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BEN GURION CURTAILS HIS VACATION IN FRANCE; RETURNS TO ISRAEL

PARIS, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, of Israel, is on his way home today, having curtailed his vacation at St. Clair, on the French Riviera. Mr. Ben Gurion and his wife, Paula, left Marseilles aboard the Israeli liner "Jerusalem" Sunday afternoon, occupying a cabin that had been reserved for them under a pseudonym.

As in the case of Mr. Ben Gurion's trip to France from Haifa, his departure was kept so secret that even Israeli officials in France did not know of the unexpected termination of his French vacation. Only yesterday, after he had already left France, Israeli circles here were providing to the French press information about the Prime Minister's vacation, naming--for the first time--the villa where he had taken his rest.

JORDAN WILLING TO SETTLE PALESTINE REFUGEES PERMANENTLY, PREMIER SAYS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- The Kingdom of Jordan is willing to accept all the Palestine Arab refugees for permanent settlement within its territories, the Jordanian Premier, Hazza Majali, declared today, according to Jordanian broadcasts.

About half the estimated 900,000 displaced Palestine Arabs now live in Jordan, mostly in the northern and central areas of the old mandated Palestine territory which Jordanian forces occupied during the fighting in 1948 when the British forces withdrew from the country.

The Jordanian offer was seen here today as keyed directly to the forthcoming Casablanca conference of Arab Foreign Ministers to discuss the refugee question, and as a move to forestall a possible attempt to establish an Arab (refugee) state in the Arab-held parts of Palestine.

A proposal along these lines was made several days ago by a Lebanese Government spokesman, Minister of Labor Pierre Jumeil, who has been the chief Lebanese Government authority on the refugee problem in recent months. Jumeil has been a sharp critic of the Arab League action in proclaiming opposition to long-range plans for solution of the problem offered by United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold.

The Lebanese, with some 100,000 refugees on their territory, have been insistent that some constructive approach must be found to the refugee question. The Jordanians, however, were believed to be more concerned over suggestions that an "All-Palestine" Government might be set up in the Gaza Strip which would, in effect, give the United Arab Republic a claim to control of the areas of Palestine now held by Jordan.

Premier Majali's statement today was probably designed to torpedo these two proposals and give Jordan the authority to speak at Casablanca in the name of the refugees.

Jordan Fights Nasser and Jerusalem's Ex-Mufti for Arab Supremacy

LONDON, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- The decision announced several days ago by King Hussein of Jordan to convoke an Arab states "summit meeting" in the Jordanian-held Old City of Jerusalem is a phase in the fight for Arab supremacy between young Hussein, United Arab Republic President Gamal Abdel Nasser and Haj Amin el-Husseini, ex-Grand Mufti of Jerusalem, according to the press here.

King Hussein is anxious to show both Nasser and the Grand Mufti that he is "master of his own house" and that the West bank of the Jordan, now under his jurisdiction, will remain part of Jordan, the Times declares in a dispatch today from Beirut.

According to the newspaper, the resumption of diplomatic relations between Jordan and the UAR was agreed to by King Hussein in response to pressure from the State Department in Washington which is anxious to show Arab support of Nasser as "the bulwark against Communism" in the Middle East. King Hussein, however, is desirous also to show that neither Nasser nor the ex-Grand Mufti can use his area for intrigues.

To demonstrate his own interest in the Arab refugee rehabilitation plan proposed by United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, King Hussein opposes Nasser's plan for organizing the Arab refugees along lines of Egyptian National Union, and also opposes the former Grand Mufti's dreams of establishing a "Palestine Government," the Times states

EGYPT SEIZES SHIPMENTS TO ISRAEL FROM NORWEGIAN SHIPS; ISRAEL PROTESTS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- Israel today denounced as "pure robbery" two Egyptian seizures of goods being shipped from Australia to Israel, both shipments having been aboard Norwegian ships.

