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JEWS IN TUNISIA ASSURED BY GOVERNMENT OF INTEREST IN THEIR PROBLEMS

PARIS, July 15. (JTA) -- Assurance of the concern of the Tunisian Government for the religious and cultural life of Tunisian Jewry was given to a delegation of Jewish communal representatives by Tunisian Vice President Bahi Ladgham, it was reported here today from Tunis.

The delegation discussed with the Vice President various problems pertaining to Jewish communal institutions and left a memorandum with him outlining these problems. They were impressed with the friendly attitude he showed during the discussion.

The leaders of the Jewish community in Tunis are expected to convene a territorial congress in the near future at which the problems confronting local Jewry in each town are to be reported and analyzed. Such a congress used to be convened each year, but it did not take place last year for various reasons. A major reason was the reorganization of the communities subsequent to the new status which was accorded to them by Government decree.

The coming congress will occupy itself with rabbinical appointments, youth movements, religious education and the problem of mixed marriages. Meanwhile, Radio Tunis was reported here today as conducting a series of broadcasts on the integration of the Jewish population in the "Tunisian nation." The series included interviews with leading personalities in several communities. Prominence is given in these interviews to the new form of organizations of the Jewish communities as well as to the assistance rendered to them by the Tunisian Government.

A number of Jewish families who during recent years emigrated from Tunisia to France have returned to Tunis in the last few weeks. Their return is ascribed to failure to establish themselves in the French economy. Very few Jewish families have left for France during the first part of the current year, whereas last year during the same period their number was in the hundreds.

BEN GURION ENTRUSTED BY ISRAEL PRESIDENT WITH FORMATION OF CABINET

JERUSALEM, July 15. (JTA) -- David Ben Gurion was requested today by Israel President Itzhak Ben Zvi to undertake the formation of a new Cabinet. He told the President that he would "make every possible effort" to undertake this task, but that he doubted whether he would succeed. It was considered certain that the present caretaker government would continue to function until after the November national elections since no new Cabinet is likely to be formed.

Premier Ben Gurion indicated to the President that he was not keen on presiding over a Cabinet in which the four members of the Mapam and Achdut Avodah will participate. "Legal experts told me the law obliges me to continue to be a member of this government until a new one is established although it contains members who transgress the law of collective responsibility and violate the clear obligation they took before entering the government," he told President Ben Zvi.

Popular interest in the Cabinet crisis was fading as it became clear that the crisis would be solved in the only way possible under the circumstances -- the continuation of the present Cabinet as a caretaker government until the national elections in November. The question that was still of interest among the population was whether Premier Ben Gurion would attend the meetings of the caretaker government, or would deputize the Finance Minister, Levi Eshkol, to chair the meetings until a new coalition Cabinet is formed after the national elections.

JEW NAMED MINISTER OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS IN NEW AUSTRIAN CABINET

VIENNA, July 15. (JTA) -- Dr. Bruno Kreisky, a Jewish veteran of Austrian political life, was named Minister of Foreign Affairs yesterday in the new coalition Cabinet of Chancellor Julius Raab.

Dr. Kreisky, who is 48, was a State Secretary under Dr. Leopold Figl, the previous Foreign Minister. He served a 16-month prison sentence in pre-war Austria for socialist activities. The Germans also arrested him when the Hitler regime annexed Austria.

COMMITTEE INVESTIGATING HAIFA RIOTS OF NO. AFRICAN JEWS TO BE ENLARGED

JERUSALEM, July 15. (JTA) -- A government committee named to investigate the July 9 rioting in a slum quarter in Haifa, in which 11 policemen and an unknown number of North African immigrants were injured, will be enlarged from three to five members.

The enlargement was ordered last night in Knesset, Israel's Parliament, by a vote of 67 to 13. The vote followed debate in which opposition parties failed in efforts to have the investigation turned over to a Parliamentary committee. They contended the Government must bear responsibility for the conditions which led to the day-long rioting, in which the immigrants wrecked numerous shops and set fire to parked cars.

