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## ISRAEL CABINET DEFERS DECISION ON EGYPTIAN SEIZURE OF HAIFA CARGOES

JERUSALEM, March 29. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet today discussed the question of Egypt's seizure of Israel cargo from neutral ships passing through the Suez Canal. After hearing a report from Foreign Minister Golda Meir on the diplomatic activity which is going on in various capitals with regard to this issue, and in the United Nations, the Cabinet decided to defer taking a decision on the matter for the time being.

During the week-end, Egypt released the cargo from a Greek freighter detained at the Suez Canal, and permitted the freighter to proceed with the cargo to its destinations. The vessel carried 4,900 tons of Israeli cement for Hong Kong, and 4,609 tons of scrap metal for Japan. It was indicated here today that Israel will wait a few more days for the release of cargoes seized by the Egyptian authorities earlier from two ships, one flying the Liberian flag, and the other West German. Both sailed from Haifa, and were permitted to pass the Suez Canal only after their Israel cargoes were confiscated.

Israeli officials reiterated today that the release of Israel cargo on the third ship is not considered by the Israel Government as representing a basic change in the situation. They indicated that, if the cargoes of the other two ships are not released, and if no promise will be forthcoming from Cairo that such seizures would not recur, the matter may be brought by Israel before a United Nations Security Council meeting.

At its meeting today, the Cabinet approved Israel's foreign currency budget for 1959-60, which will be sent for ratification to the finance committee of the Parliament. The budget envisages receipts from grants, German reparations, contributions and income from exports totalling \$500,000,000.

The Cabinet also decided today to recognize the World Hebrew Union as an organization for the dissemination of the Hebrew language in countries outside Israel. As an arm of the World Zionist Organization, the Union will also receive cooperation on the part of Israel's Foreign Ministry and the Ministry of Education for the promotion of its activities in 12 countries on all continents.

The Government today requested Canada to take energetic steps for the release of three Tel Aviv girls who were arrested in Gaza and are imprisoned in a Cairo jail. The girls were transported to Gaza by Canadians serving on the United Nations Emergency Force, on the Israel-Egyptian frontier, and Israel expects the Canadian Government to effect their return to Israel.

## ARAB ESPIONAGE RING SMASHED IN ISRAEL; SEVEN ARABS ARRESTED

TEL AVIV, March 29. (JTA) -- Police disclosed today that the cooperation of an elderly Haifa Jew, serving as an undercover agent for Israel Security Forces, made possible the smashing of an espionage ring in northern Israel.

The Haifa Jew, was approached by an Israel Arab who asked for information. The Jew informed the Haifa police, who relayed the report to the Security Forces. The latter, in turn, asked the Haifa Jew to maintain the contact. The Security Forces supplied him with "information" which he passed on to the Arab, who was then immediately arrested.

The Arab confessed, and told of contact with a Syrian infiltrator who visited his home. An ambush was set at the Arab's home, and the Syrian was arrested. The latter was armed with a submachine gun and a hand grenade. An investigation led to the arrest of six more Arabs, on charges of passing information to the Syrian. All names have been withheld by the authorities.

## JORDAN KING SEES NO "IMMEDIATE DANGER" IN RUMANIAN IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 29. (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan, in a television interview today said that the settlement of some of the Arab refugees in Arab lands might in part solve the refugee problem.

The young ruler of Jordan expressed the opinion that the immigration of Jews from Rumania to Israel does not represent an "immediate danger" to the Arab countries. He ruled out the possibility of Jordan negotiating with Israel by itself. No individual Arab state is in a position to enter into negotiations with Israel, he stated. He said the United Nations has the responsibility to try to keep the Arab-Israel borders free from complications.

## ISRAEL OIL COMPANY TO INVEST FUNDS IN DEVELOPMENT OF GAS FIELD

JERUSALEM, March 29. (JTA) -- The Naptha Oil Company announced plans today to invest 3,000,000 pounds to develop the newly-discovered large natural gas field, east of the Dead Sea, near Sdom.

The company said it had started negotiations with a potash firm to supply the latter company's power station with gas, in place of kerosene now being used. The field contains an estimated 35,000 million cubic feet of gas.

