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MOROCCO SEVERS POSTAL CONNECTIONS WITH ISRAEL; RETURNS ISRAELI MAIL

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- Israel postal authorities announced today that two sacks of Israel mail sent to Morocco last week have been returned by the Moroccan post office with an explanation that postal communications between the two countries have been severed.

Last month, Morocco announced it would have to sever such relations with Israel because it had joined the Arab Postal Union and that, as a member of the Arab League, it would have to carry out all commitments of such membership, including the anti-Israel phase of Arab League policy.

The return of the mail caused great anxiety among Moroccan Jews in Israel who were already alarmed by reports of recent arrests of Jews in Morocco and indications of general anti-Jewish tendencies of Moroccan authorities. There are hardly any Moroccan Jews in Israel who do not have family members still in Morocco many of whom wish to emigrate but cannot because of the attitude of the Moroccan Government.

The mail return was considered an inhuman act. It severs the only link for broken families for whom letters were virtually the only consolation for their separation from one another.

ESHKOL ADDRESSES GOVERNORS OF MONETARY FUND IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- Israel has achieved one of the world's highest national growth rates, Israel Finance Minister Levi Eshkol said today in an address before the Governors of the International Monetary Fund. He is attending the Monetary Fund meeting in his capacity as Governor for Israel, representing his nation at the international meeting.

Mr. Eshkol reported that Israel increased its national product in 1958 by eight percent. The growth of Israel's national product, he said, averaged at 10 percent annually for the last five years. Factors responsible for this high rate of growth included investments, foreign assistance, and the rapid increase in population, he explained.

Israel's Finance Minister commended the Fund for having contributed to a deeper understanding of major events in the world's economy in recent years. He urged "dynamic, far-sighted and concentrated efforts by all industrial nations to channel a wide stream of resources into the less developed countries" to provide real progress for the majority of the world's population who live in less developed countries.

Mr. Eshkol said the increase of the Fund's resources brings it nearer one of its major goals "to serve the community of nations as a store of secondary reserves." He voiced confidence the Fund would assume an ever-growing role in the world economy, serving as a guide for the economic and financial policies of many nations.

SUEZ ISSUE PLACED IN A 'NEW LIGHT' BY U.N. DEBATE, GOLDA MEIR SAYS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 30. (JTA) -- The general debate in this year's General Assembly, during which an overwhelming number of governments announced support of Israel's insistence on freedom of navigation, has placed the entire Suez Canal issue in "a new light" as far as Israel is concerned, Mrs. Golda Meir, Foreign Minister of Israel, declared here today at a press conference prior to her return to Israel.

To date, 21 of 33 governments from whom an expression of opinion might have been expected on the Suez issue have supported the principle of freedom of navigation openly in the general debate, Mrs. Meir stated. In addition, she conferred privately during the last three weeks with 35 foreign ministers attending this year's Assembly session.

"Israel feels that there has been an expression of public opinion in the general debate on freedom of navigation through the Suez Canal," Mrs. Meir said. "The entire issue is a serious matter for the Government to consider. I can repeat now what I said in the general debate to the effect that we will not acquiesce to the illegal discrimination against us. Israel must now await anxiously the effects that this broad expression of public opinion will have on the United Arab Republic. Our Government will now discuss the situation anew in the light of all the developments."

FRANCE, SWEDEN, AUSTRALIA BACK ISRAEL ON SUEZ ISSUE AT U. N. ASSEMBLY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 30, (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministers of France, Sweden and Australia voiced firm support today for Israel's grievance against the United Arab Republic's Suez Canal blockade. All three made their positions clear in addresses before a plenary session of the General Assembly.

Maurice Couve de Murville, Foreign Minister of France, told the Assembly that, while France was gratified with the relatively stable situation in the Middle East currently, the Paris Government was concerned about the Suez Canal situation. "Certainly all the problems in the Middle East are far from being solved," he said. "This is evidenced by the renewed difficulties concerning free transit through the Suez Canal for Israel cargoes. The Constantinople Convention of 1888, reaffirmed by the United Nations, remains for us the charter in this matter."