Most of the debaters expressed the opinion that the social and economic conditions of the residents in the slum section were responsible for the rioting and they advocated a rise in the living standards of the North African immigrants as the only way to rid them of their feeling that they were the victims of discrimination.

Opposition members asserted that Prime Minister David Ben Gurion had "aggravated" the situation by declaring in a Knesset address last December that Oriental Jews in Israel -- "everything else being equal" -- should be given priority for jobs in Government, for promotions in the armed forces and also in Cabinet posts. They also contended that another such aggravation was the Prime Minister's choice of Rabbi Jacob M. Toledano as the Minister of Religious Affairs, the first Sephardic Jew to hold the post.

David Hacohen, a Mapai deputy, urged the deputies "not to lose perspective." He contended that the rioters were drunkards and habitual troublemakers and that the "discrimination bogey" was not as widespread as claimed.

Moscow Uses Haifa Riots as Propaganda Against Israel

The Soviet press and radio are giving extensive play to the rioting and demonstrations of North African settlers in Israel, according to reports received here. The Soviet news agency Tass alleged that "mass demonstrations were sweeping across Israel in protest against unemployment and discriminatory measures by the Israeli authorities against arrivals from North Africa."

The Soviet home service is broadcasting commentaries which also attack Israel for its arms deal with West Germany. According to the Moscow version, Israel made the deal because of the alleged NATO connections of "Tel Aviv's ruling circles." The Soviet propaganda alleges that "no step can be taken in Israel without the agreement of American advisers, experts, and consultants."

JEWS IN SPAIN TO SEND DELEGATION TO W. J. C. CONFERENCE IN STOCKHOLM

BARCELONA, July 15. (JTA) -- A delegation from Spain is scheduled to attend the World Jewish Congress conference in Stockholm next month, it was reported here today. The representation will mark the first time that Jews of Spain will be joining with other Jewish communities at an international Jewish convence.

The presence of the Spanish Jews in Stockholm also will demonstrate the marked improvement in the political status as well as the Spanish Government's decision to extend to the Jewish community its policy of increased economic and political cooperation on the international scene, it was asserted here.

Simultaneously, it was reported today that a World Sephardi Bibliographical Exhibition will be held in the Madrid National Library near the end of 1959. The exhibition will be designed to show Sephardi culture in all of its cultural variety with stress on the literary and bibliographical aspects.

The exhibition is being organized by the Madrid National Library in close cooperation with the World Sephardic Federation with the help of a number of Spanish cultural institutions and leading Spanish intellectuals. The exhibits will consist of manuscripts, documents, books, pictures, graphs and objects d'art. The material is being chosen with special care to assure a comprehensive and global picture of both ancient and modern Sephardi cultures.

ERNEST BLOCH, WORLD FAMOUS JEWISH COMPOSER, DIES IN U. S.; WAS 79

PORTLAND, Oreg., July 15. (JTA) -- Ernest Bloch, world famous composer, died here today of cancer at the age of 79.

A Hebrew idiom prevailed in much of his musical works. Popular among Jews are his "Shlomo" and "Israel Symphony" and works like "Avodat Hakodesh," a musical setting of the Sabbath morning service, and such compositions as the "Rhapsodie Hebraïque."

He was born in Geneva and came to America in 1916. He was a director of the San Francisco Conservatory and Professor Emeritus of the University of California at Berkeley. He received the New York music critics circle award for orchestral music.

COURT BARS ARAMCO FROM DISCRIMINATING AGAINST HIRING JEWISH EMPLOYEES

NEW YORK, July 15. (JTA) -- Supreme Court Justice Henry Epstein today barred the Arabian-American Oil Company from discriminating against prospective Jewish employees and said that if the company could not comply, it should "go elsewhere to serve your Arab masters--but not in New York State."

