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ISRAEL PONDERES OVER ACTION AGAINST RENEWED BLOCKADE OF SUEZ CANAL

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- Three possible courses of action were being discussed today in Israeli circles in connection with the United Arab Republic's seizure of Israel cargoes passing through the Suez canal. The possibilities are: 1. Calling for a meeting of the United Nations Security Council; 2. Calling for a special session of the UN General Assembly; 3. Taking the case to the International Court of Justice.

Prior to deciding its course, the Israel Government is at present awaiting information from several directions. Israel would like to have clarification of the Soviet attitude on the Suez Canal issue. It is awaiting reactions to diplomatic pressures on the Cairo Government from Western Powers and from other maritime nations. And Israel also is waiting to see what the reply of the Cairo Government would be to the intervention by the United Nations Secretariat.

Observers here assume that Cairo will not give a clear-cut negative answer, but will, instead, try to find an evasive formula. Failure to receive satisfactory results should also convince Western Powers--which are at this time not enthusiastic about convening the Security Council on this issue--that diplomatic action is not sufficient.

Israeli circles feel that the nature of Cairo's latest anti-Israel action in the Suez is potentially so dangerous to maritime nations including the Afro-Asian countries, that, if a special session of the General Assembly were held, Israel would have sufficiently wide support in the Assembly.

SOLUTION OF ARAB REFUGEE PROBLEM URGED DURING VISIT OF JORDAN'S KING

WASHINGTON, March 24. (JTA) -- Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, today told the Senate that action should be taken to solve the Arab refugee problem during the opportunity offered by the visit of King Hussein of Jordan.

Sen. Javits stressed that the Arab refugee pressures added to the danger of an explosion in the Middle East. He urged that the issue be discussed with King Hussein, during the latter's stay in Washington. The Senator expressed belief that Israel would be willing to take back a reasonable number of refugees, but that the solution must be found primarily in Arab lands.

The question of increased supply of U.S. arms, including weapons of the latest type, was raised today by King Hussein in discussions with U.S. officials, according to reliable sources. The King discussed the matter of military assistance and economic aid plans with Acting Secretary of State Christian A. Herter. He was later the guest of honor at a White House luncheon tendered by President Eisenhower.

ISRAEL ARGUES ITS CASE AGAINST BULGARIA BEFORE INTERNATIONAL COURT

THE HAGUE, March 24. (JTA) -- For the second successive day, today, Shabtai Rosenne, chief legal officer for the Israeli Foreign Ministry, argued Israel's case here before the International Court of Justice, contending that Bulgaria cannot wipe out its obligation to pay damages in excess of \$7,000,000 for shooting down an El Al Israel airplane in 1955, causing the loss of 58 lives. Mr. Rosenne is scheduled to complete oral argument tomorrow.

Most of Mr. Rosenne's argument is centered on answering one point, made on behalf of Bulgaria, which claims that it is not obligated to recognize the world court's jurisdiction in this case. Bulgaria has contended that, while the former Kingdom of Bulgaria did sign an international treaty in 1921, accepting the jurisdiction of the old Permanent Court of International Justice, that signature is now void, since the old court had been affiliated with the defunct League of Nations. On the other hand, Bulgaria has held, the present court cannot assume jurisdiction over Israel's complaint because, at the time of the 1955 incident, Bulgaria was not yet a member of the United Nations. The present court is an organ of the UN.

Insisting that the court's jurisdiction is valid now, Mr. Rosenne argued that various experts on international law, including some who are natives of countries in the Soviet orbit, have upheld Israel's major thesis. In support, Mr. Rosenne cited opinions by two eminent jurists from the Soviet Union, a former Soviet member of the International Law Commission, and a Bulgarian authority's comment dealing with this point in international law.

500,000 CROWD TEL AVIV STREETS IN PURIM CARNIVAL; 10,000 IN BEERSHEBA

TEL AVIV, March 24. (JTA) -- All of Israel celebrated Purim today and, as usual, the most joyous celebration took place in this Israeli metropolis. Last night, the Weather Bureau had, at first, promised rain for today. However, by morning, the skies cleared, and heavy traffic from all over Israel crowded all roads leading to Tel Aviv.