Several days ago, United Arab Republic authorities confiscated meteorological equipment being shipped from Australia to Israel aboard a Norwegian freighter, the S.S. Tago. Then the UAR took from another Norwegian vessel, the S.S. Tarn, eight parcel post packages mailed to this country from Australia.

A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry here declared today that Israel will probably complain against the parcel post seizures to the International Postal Union, of which both Israel and the UAR are members. Furthermore, it was said, Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, will take up these latest harassments by the UAR when she addresses the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations.

Denouncing the latest seizures as "acts of piracy," Israel sources pointed out that the confiscations violate fundamental rules of freedom of navigation, as well as violating IPU agreements. It was emphasized that, in the past, when mail addressed to Arab countries had been delivered here by error, such mail was always sent to a neutral country for correct delivery to the Arab addressees.

TRANSFER OF ISRAELI FRIGATES TO CEYLON TO BE EFFECTED AT EILAT PORT

TEL AVIV, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- The problem of transferring to Ceylon the two frigates sold to that country by Israel is expected to be solved "within the near future," it was stated authoritatively here today.

The frigates are in the harbor at Eilat, awaiting Ceylonese crews to man them and sail them down the Gulf of Akaba, through the Straits of Tiran, and into the Red Sea. Ceylon's 100-man crew for the manning of the first of the two ships has been aboard a Ceylonese minesweeper, the Parakram, at the Protectorate of Aden, for more than two weeks, awaiting word from the United Arab Republic that there would be no trouble if the Ceylonese sailed the ships. The Straits run through shores under the jurisdiction of the UAR and Saudi Arabia, while a United Nations Emergency Force unit guards one point bordering the Straits, at Sharm el-Sheikh.

It was understood here today that Ceylon is expecting word from Cairo in the next 24 hours about the passage through the waterway which Israel considers an international highway. Meanwhile, however, Israel's envoy at Colombo, capital of Ceylon, has transmitted to the Ceylonese several suggestions on how to solve the problem without international entanglements. It is believed that one of those suggestions, which have not been spelled out here, will be adopted by Ceylon.

Work on readying the two frigates, the Miznak and Mivtach, is proceeding in the harbor of Eilat, so that the ships might be sailed almost as soon as they are boarded by the expected Ceylonese crews.

ISRAEL TO SEEK STOPPAGE OF PLANTING OF NEW CITRUS GROVES; CROPS HIGH

JERUSALEM, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- Israel will propose to citrus growing countries that they abstain from planting new citrus groves until new markets have been developed for absorption of increased crops, it was learned here today.

The proposal, it is understood, will be made at the conference of the Mediterranean Citrus Growers Association, to be convened in Italy next September 20, by Zvi Isaacson, chairman of the Israel Citrus Marketing Board. Mr. Isaacson is also, this year, president of the Mediterranean Association.

The Mediterranean area produced 3,500,000 tons of citrus fruits last year, but production by existing groves is increasing annually, and is expected to reach 5,500,000 tons by 1965.

TURKISH GOVERNMENT DEFIES ARAB DEMAND TO CEASE TRADING WITH ISRAEL

ISTANBUL, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- The Arab League's announcement, made last week, that it would boycott cigarettes made from Turkish tobacco, was defied here today by the Government Ministry of Monopoly, which has jurisdiction over the tobacco industry.

"Israel is our customer," a spokesman for the Ministry declared, "and we feel free to sell our tobacco to any country that asks for it. Furthermore, the countries that seem to be thinking of boycotting us do not trade with us anyway." The spokesman pointed out that Turkey is not only exporting tobacco to Israel, but is also planning a joint Israeli-Turkish cigarette factory in Israel.

RUSSIA WILL BE JUDGED BY TREATMENT OF JEWS, BELGIAN STATESMAN SAYS

BRUSSELS, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- The manner in which the Soviet Union deals with the Jewish minority in Russia "will constitute a touchstone of the goodwill which she does not cease to proclaim to the West," Paul Demany, Belgian Socialist leader and former Cabinet Minister, said today in an article in "Le Peuple," official party organ.