The justice upset a ruling by the New York State Commission Against Discrimination which gave ARAMCO a "bona fide" exemption from the State Fair Employment law. He acted on an appeal from the ruling made by the American Jewish Congress. ARAMCO officials said they had no immediate comment on Judge Epstein's ruling.

The judge criticized the ruling of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination which allowed ARAMCO to quiz prospective employees about their religion. "Any such holding would undermine the very foundation of our American concept of liberty and the constitutional safeguard of that liberty," he stated. He said that upholding of American justice outweighed any considerations of the company's relations with Arab governments.

The judge said the New York State agency's decision to exempt ARAMCO from a law barring questions about religion made the agency a "vassal of a foreign power." He noted that out of some 887 employees in New York of the ARAMCO offices, few if any at all were Jews. He said that "if, as perhaps correctly claimed by ARAMCO, this must result from the necessity of possible employment in Saudi Arabia, the answer of New York State is simply--go elsewhere to serve your Arab masters--but not in New York State."

"The film of oil which blurs the vision of ARAMCO apparently has affected the respondent commission in this case," Judge Epstein commented. Noting that the Commission already held color of skin is not a bonafide "occupational qualification" for exemption to the law, the judge said: "Then surely in 1959, religion cannot be so regarded Saudi Arabia and ARAMCO to the contrary notwithstanding."

WEST SIDE TENNIS CLUB HAS JEWISH MEMBERS, BOARD SAYS; PRESIDENT RESIGNS

NEW YORK, July 15. (JTA) -- The board of governors of the West Side Tennis Club last night repudiated the statement to its president, Wilfred Burglund, that the club barred Jews and Negroes from membership. The board indicated that the club does have Jewish members. At the same time the board announced that it accepted the resignation of its president.

The action of the board came after a week of widespread public disapproval of Mr. Burglund's statement of Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Nobel prize winner and United Nations Undersecretary, that neither he nor his son could be accepted because the club's policy was not to admit Jews and Negroes as members.

Repudiating its president's statement, the board said it was "the policy of the club to consider and accept members without regard to race, creed or color" and that if Dr. Bunche or his son, on whose behalf Dr. Bunche had called Mr. Burglund, were proposed for membership, "their applications will receive prompt and courteous attention." Dr. Bunche called the board's statement "very complete and clear." He added that if such a statement had been made to him when he called Mr. Burglund, "there would have been no West Side Tennis Club story."

In disavowing Mr. Burglund's statement to Dr. Bunche, the board declared: "Any statements of the club's president to Dr. Bunche were, we are informed, solicited as personal opinions of one individual to another and were given without indorsement or consent of the board of governors. Some of these reported opinions are contrary to opinions and beliefs of the board of governors and other club members."

"The club presently has members of Oriental and other ancestry and there is representation of the Jewish faith among the membership," the statement added. "There are presently no Negro members. To the best of our knowledge, no Negro has ever applied for membership."

"ANNE FRANK" TO BE ONLY UNITED STATES FILM AT EXHIBIT IN MOSCOW

WASHINGTON, July 15. (JTA) -- The one U.S. feature-length film to be exhibited as an American offering at the Moscow Film Festival will be "The Diary of Anne Frank," a spokesman for the U.S. Information Agency said today. The film was selected by the inter-departmental committee on participation in festivals. The committee is composed of 17 U.S. Government agencies.

The selection was made with the concurrence of the Motion Picture Producers Association. Exhibition of the film will take place during the course of the American national exhibition in Moscow, the dates coinciding with the film festival.

NEW LAW BANNING HOUSING BIAS TO BECOME EFFECTIVE IN MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON, July 15. (JTA) -- Sweeping new legislation outlawing bias in certain types of private housing becomes effective in Massachusetts next Tuesday. The new law makes it illegal for an owner or his agent to discriminate in the sale of rental or dwellings containing three or more housing units and in developments having more than ten houses.

