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## ISSUE OF U. S. MILITARY AID FOR ISRAEL RAISED IN SENATE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, June 23. (JTA) -- A Defense Department spokesman conceded a possibility of defense aid to Israel, but the State Department flatly denied such consideration in Senate Foreign Relations Committee testimony published today.

In the course of hearings on pending Mutual Security legislation, Charles H. Shuff, Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Military Assistance, was asked whether he considered judgment involving the exclusion of Israel from U. S. defense assistance to be sound. Mr. Shuff replied: "I would have to wait until the end of 1960 to really factually answer that question, because it may be that Israel and the Department of State may negotiate a military assistance grant agreement during the course of that fiscal year. I don't know whether this will happen."

After an "off-the-record" discussion deleted for security reasons, the transcript indicated Mr. Shuff agreed that, barring any new developments, the existing non-military programs for Israel were sound. William Rountree, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, also testified. He told the committee: "I would say quite frankly that we have not considered the extension of military assistance to Israel."

The issue of military assistance for Israel arose after Sen. Wayne Morse pointed out that Arab states were receiving U. S. munitions grants, but Israel was not. The Oregon Democrat raised a question of "discrimination" against Israel because of State Department concessions to the Arab attitude. He said: "Israel is really supporting a military establishment that costs her so much more than one would consider to be a fair percentage of her national budget. If she were some other country, she might be considered qualified for defense support."

Sen. Morse told the committee of Arab threats "to wipe Israel off the face of the map" and said "inflammatory statements that are constantly being made by many of the Arab countries don't augur very well for peace in the Middle East."

Mr. Rountree replied that "highly inflammatory statements" were made "by both sides" and "our programs in the area cannot always be predicated entirely upon what is said or what is not said in this inflamed situation. But I think we have to proceed on evaluation of what are the real intentions of the people concerned, and in the light of what is regarded to be in our best interest."

Denying Sen. Morse's assertion that, by refusing defense support to Israel, the State Department discriminated, Mr. Rountree said: "I would be very surprised indeed if the Israeli representatives themselves felt that Israel had been discriminated against. Indeed, I find it often the case that friends of Israel in the United States are more sensitive to particular aspects of United States-Israel relations with the official representatives of the Israeli Government."

## HAMMARSKJOLD GOES TO CAIRO TO CONFER ON PASSAGE OF ISRAEL CARGO

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., June 23. (JTA) -- Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold will go to Cairo next Tuesday, to spend two days conferring with United Arab Republic officials about their insistence on halting ships carrying Israeli cargoes through the Suez Canal, it was officially announced here today.

Meanwhile, it was reported today from London that the United Arab Republic has blacklisted three Japanese commercial firms, saying they are owned by Israeli nationals. According to the same report, the Syrian region of the UAR blacklisted the Greek ship, Nicolas Kairis, and two unidentified Japanese and Italian freighters because the firms and the ships violated the UAR boycott of Israel goods through the Suez Canal.

A report from Cairo said that United Arab Republic President Gamal Abdel Nasser today ordered the formation of a "Supreme Planning Committee for Palestine," whose job it will be to "draft UAR policy regarding the Palestine problem." By the "Palestine Problem," the UAR leader means the Israeli-Arab problem. A recommendation that Arab states form such special committees was made recently by the Arab League.

### ISRAEL PLANS GOVT. ALLOWANCES FOR FAMILIES WITH FOUR CHILDREN

JERUSALEM, June 23. (JTA) -- A bill to pay government allowances, ranging from six Israeli pounds per month to ten pounds, to all families with four children or more, was introduced in the Parliament here today. The measure, sponsored by the Ministry of Labor, and approved by the Cabinet's economic committee, would go into effect November 1, and would cost the Government 7,700,000 pounds a year, it adopted.

The bill, amending the National Insurance Law, calls for the financing of the allowances through increased contributions that would affect, chiefly, employers and the self-employed. A total of about 100,000 children would be covered by the new allowances.

All Israelis with families of four or more children would benefit. The assumptions underlying the proposed legislation are that the average worker is able to provide for a family with no more than three children, and that the mother of a family with more than three children is unable to supplement the family's income, being too busy to hold a job because of the burden of caring for her children. The new benefits would go to all families eligible because of the number of children, regardless of whether the head of the family is employed or unemployed, and regardless of whether the family is rich or poor.

The bill is quite certain to pass Parliament, although there may be criticism levelled against the Government for presenting the bill now, on the eve of national elections. If enacted, increased payments to the Insurance Fund would go into effect in October, so that the new allowances would be paid beginning November 1. The elections are scheduled for November 17.

### KNESSET VOTES ON BILL PLACING ADOPTIONS UNDER CIVIL COURT JURISDICTION

JERUSALEM, June 23. (JTA) -- Civil courts will have exclusive authority to issue orders for adoption of children under a bill which has passed its first reading in Knesset today.

Rejecting objections of Religious Party deputies, Pinchas Rosen, Minister of Justice, who introduced the bill on behalf of the Government, said that Jewish religious law does not cover adoptions of children, only guardianship. He said that there was therefore no conflict between Israel's civil and religious courts in this area.

