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SECRETARY HERTER TO REVIEW JOHNSTON PLAN FOR JORDAN RIVER DEVELOPMENT

WASHINGTON, April 28. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Christian Herter, as one of his first acts after assuming office, made known that he was taking steps to reopen and review the long-delayed Jordan River development scheme. This was revealed today by Sen. Hugh Scott, Pennsylvania Republican, who met with the Secretary to discuss matters involving Israel prior to the latter's departure for Paris.

Sen. Scott said today that Secretary Herter had unveiled plans for a "new look" at the Johnston Plan for development of the Jordan River.

The Israel phase of the Johnston Plan has long been postponed because of the State Department attitude. The State Department approved and aided work by the Arab State of Jordan on a portion of the scheme within Jordan territory. Israel repeatedly sought agreement to proceed inside its own boundaries with the Israeli portion of the project. But the State Department heeded Arab objections and on one occasion in 1953 even temporarily suspended economic aid to Israel to restrain it from working on an irrigation project.

Israel has maintained that, despite the Arab refusal to cooperate with Israel in the overall development scheme, Israel should be allowed to proceed with the phase within its own boundaries in conformity with the outline of the Johnston Plan.

Sen. Scott told the JTA today he was pleased to hear Secretary Herter tell of his hopes to bring the Jordan River plan forward toward fruition.

TWO SENATORS, AMERICAN LABOR, OPPOSE ENDING OF DIRECT AID TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, April 28. (JTA) -- Two members of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee announced today that they were opposed to exclusion of Israel from the special assistance grant program for 1960. At the same time, a representative of the American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations told the House Foreign Affairs Committee that there was "no justification" for cutting Israel off from aid essential to her economy.

In addition, Sen. Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania, one of four Republican Senators who, it was disclosed yesterday, had personally visited Secretary of State Christian Herter to urge reconsideration of the exclusion of Israel from the aid grant program, indicated today that he did not find complete satisfaction in the Secretary's response to the request that Israel be put back on the list of nations to receive direct grant assistance.

The Secretary, it was reported, minimized the importance of this special assistance program, and suggested that Israel might instead be aided through development loans and surplus commodity sales. He held that budgetary restrictions prevented the continuation of Israel as a recipient of special assistance in the new fiscal year.

Sen. Scott said the Secretary was made aware of Congressional plans to initiate legislative action to restore Israel to participation in the special assistance program. The program is now pending before Congress. Secretary Herter was told that, if the Israeli grant was a budgetary problem, Congress could vote additional financing to cover the relatively small sum that would be involved for Israel. Sen. Scott said he intended to continue pursuing the issue, and would remain in touch with the State Department.

Morse Pledges Fight for Reinstatement of Israel

The two Senators who announced their opposition to the exclusion of Israel were Wayne Morse, Oregon, and John F. Kennedy, Massachusetts, both Democrats. Sen. Morse said he was planning a fight in the Senate because he did not believe Israel's elimination was justified.

Sen. Morse added that Israel should receive continued grant aid "because she did not walk out on her moral obligations to refugees, but the United States did." He said Israel relieved the refugee burden, and assumed obligations the United States should have undertaken. He called Israel a prime example of the sort of democratic nation the United States should aid economically, and said the economic strength of nations like Israel and the cause of freedom were linked. He questioned the wisdom, in terms of America's own interest, of the State Department decision to deny special assistance to Israel.

Sen. Kennedy said he was opposed to any arbitrary exclusion of Israel from the program. He took the position that Israel needed and deserved a fair share of special assistance. The Senator said he was studying the overall foreign aid program submitted by the State Department in order to evaluate the treatment of Israel in the proposals for the fiscal year.

Labor Backs Continued Aid Grants to Israel, House Body Told

Andrew J. Biemiller, legislative director of the AFL-CIO, told the House Foreign Affairs Committee today that organized American labor urged restoration of Israel to the list of nations to receive special assistance grants in 1960.

Mr. Biemiller told the committee that "in view of the key role the United States played in the establishment of Israel as a free democratic nation in the Middle East, there can be no justification for cutting off Israel from essential aid to her developing economy."

He said this was "especially true in view of the important, though necessarily limited, effort Israel is itself making to provide technical assistance to even less developed countries such as Ghana."

Mr. Biemiller said "we urge that the amount of funds authorized for special assistance be expanded and that the tentative decision to refuse further aid to Israel from special assistance funds be rescinded."

He said his organization had learned "that no funds are being allocated to Israel under the new program drafted by the State Department." He therefore wanted to advise Congress of the thinking of American labor on this subject.

ISRAEL JET FIGHTERS DRIVE OFF EGYPTIAN MIG'S NEAR BEERSHEBA

TEL AVIV, April 28. (JTA) -- Four Egyptian MIG-17 planes flew over southern Israel today and were forced back across the border by Israel fighter planes.

Military spokesmen reported that the Egyptian planes flew over an area south of Beersheba at 20,000 to 30,000 feet. There was no indication whether any air battle developed before the Egyptian planes were forced back.