Osten Unden, Foreign Minister of Sweden, brought in the Suez Canal issue in the context of the refusal of some members of the United Nations to accept the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice at The Hague. The Stockholm statesman said that the question of the Court's jurisdiction "leads to the question whether the controversy of many years' standing between Israel and Egypt, now the United Arab Republic, concerning the free passage through the Suez Canal, could not be brought to a solution by having recourse to the International Court.

Mr. Unden declared that as far as he could see, "this problem, in its essence, is hardly a question of juridical subtleties. Instead," he said, "the question really is whether it could be considered reasonable that two members of the United Nations for years find themselves in a warlike relationship. If there is a war, it should be the duty of the states involved to make peace.

"This is simple common sense, so much more so because the blockade cannot be of any practical value for the United Arab Republic while it does harm the shipping interests of many other countries," the Swedish Foreign Minister continued. "Sweden too is suffering from the blockade. In evidence of this, I should like to mention that the Swedish Seamen's Union have requested their Government to work for the cessation of the blockade.

Richard G. Casey, Australian Minister for External Affairs, said the Suez issue "is of great concern to a large number of countries at both ends of the Canal--European and Asian as well as others, such as Australia and the Americas--who need to use this important waterway for their international trade. I do not intend to go over any of the incidents that have occurred during the past year, mostly related to Israel, but in view of these I wish to record again that we believe in free passage through the canal for all countries without exception."

Dr. Raphael Urquiza, chairman of the delegation of El Salvador, also voiced a plea for Arab-Israel peace. After mentioning El Salvador's devotion to the principle of freedom of navigation, Dr. Urquiza asked the Assembly: "Is it impossible to find a solution to the problems which for so many years, have divided Israel and the Arab states?"

The Latin American delegate went on to assert: "To admit impossibility would be to deny the efficiency and the vigor of the United Nations Organization, as well as the sense of responsibility and devotion to progress which characterize the Arab and Israeli leaders."

Soviet Bloc Strongly Represented at Israeli Reception at U. N.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 30, (JTA) -- United Nations delegations of East and West alike, including leaders of the Big Four delegations, were present last night at the annual reception given by the Israel delegation to the diplomats of the world organization.

Virtually all members of the United States delegation, led by Undersecretary of State Walter S. Robertson, attended the event. Included were several leading Congressional members of the delegation as well as George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, who is a member of the U. S. delegation.

Representatives of the Soviet bloc countries turned out in large numbers, led by Arkady Sobolev, chairman of the Soviet delegation. Also represented were Byelorussia, Poland, Bulgaria and Hungary. Britain's delegation was led by Sir Pierson Dixon, permanent chairman of the delegation and Harold Beeley. Maurice Couve de Murville, Foreign Minister of France, headed the French group. Others attending included V. M. Krishna Menon of India, as well as diplomatic representatives of Turkey, Iran, Burma and other countries.

ELATH LEAVES BRITAIN AFTER SERVING NINE YEARS AS ISRAEL ENVOY

LONDON, Sept. 30, (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Eliahu Elath left London this afternoon completing a nine-year tour of duty in Great Britain. He is returning to Israel via Leningrad where he will meet his 82-year-old mother.

A representative of Queen Elizabeth II, the marshal of the diplomatic corps, senior Foreign Office officials and members of the diplomatic corps bade farewell to Ambassador Elath. In a brief statement to the press, the Ambassador lauded the excellence of Anglo-Israel relations and recalled the many tasks which still face the two countries.

WORLDWIDE PROTESTS URGED AGAINST ANTI-JEWISH ACTIONS IN RUMANIA

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- An appeal for a worldwide protest against the latest wave of anti-Jewish actions by Rumania was made here today by the Association of Rumanian Immigrants in Israel. The group issued the appeal after a study of the latest reports of arrests and other oppressive acts against Jews in Rumania.

