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JEWISH AGENCY STARTS TEN-DAY SESSION TODAY ON IMPORTANT PROBLEMS

JERUSALEM, May 19. (JTA) -- Under the chairmanship of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, and with the participation of American members, the Jewish Agency executive will open a ten-day series of meetings here tomorrow, one of the longest sessions on record.

There are 31 items on the agenda. They include the Agency's budget; prospects of immigration into Israel generally, and from the United States in particular; the situation in the coordinating committee between the Agency and the Israel Government; initiation of basic discussions on redistribution of tasks as between the Agency and the Israel Government in the field of immigrant absorption; and the appointment of a Presidents' Club advisory committee for the Jewish Agency.

SENATE HEARINGS CONCLUDED ON NOMINATION OF REID AS U.S. ENVOY TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, May 20. (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today concluded its hearings on the nomination by President Eisenhower of Ogden R. Reid, of New York, as U.S. Ambassador to Israel. The Committee is expected to vote on the confirmation of the 33-year-old nominee within a few days.

Although considerable doubt as to his qualifications had been voiced previously by some members of the Committee, the chances for an affirmative vote seemed good after the third round of questioning today which lasted all day. Mr. Reid answered penetrating questions in a calm and highly intelligent way, displaying considerable knowledge of the situation in the Middle East in general and in Israel in particular. The questions were put to him primarily by Senator William Fulbright, chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee.

Mr. Reid's appropriate replies also proved diplomatic skills and sound judgment, according to observers here. This impression was summed up by Sen. Wayne Morse, Oregon Democrat, a member of the Committee, who remarked: "You have done an admirable job so far." Before the noon recess, Mr. Reid was questioned, in addition to Senators Fulbright and Morse, by Sen. Albert Gore, Tennessee Democrat; Sen. Alexander Wiley, Wisconsin Republican; Sen. William L. Langer, North Dakota Republican; and Sen. George D. Aiken, Republican, of Vermont.

During the questioning by Sen. Fulbright, the nominee's educational and professional background was thoroughly discussed. Mr. Fulbright repeated his view, expressed a week ago, that it was Mr. Reid's task to convince the Committee that he was qualified to take charge of an Embassy, even though he was "extremely young" and not a career diplomat.

The nominee's views, as well as his lack of diplomatic experience, were the focal points of the hearing. But other questions came up as well. These included questions as to whether there was any truth to reports that his real ambition was to be Mayor of New York; and that his assignment in Israel would be a springboard to that aim.

Mr. Reid was asked whether he suggested to Ambassador Abba Eban that the latter put in a word for him with Sen. Fulbright. He was asked whether he had any fixed views with respect to controversies prevailing between Israel and the Arab states. Mr. Reid stated that he knows of no "intervention" by Mr. Eban. He agreed with Sen. Morse that any such intervention would not be appropriate.

Reid Praises Israel's Achievements; Displays Knowledge of Hebrew

The appointee had high praise for Israel's "remarkable achievements" of which he gave detailed accounts and which, in his view, "hold high promise not only for Israel herself but for many other countries as well."

In reply to a question by Sen. Gore, he declined to give his view on the amount of aid which should be given to Israel by the United States, but "as a private citizen," he expressed his belief that the United States aid to Israel should be continued. Upon request by Sen. Aiken, he gave the Committee an example of his knowledge of Hebrew by saying, in Hebrew: "We want peace between all nations."

As the hearing was concluded, Mr. Reid told the Committee that he and Mrs. Reid feel very deeply about the appointment to the Ambassadorship. "We shall serve with all our hearts and minds in this wonderful country," he said. He assured the Committee that, whatever it decides concerning confirmation of his appointment, he will approach the decision "with great humility."

U. S. MISSION CHIEF REPORTS ON AMERICAN AID TO ISRAEL; GIVES DETAILS

TEL AVIV, May 19. (JTA) -- American aid to Israel since the proclamation of the State has totaled almost \$670,000,000, John Haggerty, Chief of the United States Mission in Israel, reported in a speech to the Rotary club here.

He said this sum broke down into \$12,800,000 in technical aid; \$291,200,000 in special assistance, mostly grants or gifts; \$20,000,000 in Development Loan funds; \$162,500,000 in Export-Import Bank Loans; \$131,000,000 in agricultural commodities sales and \$52,300,000 in food gifts.

