to the 1959 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal--took place here last night at an extraordinary session of more than 100 top-rank leaders of the organized Jewish community of this area.

The conference had the participation of local representatives of all the national organizations that took part in the emergency conference sessions which were held in New York last month. Dr. Judd L. Teller, political secretary of the Jewish Agency, was the principal speaker at the meeting, held at the headquarters of the Combined Jewish Appeal. He reported on the East European immigration to Israel. Joseph Lindsey, general chairman of the Combined Jewish Appeal, addressed the gathering on the need for "maximum support" for the 1959 UJA campaign.

A program adopted at the meeting calls for the mobilization of manpower for solicitation in behalf of the Appeal drive; special meetings among the cooperating groups to stimulate increased giving among accustomed contributors and reactivated giving among those whose gifts have dropped off, and the re-convening of a city-wide conference, in a month, to hear a progress report on the stepped-up campaign.

The Boston effort is part of a nation-wide drive to raise a \$100,000,000 Special Fund with which to finance the transport to Israel of Rumanian and other East European immigrants and their resettlement there. The Special Fund is over and above the United Jewish Appeal's regular campaign for more than \$105,000,000 to meet the budgetary requirements of the aid agencies through which American Jewry provides for the needs of close to 600,000 Jews in 24 countries other than Israel.

22,500 COHENS ARE MEMBERS OF HISTADRUT IN ISRAEL; ALSO 15,000 LEVYS

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- Histadrut, the Israel Federation of Labor, found out today some of the answers to the question: "What's in a name?" In compiling its countrywide voters' lists for the federation's forthcoming national elections, Histadrut discovered that 22,500 of its members are named Cohen.

The name Levy comes next, with 15,000 listed. Mizrach, a name meaning East, often favored by Middle Eastern and Levantine Jews, appears 10,000 times, as does the East European name of Klein. The name Schwartz comes up 3,500 times.

Since Histadrut's voters' list, comprising a total of 654,000 members, is a cross-section of the Jewish population of the entire country, the ratio on an Israel-wide basis is believed to be the same--about 3.5 percent of the Jewish population, or a total approximating 63,000 Cohens in Israel.

1,000 FOREIGN STUDENTS TO EXCHANGE TRIPS WITH 700 ISRAELI STUDENTS

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- A large-scale student-exchange program has been organized by the Israel Students Federation, it was announced today, following the Federation's accreditation by the International Committee for Student Tourism.

Included among the countries where student federations are affiliated with this committee are the United States, Britain, Germany, Switzerland and Norway. Under the student exchange program, 1,000 foreign students are expected to tour Israel this year. In turn, about 700 Israeli students will go abroad.

ISADORE HAMLIN NAMED ADMINISTRATIVE DIRECTOR OF THE JEWISH AGENCY

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency announced today the appointment of Isadore Hamlin to the newly created post of administrative director.

Mr. Hamlin, 42, has been associated with the Jewish Agency for the last 15 years, having served as press officer in the Washington, D.C. branch, and, for the last ten years, as executive assistant in the New York headquarters.

A graduate of the Mikveh Israel Agricultural School in Israel and of Cornell University in Ithaca, he is a veteran of World War II when he served in the Military Intelligence with the rank of captain.

MAX FISHER ELECTED PRESIDENT OF DETROIT JEWISH WELFARE FEDERATION

DETROIT, Mich., March 11. (JTA) -- Max M. Fisher, noted Jewish editor, was elected president of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, at a meeting of the Federation board of governors. He succeeds Federal Judge Theodore Levin, who announced his impending retirement at the Federation annual meeting last month.

Mr. Fisher's first act of office was to present Judge Levin with an inscribed gavel expressing the community's appreciation of his four years of distinguished service as Federation president. The gavel was made in Israel, of olive wood, under the supervision of Prime Minister Ben Gurion's staff.