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### JEWS LED IN LAUNCHING SOVIET ROCKET TO MOON, KHRUSHCHEV REVEALS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev said today that Jews were foremost among those responsible for the launching of the Soviet rocket to the moon and that Jews hold a place of honor in the Soviet Union. He spoke at the National Press Club answering questions submitted by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

Addressing to Mr. Khrushchev the JTA's questions about the status of Soviet Jewry, National Press Club President William H. Lawrence informed him there was great interest among Americans in this matter.

Mr. Khrushchev replied that he thought one of the facts which could demonstrate the position of Jews in the Soviet Union was that among persons who took the foremost part in the launching of the Soviet rocket to the moon were Jews. He said Jews hold a position of honor.

He said that the question of a man's religion was not asked in the Soviet Union; it was a matter of the conscience of the individual he stated, explaining that the Soviet Union looks on a person as a person.

He named a number of Soviet nationalities, including Jews, and said it would take a long period to name them all. They all live in peace and close friendship, he declared. "The Soviet Union is proud the nationality problem does not exist and that all nationalities are marching together toward a common aim," said Mr. Khrushchev.

### Khrushchev's Statement Considered Helpful to Soviet Jewry

Experts on Soviet affairs here, including American journalists who served recently in the Soviet Union, considered the statement made by Premier Khrushchev on the role of Jewish scientists in launching the Soviet rocket to the moon as a public expression which could only ameliorate the situation of the Jews in the USSR.

The important development, it was pointed out here, was not the answer elicited from Mr. Khrushchev but the fact that he personally learned that the present treatment of the Jews in the Soviet Union was a leading subject of American concern. Mr. Khrushchev was aware that the National Press Club, where American anxiety about the plight of Soviet Jewry was dramatically brought home to him, represents the nation's most important public opinion forum.

In view of Mr. Khrushchev's known sensitivity to world public opinion, today's questioning on the situation of the Jews in his country was deemed of vital importance. There was no doubt that the Soviet Premier noted that the preface made by president Lawrence of the National Press Club indicated the great interest of Americans in the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union.

### ISRAELI FORCES STRENGTHENED IN ARMOR, ARTILLERY, DEFENSE MINISTRY SAYS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- The Israeli Ministry of Defense publicly disclosed today that Israel's defense forces had acquired substantial quantities of equipment, particularly armor, artillery and aircraft, during the past year, in addition to the two submarines purchased from the British Navy.

The disclosure came in the Ministry's annual survey prepared for the Israel Government Yearbook. While the survey describes types of aircraft obtained, mentioning the Super-Mysteres and the Vautours obtained from France, it does not give any information on the types and nature of the armor received, except to refer to tanks and half tracks.

The Defense Ministry survey also described great development in the Israeli munitions industry. It said Israel's munitions exports had provided employment for several hundred workers and that income from these exports covered the costs of importing raw materials required by the industry.

## EDEN SAYS ISRAEL'S STAND ON SUEZ ISSUE DESERVES 'SUPPORT OF ALL'

LONDON, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- Former British Prime Minister Sir Anthony Eden last night declared that the stand of Israel in demanding that the United Arab Republic honor its agreements to keep the Suez Canal open to all peaceful commerce deserved "support of all."

The former Premier expressed his agreement with Israel's views on the Suez Canal blockade of Israel cargoes in a message to the British Zionist Federation and the British section of the Jewish Agency which were jointly honoring the departing Israel Ambassador to Britain, Eliahu Elath, and Mrs. Elath, at a dinner here.

Sir Anthony declared that UAR interference was "contrary to many international undertakings which have been given and is therefore not only the concern of Israel. Respect for engagements is indispensable to confidence among nations. In upholding this principle, Israel deserves gratitude and support from all."

Other messages were read from Sir Winston Churchill, Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd and Labor leader Herbert Morrison. The dinner was addressed by Viscount Kilmuir, the British Lord Chancellor, Emanuel Shinwell, former Labor War Minister, and Clement Davies, Liberal leader. They lauded Mr. Elath as a diplomat and as a man.