In another breakdown, he said that 23 percent of the total went to agricultural development, 18 percent to irrigation, 27 percent to mining and industry, four percent to transportation, nine percent for electric power and 19 percent for various health, housing and public works projects.

Stressing American help to the Negev, Haggerty pointed out that 6,000,000 Israel pounds from American funds were spent on agricultural schools and experimental stations, \$3,000,000 for afforestation in the Negev, \$15,000,000 for irrigation which included the Yarkon and the Negev, \$10,000,000 for housing, \$10,000,000 for developing mines and the Dead Sea works.

He said smaller sums had been granted for roads, electric lines and communications, including \$10,000,000 for expanding a railroad to the inner Negev. The funds provided by the recently-signed \$5,000,000 Development Loan, he stated, would be used for loans to small business enterprises which must get equipment or materials abroad.

BEN GURION ANALYZES "NEGATIVE ASPECTS" IN ISRAEL'S SOCIAL LIFE

TEL AVIV, May 19. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben Gurion has expressed concern about "three negative aspects" in Israel's social life.

Speaking at a unity conference of working and student youth, the Prime Minister listed these as: first, the lack of a voluntary pioneering movement; second, schism and disunity in Israel's political life, and third, a widening gap between workers and intellectuals.

He called the third problem the "greatest danger" to Israel's hopes of achieving a society based on social justice and he stressed that science would "in itself be empty of its values if scientists were cut adrift from the day to day realities of the workers' life."

His audience was a group of 800 delegates representing 70,000 youth belonging to Hanoar Haoved, sponsored mainly by Achdut Avodah, and Hatnu Hameuchedet, sponsored by Mapai. The two groups have been practicing unity for nearly a year under a new name, Working and Student Youth. Other speakers were Mapai and Achdut Avodah leaders.

GOLDA MEIR LEAVES ISRAEL FOR SIX-WEEK TOUR OF LATIN AMERICA

TEL AVIV, May 19. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, left today for a six-week tour of Latin America, during which she will visit the capitals of seven countries, where she will confer with leaders of the governments as well as with leaders of the Jewish communities in those countries.

Her first stop will be Buenos Aires, after which she will go to Montevideo, Santiago de Chile, Mexico City, Guatemala, Caracas, and Rio de Janeiro. After she has concluded her Latin American tour, on June 30, she said she hopes to go to the United States for a few days' rest, before returning home via Britain and France. Mrs. Meir, who had been affected by fatigue, was released only yesterday from a hospital to which she had been sent by her physicians for a brief rest.

Asked whether any friendship agreements might be signed with any of the Latin American countries during her visits, she replied that "nothing has been pre-arranged, although something might result."

FIRST ALUMINUM FACTORY OPENED IN ISRAEL; CONSTRUCTED WITH FRENCH AID

JERUSALEM, May 19. (JTA) -- The Albar Rolling Mills, the first major aluminum factory in Israel, was opened today at Kfar Saba, a settlement in central Israel.

The plant, which has a capacity double that of Israel's own aluminum needs, is a joint venture of Israel and foreign capital. Equipment was provided by the Coquillard Aluminum Company of France which also supplied technical assistance in the construction of the plant.

JEW NAMED DUTCH MINISTER OF WAR AND NAVY; WAS GENERAL IN ARMY

THE HAGUE, May 19. (JTA) -- The new Dutch Cabinet, announced here today, includes one Jew. He is Sydney Van Der Bergh, who has been appointed Minister of War and Navy. Mr. Van Der Bergh, is 62. A retired major-general in the Dutch Army, he was formerly paymaster-general.

NEW PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE PLEDGES AID TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 19. (JTA) -- All possible aid to Israel by the American Jewish Committee was pledged today by Herbert B. Ehrmann, newly elected president of the organization, at a press conference held at the Harmonie Club here. However, Mr. Ehrmann added, the American Jewish Committee does not intend to participate in any projected advisory committee for the Jewish Agency.

