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COMMONS DEBATES BRITISH ACTION ON EGYPT'S SEIZURE OF ISRAELI CARGO

LONDON, April 8. (JTA) -- Leading members of the Labor Party pressed the government in the House of Commons today to take steps to ensure freedom of navigation through the Suez Canal, and to prevent Egyptian seizures of Israeli cargoes in transit through the international waterway.

Laborite Arthur Henderson asked Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd whether he could now make a further statement regarding Israel's recent complaint to the United Nations Security Council. The Israel complaint, filed at the UN while Britain's Sir Pierson Dixon was president of the Council, alleged interference by the government of Egypt with two ships carrying cargoes that originated at Haifa.

Told by Mr. Lloyd that the Security Council had taken no action on this complaint, and that Israel had, in fact, not requested any Council action on the cargo incidents, Mr. Henderson pressed the questioning further. He demanded assurance that there can be no question about Security Council failure to take action on the issue under the United Nations Charter. Failure to take action, said Mr. Henderson, would allow the situation to deteriorate dangerously.

"The Government certainly do not wish this sort of thing to happen," replied Mr. Lloyd. "The matter is being handled now--I hope satisfactorily."

Sidney Silverman, also a member representing the Labor Party, then asked Mr. Lloyd: "In view of the fact of the Government's defense of its Suez Policy--that it was necessary to take this action in order to keep the Suez Canal free for shipping under the original agreement; and in view of the fact that this has now been handled by the Foreign Secretary for some six or seven years, without any result of any kind--will you say what is the policy of the Government with regard to freedom of passage through the Suez Canal?"

"Our view," replied Mr. Lloyd, "is that there should be free passage through the Suez Canal. So far as this particular matter is concerned, I did indicate that it was being handled in a certain way, and I do not think that questions in this House are going to assist the cargoes to get through."

MAPAI CONVENTION OPENS; ESHKOL PROPOSES FIVE-YEAR PLAN FOR ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, April 8. (JTA) -- A five-year plan for guiding Israel toward economic independence, calling for doubling of the investments in industry, and tripling of Israel's exports, was presented here tonight by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol.

Mr. Eshkol was one of the leaders of the Government and labor addressing the opening session of the ninth annual convention of Mapai, the party dominant in the Government. More than 3,000 delegates and guests, representing 345 Mapai branches, are attending the convention.

One of the chief purposes of this year's convention is the drafting of an election platform for Mapai, which the party will place before the country in the next general elections, scheduled for November. The platform will also be laid before the electorate of Histadrut, the Israel Federation of Labor, which will ballot for officers prior to the country's general elections. Former Prime Minister Moshe Sharett was elected chairman of the convention's presidium.

In assessing Israel's present economic position, Mr. Eshkol noted that Israel's economy has made vast progress since the State was established nearly eleven years ago. At the same time, he stressed the fact that Israel is still dependent on capital investments from abroad. The Finance Minister proposed the five-year plan to reduce dependence and to increase exports.

Mr. Eshkol's plan envisages an annual increase of eight percent in Israeli production, and stabilization of consumption. Above all, the Finance Minister said, Israel must take advantage of the great possibilities for developing its natural resources in minerals, mining and oil.

Nearly every leader in Mapai and in Histadrut is attending the convention, and most of the leaders made reports tonight, or are scheduled to address the convention before it closes tomorrow night. Among tonight's speakers were Pinhas Lavon, secretary general of Histadrut, and Giori Josephthal, Mapai's secretary general.

AMERICAN-ISRAEL TRADE RELATIONS EXCEEDED \$100,000,000 LAST YEAR

NEW YORK, April 8. (JTA) -- Trade between the United States and Israel exceeded \$100,000,000 last year, Israel Consul General Simcha Pratt reported tonight at the annual dinner of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce held at the Hotel Biltmore. On behalf of the Israel Government, he invited American businessmen to invest capital in Israel and to provide "know-how" for the country.

