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F. A. O. WITHHOLDS APPROVAL OF ARAB LEAGUE AS REGIONAL BODY FOR MID-EAST

ROME, Nov. 17. (JTA) -- Israel succeeded today in preventing acceptance by the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization of an agreement with the Arab League which would have recognized that body as the regional organization for the Middle East, to the exclusion of Israel.

The FAO general assembly's third commission adopted for submission to the assembly a revised draft agreement between FAO and the Arab League which withheld recognition of the League as the regional organization for the Middle East. The term "regional" which appeared frequently in the draft submitted to the commission, was deleted in each case from the final draft.

The commission thus accepted the Israeli viewpoint, supported by the Belgian, Dutch New Zealand and French delegations, that the draft agreement applied solely to League member states. The commission's final report to the general assembly stated that "the conference noted the agreement was not intended to affect in any way the activities of the organization in such of its member nations located in the geographical area of the Near East and Africa as are not member countries of the Arab League."

The term "geographical area" was used, FAO experts said, because of Israel's exclusion from the FAO Near Eastern region since 1953 because of Arab pressures. The formulation used today restores Israel's Near Eastern status with respect to FAO to a certain extent.

The commission's report furthermore included the strongly-worded Israeli reservation: "The Israel delegate placed on the record his reservation to the conclusion of an agreement with the League because of the organization's political character which does not represent all FAO member nations of the Near Eastern area and does not cooperate with all of them. In his opinion, the League practices policies which are not in conformity with the principles and policies of the United Nations Charter."

The report may be considered by the FAO plenary session before the end of the week.

CEYLON PROPOSES CONCILIATION BODY FOR ARAB-ISRAEL REFUGEE SETTLEMENT

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 17. (JTA) -- Ceylon proposed here today that the Palestine Conciliation Commission be revived and enlarged, and be given a specific mandate to work out a compromise between Israel and the Arab states for overall settlement of the Arab refugee problem.

The proposal was made by Dr. G. P. Malalasekera, vice chairman of the Ceylonese delegation, the first non-Arab speaker to participate formally in the week-long debate of the Arab refugee problem. Israel, which has addressed the Committee a half dozen times in the last week, has thus far spoken only in reply to bitter Arab attacks.

Dr. Malalasekera pleaded with the United Nations to go beyond mere palliative measures and solve the refugee problem once and for all. Such a solution, he declared, promised "great rewards and blessings to the people of the Near East, to the United Nations and to all mankind."

Recalling that some delegates in the current debate--a reference to the Arab speakers--had gone so far as to threaten war against Israel, the Ceylonese diplomat warned that "war has not solved any problem in the past and it will not do so in the future." War, he stated, "would surely mean the destruction alike of both the perpetrators and the victims."

He referred to proposals made by the Arabs for revival of the Palestine Conciliation Commission and noted that the Commission in recent years had not attempted to lay down a basis for overall settlement of the refugee problem. "We would ask that the Commission be now directed to give attention to the latter program," he said. "We also welcome the suggestion to enlarge the Commission so as to bring in fresh blood and to secure a wider geographic distribution."

The proposal to bring an enlarged PCC into the refugee situation was voiced here one week ago by one of the most violent of Israel's attackers, Ahmad Shukairy of Saudi Arabia. Mr. Shukairy was believed aiming at bringing Soviet bloc representation into the PCC, which is composed of the United States, France and Turkey.

MAPAI LEADERS DEBATING COMPOSITION OF NEW GOVERNMENT COALITION

JERUSALEM, Nov. 17. (JTA) -- Premier-designate David Ben-Gurion met today with Mapai Party policy-makers to review the first round of coalition talks and to decide whether to work on establishment of a small coalition composed of the Mapai, Progressive, General Zionist and Agudist parties, or to seek a broad coalition including possibly all parties except Herut and the Communists.

Mr. Ben-Gurion was said to favor the small coalition idea but other Mapai leaders, including Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, were said to be insistent on a broad coalition, even if this involved protracted negotiations. If a small coalition is set up, it was reported, several portfolios would be left open for representatives of the Mapam and Achdut Avodah in the belief that these two labor parties would enter the coalition later.