Other speakers were Israel Sieff, Barnett Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and Sir Simon Marks, who presided. Others who came to pay tribute to the departing envoy were Sir Frederick Hoymillar, permanent Under Secretary of State at the Foreign Office, Sir Roger Stevens, Under Secretary, Dr. Yeshayahu Foerder, Governor of the Bank Leumi Israel and many Jewish and non-Jewish members of Parliament.

## ISRAEL STARTS LEASING NEGEV LAND TO 22,500 WANDERING BEDUIN

JERUSALEM, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- The Ministry of Agriculture reported today it had started its program of leasing Negev land to Israel's 22,500 wandering Beduin nominal fees. A total of some 80,000 acres of land is involved.

Ministry officials said the land would be made available at lease fees of 11 cents per acre for arable land and seven cents per acre for grazing land. The Ministry will provide agricultural experts to advise the Beduin on crop rotation and modern farming methods.

A growing foreign demand from countries abroad for fire clay from Negev mines was reported here today. One shipment of 1,200 tons has been loaded for transit to West Germany. An agreement has also been concluded for export of 5,000 tons of the flint clay to a Western country. Talks for the sale of an additional 10,000 tons of the clay were reported underway.

Other recent raw material shipments included the export of 500 tons of copper from the Timna mines for Spain and 1,400 tons of cement for Hungary.

## ESHKOL LEAVES FOR U.S. TO ATTEND WORLD BANK PARLEY IN WASHINGTON

JERUSALEM, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- Minister of Finance Levi Eshkol, left for the United States today to attend the annual meeting of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank convening September 28 in Washington. During his stay in the U.S., Mr. Eshkol will also speak on behalf of the Israel Bond Organization.

Mr. David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel, who will also attend the meeting of the World Bank, has already arrived in the United States.

## AUSTRIAN REQUEST FOR EXTRADITION OF NAZI FROM ITALY EVOKES PROTESTS

ROME, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- Several protests were recorded today against a renewed request by the Austrian Government to the Italian Government for the extradition of Col. Hubert Kappler, former German SS officer who is serving a life sentence for war crimes, including responsibility for the Ardeatine Caves massacre and the requisitioning of a huge sum in gold from Rome Jews. He was convicted of the crimes as head of the Nazi security police during the German occupation of Rome.

The Austrian Government request has stirred widespread opposition in Italy, principally because of a belief that once Kappler is in Austria, he will not continue to pay the penalty for his war crimes.

The latest protest was made today by the National Association of the Families of the Martyrs Fallen for the Freedom of Their Country. The Association, noting that Kappler had been sentenced by the Italian Supreme Military Court, said that granting extradition would amount to the Italian Government giving up its duty to punish criminals for crimes committed on Italian territory.

The Association disagreed with forecasts that if Kappler was extradited and, as was very likely, tried and convicted in Austrian courts, he would probably get a life sentence in an Austrian prison. The Association expressed fears that Austrian courts might give Kappler a lighter sentence, in effect giving him absolution for the crimes he committed in Italy.

### U. S. JEWISH LEADERS MEET WITH AUSTRIAN MINISTER ON INDEMNIFICATION

NEW YORK, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- A delegation representing the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, conferred here this morning, with the new Austrian Foreign Minister, Dr. Bruno Kreisky. The Jewish leaders urged that the Austrian Government expand existing indemnification legislation, through comprehensive amendments, so as to provide compensation for Nazi victims who have heretofore been excluded from benefits and for economic losses suffered by all persecutees as a result of Nazi action.

The delegation stressed, in the course of today's conference, that "existing legislation is grossly inadequate to secure a minimum of compensation for losses and injuries suffered by victims of Nazi persecution in Austria. More than 20 years have elapsed, and many of the victims, among them aged and needy, are still awaiting satisfaction of their claims."

