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U. N. TRUCE CHIEF DISCUSSES SYRIAN INCURSIONS INTO ISRAEL TERRITORY

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- After two more Syrian violations of Israel territory, Maj. Gen. Carl C. von Horn, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, today discussed the latest series of Syrian incursions with Dr. Avraham Biran, director of the Foreign Ministry's armistice affairs division.

Twice, yesterday, Syrian shepherds crossed into Israel territory, and attempted to harvest Israeli fields. The Syrians were accompanied by armed national guardsmen, but retreated when approached by Israeli patrols.

At the conference with Gen. von Horn, in the latter's headquarters in no-man's-land, Dr. Biran protested these latest violations as well as other recent Syrian incursions. He called the U. N. official's attention to repeated infringements by Syrian fishermen, in recent days, on Israel fishing rights in the Sea of Galilee. Dr. Biran demanded that the United Nations intervene to halt all of the various violations of the Israeli-Syrian armistice agreement.

Cairo Evades Discussion of U. N. Plan for Israel-Syrian Pacification

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- The United Arab Republic has once more snubbed the United Nations. Maj. Gen. Carl C. von Horn, chief of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, who has been trying for many weeks to discuss with leaders of the U. A. R. a new Israel-Syrian pacification plan proposed recently by Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, has returned to his headquarters here from Cairo--after seeing only a Foreign Ministry functionary.

When Mr. Hammarskjold last visited the Middle East, he proposed to Israel's Prime Minister David Ben Gurion a plan for a new study of Israeli-Syrian tensions, to be conducted on his behalf by Gen. von Horn. The latter subsequently discussed the plan with Mr. Ben Gurion, and has been attempting to arrange meeting on the subject with President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the U. A. R.

Last week, Gen. von Horn went to Cairo, apparently assured that he would meet with Col. Nasser. The latter left for Damascus. Gen. von Horn could not even see Foreign Minister Mahmoud Fawzi, whose office reported to the UN official that Mr. Fawzi was "ill." Finally, Gen. von Horn did get to see somebody in the Foreign Office, Col. Hassan Salah el-din Gohar, a civil servant in charge of the UAR's armistice and Palestine affairs.

While United Nations officials, never talk of the issue, it is well known that, for years, they have been miffed by the manner in which the U. A. R. government refuses to deal with its ranking officials. Col. Nasser and Dr. Fawzi often promise Mr. Hammarskjold personally that they are willing to discuss various proposals concerning relations with Israel. But unless the Secretary General takes up these matters personally, the talks are always stymied if attempted by any of Mr. Hammarskjold's representatives.

ISRAEL MINISTER REPORTS SUBSTANTIAL GAINS IN OIL AND MINERALS

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- Substantial gains in oil and mineral production in Israel this year, including a gain of 45,000 tons in oil, was reported today by Mordecai Bentov, Minister of Development. He said oil production reached 105,000 tons this year, compared with 60,000 tons last year. Potash extraction topped 110,000 tons and phosphates hit a new peak of 210,000 tons in the current year, he reported.

Mr. Bentov cited the figures during a debate in Knesset on his Ministry's budget for the coming year. He said prospects were bright for copper output. He reported that during this and next year 10,000 tons of copper production is expected. Since the Sinai campaign, 107,000 tons of freight were cleared through the Elath port, which included 50,000 tons of exports and 57,000 tons of imports, he told the Knesset.

ISRAEL DESTROYERS, SUBMARINE HUNTER, RETURN TO HAIFA FROM MANEUVERS

TEL AVIV, March 17. (JTA) -- Two Israel destroyers and one submarine hunter returned to Haifa today after several weeks of exercises in the Mediterranean which included participation in a special anti-submarine course at a French naval base. Naval Commander S. Tankus welcomed the ships and their crews.

