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KHRUSHCHEV TELLS RUSSIANS HE WILL PERMIT EMIGRATION OF JEWS

PARIS, May 18. (JTA) -- The Paris Radio reported today that Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev, speaking at a public gathering in an unnamed provincial city in the Soviet Union, declared that every Jew in the USSR desiring to emigrate from the country will be permitted to do so.

The Paris Radio also reported from Beirut that the statement made by Mr. Khrushchev to visiting American war veterans that he is playing with the idea to permit "in the future" the emigration of all those in the Soviet Union who would like to leave the country will be considered by the Arab League at a conference called for the purpose of discussing means to prevent Jewish emigration to Israel. Participating in the conference will be Morocco, the United Arab Republic, Jordan, Lebanon and Saudi Arabia.

A report from Cairo in the press today said that the Secretary General of the Arab League has asked the Soviet Ambassador in Cairo for "clarification" of Khrushchev's statement to the American war veteran. (In Israel, Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, commenting on Khrushchev's statement said that although the Soviet Premier did mention the exact time when emigration from Russia would be permitted, "I hope he did not mean this would happen in the Messiah's days.")

HEBREW UNIVERSITY SUSPENDS ALL CLASSES; STUDENT STRIKE CONTINUES

JERUSALEM, May 18. (JTA) -- Hebrew University suspended all classes at noon today in the face of a student strike against an increase in tuition fees.

The strike, which led to the resignation of the president of the Students Organization, commenced Friday, after the students rejected an appeal by Prime Minister David Ben Gurion to postpone their contemplated protest action for two weeks in order to give him time to review the demands of the students.

A government committee had recommended an increase in fees from 250 Israeli pounds per semester to 400 pounds. The majority of the students has protested against the increase despite general public support of the rise. The new fees would still make the University tuition lower than the fees in high schools in this country.

MAPAI WINS IN HISTADRUT ELECTIONS; GETS 55% IN EARLY TABULATIONS

TEL AVIV, May 18. (JTA) -- With only about 75 percent of the 635,000 eligible voters casting their ballots, yesterday's national elections conducted by Histadrut, the Israel Federation of Labor, indicated that the candidates of the ruling Mapai Party won 55 percent of the votes, against 57 percent in the last Histadrut elections, several years ago.

Early tabulations indicated these figures for Mapai and showed the left-wing Mapam Party garnering twelve and a half percent of the vote, the same as four years ago; Ahdut Avodah, 16 percent, against a previous fourteen and a half percent; Haoved Hazioni, sponsored by the Progressive Zionists, seven percent against the previous 5.3 percent; Communists, four percent, the same as in the last elections.

Other parties running candidates for Histadrut office were the General Zionist Workers, whose vote was somewhat less than that given Haoved Hazioni; and the Religious Workers. Final results are not expected earlier than Wednesday. But the trend in the tabulations seems to be holding, as more votes come into Histadrut headquarters here.

The Communists showed losses in the big cities, but recorded gains in new immigrant centers. In Tel Aviv, the Communists lost two percent of their previous vote. A feature considered significant is the gain shown by Ahdut Avodah in Beersheba and Haifa, against a Mapai decrease in the same cities.

Mapai election chief Joseph Almogi called the election "an important victory," in view of the strong attacks against Mapai carried out by all the opposition parties. On the other hand, leaders of Ahdut Avodah and Haoved Hazioni expressed their satisfaction with the results, maintaining that the results will give their parties greater influence in the Federation of Labor.

ISRAEL INTERCEPTS LEBANESE PLANE; CARRIES MEMBERS OF U.N. FORCE

TEL AVIV, May 18. (JTA) -- A twin-engined Lebanese Airways Dakota plane, carrying 25 members of the United Nations Emergency Force, was intercepted by Israeli fighters today over Israel air-space near Haifa, and forced to land at Lydda Airport near this city.

The three Lebanese crewmen said they had noted some fighters in the air, but thought the intercepting planes were MIGs flown by Syrian airmen. The plane was carrying the UNEF men from the UNEF airport at El Arish, in the Sinai Peninsula, to Beirut.