Idov Cohen, member of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, reported that the latest persecutions, which were launched last March following Arab pressure against migration to Israel, took a variety of forms. These, he said, included pressure against the Israel Legation in Bucharest and its employees, imposing terror in the vicinity of the legation by arrests of people coming or going from the legation, the re-arrest of Zionists who had already finished five-year prison terms and the arrest of Jews seeking to aid other Jews in Rumania.

"This series of actions, which had again put Rumanian Jewry into a state of panic, were a renewal of the cold war at a time when efforts were being made to unfreeze East-West relations," he declared. Asserting there was a possibility that the change of attitude of Rumanian Communist authorities toward Rumanian Jews might have resulted from internal frictions, he said the net result was the creation of "inhuman situations" for many families.

He cited the case of a young couple whose arrest had left two small children without care. Another case, he said, was that of the arrest of a once-arrested and imprisoned Zionist who had been released with a promise that he could go to Israel and his wife would be allowed to follow him.

It was reported here that 124 split families in Rumania were clinging to the hope of reunion and their condition was serious. The belief here was that Rumanian officials had cancelled their declared intention to allow emigration for reunion of families, causing despair to all concerned.

GERMANS RECEIVE ISRAELI TOURIST VISAS; SWORE THEY HAD NOT BEEN NAZIS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- A group of several hundred German tourists have been granted visas to visit Israel next month after they filed affidavits attesting to the fact that they had never been Nazis, it was learned here today.

The group, the first large tourist contingent to come to Israel from Germany, will visit the country as part of a Mediterranean tour on the S.S. Aridne, a German vessel. A Hamburg travel agency arranged the tour. The visas were granted by the Israel Mission in Cologne. Israel has no diplomatic representation in West Germany.

CONFERENCE IN GERMANY TO DISCUSS EDUCATION; A. J. C. PARTICIPATING

NEW YORK, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- Irving M. Engel, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee, left today for West Germany to participate in a conference in Bad Godesberg, near Bonn, which will take up--among other issues--the question of education of German youth. The question was discussed several months ago by Dr. John Slawson, AJC executive vice president, with a number of West German government, educational and political leaders during a visit to Germany.

Mr. Engel is a member of a delegation of 24 leading Americans who will take part in the four-day conference with West German leaders on the future of American-German relations. Included in the delegation are John S. McCloy, former U.S. High Commissioner of Germany, Governor Robert D. Meyner of New Jersey, former U.S. Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Dr. James Conant, former U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain, a number of members of both houses of the U.S. Congress, and other prominent Americans.

Earlier this year, Zachariah Shuster, head of the European office of the American Jewish Committee, met with the then West German President Theodor Heuss on the subject of providing an education of Germany's youth to inculcate within them a spirit of respect for all men regardless of race and religion.

President Heuss gave his assurances to the Committee that he would call a conference of ministers of education to consider the problem of anti-Semitism in Germany as "one of the chief subjects of its deliberations." He further stated that the matter should be dealt with directly through the education of the German youth.

ISRAEL BOND DRIVE LAUNCHED IN NEW YORK; \$1,760,000 RAISED AT DINNER

NEW YORK, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- An intensive three-month campaign to raise \$6,000,000 in Israel bonds in the New York area was opened tonight at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. The dinner, held in honor of Ira Guilden, was attended by 1,000 business, civic, communal and religious leaders, and resulted in the sale of \$1,760,000 in Israel Development Bonds.

Mrs. Golda Meir, Foreign Minister of Israel, addressing the guests, stressed the importance of Israel bonds as a source of capital for the industrialization and agricultural development of the young Middle East country. She praised Mr. Guilden's "great efforts in behalf of Israel" and lauded his work as national chairman of the Israel Bond Organization.

ORTHODOX JEWS IN PHILADELPHIA FIGHT PENNSYLVANIA SUNDAY LAW

PHILADELPHIA, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- A special three-judge Federal court had under advisement today a request from five Philadelphia Jewish merchants, all Orthodox Jews, that it declare unconstitutional Pennsylvania's new Sunday blue laws which ban most business activities on Sundays.