Despite denials today by Agudist officials, the belief persisted in a Mapai-Agudist agreement for a coalition in the Jerusalem Municipal Council that would permit Mapai to retain the mayoralty and give the Agudists a deputy mayorship and concessions on some of their demands.

RETIRING ENVOY CALLS FOR STRONGER TIES BETWEEN FRANCE AND ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 17. (JTA) -- The ambassador who has represented France in this country for the past seven years believes that there has been no deterioration in French-Israel relations but that there should be "still stronger ties in all fields--political, military, economic and cultural - until our two nations are inseparably in one camp."

The envoy, Pierre Gilbert, spoke at a farewell dinner tendered in his honor by Foreign Minister Golda Meir and attended by Premier Ben-Gurion, many members of the Cabinet and senior Government officials. In a fluent Hebrew he acquired during his tour of duty here, M. Gilbert termed his seven years in Israel "the happiest years of my life." In an apparent reference to the recent Renault development, the ambassador noted that clouds sometimes appear in a blue sky, "but that is no reason to believe storms are coming."

Mrs. Meir paid warm tribute to M. Gilbert and to his role in establishing the close ties between Israel and France.

ARABS SAY RENAULT TOES THE MARK ON BOYCOTT CONDITIONS

NEW YORK, Nov. 17. (JTA) -- The Renault automotive firm has submitted four documents to the Arab League Boycott Office to prove that it has discontinued its business connections with Israel, the Cairo newspaper Al Ahram reported in its issue of Nov. 9th, copies of which were received in New York today.

The Egyptian daily said the French firm acted to show its compliance with the League's regulations and had requested that its name be removed from the blacklist. The firm was told to provide the boycott office with a copy of the notice of cancellation of its contract with Israel and also with the confirmation of this action by the French Government which, the newspaper said, was the principal shareholder in Regie Renault.

Renault informed the boycott office, Al Ahram added, that a document had been prepared which had been delivered to the Lebanese Embassy in Paris to be forwarded to the Arab League.

U. J. A. STUDY MISSION INSPECTS HAIFA SLUM AREAS, MAABAROT

HAIFA, Nov. 17. (JTA) -- The 115-man United Jewish Appeal study mission got a revealing look today at the Wadi Salib, the slum quarter of this port city, scene, last July of riots by North African settlers.

What the mission members saw in Wadi Salib differed only slightly from what they had seen a few hours earlier when they visited a transit camp near Petach Tikvah where they observed shabby cottages many of which lacked roofs.

"I know now what is ahead of the UJA," Rabbi Herbert Friedman, executive vice-president of the UJA, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after the visit to the slum section.

The UJA leaders were heartened somewhat by their visit to the Youth Aliyah village at Alonei Yitzhak where they lunched with children who were mainly new immigrants.

The leaders were guests of the Israel Navy today, on the occasion of Navy Day, and watched Israel destroyers in practice maneuvers.

OUTLOOK 'BLEAK' FOR ADEN JEWISH COMMUNITY, BRITISH M. P. REPORTS

LONDON, Nov. 17. (JTA) -- The Jewish community in the British Crown Colony of Aden has fallen in the last 12 years from 7,000 to about 700 and "the outlook for a flourishing Jewish life in Aden is bleak," according to a special report prepared for the Board of Deputies of British Jews by Col. Marcus Lipton, a member of Parliament, on his return from the area.

Col. Lipton said that despite the presence of augmented British forces in the colony, the danger to the community was a cause of anxiety due to virulent nationalist propaganda from Cairo and inflammatory articles in the local Arab press.

UNITED SYNAGOGUE DEFERS ACTION ON AFFILIATION WITH ZIONIST MOVEMENT

KIAMESHA LAKE, N. Y., Nov. 17. (JTA) -- Action on proposals for the affiliation of the United Synagogue of America with the World Zionist Organization was deferred today by the biennial convention of the central congregational body of Conservative Judaism. The convention adopted a resolution empowering the organization's new executive body to decide the issue, with a recommendation that it continue negotiations with the Zionist organization.