While the Lebanese crew was being interrogated, the UNEF men were given lunch at the Lydda airport restaurant. After questioning the crew, Israeli officials permitted the UNEF soldiers to resume their vacation flight.

ISRAEL SUSPENDS IMPLEMENTATION OF LOAN FOR IMMIGRATION FROM RUMANIA

JERUSALEM, May 18. (JTA) -- The Treasury today issued instructions to stay the implementation of the compulsory loan which was promulgated to finance immigration from Rumania. The fate of the loan will be decided at a meeting of the Cabinet.

Deductions from salaries for the loan were to be started this month, but employers were today advised to wait for further orders. Second thoughts about the loan, which was expected to bring 40,000,000 Israeli pounds, emerged when the unexpected flow of Jewish immigration from Rumania was abruptly halted.

AMERICAN FORESEES RISE IN U.S. PRIVATE INVESTMENTS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, May 18. (JTA) -- Nathan Straus of New York, chairman of the American Chamber of Commerce, predicted today that the flow of private investments from the United States to Israel would rise to \$50,000,000 annually by 1963 compared with the present annual rate of \$15,000,000.

Mr. Straus made his prediction at the opening session of the second International Conference of Bi-National Chambers of Commerce. Pinhas Saphir, Minister of Trade, told the delegates that a few years ago Israel had few exports to offer and the local market was starved for imported goods. Now, he said, "we are in a position to give preference to countries interested in buying our products."

EBAN LEAVES WASHINGTON TODAY; HERZOG TO ACT AS CHARGE D'AFFAIRES

WASHINGTON, May 18. (JTA) -- Yacov Herzog, Israel's Minister of Plenipotentiary here, will act as charge d'affaires for the Israeli Embassy, upon the departure of Ambassador Abba Eban. Mr. Eban today formally notified the State Department and the Washington diplomatic corps of Mr. Herzog's official designation.

This afternoon, Mr. Eban made a formal farewell call, at the State Department, on Deputy Undersecretaries Robert Murphy and Loy Henderson, and on William Rountree, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs. Tonight, Mr. and Mrs. Eban will say farewell to a number of other Washingtonians at a cocktail party at the Israel Embassy. Tomorrow, Mr. and Mrs. Eban will leave for New York. They will sail Friday aboard the S.S. United States.

STATE DEPT. DENIES CONDONING "NULLIFICATION" OF ANTI-BIAS LAWS

WASHINGTON, May 18. (JTA) -- The Department of State today took pains to underline that it has never condoned "nullification" of U.S. anti-bias laws, as charged this morning by the American Jewish Congress.

Referring to a charge that Assistant Secretary William Rountree has supported indirectly a Saudi-Arabian request to ban Jews from employment with the Arabian American Oil Company, (Aramco), State Department spokesman Lincoln White said the Department "has protested against discriminatory practices by foreign governments against American citizens, and will continue to seek improvement in the Arab attitude in this matter, as opportunities to do so arise."

The American Jewish Congress yesterday announced that it had requested, in a letter to Undersecretary Douglas Dillon, a meeting with Secretary of State Christian Herter, to discuss how best to protect the rights of American citizens against foreign religious bigotry. It charged that Mr. Rountree had written to the New York State Commission Against Discrimination that, if Aramco were required to comply with the state law, this might "prejudice the company's operation" and "probably adversely affect other U.S. interests in Saudi Arabia as well."

Mr. White said today that the State Department has not yet received the communication mentioned in the American Jewish Congress announcement. However, he added that he wanted to comment on the reports by emphasizing "as strongly as I can" that the Department and Mr. Rountree have never condoned discriminatory practices. Mr. White's statement did not take issue with the basic facts as presented in the AJC version, claiming that Assistant Secretary Rountree's letter to the New York SCAD was based upon "established policy" in this respect.

EHRENBURG URGES SOVIET WRITERS NOT TO BE INDIFFERENT TO ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- Ilya Ehrenburg, famous Russian novelist, and a Jew, has conceded that anti-Semitism is a problem in Soviet Russia, it appeared today from a Moscow dispatch in the New York Times. Mr. Ehrenburg, according to the report, called on Soviet writers to concern themselves with the problem of anti-Semitism, in the tradition of great Russian writers of the past, like Anton Chekhov.