Half a million persons crowded Tel Aviv's streets. The most colorful part of the celebration was a special Youth Carnival in which costumed celebrants good-naturedly satirized every aspect of Israeli life, from ancient difficulties in Biblical times to the latest problems of large-scale development.

Many prominent guests sat in special stands reviewing the various parades and mingled with the crowds. Among the most prominent of foreign guests were Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt, and the America film and stage star, Edward G. Robinson.

There were parades, fancy costumes galore, and a spirit of general exhilaration. Israeli cowboys--real and make-believe--led dancing in the streets, soldiers in uniform participated, and adults vied with children in general hilarity.

One of the country's most impressive Purim celebration this year was held at Beersheba, the metropolis of the northern Negev. Beersheba combined its Purim celebration with the observance of the tenth anniversary of the liberation of that city, during the War of Independence. More than 10,000 persons, including Bedouin tribesmen who had come to town from the desert, joined in the festivities.

Haifa's celebration was given added zest when a Greek luxury liner, the SS Olympia, docked with 600 tourists, most of whom joined the local Purim festivities.

ISRAEL'S POLICY OF ABSOLUTE EQUALITY FOR WOMEN LAUDED AT U.N. PARLEY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 24. (JTA) -- Israel's policy of absolute equality for women, in every profession and trade, was praised by delegates here today after a report on the economic opportunities offered women in Israel by Mrs. Tamar Shoham-Sharon, Israel's representative on the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, currently in session here.

Mrs. Shoham-Sharon noted that Israel has an "equal rights" law, making it possible for women to enter any profession. She reported that there is no discrimination against women in Israel, "either in fact or in law."

In the legal profession, 14.3 percent of Israel's lawyers are women, and 18.4 percent of all law students are women. Five percent of Israel's building engineers are women; 15 percent of the country's architects are women. In electronics and aeronautics, 2.5 percent of the students are women.

IRAQI, BOKHARIAN, MOROCCAN JEWS IN ISRAEL OPPOSE MONOPOLY ON CEMETERIES

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- Spokesmen for Iraqi, Bokharian and Moroccan Jews in Israel warned today that they would stage street demonstrations, marching with the bodies of their dead, if they were not allowed to perform separate burials.

In giving this warning to the Ministry of Religions, the spokesmen accused the United Sephardi Burial Society with disregarding recent regulations which permit separate burial societies. The spokesmen said that, after a committee of such Jews had prepared final resting places for their dead, workers of the Sephardi Society filled the graves. The spokesmen said they could no longer tolerate such actions.

The spokesmen declared that the Sephardi Society insisted on a monopoly in supervision of the cemeteries, and refused to allow plots to "defectors." This, the spokesmen said, led to numerous quarrels and charges of grave-stealing.

ISRAEL AGRICULTURAL CENTER ANNOUNCES METHOD TO SPEED FRUIT RIPENING

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- The Rehovoth Agricultural Research Center today announced the development of a chemical method to speed ripening of fruits by about three weeks.

The new process spurred hopes of Israel export farmers of gaining an important overseas market by being able to ship fruit, particularly plums, ahead of competitors. However, similar experiments were reported underway in countries in warm areas of South America and South Africa.

The Rehovoth method is based on spraying of trees early in the spring with Dinitro-cressol, used medically to raise temperatures. Applied to trees, the chemical stimulates early growth of dormant fruit buds.

The objective of more rapid ripening of various fruits has been an important goal for Israeli fruit growers. Such processes are needed not only for ripening plums, but also for plantations specializing in bananas, apples and various subtropical fruits.

GERMAN SCHOOLS CHARGED WITH LENIENCY IN ERADICATING ANTI-SEMITISM

BERLIN, March 24. (JTA) -- The German school system and German writers have "not done enough, by far," to enlighten the country, especially the youth, in regard to the dangers of anti-Semitism, Erich Kastner, president of the German PEN Club, said here today, in an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

"I am convinced," Mr. Kastner declared, "that the efforts to date to interpret the basic lessons we should learn from the days of Hitler have not gone far enough. This is especially true as far as the schools are concerned. The reasons for such inadequate enlightenment are manifold. However, I am convinced that German writers have not done enough in this direction.