The basic provision of the bill is establishment of procedures for the termination of obligations and rights between the child and its natural parents and blood relatives, and the transfer of those obligations and rights to the adopted child and the adopting parents.

The Justice Minister, in reply to questions, said that the adoptee's natural parents would continue to be recorded in the national population registry to avert any possibility of an adopted child marrying a sibling.

Contending that the measure would fill a serious gap in present arrangements, Dr. Rosen disclosed that 107 children were adopted by non-relatives in 1957. Of these, he said, 81 were born out of wedlock and 11 came from separated families. He said 115 other children had been adopted by relatives of the parents.

### ISRAEL ELIMINATED FROM LEADERSHIP POSTS IN U. N. COMMISSIONS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., June 23. (JTA) -- Israel, which has held membership on the executive board of the United Nations Children's Fund since 1951, and which was in line for the chairmanship of the UNICEF executive board, has been eliminated from UNICEF leadership for the first time in eight years.

This fact became known here today from the minutes of the last meeting of the United Nations Economic and Social Council, made public in connection with ECOSOC's next meeting, which will convene in Geneva next week. ECOSOC is the UN organ which elects members to the boards of various subsidiary UN bodies, including UNICEF.

ECOSOC's last session was held in April, in Mexico City. At that time, Israel again was a candidate for the UNICEF executive board. The minutes show that Israel was not elected. Israel first became a member of the UNICEF executive board in 1951, held the chairmanship of the UNICEF Program Committee in 1955 and 1956, and held the vice-chairmanship of the executive board for 1957 and 1958. The new board, without Israel, will take office January 1, 1960.

In addition to voting against Israel for the UNICEF post, ECOSOC also eliminated Israel's candidacies for the Social Commission, the Commission on Human Rights, and the Population Commission. The high posts of the UNICEF executive board and on the Program Committee--the latter being the group that formulates the programs of UNICEF activities throughout the world--have been filled on Israel's behalf, for the last few years, by Mrs. Zena Harman, the wife of Israel's new Ambassador-Designate to Washington.

### ISRAEL'S RABBINATE CALLS SESSION ON SOVIET SUPPRESSION OF RELIGION

JERUSALEM, June 23. (JTA) -- An extraordinary session of the Supreme Religious Council of Israel was convened by the Grand Rabbinate here today, for next Sunday, to discuss reported suppressions of Jewish religious practices in the Soviet Union.

Resolutions will be presented to the Council, calling upon world public opinion to appeal on behalf of tolerance of Jewish religious practices in the Soviet bloc. Sharp protests are expected to be voiced at the meeting against recent moves to stifle Jewish institutions in countries behind the Iron Curtain.

(The focus on anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union has been aimed at Lithuania, resulting in the dismissal from their jobs of large numbers of the 15,000 Jews in Vilna, the current issue of Newsweek, reports. The American weekly also asserts that the Communists have banned a projected Jewish dramatic group in Vilna and that a sports stadium has been built on the site of Vilna's oldest Jewish cemetery.)

### JEWS IN GERMANY EXPRESS CONCERN OVER REVIVAL OF ANTI-SEMITISM

FRANKFURT, June 23. (JTA) -- Concern over the recent revival of anti-Semitism and anti-democratic ideas in West Germany was expressed today in the closing resolution of the annual meeting here of the Central Council of Jews in Germany.

The resolution pointed out "with regret" that it was still necessary, 14 years after the conclusion of World War II, to adopt such resolves. The Council's closing session also criticized the slow processing of indemnification claims and levelled criticism at procedures which lead to the rejection of legitimate claims filed by victims of Nazi persecution.

### ITALIAN COURT RULES ON JEWISH GIRL SEEKING TO CHANGE HER RELIGION

GENOA, June 23. (JTA) -- The Court of Minors handed down a decision here today, in the case of a 17-year-old girl who was born a Catholic, was converted to Judaism, then decided to re-enter Catholicism, holding that she has a right to choose her own religion. The effect of the ruling is that the girl, 17-year-old Alfonsina Sanguineti, has been given the right to be a Catholic in spite of objections by her family.

When Alfonsina was 9 years old, her mother married Giuseppe Sanguineti, a laborer, who had had himself converted to Judaism. Alfonsina's mother and the woman's two daughters, including Alfonsina, took on the Jewish religion.

The family left for Israel, stayed there several years, then returned to Italy. Alfonsina refused to go to a Jewish school, where she had been sent by her mother and stepfather, enrolling instead in a Catholic institution. The suit was brought by the parents who insisted she was Jewish.

The Court of Minors here has held that Alfonsina's conversion to Judaism at the age of 9 "has no meaning" because she was too young to make a choice. At her present age, however, the court ruled: "The choice of one's own religion is such a delicate matter that, even if the parents have a right to guide their offspring toward their own religion, no coercion should ever be used."

### THOUSANDS OF JEWS IN POLAND ENTHUSIASTIC OVER ISRAELI SPORT TEAM

VIENNA, June 23. (JTA) -- Thousands of Jews from all over Poland gathered at the Olympic Stadium in Wroclaw, to watch the Israel football team play the Polish team--and to thrill to: the music of Hatikvah played by an official Polish band, while the Israel flag flew from a flagpole. Word of the occurrence, and the attitude of Polish Jews to the visit of an Israeli team, was received here today.