BLAME INFILTRATORS FOR TWO DEATHS AT DEAD SEA TOURIST CENTER

TEL AVIV, April 28. (JTA) -- The likelihood that two young mountain-climbers, whose bullet-riddled bodies were found on historic Masada Rock, were the victims of Arab infiltrators was strengthened today by a report to police by another climber.

The Rock, famous as a Jewish fortress from the days of King Herod and now a major attraction for mountain climbers, was the site yesterday of death for a total of five Israelis in a series of disasters.

The first victims were the young couple. Shortly after their bodies were found, a woman climber was killed by a falling rock. A few hours later, an Army Piper Cub, investigating the slaying of the couple, crashed, killing its two occupants.

The climber told police he saw an armed Jordanian dressed in khaki and a second armed Arab in typical Arabian garb approach the place where he saw the young couple.

Another indication that the killers were Arab infiltrators was an Army report that two armed infiltrators were killed and a third escaped in a clash with an Israel patrol in the southern Negev. Masada is on the Dead Sea. Army officials suggested that the killers were part of a larger group of infiltrators operating in the Negev and that those who clashed with the patrol were part of the same gang.

A factor pointing to infiltrators was the fact that the possessions of the victims, including their watches, shoes and water containers, had been stolen.

The tragedies did not deter the usual holiday influx of climbers. Some 5,000 persons came to Masada to make the ascent which was easier this year because ladders have been installed.

FRENCH GENERAL CALLS FOR EXPANSION OF FRANCO-ISRAELI TIES

TEL AVIV, April 28. (JTA) -- Declaring his conviction that Israel and France will have stronger ties than ever under the regime of Gen. Charles de Gaulle, Gen. Pierre Koenig, former French Minister of Defense, last night called for expansion of Franco-Israeli economic and cultural ties.

Gen. Koenig made his statement at a reception given here for him by the Franco-Israeli Friendship League. Shimon Peres, director-general of the Israel Defense Ministry, praised Gen. Koenig for his friendship to Israel, revealing that, as far back as 1951, the French General had approved a request from Israel for heavy armaments.

JEWS IN GERMANY SEEK FUNDS TO AID REFUGEE SETTLEMENT IN ISRAEL

DUSSELDORF, April 28. (JTA) -- The Central Council of Jews in Germany issued an appeal today to all Jewish communities in this country, for staunch support of the fund-raising appeal to aid the absorption of Jewish immigrants in Israel.

In a call to all Jews in the country "to show through contributions that a Jewish community exists in Germany, and that it is conscious of its responsibility," the Council adopted a resolution declaring that "the building of the State of Israel has strengthened the position of all the Jews in the whole world, but there have been many sacrifices on the part of Israel, and more will be called for. It would not be fair to let Israel bear the burden alone. Besides, none of us knows whether he will not one day request Israel's help as an immigrant."

PROTEST DELAY IN TRIAL OF KEY FIGURE IN NAZI EXTERMINATION OF JEWS

WEISBADEN, April 28. (JTA) -- The International Auschwitz Committee lodged a complaint with the Hessian Ministry of Justice today against the repeated delays in the prosecution of Hermann Krumei, whom the committee called "a key figure in the Nazi extermination program."

According to the committee, Krumei was a principal assistant of SS Commander Adolf Eichmann, during the Nazi regime. The latter, with Krumei's aid, was said to have been responsible for the murder of 450,000 Hungarian Jews as well as for the murder of 88 children in the Czechoslovakian town of Lidice, which the Nazis wiped out.

Krumei was arrested twice, in April, 1957, and in August, 1958. Each time, however, he was released under court orders. The committee expressed fears, in its letter, that, unless Krumei was brought to trial soon, he might escape abroad.

BERLIN COURT ASSESSES FINE AGAINST ESTATE OF NAZI HEALTH LEADER

BERLIN, April 28. (JTA) -- The West Berlin de-Nazification Board ordered the confiscation of 3,000 marks (\$750) from the estate of the late Dr. Leonardo Conti, former Nazi Reich Health Leader. The money will be used for restitution purposes.

The widow of Dr. Conti, who committed suicide in an Allied prison camp following his arrest after Germany's surrender, was present at the hearing. The board emphasized that Dr. Conti had been the founder and leader of the Nazi Physicians Union and had been an active supporter of the Nazi movement from its beginnings to the collapse of the Nazi regime.

JEWISH CEMETERY IS DESECRATED IN WEST GERMAN TOWN

DUSSELDORF, April 28. (JTA) -- Police in the nearby town of Dinlaken reported yesterday that unknown persons had demolished 35 tombstones in the Dinlaken Jewish cemetery.

UNITED HIAS IS AIDING EAST EUROPEAN EMIGRANTS SEEKING HOMES IN WEST

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- United Hias Service staff in Vienna and other cities of Europe is continuing to process Jewish emigrants from Eastern European countries who wish to be resettled in Western Hemisphere countries, James P. Rice, executive director of the world-wide Jewish migration body, said today.

Mr. Rice, who returned from Europe yesterday, reported to Carlos L. Israels, United Hias president, that there was a small group of migrants who, for various reasons, especially family reunion, wanted to emigrate to countries other than those originally projected for them. United Hias, he said, was seeking visas for these people. United Hias is a beneficiary of the United Jewish Appeal.