Mr. Pratt, who was the principal speaker at the dinner, noted that the figure in America-Israel trade reached last year brings the total volume of economic relations between Israel and the U.S. --including investments, long term loans, travel--to the quarter billion dollars mark. Israel, he said, is now augmenting the production of goods for local consumption with the manufacture of export items and capital goods, and will extend every facility to foreign investors who wish to share in these developments. He lauded the Chamber's role in promoting the economic relations between the two countries.

In line with the Chamber's practice of highlighting each year, on the occasion of the dinner, one of the industries doing business with Israel, last night's affair honored the Motion Picture Industry of America. Nathan Straus III, president of the Chamber, stated that the Motion Picture Industry's role went beyond trade relations as such, because the many visits by celebrities and the industry's executives to Israel, the shooting and plans for motion pictures in Israel, and the showing of American movies there have done much to bring closer the two countries and the two nations. Arthur B. Krim, president of United Artists Corporation, accepted the Award of Merit in behalf of the industry.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT INCREASES RATE OF EXCHANGE FOR CITRUS EXPORTERS

JERUSALEM, April 8. (JTA) -- The Israel Ministry of Finance has agreed to give 2.16 pounds per dollar earned by citrus exporters, thus ending the last major area in which the official rate of 1.80 pounds per dollar was effective.

Israel shipped 9,500,000 cases of citrus fruits abroad during the current season now ending. This represents an increase of 1,500,000 cases over last year, according to figures announced here today by the Citrus Marketing Board.

While the shipments exceeded last year's, the board declared, the income, totalling \$47,500,000, was almost the same as last year's, due to lower citrus prices in the European markets.

Orchard owners also received lower incomes during this season, the figures showed. That net income dropped by 10,000,000 Israeli pounds. The growers, according to the board, had higher expenses this year, due to the severe drought, which necessitated large expenditures for irrigation of the orchards.

SHIP BRINGS 400 IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL; COST COVERED BY NEWSPAPER READERS

HAIFA, April 8. (JTA) -- A ship with 400 immigrants whose expenses were met by a public subscription sponsored by an Israel daily newspaper, Yediot Achronot, was welcomed today by Mayor Abba Khousni. The immigrants came from seven countries, including Eastern Europe.

The Mayor said that the residents of Haifa always welcomed the arrival of an immigrant but that it was "a double pleasure" to greet the SS Arza. He said the response of Israeli Jews to the appeal of the newspaper demonstrated the widespread public support for the continuation of immigration.

S. Z. Shragai, head of the immigration department of the Jewish Agency, lauded the success of the newspaper in arousing the "public's volunteering spirit." The campaign was started a month ago. Among the donors were elderly readers and school children who contributed their "pocket money" for the immigrants.

SHARETT REPORTS INCREASED ASSIMILATION AMONG JEWS IN WESTERN LANDS

JERUSALEM, April 8. (JTA) -- Israel's welfare is "close to the hearts" of West European Jews, but there are signs among them of "alienation and increased assimilation," Moshe Sharett declared here today. The former Israel Prime Minister and Foreign Minister has just returned from an extensive tour of Europe that took him to Scandinavia, the Netherlands, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy.

Mr. Sharett made his evaluation of European Jewry in reporting to the directorate of Keren Hayesod, the fund-raising arm of the Zionist movement. He paid warm tribute to the response of the communities he visited to fund-raising appeals he had made.

On the other hand, noting the "alienation and assimilation," Mr. Sharett declared that these trends are due to lack of Hebrew education. He urged the Zionist movement to make special efforts to remedy the situation and to "infuse a Jewish concept in the life of the Diaspora."

ADENAUER'S QUITTING PREMIERSHIP WILL NOT AFFECT PAYMENTS TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, April 8. (JTA) -- "I do not think that, if Dr. Konrad Adenauer relinquishes his post as Chancellor of West Germany, there will be danger to the implementation of the German-Israel reparations agreement," Dr. F. E. Shinar, head of the Israel Reparations Mission to West Germany, declared here tonight in connection with reports from Bonn that Chancellor Adenauer will lay down his post to seek the Federal German Presidency.