The issue was put before the convention last night by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization and Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan, leader of the Reconstructionist movement, who urged affiliation. The proposal was opposed by Dr. Simon Greenberg, vice chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary of America.

Dr. Goldmann told the 1,200 delegates that to have an "historic role in the life of our generation, the Zionist movement has to become more and more a representative of the totality of the Jewish people." For this reason, he said, the Zionist movement must change its structure to enable any organization which wished to join it to do so. He stressed that the United Synagogue "could play a decisive role" by joining the organized Zionist movement.

Dr. Kaplan strongly supported Dr. Goldmann in urging the Conservative lay movement to join the World Zionist Organization as a body. He said all Jewish religious forces should be identified with the world Zionist movement, asserting that Judaism without Zionism "is not viable and has no future." He urged the United Synagogue of America to join in time to participate in the next World Zionist Congress, scheduled for Jerusalem next July.

Cannot Subordinate Synagogue, Dr. Greenberg Declares

Dr. Greenberg said that, as individuals, members of the United Synagogue "gladly join hands" with all who serve the needs of the Jewish people but, as an organization, it should not join the World Zionist Organization. He agreed with Dr. Goldmann that the need was for Jewish unity and said everyone wished for an organization which could encompass both the spiritual and practical in Jewish life--mobilize world support for Israel, establish maximum Jewish unity and "embody an acceptable concept of Jewish status."

Only the synagogue, he said, had adequately embodied the concept of Jewish status. The only valid definition of a Jew, was "one who is eligible for membership in the synagogue"--even more important than birth which is "not ultimately determinative."

"We of the United Synagogue," Dr. Greenberg continued, "believe that any organization which is to symbolize Jewish status must, above all else, prominently represent this conception of Jewish status, and any organization that implicitly, let alone explicitly, rejects it, will in the long run undermine the foundation upon which the whole structure of Jewish life everywhere, including the State of Israel, ultimately depends."

Dr. Greenberg declared that "the United Synagogue cannot, as an organization, join any other organization whose concept of Jewish status or principle of organization relegates the synagogue to a secondary role, or even to the role of one among equals. At no time should the synagogue, as such, become another member of a group whose chief concern is not the synagogue. The World Zionist Organization, if it wants to recapture its place of leadership on the world Jewish scene, must formulate a program which goes beyond assistance, to the State of Israel and which contains a concept of Jewish status and destiny in the world to which the existence of the State of Israel is made subsidiary and not ultimate."

Says Zionism's Tasks Transcend Political Actions

Dr. Goldmann called Dr. Greenberg's statement "an empty excuse." He said that Zionism had been a political movement when it fought for the establishment of a Jewish State but that since the creation of Israel, Zionism had gone on to all other tasks which remained among the Jewish people everywhere.

He contended that the existence and future of the Jewish people were never in such great danger as at present because Jews all over the world were emancipated and becoming steadily more integrated into the life of the countries of their residence. This, he said, menaced the survival of Jews as a distinct entity and made the central problem now that of securing Jewish survival under these new conditions. He added "to realize this aim is the essential meaning of Zionism in our day."

Dr. Goldmann declared that the first and foremost task was to secure the unity of the Jewish people, warning that once unity was completely broken, survival would become impossible. The Jews today, he said, faced three dangers: isolationism within the Jewish community, the cold war and the division of the world into two blocs, which separates East European Jewry from the totality of the Jewish people, and the possibility that, in time, a gap might develop between the Jews living in Israel and those outside Israel.

"To avert all these dangers and secure, despite them, the unity of the Jewish people is the central problem and the task of our generation," Dr. Goldmann said. "It cannot be done by basing Jewish unity on a specific formula. Every concept must be accepted as legitimate and must find its place within the framework of the totality of the one people."