Mr. Ehrenburg, the dispatch states, has just published an article, considered a "literary bomb," in the magazine "Novy Mir." In the article, entitled "On Rereading Chekhov," he points out that Chekhov had shown "intense" concern with anti-Semitism and with the famous case of 1894 when a court-martial was held in France against Capt. Alfred Dreyfus, who had been accused on forged evidence of selling military information to Germany. That case was regarded as a manifestation of anti-Semitism in French military circles of that day, since Dreyfus was a Jew.

N. C. R. A. C. CALLS FOR LEGISLATION TO CHECK BOMBINGS OF SYNAGOGUES

DETROIT, May 18. (JTA) -- A resolution calling for Federal legislation that would provide for FBI intervention in cases of bombings perpetrated against synagogues or churches was adopted here last night at the closing meeting of the four-day plenary session of the National Community Relations Advisory Council. The NCRAC is composed of six national Jewish organizations and 47 local Jewish community relations councils.

Other resolutions dealing with the American scene expressed formal opposition to rabbinical certification as the basis for excusing school absenteeism on Jewish holidays; expressed support of the United States Supreme Court against attempts to limit its jurisdiction and discredit its rulings; and called for energetic use by President Eisenhower of his authority to facilitate compliance with the Supreme Court's rulings on desegregation of schools.

The NCRAC also called for liberalization of the American policy on immigration; and for United States cooperation with the aims of World Refugee Year which starts on July 1.

In other resolutions, the 150 delegates urged government action against the Arab boycott practiced against Americans; called on the U. S. Government to refuse to condone discrimination by the Arab states against U. S. citizens on grounds of race or religion; and called for steps to counteract anti-Jewish propaganda by Arabs in this country.

The delegates also affirmed their commitment to the principle that race or religion may not be made a test of fitness or availability for public office. Judge David L. Ullman, of Philadelphia, was re-elected chairman of the NCRAC for a third term.

"PARTNERSHIP" BETWEEN AMERICAN JEWISH PRESS AND ORGANIZATIONS URGED

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- A plea for "partnership" between the American Jewish press and the national Jewish organizations "so as to reach the American Jewish Community through the best channel of communication we have for educating our people on the problems confronting us," was voiced at the annual convention of the American Jewish Press Association, held at the Park Sheraton Hotel here. The association consists of 28 major Jewish weeklies published throughout the country.

The plea was voiced by Philip Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith and head of the "Presidents' Club" in an address at a luncheon given by the Association for leaders of national Jewish organizations. The editors and publishers attending the convention voted unanimously to effectuate this proposal at the earliest moment. The convention was also addressed by Boris Smolar, editor-in-chief, and Victor Bienstock, general manager of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Additional discussion dealing with advertising, circulation and editorial improvements were aimed at making it financially possible for the nation's weekly Jewish newspapers to better serve the growing American Jewish community. The group also voted to change its name from the American Association of English-Jewish Newspapers to the American Jewish Press Association.

J. I. Fishbein of the Chicago "Sentinel" was named president for a second term. Other officers elected include Joseph Weisberg of the Boston "Jewish Advocate" as vice president and chairman of the executive board; Albert W. Golomb of the "American Jewish Outlook" of Pittsburgh, and Leo Frisch of the "American Jewish World" of Minneapolis, St. Paul as vice presidents; Adolf Rosenberg of the "Southern Israelite" of Atlanta as treasurer; and James Wisch of the "Texas Jewish Post" of Dallas-Fort Worth as secretary.

150 CONSERVATIVE CONGREGATIONS IN U. S. REPORTED IN NEED OF RABBIS

KIAMESHA LAKE, N. Y., May 18. (JTA) -- There is a shortage of Conservative rabbis in the United States and Canada, 150 congregations needing spiritual leaders, Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America, told the convention of the Conservative rabbinate here last night. The shortage is particularly acute in non-metropolitan areas in the South and Midwest, Rabbi Kelman declared.