## SHARETT RETURNS TO ISRAEL, SPOKE FOR ISRAEL IN EIGHT EUROPEAN LANDS

ROME, March 29. (JTA) -- Moshe Sharett, former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister of Israel, left for Israel today at the close of a month-long tour of Europe. The Israel leader visited eight countries in his tour and addressed 24 Jewish community gatherings. He made fruitful contacts with Socialist leaders in the Scandinavian countries, as well as in Italy.

Expressing satisfaction with the results of the trip, Mr. Sharett ended his tour with an informal discussion here with Giuseppe Saragat, the Social Democratic Party leader; Pietro Nenni, the Socialist Party leader; and Agnazio Silone, the noted anti-fascist writer. Views were exchanged on the general political situation and on the functions of the Socialist parties and the trade union movements in various European countries.

Mr. Sharett made his first public appearance in Italy in Milan, where he addressed the local Jewish community. Later a reception was held in his honor, attended by representatives of the Genoa and Turin Jewish communities.

He addressed a mass meeting in Rome yesterday, and later was guest of honor at a dinner attended by community leaders, the Israel Ambassador, and representatives of all Jewish organizations. He was told that the current fund-raising drive for Israel in Italy had reached a figure more than ten times as large as that of last year.

## ARAB WORLD WILL AWAKEN TO NEED FOR PEACE WITH ISRAEL, EBAN PREDICTS

BOSTON, March 29. (JTA) -- Abba S. Eban, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, declared today that it was "tragic" that the Middle East, "the region which first gave the world its understanding of unity in nature and unity in man," should now "be the most ravaged and disunited of regions." Mr. Eban, who also is president of the Weizmann Institute of Science, spoke at a reception in his honor given by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences here.

Asserting that small nations, such as Israel, "need not stand paralyzed before the vastness of the atomic powers," Mr. Eban noted that "ancient Israel was but a small pastoral people, maintaining its national existence at a time when history was dominated by the empires of the Euphrates and the Nile." Yet the achievements "of this small people were to shed a unique radiance over the life of all ensuing generations," he pointed out.

The empires surrounding Israel, "Mr. Eban said, "exceeded her in power and wealth, in the refinements of their material lives, and in the varied sophistication of their arts. But all these crumbled into dust, while this small people--and no other--became the first to grasp the full vision of a united creation; to be elevated by a sense of invisible forces at work upon the human scene; and to discern an ideal order lurking behind the manifold appearance of things."

Asserting that the Middle East had "a better destiny" than its present disunity, Mr. Eban said that the mission of the region was "peace, not war. Its vocation is progress, not conflict. There is not a single state in its midst which cannot well afford to live in peace with every other state in the region."

He predicted that history would "summon the peoples of our region to a realization of their underlying kinship. The Arab world will awaken to the sheer compulsion of a future to be shared with us in peace."

"The Great Powers can do much to hasten this day, by strengthening security under the rule of law," he added. "They can do this by positive action--by protecting the territorial structure against forcible change; by helping Middle Eastern states to develop their new political freedom into broader visions of economic and social progress; by avoiding any dislocation of the intra-regional balance; and by sheltering our fragile security from the stormy gusts of great power rivalry."

## DELEGATES FROM 15 COUNTRIES LAUD ISRAEL'S LAND SETTLEMENT PROGRAM

REHOVOTH, March 29. (JTA) -- Delegates from 15 countries attending the International Land Settlement Convention here, which concluded its sessions with an over-all seminar today, praised Israel for its land settlement program, and said they have learned much from the Israeli experience in this field.

The convention was conducted by the Ministry of Agriculture, on behalf of the Jewish Agency's land settlement department, with the participation of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization. Among the delegates were representatives from Iran, India, Burma, French Sudan, Nigeria and Ghana.

JEWS IN ITALY HAIL POPE'S ELIMINATION OF SLUR FROM "GOOD FRIDAY" PRAYER

ROME, March 29. (JTA) -- The elimination of the negative reference to Jews in a famous Catholic prayer on "Good Friday," which was ordered last week by Pope John XXIII, was hailed here today as a great moral victory achieved by the Union of Italian Jewish Communities and, especially, by one of the top leaders of Italian Jewry, Col. Lamberto Vitali.