GERMAN OFFICIAL CHARGES ECONOMIC EXPERT WITH HOSTILITY TO ISRAEL

BONN, March 17. (JTA) -- An official of the Ministry of Economics, Dr. Hermann Reinhardt, testified today at the libel and slander suit being pressed by the ministry's one-time Middle East expert, Dr. Hans Strack, that the latter not only opposed German reparations to Israel but also associated freely with Arab circles hostile to Israel.

The suit is being pressed by Dr. Strack against Prof. Walter Hallstein, president of the European Common Market, and Dr. Herman Blankenhorn, West German Ambassador to France and to NATO. Dr. Strack accuses them of charging him with accepting bribes from Egyptians.

According to Dr. Reinhardt, Dr. Strack "entertained too many personal contacts with circles having interests in Arab countries, which might have caused the Ministry of Economics to become involved in the tension of Arab politics."

Previously, however, Dr. Ludwig Erhard, Minister of Economy, testified that a special committee in his ministry had cleared Dr. Strack of bribery charges. He said that Dr. Strack had been dismissed at the request of the Foreign Ministry, but that he believed that request had been unjustified.

ARAB STUDENTS IN GERMANY DISCIPLINED FOR ANTI-ISRAEL CAMPAIGNING

MARBURG, Germany, March 17. (JTA) -- Five Arab students at Marburg University have been disciplined for distributing anti-Semitic and anti-Israeli leaflets on the campus here last December.

An announcement by the University chancellery today stated that four of the students were given written admonitions, while the fifth was informed he has been denied credit for all courses that he had taken during the winter semester. All five were warned that they would be expelled if they renewed their "political campaigning" on the campus.

POLAND AND ISRAEL START TALKS IN JERUSALEM FOR NEW COMMERCIAL PACT

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- A Polish-Israeli trade conference was opened here today with a view to draft a new commercial agreement between the two countries. Last year, Israeli-Polish trade totalled \$5,000,000.

Israeli experts in foreign trade contend that that sum could be increased substantially, if it were not for the fact that Poland has limited the type of exports it is willing to send to Israel. An effort will be made at the conference to broaden the choice of goods for Israeli imports from Poland, thus possibly raising the total amount of trade.

CULTURAL EXCHANGE PACT BETWEEN FRANCE AND ISRAEL TO BE SIGNED

PARIS, March 17. (JTA) -- Rumors that Franco-Israeli negotiations for a cultural-exchange agreement with Israel had struck snags were vigorously denied here today by David Catarivas, cultural attache at the Israel Embassy here.

All substantive matters in regard to the proposed pact have been settled, Mr. Catarivas said, and the only reason for the postponement of actual signature is "administrative," due to many other, heavy pressures on the French Foreign Ministry. He pointed out that cultural agreements between France and five other countries, besides Israel, have also not been signed as yet, due to the same technicalities.

THIRTEEN ISRAELI EXPERTS WORK ON TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- Israel is actively assisting the United Nations Technical Assistance program by furnishing experts, it was reported today.

The report shows 13 Israeli experts are at work on technical assistance programs, including salt production in the Philippines; civil service in Colombia, economic affairs, statistics and sanitation in Ghana; hydrological survey in Turkey; etymology in Liberia; and health, industrial management, and civil administration in Thailand, Mexico and India.

In addition, two Israeli doctors are serving as advisers at the Geneva headquarters of the World Health Organization. Fifteen experts from foreign countries are at work in Israel under the U. N. Technical Assistance programs.

ARABS BAN ELIZABETH TAYLOR FILMS; IRKED OVER HER BUYING ISRAEL BONDS

WASHINGTON, March 17. (JTA) -- The State Department today received word that authorities of the United Arab Republic have officially banned all motion pictures featuring Hollywood cinema star Elizabeth Taylor. The U. A. R. took this action today because Miss Taylor recently purchased \$100,000 worth of Israel Bonds, the report said.

POPE REPORTED FAVORING MOVE FOR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

ROME, March 17. (JTA) -- A report that Pope John XXIII would favor a move for the establishment of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel was circulated here today by the Italian Diplomatic Agency.