ORT AIDED 36,000 LAST YEAR; MAINTAINED TRADE SCHOOLS IN 19 COUNTRIES

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- The American Ort Federation today reported that, during the year 1958, the Ort provided educational and economic services to 36,000 persons in 19 countries. Seventy different trades were taught in the Ort schools for vocational training, the report said.

Cost of all Ort activities in 1958 was \$5,386,207. This year expenditures are expected to come to more than \$5,657,000, a rise of \$271,000. The report attributes the largest part of Ort's income to American Jewish philanthropic gifts. The Joint Distribution Committee allocated \$1,605,000 in 1958 out of United Jewish Appeal funds and has pledged \$1,600,000 for 1959. Membership dues of Women's American Ort and other affiliated groups here, contributed an additional \$677,901.

Ort schools graduated close to 10,000 persons last year. The report notes that graduates had no difficulty in finding employment since the shortage of skilled and trained workers in Israel, North Africa, Iran and Western Europe, the principal areas of Ort work, "puts a premium on those with technical skill." The report notes that the number of persons enrolled for training in Ort during 1958 was 30 percent higher than the year before.

The report calls attention to the close cooperation between Ort and various governmental and United Nations bodies. In 1958, for example, Ort was assigned full responsibility by the United States Escapee Program for all vocational training of refugees under its aegis in Austria. A program of foreman training was undertaken jointly with the International Labor Office and the Israeli Ministry of Labor, at the Ort Central Institute in Switzerland. In France and Italy, government subventions cover the largest part of local Ort schools.

INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT TO GET PRIORITY IN ISRAEL, DR. SCHWARTZ REPORTS

NEW YORK, May 18. (JTA) -- With its agricultural development advanced to a high degree, the State of Israel is now giving top priority to wider planning for industrial growth, Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice president of the Israel Bond Organization, reported today following his return from conferences with leaders in Israel.

"The development of new industrial enterprises, with special emphasis on increasing exports to the Far East as well as Europe, represents the most important element in Israel's economic progress in the second decade of its independence," Dr. Schwartz said.

Dr. Schwartz declared that the Israel leaders were gratified with the increased rate of Israel bond sales in the United States during the past four months. He said that since May, 1951, more than \$380,000,000 has been raised through the Israel bond campaign. "Money raised through the Israel bond drive is being invested in those areas of the economy which produce substantial quantities of goods for export," Dr. Schwartz stressed.

"One of the key areas of the country being developed by Israel bonds is the Negev, the southern half of Israel which has been barren for centuries," he continued. "This area is now exploiting phosphates, copper, oil, clay and other natural resources, which are of decisive importance as exports, or in reducing the need for imports. The Israel bond drive must raise a minimum of \$75,000,000 during 1959 for the development of industry and agriculture, the expansion of roads, harbors and railways, the exploitation of natural resources, and the construction of immigrant housing," Dr. Schwartz added.

PHILADELPHIA JEWISH FEDERATION APPROVES MERGER OF UNITED FUND

PHILADELPHIA, May 18. (JTA) -- The Board of Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia announced approval today of the merger of the Philadelphia Community Chest and the city's United Fund which will result in raising the Federation to the same status as that of other major organizations affiliated directly with the United Fund.

The Federation Board action was one of the final steps paving the way for consolidation of voluntary fund-raising and welfare planning services under a new "United Fund of the Philadelphia area."

Federation President Abraham L. Freedman, stressed that the relation of the Federation to the United Fund will be basically the same as it has had with the Community Chest for 25 years. He said the United Fund will continue to be the main source of funds for the Federation's 20 local health and welfare services and that the Federation will receive \$1,771,343 from the United Fund for the coming year.

When the merger is completed, the Community Chest will end and its fund-raising and budgeting functions will be continued by the new United Fund. The Federation, as in the past, will continue to be responsible for planning and budgeting for its own agencies. For such purpose, the Federation will continue to receive a lump sum allocation from the proceeds of the annual United Fund drive.

Noting that for several years, the United Fund campaigns have been falling substantially below projected goals, Mr. Freedman said the results have affected the Philadelphia Jewish community. He added that the new United Fund was expected to halt the downward trend in campaign results.