At a hearing yesterday, the five merchants declared that the law violated the First and Fourteenth amendments to the United States Constitution by interfering with the free exercise of religion. They said they closed their stores on the Jewish Sabbath, starting at sundown on Friday through sundown Saturday and that they had remained open on Sundays.

The new law, which specifically bans the sale of certain items, also boosted the penalty for violations from a maximum of four dollars to \$200 plus a jail term.

Opposition arguments were made by Harry J. Rubin, speaking for the State Attorney General, and Arthur Littleton, for the Pennsylvania Retailers Association. Mr. Rubin said that the new law, based on a statute dating back to 1794, did not infringe on the constitutional rights of Pennsylvania residents. Mr. Littleton argued that the state legislature had full rights to restrict purely commercial activities on Sundays.

Circuit Judge William Hastie and District Judges J. Cullen Ganey and Thomas Egan were expected to issue a ruling soon.

JEWS CONGRESS OPPOSES REFERENDUM ON SUNDAY LAW IN NEW JERSEY

TRENTON, N.J., Sept. 30. (JTA) -- Plans for meetings to oppose a referendum in 15 New Jersey counties for local option approval of a Sunday closing law were announced today by the New Jersey region of the American Jewish Congress.

The 15 counties include such heavily Jewish areas as Essex county and the shore counties. The shore counties, which do much of their business on Sundays, have not indicated support of the new law which bans sales of clothing, building and lumber, furniture and furnishings and appliances. Jews and Seventh Day Adventists and high-way merchants oppose the new measure.

County referendums were set in motion when petitions with the needed number of signatures were obtained in the 15 counties. Adrian M. Unger, president of the AJC region, said the law was "designed to enforce religious doctrine and is a violation of the constitutional requirements for the separation of church and state."

N. Y. FEDERATION RAISES \$3,150,000 AT DINNER LAUNCHING 1960 DRIVE

NEW YORK, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- A total of \$3,150,000 has been raised toward the 1959-60 goal of \$21,250,000 of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, it was announced last night at a dinner opening the 42nd annual campaign of the Federation.

Irving M. Felt, campaign chairman, announced the initial results to the 500 guests at the dinner who pledged their support to the campaign for the maintenance of the Federation's 116 affiliated hospitals, health and welfare services. Speakers included Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller and Mayor Robert F. Wagner.

Gustave L. Levy, Federation president, officiated at the presentation of parchment scrolls, illuminated with the Ten Commandments, to 29 guests of honor, made up of trustees and friends of the Federation, all aged 75 years or more. Gov. Rockefeller lauded the Federation and its member agencies for their activities.

UNITED STATES ENVOY OPENS EXHIBITION OF 18 AMERICAN ARTISTS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- An exhibition of 36 paintings and sculptures by 18 contemporary American artists was opened today by Ogden Reid, American Ambassador to Israel, at the Bezalel Museum here. The exhibit is sponsored by the Whitney Museum and the American Federation of Arts.

The ambassador disclosed that the Bezalel Museum was selecting a collection of Israel paintings and examples of the graphic arts for exhibition at an American show in Boston next spring.

PUBLIC CENTER TORN DOWN IN TEL AVIV TO MAKE PLACE FOR SKYSCRAPER

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- Another landmark of Tel Aviv's early history, the Beit Haam, was torn down today to make place for a huge apartment house skyscraper.

Nostalgic Tel Aviv residents recalled that Nahum Sokolow and Achad Haam once spoke at public meetings at the Beit Haam Public Center, then the only public meeting hall and that it was the site of the pre-State Jewish community's first concerts and operas. The new apartment house will contain numerous offices and entertainment halls.

Last month, the Herzliyah Gymnasium, one of the first buildings in Tel Aviv, was demolished to make place for a large office building being built by local contractors and the American Miami Investors Group.