"Our writers do concern themselves actively with the democratization of our country. But too many of them are not personally engaged in the fight against anti-Semitism."

Mr. Kastner said he finds it difficult to ascertain whether the recent resurgence of anti-Semitism manifests a new trend or show only an accumulation of isolated incidents. "I dare not judge," he stated. "However," he added, "the public counter-attacks against anti-Semitism, in the democratic press and elsewhere, do offer the hope that anti-Semitism will be kept under control and that, if there is a definite new trend in that direction, it will be fought by the Federal Republic."

Mr. Kastner expressed the hope that the PEN Center in Israel, and the Yiddish PEN Club in New York, with both of which he keeps close contact, will accept the invitations sent to them for participation in the international meeting of PEN Clubs, scheduled to be held this year at Frankfurt. "I do hope they do not decline our invitations," he said.

ITALIAN-BORN RESIDENTS OF ISRAEL OBTAIN PENSION RIGHTS IN ITALY

ROME, March 24. (JTA) -- The Italian Court of Accounts ruled today that Italian-born residents of Israel are still to be considered Italian citizens, thus restoring to such residents the right to claim Italian old age pensions.

The court ruled on an Israel law granting to residents the right to renounce Israel citizenship any time before July, 1952. According to the ruling, "the fact of not having taken advantage" of that law did not "necessarily imply intention of acquiring new citizenship" in Israel. Italian-born residents therefore were still to be considered Italian citizens, the court ruled.

JEWISH IMMIGRATION TO CANADA DECREASED; 2,840 ADMITTED LAST YEAR

MONTREAL, March 24. (JTA) -- Data on Jewish immigration to Canada in 1958, based on statistics compiled by the Department of Citizenship and Immigration, was made public here today by the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The number of Jewish immigrants admitted to Canada during the calendar year 1958 from overseas was 2,290, a decrease of 58.2 percent below the number in 1957, but larger than in any of the years 1954, 1955 or 1956. The number of Jewish immigrants admitted to Canada from the U.S.A. in 1958 is estimated to be 550, so that the total number of Jewish immigrants admitted to Canada from all countries in 1958 was 2,840.

The total number of immigrants of all origins admitted to Canada during the calendar year 1958 was 124,851, a decrease of 55.7 percent below the number in 1957.

The number of Jewish immigrants admitted to Canada in 1958 who reported Israel as their last country of previous residence was 543, as compared with 454 in 1957; 292 in 1956; 214 in 1955; and 344 in 1954. The number of Jewish immigrants from Israel admitted to Canada in 1958 was exceeded only in the years 1951, 1952 and 1953.

Jews form the 12th largest ethnic group among immigrants admitted to Canada in the calendar year 1958, and were exceeded in number of immigrants of Italian, English, German, Dutch, Scottish, Irish, Polish, Hungarian, Chinese and French origin, in the order given.

The total number of Jewish immigrants admitted to Canada in the 13 calendar years from 1956 to 1958 inclusive was 54,381 and formed three percent of the total number of immigrants of all origins admitted to Canada during that period.

TWELVE JEWS BELIEVED LIVING IN NYASALAND, RHODESIAN REPORT SAYS

SALISBURY, Rhodesia, March 24. (JTA) -- There are believed to be only about 12 Jews in all of Nyasaland, the East African trouble spot where violent revolts have shaken the area recently.

The Rhodesian Jewish Board of Deputies and the Rhodesian Zionist Council reported today that, while they have no official statistics regarding the Jewish population in Nyasaland, they are certain there are no more than 12 Jews there now. During World War II, 60 Polish-Jewish families went to Nyasaland, after they were evacuated from Iran. After the war, however, most of the Polish Jews left the area.