This year, for the first time in 15 centuries, Catholics observed a new form of "Good Friday" liturgy in which they offered a prayer for Jews--but without referring to the Jew either as "perfidious" or as "infidels" or as "unbelievers."

"Oremus pro Judaeis perfidis"--"let us pray for the perfidious Jew"--was part of the "Good Friday" ritual throughout the Catholic world for 15 centuries. In 1946, Col. Vitali started a move for the elimination of that hateful phrase. On 41 different occasions, since 1946, he petitioned the Vatican Secretariat on this subject, and a number of times he followed through with personal interventions with Pope Pius XII.

In 1948, the Vatican's Sacred Congregation issued a declaration, stating that "it would not be prohibited" to alter the old "perfidious" phrase with a substitution referring to Jews as "infidels" or merely as "unbelievers." However, since that declaration was only permissive, and not mandatory, all Catholic prayer books retained the old phrasing.

Last November, Col. Vitali addressed a petition on this subject to the new spiritual leader of Catholicism, Pope John XXIII. The Pontiff replied promptly, saying that he was requesting an analysis of the "Good Friday" liturgy from the Sacred Congregation. Just before this year's "Good Friday," the Vatican issued a Papal Order changing the liturgy. From now on, the phrasing is not optional, but mandatory. Catholics pray "for the Jew," without referring to the Jew in insulting fashion.

Jewish circles here point to this order by Pope John XXIII as "an illustration of his sense of justice in promptly correcting an old error which could instill hatred in new generations."

(In the United States, the action of Pope John XXIII in ordering the deletion of the anti-Jewish adjective from the "Good Friday" prayer was lauded by the American Jewish Committee. Irving M. Engel, president of the Committee, described the Pontiff's move as "in keeping with the spirit and purpose of current studies in major American institutions of higher learning on the nature and extent of prejudice-producing material in religious texts.")

JEWISH COMMUNITIES REPORT SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN 1959 FUND-RAISING

NEW YORK, March 29. (JTA) -- Increases averaging between 20 and 30 percent over last year's gifts have been recorded by many Jewish community campaigns as 1959 drives gather momentum, according to Herbert R. Abeles, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. The combined campaigns supply the funds required by the major overseas, national and local Jewish organizations, with the United Jewish Appeal as the largest beneficiary.

At latest report, the communities with campaigns far enough along to be indicative, showed the following increases: Toronto, 55 percent; Detroit, 38 percent; Los Angeles, 33 percent; Miami, 29 percent; Pittsburgh, 20 percent; Dallas, 23 percent; San Diego, 66 percent; Bridgeport, 25 percent; Camden, 40 percent; Columbus, 27.5 percent, Winnipeg, 24 percent.

Indicating that in many communities early advance in percentage gains are holding up well into the middle of the drives, and in some cases are actually being increased, Mr. Abeles said that "the American Jewish community is responding extremely well to the tremendous and urgent needs of 1959--local, national and overseas."

In a report to the Council's board of directors, Louis J. Fox of Baltimore, chairman of the Campaign Services Committee, attributed the strong showing to generally improved economic conditions; deep feelings regarding the critical needs locally, nationally and overseas, the tremendous backlog of unmet needs arising from previous immigration to Israel, and the special problems created by the spurt in immigration this year.

In addition, he credited the communities with a general tightening up of the organization and structure of the campaign. This included: vigorous leadership setting an example by greater giving and working, intensive solicitation and careful rating of prospects, careful selection and training of solicitors, wider use of small parlor meetings to personalize the campaigns, use of local speakers, especially those who took part in missions to Israel, maturing of young and vigorous leadership, and more thorough organization.

GEORGE MEANY, U. S. LABOR LEADER, NAMED FELLOW OF BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

WALTHAM, March 29. (JTA) -- George Meany, president of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations, has been named a Fellow of Brandeis University, it was announced today. Fellows of Brandeis University are selected from men and women distinguished in the arts and sciences, in business and industry, who have manifested an active interest in the University.

## U. S. GROUP URGES FEDERAL LEGISLATION FOR INCREASED REFUGEE IMMIGRATION

NEW YORK, March 29. (JTA) -- New federal legislation permitting an increase of immigration of refugees into the United States by 20,000, and increasing American refugee relief expenditures by \$10,000,000 above the funds already sought by President Eisenhower, were requested today by the United States Committee for Refugees.