Mr. Rice conferred in Europe with governmental and inter-governmental officials, including Marcus Daly, Director of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, and U.S. consular officials, before whom he presented the problem of visas for Jewish refugees from Egypt.

He said that he received "sympathetic response, from some officials," to his expressed hope that there "will be some extension of the 1957 law, perhaps as part of the U.S. participation in the World Refugee Year which is scheduled to begin in July in accordance with United Nations planning."

In the past four years, United Hias has resettled close to 35,000 Jews in the United States, Canada, Latin America, Australia, and elsewhere. Of these, more than 14,000 were Jewish men, women and children who managed to leave Hungary following the revolt of 1956. An additional 800 to 1,000 Hungarian Jews who remain in Western Europe, according to Mr. Rice, will be resettled this year, mostly in the United States under a provision of the 1957 U.S. refugee legislation.

CAIRO RADIO BROADCASTING ANTI-JEWISH ATTACKS IN NAZI STYLE

WASHINGTON, April 28. (JTA) -- Anti-Jewish slurs have been injected into recent broadcasts by the Voice of the Arabs, the Cairo radio outlet of the United Arab Republic.

A recent UAR broadcast, noted in Washington, said "a Communist is like a Jew--servile, a flatterer, and a hypocrite." Another broadcast, quoting the Nasser-controlled newspaper, "Al-Gomhouria, alleged that a Jew was among "hard-core Iraqi communists." Cairo said "a communist newspaper described them as heroic martyrs, yet one was a Jew."

TREATY WITH MUSCAT AND OMAN OMITS RESTRICTIONS ON AMERICAN JEWS

WASHINGTON, April 28. (JTA) -- Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, obtained assurances today from the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that no restrictions against Americans of Jewish faith were contained in a new treaty with the Arab sultanate of Muscat and Oman ratified by the Senate today.

Before voting on the measure, Sen. Javits sought information to determine if the State Department might have again drafted a treaty discriminating against travel rights of American Jews as it did in a previous undertaking with Saudi Arabia. The Senator was reassured that the treaty with Muscat and Oman was free of any such discriminatory clause.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS BACK EISENHOWER STAND ON WEST BERLIN

WASHINGTON, April 28. (JTA) -- The national executive committee of the Jewish War Veterans announced adoption of a resolution endorsing the position of President Eisenhower and the Foreign Ministers of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization Congress that there will be no retreat from the defense of West Berlin.

CHICAGO HELD 'SORE SPOT' IN FIELD OF JOB DISCRIMINATION

CHICAGO, April 28. (JTA) -- Chicago is one of the "sore spot" centers in the field of job discrimination, with at least 1,484 firms here practicing job bias on the basis of race or religion, according to testimony given here today by William Karp, executive director of the Bureau on Jewish Employment Practices.

Mr. Karp, appearing before the Illinois Advisory Committee to the United States Civil Rights Commission, said that about 700 of the discriminating firms were "blue chip" corporations.

Job specifications maintained by employers here, he declared, included conditions that prospective employees be "Gentiles only," or "no Catholics," or "Caucasian," or "Nordic only," or "anything but a Catholic." Some of the firms engaging in these practices, he declared, held Federal contracts, and others claimed they were eligible for government contracts in spite of practicing discrimination.

SINGER, YIDDISH NOVELIST, IS GRANTED NATIONAL INSTITUTE AWARD

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- Isaac Bashevis Singer, Yiddish novelist and short-story writer, today was awarded one of the annual grants of the National Institute of Arts and Letters. The awards, involving \$1,500 grants this year, are given to those who distinguish themselves in various arts.

Others on the list of 18 to receive this year's grants were Leon Edel, critic and biographer; Stanley Kunitz, poet and editor of literary reference works; Ruth Gikow, painter; and Minna Harkavy and Nathaniel Kaz, sculptors.

RABBI SCHWARTZ RETIRES AS DIRECTOR OF CANADIAN ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

MONTREAL, Que., April 28. (JTA) -- The retirement of Rabbi Jesse Schwartz as national executive director of the Zionist Organization of Canada was announced today. Rabbi Schwartz is retiring because of ill-health after nearly two decades of service with the ZOC.

His successor will be Max Melamet, of Capetown, South Africa. Mr. Melamet, 48, is a member of the South African bar, was an official of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, secretary of the Cape Council of the Board and an organizer of the Jewish People's College in Capetown.

ST. LOUIS JEWS HAVE LOWER MORTALITY RATE THAN NON-JEWISH NEIGHBORS

WASHINGTON, April 28. (JTA) -- Jewish residents of St. Louis, Mo., have a 14 percent lower overall mortality rate than white St. Louisians as a whole, according to a study published in Public Health Reports.

Studying the period 1955-1957, statistics showed that Jews reached a greater mean age at death--66.7 years as compared with 64.4 years for their non-Jewish neighbors. Rates for most causes of death were lower than among non-Jews and some were much lower. Cirrhosis of the liver was 72 percent lower and tuberculosis 80 percent lower.