The Israelis, participating in the International Football Contest at Wroclaw, lost to the Poles, 7-2. But the sentiments of the Polish Jews witnessing the game was expressed by an elderly Jewish woman who stated: "We don't care about the defeat of the Israeli team. For us, it was enough that we heard Hatikvah played on Polish soil by an official band, and to see the Israel flag flying here."

### NETHERLANDS GOVERNMENT FINANCES RESTORATION OF ANCIENT SYNAGOGUE

THE HAGUE, June 23. (JTA) -- The 250-year-old Ashkenazi synagogue in the former Amsterdam Ghetto, desecrated during World War II, will be restored with financial aid from the Dutch Government, it was announced today.

The Government will pay 90 percent of the costs of restoration. The City of Amsterdam previously had purchased the building to make it a museum and exhibition hall of architecture.

## CONVENTION OF REFORM RABBIS SEEKS STANDARDS OF RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCE

BRETTON WOODS, N.H., June 23. (JTA) -- American Reform Jewry was urged today to determine "minimal standards" for observances of all Judaism's religious ceremonies and to establish standards to make religious observance expressive of the modern age. The Reform movement in this country has been operating without a formal code of religious practice ever since it was founded.

The need for establishing standards of observance for Sabbath, holidays and festivals was emphasized at the opening session of the 70th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis by Dr. Jacob Philip Rudin, president of the organization of Reform rabbis. "Surely there are such minimal standards," he declared in his presidential address. "There must be. To say that there are not is to say that Reform Judaism is without its discipline for daily living. It would mean that there is no longer in Reform Judaism the binding strength of the eternal word."

The Central Conference, largest rabbinic organization, represents approximately 750 religious leaders of Reform congregations throughout the U.S. and Canada. The Reform movement, which has a membership of approximately a million, holds that Judaism is a continuously progressive religious discipline which, while retaining the essential from tradition, shapes and re-shapes ceremony and ritual to make faith germane and meaningful in each particular age.

Rabbi Rudin emphasized that he was not recommending revival of old ceremonies or establishment of a binding code. He said he was pleading for determination of "the irreducible minimum" upon which Reform Judaism must build. "We ought to take the eternal aspects of the word, as 'Remember the Sabbath Day, to keep it holy,' and see what that word realistically means in our time," he told his colleagues.

"What ought we to do to observe the Sabbath and keep it holy? What is possible and what is impossible? What must be done? What dare we not leave undone? In other words, what are the minimum standards for the Sabbath? And what are the minimum standards for the observance of other holidays and festivals, indeed for all the ceremonial which has helped make Judaism a rich and wonderful way of life?" Rabbi Rudin explained.

In proposing to establish standards "to make religious observance expressive of the modern age," the president of the CCAR said: "We are this generation of the People of the Book. We must preserve the word in our time, and in this time we must enlarge the word which is the law and the prophecy, the psalm and the yearning, the event and the joy and the sorrow. We must set firm anew the stones of our history."

## HAIFA TECHNION BOARD ADOPTS BUDGET OF 8,330,000 ISRAELI POUNDS

HAIFA, June 23. (JTA) -- The Board of Governors of the Technion adopted an operating budget of 8,330,000 Israeli pounds for the Israel Institute of Technology for the coming year, approved an expanded program of construction at Technion City, and accepted a number of resolutions affecting the program and policies of the Institute. Justice M. Landau of the Israel Supreme Court was re-elected for a three-year term as chairman of the board.

Major attention throughout the week of sessions and committee meetings was devoted to the report of the Survey Committee headed by Dr. Jacob Reiser, which had included a number of recommendations for effecting economies in administrative and academic procedures at the Technion. Most of these recommendations were adopted by the board, with the proviso that "the implementation of these measures shall not in any way lead to the lowering of the academic standards."

All economy measures involving purely academic matters must first be subject to the consideration and approval of the Academic Senate of the Technion. In this category are matters dealing with size of classes, utilization of research time, employment of assistants and instructors, etc. Changes in administrative set-up are expected to result in substantial savings.

## MAURICE HEXTER REHABILITATION CENTER DEDICATED BY NEW YORK MAYOR

NEW YORK, June 23. (JTA) -- Mayor Robert F. Wagner today led dedication ceremonies opening a new \$500,000 Maurice B. Hexter Rehabilitation Wing at the Beth Abraham Home for the Chronic Ill in the Bronx.

Mayor Wagner, noting that the rehabilitation center was named after the executive vice-president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, called the structure "a monumental symbol of the record of achievement of that great leader, educator and author who has contributed so much to the social welfare of this community."

A leader in the field of social service, Dr. Hexter has been an executive vice-president of Federation since 1941. He has played a major role in the communal planning of Federation and in its distribution of many millions of dollars contributed through the years for the support of the Federation family of 136 health and welfare agencies. Dr. Hexter is now serving as chairman of the Mayor's Committee that is reviewing the activities of the City's Department of Welfare.