TWO RABBIS NAMED TO CIVIL WAR CENTENNIAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 17. (JTA) -- The United States Civil War Centennial Commission said today that two Jewish religious leaders had accepted invitations to serve on a Religious Cooperative Council to advise the Commission on spiritual aspects of the coming observance. They were Rabbi Max D. Davidson, president of the Synagogue Council of America, who will serve as one of the new group's eight active members, and Rabbi Edgar F. Magnin, of Los Angeles, who will be one of the four honorary members.

Leading clergymen of the Protestant and Roman Catholic faiths have been asked to fill the remaining council positions. They are to provide religious guidance on local and national aspects of the observance which begins in 1961.

The Commission's chairman, Gen. U.S. Grant, 3rd., figured in a recent controversy when he distributed and recommended an anti-Jewish article entitled "Abraham Lincoln and the Rothschilds."

TO PUBLISH FIRST ORTHODOX JEWISH PRAYER BOOK IN BRAILLE

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Nov. 17. (JTA) -- Plans for publication of the first Orthodox Jewish Prayerbook in Braille were approved today by 700 delegates at the 36th annual national convention of the Women's Branch of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

The plan was presented by Mrs. Isidor Freedman of New York City, chairman for the project, who said the Prayerbook would be published in cooperation with the Jewish Braille Society. She said the two-volume Prayerbook would be published in a first edition of 400 copies, explaining that a Women's Branch survey had indicated requests for more than 350 such Prayerbooks for traditionalist Jews who are blind. The Prayerbooks will be published in about a year, she said.

AUTHOR URGES EXTENSION OF JEWISH DAY SCHOOL PROGRAM HERE

BOSTON, Nov. 17. (JTA) -- Israel experts have been active on three continents in teaching Israel know-how in manufacturing and agriculture, both through United Nations projects and its own technical aid program. Simcha Pratt, Israel Consul General, told the American Jewish Congress National Women's division convention here tonight.

Maurice Samuel, Jewish author, in another convention address, urged the expansion of the Jewish day school program "to provide leadership and backbone" for the American Jewish community. Asserting he believed that no more than 10 to 15 percent of Jewish children would ever attend such schools, he said the exact percentage would be determined by the aptitude of the children and the inclination of the parents.

He asserted that American Jewry had been "untrue to itself and to America" by relaxing its tradition of Jewish intellectuality and by attempts to escape "from the particularity that marks the Jewish people as a unique phenomenon" on the American and world scene.

PARLEY TOLD REFORM JUDAISM'S NEEDS TO DOUBLE IN NEXT DECADE

MIAMI BEACH, Nov. 17. (JTA) -- The national institutions of Reform Judaism in the United States "will require twice as much financial support in the 1960's" as they received in the present decade, delegates to the 45th biennial general assembly of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations were told yesterday.

A. B. Polinsky of San Diego, Calif., chairman of the Combined Campaign of the UAHC and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, made that projection in announcing a record total of \$650,000 in gifts at the convention. The gift announcement marked the formal opening of the 1959-60 drive for \$3,558,526. Mr. Polinsky said that from July 1949 to July 1959, the Combined Campaign had produced a total of \$15,500,000.

Miss Jane Evans, executive secretary of the UAHC National Federation of Temple Sisterhoods, urged "daily works of faith through the synagogue for the betterment of family, community, national and international life."

Addressing 1,200 delegates of the Federation, whose 22nd biennial assembly is being held concurrently with the UAHC assembly, Miss Evans said that "if there is widespread juvenile delinquency" in the United States, "it is because women in the direct instance have been and are apathetic."

NEW FIELD SERVICE TO ADVISE CANADIAN COMMUNITIES ON SPECIAL NEEDS

MONTREAL, Nov. 17. (JTA) -- A new field service to advise Canadian Jewish communities on a wide range of activities will be launched December 1 jointly by the Canadian Committee of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and the National Community Services Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress, it was announced today.

The aim of the new service will be to provide a Canadian-oriented service to the communities attuned to their special needs in community organization, fund-raising, budgeting, health and welfare planning and in development of regional and inter-city programs. It is expected also to assist the communities to extend and develop their community organization programs.