CALIFORNIA'S LOWER HOUSE VOTES TO OUTLAW DISCRIMINATION IN HOUSING

SACRAMENTO, Calif., March 24. (JTA) -- Assemblyman Edward K. Elliott reported today that a bill to outlaw discrimination because of race, color, religion or ancestry in publicly-assisted housing has been approved by the lower house of the California legislature. The measure, which now goes to the state Senate, provides civil penalties for violations.

Mr. Elliott, a co-author of the measure, Assembly Bill 890, said that publicly-assisted housing included living accommodations which receive direct or indirect state, federal or local financial support. This includes FHA loans, VA loans, state farm and home loans, community re-development and urban renewal and public housing.

ARIZONA STATE LEGISLATURE EVADES ACTION ON BILL TO BAR BIAS

PHOENIX, Ariz., March 24. (JTA) -- The Arizona State Legislature has again evaded taking action on a bill to bar discrimination in public accommodations, it was reported here today. The bill was buried in a committee.

Jewish sources reported that while the number of discriminating public places in the major resort area of Tucson has dropped sharply in recent years, there were still several such places in the area. There are numerous hotels and motels in both Phoenix and Tucson which bar both Jews and Negroes, they said.

JEWS IN BRAZIL BUILD \$30,000,000 JEWISH CENTER IN SAO PAULO

SAO PAULO, Brazil, March 24. (JTA) -- With impressive ceremonies, a new Jewish Community Center was dedicated here yesterday. The Center is the second building in a \$30,000,000 construction program begun last year by Congregacao Israelista Paulista--the Jewish Community Organization here--which has a membership of 2,000 families. A synagogue seating 1,200, which includes also the organization's administrative offices and a social center, was opened last year.

The new Center, a structure of seven stories, contains a solarium, swimming pool, libraries of Judaica as well as general literature, special classrooms for kindergarten and adolescents, youth-center activities, Boy Scout quarters, and a well-equipped department for religious instruction.

The official dedicatory address was delivered by Dr. Ernesto Koch, president of Congregacao Israelista Paulista. Greetings were received from Federal, State and municipal officials and from the consuls of the United States and Israel.

JEWISH SOLDIERS IN FRENCH ARMY IN ALGIERS GET PURIM GIFT PARCELS

ALGIERS, March 24. (JTA) -- Purim parcels were distributed yesterday to 650 Jews serving with the French Army here in Algeria, as well as to wounded Jewish soldiers in the French Army hospitals here. Under the aegis of Rabbi I. Kamoun, chief Jewish army chaplain in Algeria, the parcels were prepared with the aid of the Army's social service department and with the help of Jews who contributed funds for the Purim parcels.

Vacancies in a number of key rabbinical posts in Algeria are likely to be filled soon as a result of a visit to Algeria scheduled for this week by Dr. Yaacov Kaplan, chief rabbi of France. Dr. Kaplan will make an overall examination of the organization of the rabbinate here during his visit to Algeria.

FIFTEENTH ANNIVERSARY OF ARDEATINE CAVES MASSACRE OBSERVED IN ITALY

ROME, March 24. (JTA) -- The fifteenth anniversary of the Ardeatine Caves Massacre was observed today in solemn ceremonies attended by Premier Antonio Segni and other officials of the Government, the Army and members of Parliament. The Premier spoke briefly on the urgent need of a continuing fight against neo-Fascism.

Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff of Rome held a memorial service near the graves and later veterans of the Italian Partisan Brigades held a mass memorial meeting.

ISRAEL TO CONDUCT UNDERWATER EXPLORATION OF BIBLICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- The first underwater exploration of Biblical archaeology in Israel will be conducted off the Israeli coast in the Mediterranean Sea next summer, it was announced by the Hebrew University here today.

The exploration will be conducted by an American inventor, Herbert Link, in co-operation with the University. Mr. Link, a well-known explorer as well as an inventor, will direct the expedition in the Mediterranean harbor of Caesaria, the sunken Palestinian capital of Roman times. A special ship to be used by the expedition is now undergoing a shakedown cruise in the Caribbean Sea.