The new president said that his organization is now engaged in long-range plans to eradicate anti-Semitism in the United States. He noted that organized anti-Semitism has lost ground in this country, but that individual hatemongers are still active in disseminating anti-Jewish propaganda. The activities of these individuals, he said, are being watched by the American Jewish Committee.

Mr. Ehrmann reviewed the studies made by the American Jewish Committee in various countries with regard to the position of the Jews there. He said that, with the exception of Germany, there is no anti-Semitism existing today in any of the West European countries. The Jews in these lands, he reported, are seeking to strengthen their Jewish communal life, and are being aided in this respect by the American Jewish Committee. In Germany, he stated, anti-Semitic elements are now becoming more and more arrogant, but the West German Government is taking all measures possible to curb their activities.

Touching upon the situation of the Jews in Morocco and Tunisia, Mr. Ehrmann revealed that he addressed a letter to the Moroccan Government, asking it to permit the emigration from Morocco of those Jews who wish to emigrate. He said that the governments of Morocco and Tunisia are friendly to their Jewish citizens but insist on their "integration" by interfering into the activities of Jewish institutions. The American Jewish Committee, he reported, has now asked these North African governments to let the Jews maintain their traditional life.

Mr. Ehrmann expressed the belief that the talk held by leaders of the American Jewish Committee with Soviet Deputy Premier Mikoyan during the latter's recent visit in the United States has prevented the mass transfer of Jews in the Soviet Union to Biro-Bidjan. Plans for such a "transfer" were known to have been under discussion in the ranks of the Soviet Government, he stated.

JEWISH CONGRESS PRESIDENT TAKES ISSUE WITH STATE DEPT. VIEW ON BIAS

NEW YORK, May 19. (JTA) -- Rabbi Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress, took issue today with the spokesman for the State Department in Washington on the matter of discrimination against American citizens who are Jews, and who are blacklisted by an American firm doing business with Saudi Arabia.

Dr. Prinz had sent a letter to Undersecretary of State C. Douglas Dillon, seeking a conference with Secretary of State Christian Herter on the discrimination against American Jews practiced by the Arabian-American Oil Company (Aramco). Yesterday, Lincoln White, spokesman for the State Department, issued a statement replying to Dr. Prinz.

In a counter-response, Dr. Prinz stated today that Mr. White is in error when he characterizes the Arab attack against American Jews as resulting primarily from Israel-Arab tensions. According to Rabbi Prinz, Mr. White had also indicated that the Saudi Arabian blacklist applies only to firms that have branches in Israel or are engaged in commercial dealings with Israel.

"The fact is," declared Rabbi Prinz, "that American firms, owned or managed by Jews, are subject to an unremitting boycott by Saudi Arabia, whether they maintain branches in Israel or not." That fact was admitted, said the Jewish Congress leader, by counsel for Aramco who had testified that Saudi Arabia ordered Aramco not to deal with "any company or corporation, no matter where it is located, that is in any way influenced by Jewish management."

JEWISH LIFE IN U.S. SEEN AS BEING ONLY "SKIN DEEP"; LACKS SPIRITUALITY

KIAMESHA LAKE, N. Y., May 19. (JTA) -- Asserting that Jewish life in America was "only skin deep," Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan, founder of the Jewish Reconstructionist movement, declared last night that all three forms of Jewish religious ideology in the United States had failed to establish an intrinsic connection between Jewish life and spirituality. He said Jewish life was "social rather than spiritual."

Dr. Kaplan told 400 delegates to the annual convention of the Rabbinical Assembly of America that "one half of Jewish identity" in the United States was "the product of Gentile exclusiveness, and the other half is the product of Jewish association."

He listed the "rehabilitation of Israel as the spiritual homeland of the Jewish people" as the first point in a series of "religious imperatives" which American Jews must follow so that Jewish life would "recover its spiritual character." He also urged organic Jewish communities, better knowledge of Hebrew, and revitalization of Jewish Sabbath and festivals.

JEWS IN CANADA CALL PARLEY ON HUMANE SLAUGHTER LEGISLATION ISSUE

MONTREAL, May 19. (JTA) -- Canada's Jewish religious leaders have been convened for a special conference to be held here next Sunday to discuss further steps in regard to the increasing concern over humane slaughter legislation pending in Parliament at Ottawa. It is feared that some provisions of the projected law might affect Schechitah.