Mr. Shinar spoke at a dinner of the Foreign Press Association here. He said that Dr. Adenauer's possible successor is Dr. Ludwig Erhard, Vice-Chancellor and Minister of Economic Affairs, whose dealings with regard to reparations problems were very encouraging from Israel's point of view. Mr. Shinar avoided making any prediction as to who may become the West German Minister of Economic Affairs if Dr. Erhard should become Chancellor.

JEWS IN MOROCCO REPORTED SUFFERING FROM "PETTY ADMINISTRATIVE MEASURES"

PARIS, April 8. (JTA) -- Through various stratagems, which have no legal basis, Moroccan regional authorities are preventing Jews from obtaining documents needed for travel to Israel, according to a report received here today.

The report, printed in the influential newspaper, Le Monde, declares that Moroccan Jews wishing to go to Israel must resort to getting forged passports. Moroccan Jews are reported suffering from economic difficulties and continuous harassment.

Among "petty administrative measures" reportedly taken against Moroccan Jews recently have been the suppression of Jewish broadcasts in the kingdom; and hampering postal exchanges attempted by Moroccan Jews, both inside the country and in mail contact with Israel.

Jewish emigration from Morocco is reported by the newspaper to have declined in the last two years. On the other hand, a greater desire for emigration to Israel is seen as existent among Jews. Morocco Jews are watching to see how the government will treat the 13 Moroccan Jewish men recently arrested in Nador, where they were apprehended for allegedly trying to leave for Israel with forged passports.

The ultimate treatment of these unfortunates, says Le Monde, will provide to Moroccan Jewry the clue as to the governments' ultimate intentions regarding all Jews in the kingdom. These 13 Jews were reported trying to enter Algeria March 20, presumably on their way to Israel, with 38 Jewish women and children. Moroccan authorities permitted the women and children to return home after they had held them for two days, while the men had been imprisoned in Nador, in northeast Morocco, about 65 miles from the Algerian border.

EX-NAZI SENTENCED IN WEST BERLIN FOR VOICING ANTI-JEWISH REMARKS

BERLIN, April 8. (JTA) -- A West Berlin court today jailed Gerhard Polkehn, 28-year-old laborer, for two months, for making anti-Jewish remarks.

The prosecution said that Polkehn, a former Hitler Youth leader, told a city employee he met in a tavern that, in his opinion, not enough Jews had been killed in the gas chambers of the Nazi concentration camps.

KNESSET SETS OFFICIAL DAY FOR HONORING JEWS ANNIHILATED BY NAZIS

JERUSALEM, April 8. (JTA) -- A bill adopted in the Israel Parliament tonight sets the day of the 27th of Nisan--which falls on the 15th day of May this year--as Remembrance Day for Jewish Martyrs and Heroes fallen during the Nazi regime. The bill was adopted unanimously prior to the recess of Parliament until after the Passover holiday.

The day honoring the memory of the 6,000,000 Jews annihilated by the Nazis, and the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising, will be ushered in throughout the country with two minutes of silence, during which all work, including traffic, will be halted. It will be marked by memorial meetings, with flags on public buildings at half-mast.

AGUDAH ORGANIZATION SENDS HAGGADAHS TO HUNGARY, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA

LONDON, April 8. (JTA) -- Transports of the Haggadah for Passover, and of Hebrew prayer books, have been sent to several countries behind the Iron Curtain to aid Jews there to observe Passover, it was announced here today by the world headquarters of Agudath Israel.

One thousand copies of the Haggadah went to Czechoslovakia alone, the announcement stated. Other of the religious works and appurtenances connected with Passover have been sent to Warsaw and Lodz in Poland, and to Budapest in Hungary.

U. S. SENATE STUDY FINDS LIFE EXPECTANCY IN ISRAEL AVERAGING 70 YEARS

WASHINGTON, April 8. (JTA) -- Life expectancy of the average Israeli is now over 70 years, while the typical Egyptian will live but 39 years, according to a study of world health conditions published today by a Senate subcommittee.