M. Demany's article referred to a book published by Dr. Leon Leneman, a Paris editor and former Moscow correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, dealing with the treatment of the Jews in the Soviet Union.

Dr. Paul Struye, President of the Belgian Senate, discussing the Jewish situation in the Soviet Union in an article in the Libre Belgique, leading Catholic daily, expressed skepticism as to the actual possibilities of improving the position of the Jews in the Soviet Union.

B'NAI B'RITH CONVENTIONS DEMAND REPRESENTATIONS IN YOUTH GROUPS

STARLIGHT, Pa., Aug. 24. (ITA) -- Resolutions calling for youth representation on Jewish community councils, synagogues and other policy making agencies were adopted here today by 350 teenage delegates, attending the B'nai B'rith Youth organization twin conventions.

Youth delegates participating in the 36th annual international convention of Aleph Zadik Aleph--teenage boys' division of B'nai B'rith youth organization--and B'nai B'rith Girls, girls' division, expressed concern that adults were legislating decisions affecting youth, while giving youth no opportunity to make its views known.

Delegates to both conventions also went on record as favoring formation of local inter-group youth councils to work for improved relations among groups of differing racial and religious backgrounds. The delegates pledged to spearhead formation of such groups in their home communities. It was pointed out that many are already in existence, particularly in Southern communities, due largely to efforts of local chapters of B'nai B'rith youth organizations.

B'nai B'rith Girl delegates also adopted resolutions: 1. Asking chapters to encourage programs dealing with study of current teenage ethics and morals; 2. Encouraging local chapters to establish nationally coordinated program of Jewish study "to help raise the level of Jewish education among young Jews"; 3. Calling on school systems throughout the country to adopt Hebrew as an accredited, academic language.

One area of major concern to AZA delegates was the level of Jewish education. A resolution criticizing the current quality of Jewish education, as "generally inadequate," asked those concerned with Jewish education to provide more courses dealing with Jewish history, comparison courses on differences among various denominations of Judaism, and courses on rituals, literature, Israel and current Jewish events.

Both conventions voted to continue their international service funds, which provide support for B'nai B'rith-operated projects, as well as aid to national and local health and welfare agencies.

FIERY CROSS BURNED AT JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER IN INDIANAPOLIS

INDIANAPOLIS, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- A fiery cross, burned at the Jewish Community Center Association here, was believed today to have been the work of one or two individuals rather than of an organized hate movement. The criminal investigation department of the Marion County Sheriff's office is handling the case.

The incident took place on the night of August 10, but was not made public in order to facilitate the search for the perpetrators. A statement today by the Indianapolis Jewish Community Relations Council and the Jewish Community Center Association expressed belief that the police would apprehend the cross burners.

The statement pointed out that this was the first case of its kind involving Jewish institutions in Indianapolis in many years, and stressed the prevailing good relations between the Jewish and non-Jewish communities here. It declared there was no cause for alarm or reason to believe that the incident was the symbol of an organized hate movement.

ISRAEL MINISTER TO YUGOSLAVIA NAMED TO DELEGATION AT U.N. ASSEMBLY

JERUSALEM, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- Avraham Darom, Israel Minister in Yugoslavia, was named today to serve on Israel's delegation to the forthcoming General Assembly of the United Nations.

Mr. Darom will be in charge of contacts with the Latin American delegations. A native of the Argentine, Mr. Darom was a Chilean Government official before he emigrated to Israel in 1949.

N. Y. STATE SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF PRAYER IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- Children cannot be forced to pray in public school, but the court cannot compel the school to abolish its prayer, it was ruled here yesterday by State Supreme Court Justice Bernard S. Meyer. In the case of a brief prayer being delivered in five public schools in Long Island, at the recommendation of the State Board of Regents.