The conference has been summoned by the Religious Welfare Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress, after discussions of the pending legislation by a special joint committee of the Religious Welfare Committee and the Public Relations Committee on Humane Slaughter Legislation.

Next Sunday's conference is expected to draft plans for further discussions between leaders of the Canadian Jewish community and governmental leaders, including members of the House of Commons Standing Committee on Agriculture, which has been holding hearings in regard to the proposed legislation.

A committee including S.M. Harris, of Toronto, and Rabbi S.M. Zambrowsky, national executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress, conferred over the weekend in Ottawa with Dave Walker, parliamentary assistant to the Minister of Justice and Leon Crestohl, Jewish member of Parliament and a member of the agricultural committee. They have scheduled other conferences, with other government leaders.

The controversy over the proposed humane slaughter legislation has reached a peak since the stand taken by the Jewish leaders was criticized by the Toronto Humane Society which sharply attacked the stand of the Canadian Jewish Congress for defending the traditional Jewish method of slaughtering animals for food.

PHILADELPHIA JEWISH FEDERATION APPROVES \$2,000,000 BUDGET FOR 1959-60

PHILADELPHIA, May 19. (JTA) -- A budget of \$1,957,150 for local health and welfare services for the fiscal year beginning June 1, was approved by the Board of Trustees of Federation Jewish Agencies here. It comes mostly from moneys provided by the Community Chest-United Fund.

The Federation Board, in an unprecedented move, also acted at the same meeting on allocations for Jewish education for the school year beginning next fall, voting \$318,625 from funds to be supplied by the Allied Jewish Appeal Campaign. The allocation decision was made two months earlier than in previous years, thus enabling the schools "to plan ahead more intelligently for the coming year," it was explained by William B. Rudenko, chairman of the Federation's Jewish Education Budget Committee.

MIAMI JEWISH HOSPITAL GETS \$50,000 GIFT FROM NEW YORK FAMILY

MIAMI, May 19. (JTA) -- A \$50,000 gift to Mt. Sinai Hospital by Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Mindlin was announced here today. The gift will be used to establish the Saul Mindlin Contemplation Room at the new Mt. Sinai Hospital now going up on Miami Beach.

Saul Mindlin died on August 21, 1958, at the age of 37, following a lengthy illness. In 1952, he had been appointed by then President Harry S. Truman to the President's Commission on the Health Needs of the Nation. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Mindlin, formerly of Brooklyn, N.Y., were among founders of Beth El Congregation there. A brother, Leo Mindlin, is executive editor of The Jewish Floridian.

The late Saul Mindlin joined the Navy Department in Washington, D.C., rose rapidly through the ranks, and by 1944 was an assistant to George Keenan in the War Production Board, an advisor to then President Roosevelt. At the conclusion of World War II, Mr. Mindlin was assigned to the Veterans Administration as national chief of the psychiatric division in prosthetics.

COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM GIVES \$25,000 TO NON-SECTARIAN BODY TO AID JEWS

NEW YORK, May 19. (JTA) -- The American Council for Judaism today announced that it granted \$25,000 from its philanthropic fund to Jewish refugees from Rumania and Egypt. The check has been presented to the International Rescue Committee, a non-sectarian agency, the announcement said.

FIVE YIDDISH AND HEBREW AUTHORS RECEIVE 1958 LAMED ALEPH PRIZE

NEW YORK, May 19. (JTA) -- Five Yiddish and Hebrew authors were the recipients today of the 1958 Lamed Aleph prizes given annually for the best books that appeared in Yiddish and Hebrew during the year. The \$500 prizes went to Meir Stiker, for a book of Yiddish poetry; Benjamin Resler and Chayim Brandwein, two authors of Hebrew novels. The fourth prize of \$500, for Yiddish prose, was divided between Itzhak Mezker and Abraham Zack, two Yiddish novelists.

JOINT ARGENTINE-ISRAEL SHIPPING LINE PLANNED, AMBASSADOR ANNOUNCES

JERUSALEM, May 19. (JTA) -- A joint Israel-Argentine shipping company is being planned on a parity basis. Rodolfo Garcias Arias, the new Argentine Ambassador, told the Tel Aviv Commercial Club today.