The Jewish leaders also called for indemnification to the Jewish communities of Austria for synagogues and related communal institutions destroyed during the Nazi era, and for aid to those communities along the same lines as the government pursued with other religious bodies.

The members of the delegation were: Mr. Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee; Dr. Israel Goldstein, honorary president of the American Jewish Congress; Mr. Adolph Held, president of the Jewish Labor Committee; Dr. Gustav Jellinek, president of the American Federation of Jews from Austria; Saul Kagan, secretary of the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria; and Dr. Nehemiah Robinson, director of the Institute of Jewish Affairs, World Jewish Congress.

### HADASSAH CONVENTION GRATIFIED WITH U. S. MUTUAL SECURITY AID TO ISRAEL

ST. LOUIS, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- A resolution expressing gratification with the generous assistance consistently granted by the United States to Israel through the Mutual Security program, as well as with the fact that this form of aid is being continued for the 1960 fiscal year in the same amount of \$7,500,000 as in 1959, was adopted here today at the closing session of the four-day national convention of Hadassah.

The convention adopted a budget of \$9,335,000 for the Hadassah's 1959-60 programs in Israel and the United States and re-elected Dr. Miriam K. Freund to a fourth term as president.

The convention called on the United States delegation to the United Nations to "publicly condemn" the United Arab Republic for barring Israeli shipping from the Suez Canal "and to exert its influence to the end that the United Nations will exercise the full weight of its moral and legal authority to reverse the illegal, dangerous and defiant attempt of the Government of the United Arab Republic to restrict free passage through the Canal."

The resolution also stated that Hadassah was "convinced that unilateral action by any state in disregard of the principles of international law cannot be countenanced by the community of nations, and that specifically, the principle of free and open transit for the peaceful commerce of all nations is essential to the lawful conduct of international affairs."

Another resolution noted that the Arab League nations "far from desisting in their economic boycott of Israel and their secondary boycott of American firms doing business with Israel, are intensifying their efforts in this direction." The resolution urged the United States Government "to resist all efforts made by other governments to introduce discrimination against American citizens on racial or religious grounds, and to refrain from entering into any treaties or executive agreements which sanction these discriminatory practices."

The convention voted to establish a Hadassah Insurance Plan in the nature of an endowment fund for future expansion. The delegates were told that the plan was first introduced in the Los Angeles area earlier this year. In the first few months, 500 Hadassah members in the area enrolled in the plan, which enables Hadassah members to obtain \$1,000 insurance policies designating Hadassah as the irrevocable beneficiary at a low premium rate.

### PIONEER WOMEN CONVENTION ASKS EISENHOWER'S INTERVENTION FOR SOVIET JEWS

CLEVELAND, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- A resolution urging President Eisenhower to voice "the deep concern of American Jewry over the fate of the Jews of Russia" during his conversations with Soviet Premier Khrushchev was approved today at closing sessions of the 16th biennial convention of Pioneer Women, women's labor Zionist organization.

The resolution also appealed to the President to use his "good offices" with the Soviet Premier to "permit those Jews in the Soviet Union who wish to join their families or fellow Jews in Israel to do so without undue hardship" and to give Jews equal opportunities to develop their religious, traditional and cultural life in Russia.

The delegates elected Mrs. Clara Leff of New York, president to succeed Mrs. Chaya Surchin. Mrs. Alexander Kahn, Pioneer Women Israel Bond chairman, was honored yesterday by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, for outstanding achievements in promoting sales of Israel bonds totalling \$13,000,000.

### CANADIAN JEWS DISCUSS SHECHITAH REGULATIONS WITH PREMIER

OTTAWA, Sept. 16 (JTA) -- A Canadian Jewish Congress delegation called upon Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker to discuss the pending regulations on Shechitah. It appeared from the discussions that there is no Government opposition to the principle of Shechitah as a humane method of slaughtering food animals. There is however a practical problem of the pre-slaughter preparation of the animal which is not in itself a part of the process of Shechitah.