In a comprehensive evaluation of the status of world health, the subcommittee on International Organizations of the Committee on Government Operations reported that Israel now has more physicians per capita than the United States or any other nation. The heavy concentration of refugee physicians was cited. There is a range of one physician to every 610 inhabitants in Austria and the USSR. But even more physicians are available in Israel at present.

The mortality rate from tuberculosis in Israel was determined to be less than that of the United States. The report told of how Israelis were working to add knowledge to the understanding of heart disease. It cited the work in Israel of Dr. Franz Sondheimer who is working in Rehovoth, Israel, on a grant from the U.S. National Heart Institute, on the synthetic preparation of cardiac-active substances from natural products.

Dr. Henry Ungar, professor of pathology at the Hadassah Medical School in Jerusalem, was mentioned as a member of "a distinguished group under the auspices of the World Health Organization developing a classification with uniform terminology for use in the world-wide study of arteriosclerosis." Among significant contributors to world dental research, the report listed an Israeli, I. Gdalia, of Hebrew University, who is working on fluoride.

Israelis have been awarded U.S. National Institute of Health research grants to advance research in cancer chemotherapy. Work in this field by E.D. Bergmann of Hebrew University and D. Lavie of the Weizmann Institute was mentioned. Other Israelis were listed as doing work for the United States National Health Research in the areas of parasitology and tropical medicine, biochemistry, biophysics, pharmacology and experimental therapeutics.

DR. GOLDSTEIN MEETS WITH NEHRU; HOPES FOR INDIA'S RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

NEW DELHI, April 8. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Goldstein of New York, American Zionist leader, said today after a meeting with Prime Minister Nehru that he was hopeful that diplomatic relations would be established between India and Israel. It was believed that the question was raised in the meeting.

Dr. Goldstein said at a press conference that "moral forces" were working for such an event. He also noted the many similarities between India and Israel, including a "common passion" for cooperative farming, mutual goodwill and an incorruptible democracy.

1,730 CHILDREN IN TORONTO ATTEND JEWISH ALL-DAY SCHOOLS

TORONTO, April 8. (JTA) -- Jewish schools affiliated with the Bureau of Jewish Education here have a total enrollment of over 8,000. Of these, 1,730 are in day schools where they receive both general education and 15 hours per week of Jewish instruction within regular school hours.

Of the rest, 2,500 receive 10 hours of Jewish instruction per week in after-public school hours and 1,100 receive six to eight hours of Jewish instruction. A little over half the cost of this Jewish education is covered by tuition fees, the rest from community funds. Eight years ago the enrollment figures in such schools in Toronto was less than half the present figure.

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY PRESENTS 1959 AWARDS FOR ARTISTIC ACHIEVEMENTS

NEW YORK, April 8. (JTA) -- Medals for outstanding artistic achievements in 1959 were presented here yesterday by the Brandeis University at a ceremony at the Sheraton-East Hotel, attended by Dr. Abram L. Sachar, university president, and David Woodlinger, director of the United States Fulbright Program.

The awards were given to Ernest Bloch in music; Mrs. Hilda Doolittle Adlington, poetry; Edwin Dickinson, painting, and George Kelly, the theatre. Grants of \$1,500 each were awarded to four younger artists who have demonstrated "promising potential" in the same fields. These grants went to Seymour Shifrin, music; Hayden Carruth, poetry; Theodoros Stamos, painting, and Richard Hayes, drama criticism.

PROMINENT ISRAELIS ATTEND UNVEILING OF TOMBSTONE OVER CORALNIK'S GRAVE

JERUSALEM, April 8. (JTA) -- Leaders of Israeli public life last night attended a traditional 30-day memorial service for the late Berl Coralnik, former chief correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, who died one month ago. Earlier yesterday, a large gathering of prominent Israelis attended a ceremony during which a tombstone was unveiled over Mr. Coralnik's grave.