According to the Agency, which is not an official governmental body, the subject of Vatican-Israeli relations is now being studied by the Pope's Secretariat of State, as well as by the Cardinals' Committee for Extraordinary Ecclesiastical Affairs.

Some experts at the Vatican, however, the Agency declares, fear that establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel would alienate the Arab states, and are advising that nothing be done along that line until United Arab Republic President Gamal Abdel Nasser visits, the Pope. Such a visit is expected next autumn.

NON-CATHOLIC RELIGIONS IN ITALY EXPOSED TO OFFENSE UNDER COURT RULING

ROME, March 17, (JTA) -- Offenses against the symbols of religions other than the Roman Catholics are not strictly punishable under the Italian Penal Code, while such insults against Catholicism are severely punishable as offenses against the "religion of the State," the highest court here ruled today.

The ruling was handed down by the Constitutional Court upon an appeal for an advisory opinion filed by Judge Martina Franca, a minor judicial officer in a small town in southern Italy. Judge Franca asked the high court to decide whether the Penal Code does not violate the Italian Constitution which provides that "all religions are equally free in face of the law." The Code, on the other hand, spells out specific penalties for those who "publicly offend with curses or insulting words the Divinity or the symbols worshipped by the religion of the State."

In today's ruling, the Constitutional Court agreed that penalties may be imposed for offenses against clergymen of religions other than Catholics. However, the high court decided, special protection must be given Catholicism because "it is the religion of the overwhelming majority of the population."

BRITISH JEWS DECIDE TO STRENGTHEN DISPERSED JEWISH COMMUNITIES

LONDON, March 17. (JTA) -- A move to help dispersed, small Jewish communities in Great Britain to strengthen religious, educational, spiritual and communal facilities was inaugurated here today by the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Under the new plan, all of Britain will be divided into areas, each containing one main Jewish center which will attempt to assess the needs of the smaller Jewish communities in its region. Guiding the work throughout the United Kingdom will be one of the Board's own standing committees.

U. N. COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS MEETS; REVIEWS DISCRIMINATION PROBLEMS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 17. (JTA) -- The 18-nation United Nations Commission on Human Rights opened its 15th session here to consider reports from governments on their efforts over the last three years to safeguard human rights and to review reports on problems of discrimination against national minorities. Haim Cohn, member of the Israel delegation, is one of the members of the Commission.

The session is expected to last until April 10. At today's meeting the Commission adopted an agenda which will include consideration of problems in freedom of information, the UN program of advisory services in the field of human rights, consideration of periodic reports on human rights, a study of prevention and protection of minorities, the right to freedom from arbitrary arrest, and a number of other items.

CANADIAN MINISTER LAUDS SHECHITA; TESTIFIES BEFORE PARLIAMENTARY BODY

OTTAWA, March 17. (JTA) -- The Jewish method of slaughtering was today lauded as "most humane" by the Canadian Minister of Justice Davie Fulton and by a representative of the Humane Society, E. L. Taylor, both testifying before a parliamentary committee of 60 members on the slaughtering bill.

Both dealt at great length with the Shechita methods, and emphasized that there is no cause for objecting to Shechita. Hearings will continue on Thursday.

BAN ON RELIGIOUS EDUCATION IN CANADIAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS DEMANDED

TORONTO, March 17. (JTA) -- Further demands for abolition of religious education in elementary schools, and for the banning of such teachings in the high schools, were voiced here last night at a meeting of the Board of Education of Etobicoke, a suburb of Toronto.

Appearing as individuals, and not as formal representative of their religious groups, 30 parents, bearing petitions signed by 126 other individuals, told the Board that their personal religious affiliations included Unitarians, Humanists, Anglicans, United Church Quakers, Seventh Day Adventists and Jews.

400 ISRAEL BOND BUYERS SET PACE FOR INTENSIFIED CAMPAIGN FOR 1959

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- A record enrollment of 400 Trustees of Israel during the first ten weeks of 1959 was announced today by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization. Trustees of Israel are those who purchase \$10,000 or more in Israel bonds during the calendar year.