The prayer is being recited by about 6,000 public school children every day in their classes. It reads: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence on Thee, and we beg Thy blessing upon us, our parents, our teachers and our country." Five parents have filed suit against the school board, objecting that the board was violating the Constitution by adopting compulsory prayers. This, they argued, was a flagrant violation of the separation of Church and State. They were supported in their argument by the American Civil Liberties Union.

In issuing his ruling, Justice Meyer said that the First Amendment did not prohibit the noncompulsory saying of a non-denominational prayer. The clause provides that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Justice Meyer held, however, that the regulation calling for the opening of each school day with prayer in the Herricks School District was "mandatory in form" and therefore, "objectionable."

In his 46-page opinion, Justice Meyer noted that the "free-exercise" provision of Federal and State Constitutions required that parents be advised of the adoption of the prayer, its wording and the procedure to be followed when it was said, "so that a conscious choice can be made whether a child shall or shall not participate." Justice Meyer held that "freedom of religion is not an absolute right; the state may impose restrictions if reasonable in relation to the end sought to be attained."

Religious tensions and divisions over the saying of the prayer do not constitute a constitutional reason for not permitting it to be said, Justice Meyer declared. He quoted from a decision in 1839 by the Superintendent of Common Schools of New York State saying schools could be opened with prayer if it were not made a matter of school discipline.

The school board was reported satisfied with the decision. The five parents said they were far from satisfied and planned to appeal. "We'll go to the Supreme Court before we're through," one said. George E. Rundquist, executive director of the Civil Liberties Union, said also that an appeal would be made to the Appellate Division of the State Supreme Court. The reason for the appeal, he explained, is that the decision "does not clearly hold that publicly supported schools and facilities may not be used for prayer and other religious devotions, and because we feel that even non-compulsory regulations pertaining to the saying of a prayer are unconstitutional."

ISRAEL SPONSORS CONFERENCE ON SCIENTIFIC ADVANCEMENT OF NEW STATES

NEW YORK, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- An international conference to explore the capacity of science to advance the life of new states which have not yet reached the full momentum of their development, was announced by Meyer W. Weisgal, chairman of the executive council of the Weizmann Institute of Science, on his arrival here today on the S. S. Queen Elizabeth. The Conference will be sponsored by the Weizmann Institute in Israel.

Mr. Weisgal said that Mr. Abba Eban, former Israeli Ambassador to Washington and now president of the Weizmann Institute of Science, is heading the organization of the International Conference, and has already secured the cooperation of the Government of Israel and influential official groups in the Middle East.

"The purpose of the Conference scheduled for the Summer of 1960 will be to discuss the role of science in the advancement of new states and to indicate the instruments by which scientific and technological application could be made effective," Mr. Weisgal stated. It is hoped that Israel, no less than the other countries of Africa and Asia, will benefit by the substance of this international discussion."

SIR JACOB EPSTEIN BURIED IN CHRISTIAN CEMETERY; WIDOW EXPLAINS ACT

LONDON, Aug. 25. (JTA) -- The widow of Sir Jacob Epstein, one of the world's greatest contemporary sculptors, explained today why her husband was buried yesterday in a Christian cemetery and without Jewish rites. The sculptor, who died last week at the age of 78, was the son of Jewish immigrant parents from New York's lower East Side.

"He left entirely to me the choice of the cemetery where he should be buried," the widow said in a statement. "I chose Putney Vale because of its trees. I did not want to affront Jewish people so I asked a rabbi if he would bury my husband in Christian ground but according to the Jewish faith. He said he would not bury him in ground that was not consecrated Jewish. So we had what is called a non-denominational service."

"Dr. Hewlett Johnson, the Dean of Canterbury and a great friend of Sir Jacob, had offered to conduct a service, so we accepted. But it was not a full Christian burial. There was a blessing, a committal prayer and a reading from Ecclesiastes--the passage that runs 'Let us now praise famous men...'"