The committee, headed by the Very Rev. Francis B. Sayre, Jr., dean of the Cathedral at Washington, D. C., is the American group formed for this country's participation in World Refugee Year. The special period for alerting the world to the need for definitive solutions of all refugee problems has been set up by the United Nations, and will be launched officially July 1.

The U. S. Committee called for the additional \$10,000,000 appropriation above the \$18,500,000 for refugee relief already requested in President Eisenhower's budget message. In addition to more money, and to raising the immigration quota by 20,000, the committee is advocating also the allocation of additional surplus commodities from the U. S. A. toward refugee relief, and the raising of \$20,000,000 for refugee relief programs by private American agencies.

## YOUNG LEADERS FROM U. S. JEWISH COMMUNITIES TO STUDY ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 29. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal today announced that Young Leadership Groups from various Jewish communities throughout the country are scheduled to make comprehensive study tours of Israel during the Spring. A group of 20 young Jewish community leaders of Chicago left for Israel last week, and similar groups from five other Jewish communities left earlier.

Developed by the United Jewish Appeal as a means of encouraging the rise of new, informed leadership in local communities, the young leadership tours of Israel are designed to give the American visitors eyewitness experience both with the problems confronting the people of Israel and the progress being achieved in economic, industrial, agricultural, and social areas. The experience they gain as first-hand observers in Israel, it is felt, helps orient them as supporters of central Jewish fund-raising and as firmly-motivated UJA leaders.

The Chicago participants are the second young leadership group from their community to take off for Israel. Other communities from which young leadership groups have gone on study missions to Israel since mid-February are: Newark, N. J.; Westport and Meridan, Conn.; St. Paul and Minneapolis, Minn.; Kansas City, Mo.; Indianapolis, Ind., and Atlantic City, N. J. Results of the young leadership tours have been highly lauded by local community executives, who note that the tours have inspired their participants to increased activity and leadership responsibility in local campaigns. While the Young Leadership Group tours are sponsored by the UJA, all expenses are met by the participants themselves.

## WORLD CONFERENCE ON YIDDISH CULTURE CALLS FOR INTENSIFIED EDUCATION

NEW YORK, March 29. (JTA) -- A call to Jews in democratic countries, especially in the United States and Latin America, to strengthen Yiddish culture by intensifying Jewish education, was issued here last night at the formal opening of the second world conference of the Yiddish Cultural Congress, at Hunter College. More than 2,000 persons attended the gathering, which was addressed by delegates from various countries.

The speakers emphasized that, while Hebrew schools are provided in some countries with teachers by the Jewish Agency, Yiddish schools experience a lack of teachers. This was especially emphasized by Jacob Botoshansky, delegate from Argentina, who spoke on the situation of Yiddish culture in Latin American countries. Other speakers from Argentina included Abraham Zack and Jonah Gorodeisky, who appealed to the New York cultural institutions to send teachers for the Yiddish schools in Latin America. The opening session was presided by Jacob Pat, leader of the Yiddish Cultural Congress.

## 115 RABBIS RECEIVE RABBINICAL AUTHORITY AT YESHIVA UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, March 29. (JTA) -- A group of 115 rabbis, graduates of the Yeshiva University's Theological Seminary, today received "Semicha," rabbinical authority, at the university's triennial convocation. More than 2,000 persons attended the ceremony.

The graduating class included rabbis from 13 states and Canada, and several foreign countries. Included were 15 chaplains on duty with the U. S. Armed Forces throughout the world. Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of the Yeshiva University, was the principal speaker at the ceremony.

## ACTRESS ELIZABETH TAYLOR ADOPTS JEWISH RELIGION; WAS A PROTESTANT

HOLLYWOOD, March 29. (JTA) -- Actress Elizabeth Taylor, widow of the late Jewish producer Mike Todd, was converted to Reform Judaism, it was announced here this weekend by Temple Israel, of which Rabbi Max Nussbaum, a leading Zionist, is spiritual leader. The announcement was made at the request of Miss Taylor who was a Protestant.