"The Trustees of Israel have been the pace-setters of the Israel bond drive since the group was established in 1954," Dr. Schwartz said. "By their purchases of \$10,000 or more, they have offered communities the example and the leadership which has inspired others to participate in Israel's economic development through the Israel bond drive.

"The unprecedented level of Israel bond sales during the first weeks of 1959, sparked by the role of the Trustees, under the leadership of Samuel Rothberg, Ira Guilden, national campaign chairman, and Lawrence G. Laskey, chairman of the executive committee, gives cause for confidence that the Israel bond drive will achieve its goal of \$75,000,000 for the current year. This is particularly vital because Israel must receive tens of thousands of newcomers from Eastern Europe and other parts of the world during 1959," Dr. Schwartz emphasized.

THREE NEW ENGLAND GOVERNORS SEND SPECIAL GIFTS TO ISRAEL PREMIER

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- Three New England Governors sent special gifts to Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, who received the presents today from American women, members of a group representing Hadassah.

Mrs. Victor Schlesinger presented Mr. Ben Gurion with a 225-year-old map of Massachusetts, the gift of Gov. Foster Furcolo. A sea-chest made of Maine wood was given the Prime Minister by Mrs. Samuel Kates on behalf of Gov. Clinton A. Clauson of Maine. Governor Christopher del Sesto, of Rhode Island, sent a silver tray, presented to the Israeli leader by Mrs. Sarah Ritter.

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN RECEIVED BY SHAH OF IRAN; CONVEYS WJ.C. GREETINGS

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Goldstein, American Zionist leader, was received in audience yesterday by the Shah of Iran, according to information received by the World Jewish Congress in New York from Teheran.

On behalf of the WJC and its affiliates throughout the world, Dr. Goldstein conveyed to the Shah felicitations on the approaching 2500th anniversary of the founding of the Persian Empire by Cyrus the Great and referred to the honored place of Cyrus in Jewish history as a liberal ruler.

ISRAEL SETTLEMENT DEDICATED IN HONOR OF RABBI DAVID DE SOLA POOL

JERUSALEM, March 17. (JTA) -- A new settlement in the Galilean hills, near Safed, was dedicated in honor of Dr. David De Sola Pool, spiritual leader of the Spanish and Portuguese Synagogue in New York, who was present on the occasion with Mrs. De Sola Pool. The settlement is a project of the Jewish National Fund of America and the Sephardic Jewish community in the United States.

The dedication ceremonies were attended by more than 200 persons from all parts of Israel. The dignitaries included Chief Rabbi Itzhak Nissim, Behor S. Shitreet, Minister of Police, Mayor A. Hachohen of Safed, Dr. Miriam Freund, President of Hadassah, and others. A scroll was presented to Dr. and Mrs. De Sola Pool.

COLLECTION OF MANUSCRIPTS ON JEWISH LIFE IN COLONIAL DAYS PUBLISHED

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- A collection of manuscripts dealing with Jewish experiences in eighteenth-century colonial days, most of which are being published for the first time, is contained in a new book published today by the Hebrew Union College Press.

Entitled "American Jewry Documents: Eighteenth Century," the volume is edited by Dr. Jacob Rader Marcus, founder and director of the American Jewish Archives at Hebrew Union College in Cincinnati. The book's four sections emphasize in turn the personal, religious, community, and economic life of the early American Jew.

MRS. LIPSKY, WIFE OF ZIONIST LEADER, DIES AT 80; FUNERAL TODAY

NEW YORK, March 17. (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow for the late Mrs. Charlotte Schacht Lipsky, wife of world Zionist leader Louis Lipsky, who died here at the age of 80.

An interior decorator for many years, Mrs. Lipsky was also active in Zionist and other Jewish communal affairs, being particularly active in the Women's American ORT. In addition to Mr. Lipsky, her survivors include three sons--Eleazar, Joel and David, all of whom are writers--and a brother, Henry Sharp, an actor.