Massachusetts is the fourth state in the Union to adopt such a law dealing with private housing. The new measure will greatly strengthen the powers of the Massachusetts Commission Against Discrimination. The other states are Connecticut, Oregon and Colorado.

MILWAUKEE WELFARE FUND INAUGURATES STUDY OF JEWISH FAMILY PROBLEMS

MILWAUKEE, July 15. (JTA) -- Faced with a rapidly changing community and changing welfare needs, the Milwaukee Jewish Welfare Fund and the Jewish Family and Children Service have begun a study of Milwaukee's Jewish casework needs. Elmer Winter, chairman of the study committee, disclosed today. The committee has brought in Mrs. Rae C. Weil, executive director of the Jewish Family Association of Cleveland, as study director.

The study, Mr. Winter said, "is to help the Jewish Family and Children Service blueprint its future services to the local Jewish community." He explained that with a rapidly changing society and many new problems affecting individuals and families, the JFCS must determine whether its present services are sufficiently broad.

"With families subject to greater emotional stresses, with children of all ages acting out their problems and causing greater concern to their families and to the community at large, and with the number of older people increasing through longer life spans and their attendant problems, it becomes even more necessary to relate services directly to these emerging needs," Mr. Winter declared.

YOUNG ISRAEL TO HOLD FIRST SUMMER INSTITUTE IN ISRAEL; GROUP DEPARTS

NEW YORK, July 15. (JTA) -- A group of 45 members of Young Israel left today for a three-week seminar in Israel sponsored by the Jewish Agency. This is the first time that a Young Israel group has taken part in the Agency's Summer Institute Program as an independent unit.

Among the participants in the new venture are top leaders of the National Young Israel movement as well as of its local branches. The group is headed by Rabbi Ephraim Sturm, national executive director of Young Israel, J. David Dellman, honorary national president of the movement and former Commander of the Jewish War Veterans of New York State and Meyer Wiener, former national president of Young Israel.

In the course of the seminar, the participants will be given the opportunity to acquaint themselves with every aspect of life in Israel and to come into close contact with the country's population and its religious, political and intellectual leaders, a Jewish Agency statement said. At a farewell party prior to their departure, members of the Seminar were given a briefing by S. Z. Shragai, head of the Jewish Agency's Immigration Department, who is currently visiting the United States.

PHILADELPHIA FEDERATION TO CELEBRATE 60TH YEAR OF ITS EXISTENCE

PHILADELPHIA, July 15. (JTA) -- The celebration of the 60th year of the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia will be inaugurated with the first public exhibit ever assembled on the history and practice of charity, Abraham L. Freedman, Federation president, announced today.

The exhibit, which will be held in September, will show the development of the Jewish ideal of "Tzedaka"--a Hebrew word meaning both charity and justice--from the origin of the Jewish people and religion through the founding of American Jewish communal services in Colonial Philadelphia, and up to the present day. It will contain many unique historic and archaeological objects, loaned by institutions and private individuals, some of which will be on public view for the first time. Included will be ancient pictures, sculpture, jewelry, precious illuminated manuscripts, Torahs, cuneiform writings on clay tablets, parchments, and papyrus scrolls.

The exhibition will be gathered from many world renowned museums and private collections including the University of Pennsylvania Museum, the Oriental Institute of Chicago, The Jewish Museum in New York, The Brooklyn Museum, Yale University and the archives of Philadelphia congregations and Jewish institutions, which are among the oldest in the country. The origin of the ideals of human liberty, human rights, and man's concern for the welfare of his fellow-man will be shown in archaeological exhibits from Mesopotamia where the patriarch, Abraham, originated.

Samuel H. Daroff is honorary chairman of the exhibit planning committee. Prof. Ephraim A. Speiser, chairman of the department of Oriental Studies at the University of Pennsylvania, and Dr. Pierre Delougaz, curator of the Oriental Institute of Chicago, are in charge of organizing the section devoted to ancient times.