The Canadian Jewish Congress has taken a position that the present method of this preparation known as shackling and hoisting is not in itself inhumane. The Congress also notes that there are methods devised towards the same end which are practicable and acceptable to the abattoirs. The Congress told the government that, however, to issue a blanket prohibition of shackling and hoisting at this time would in effect constitute a threat to the practice of Shechitah in many places, at least for the time being.

The delegation, consisting of S.M. Harris of Toronto, Norman Genser, and Rabbi Z. Zambrowsky of Montreal, asked the government to refrain from regulations which would substantively prevent Shechitah after the government had in principle recognized the legitimacy of Shechitah. A further meeting with the government will take place in the near future.

### JEWS IN MILFORD DIFFER ON CLOSING LOCAL SCHOOLS ON YOM KIPPUR

NEW HAVEN, Conn., Sept. 16. (JTA) -- Differences of opinion among Jewish spokesmen were recorded today over the decision of the Board of Education of Milford to shut its schools on Yom Kippur.

Joseph A. Foran, Milford School Superintendent, asked the school board to close the schools because "many teachers will be absent that day to observe the Jewish holiday. It would be difficult to recruit 50 or 60 substitute teachers to fill the posts of some 60 teachers for the day," he said. Cancellation of classes, he argued, would make it possible for Jewish teachers to observe Yom Kippur and would also save substitute teachers' pay.

A. H. Henkin, director of the Bureau of Jewish Education here, said the Milford school board action was dangerous "because it could lead to the further integration of religious activities into the public schools." However, Joseph Bernblum, a former town judge and Milford Jewish community leader said he saw "no great objection" to the closing. He said "it is purely a practical matter. It is not a religious matter."

### REFORM RABBINICAL SEMINARIES TO OPEN ACADEMIC YEAR WITH 830 STUDENTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- The Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion will have a record enrollment of 830 students at its schools here and in Cincinnati during its 85th academic year opening this month, officials announced today.

The College-Institute will have 830 students, compared with 785 a year ago at its two schools, studying rabbinic, cantorial and teacher-training courses. Some 1,500 students are expected at the Los Angeles College of Jewish Studies, a teacher training and adult education center maintained by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the College-Institute, the American Reform rabbinical seminary.

### SCIENTISTS FROM 27 LANDS DISCUSS IN ISRAEL POLIO VACCINE PROBLEMS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- Scientists from 27 countries at the International Biological Standards Conference failed today, after a day of discussion, to reach agreement on whether polio vaccine containing live virus is as safe as the Salk vaccine.

The scientists, agreeing that the safety of the Salk vaccine was beyond question, discussed means of improving its potency and reducing costs of testing it. They also agreed that safety was the main problem of live vaccine since it had been established that live vaccine was less costly than the Salk serum.

The last arrivals at the conference yesterday were two Soviet scientists who came after an involuntary tour of the Middle East. Not knowing of the division of Jerusalem between Israel and Jordan, the Soviet scientists arrived by plane in the Jordan section. Since Jordan has no diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, the scientists found they could not make arrangements to cross over into Israel through the Mandelbaum gate separating the two parts of Jerusalem. They were placed on a plane for Damascus by Jordanian authorities and finally arrived in Israel by car from Lebanon.

Participants in the four-day conference include also representatives from Poland, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, East Germany, West Germany, Iran, Turkey, Sweden, Japan, France, Britain, the United States, Bulgaria, Canada, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Hungary, India, Israel, Mexico, Portugal, Switzerland, Venezuela, South Africa and Italy.

### ISRAEL EXPERTS LEAVE FOR PHILIPPINES TO SUPERVISE COTTON PLANTATION

JERUSALEM, Sept. 16. (JTA) -- A 15-man team of Israel farm experts left today for the Philippines to establish and supervise a model cotton plantation. The joint project was organized by Israel's International Technical Assistance department and the basic investment provided by Philippine capital. The project involves use of Israel-made irrigation equipment and Israel fertilizers and insecticides.