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NEW KNESSET CONVENES TODAY; TALKS ON FORMATION OF CABINET CONTINUE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29, (JTA) -- No new Cabinet will be introduced to the newly-elected Knesset when it convenes tomorrow as the fourth Parliament since Israel's existence. Premier David Ben-Gurion is still continuing his negotiations for the formation of a coalition Cabinet.

Several Cabinet posts held by prominent Israeli leaders during the last coalition were definitely vacant. One of these is the post of Foreign Minister. Mr. Ben-Gurion attempted this week-end to convince Mrs. Golda Meir to change her mind. She has consistently stated that she will be only a member of Parliament, declining to hold the Foreign Ministry portfolio any longer. Mr. Ben-Gurion is understood to have urged her to accept the Foreign Ministry portfolio again, offering to substitute for her for a six-month period, while she takes a rest from the arduous Foreign Ministry duties. Mrs. Meir has reportedly told the Prime Minister that her declination is final.

Minister of Agriculture Kaddish Luz presented his resignation today. He thus becomes eligible for election to the post of Speaker of the new Knesset. It is believed that he will be elected without opposition. Minister of Labor Mordechai Namir will give up his portfolio to become Mayor of Tel Aviv. Minister of Education Zalman Agranat and Minister of Social Welfare Peretz Naftali are not inclined to continue holding their present portfolios. The fate of another Mapai Cabinet member, Minister of Police Behor Shitreet, is not yet known. His Ministry is expected to be incorporated in another portfolio.

The National Religious Party, including the Mizrachi and Hapoel Hamizrachi, emerged today as a factor in the negotiations for the formation of the new coalition. Leaders of the party met with Mr. Ben-Gurion this afternoon. A special committee of the Mapai party had initiated the meeting. Between the general election on November 3 and today, there was studious avoidance by members of Mapai of even mentioning the religious group as a possible coalition partner.

The turn in the status of the religious group is said to be the result of the conference held by Mr. Ben-Gurion and Rabbi J. L. Maimon. The rabbi, known as "the grand old man of Mizrachi," reportedly persuaded Mr. Ben-Gurion to make peace with Moshe Shapiro, the former Cabinet member, and leader of Hapoel Hamizrachi, who left the Cabinet during the quarrel with Mr. Ben-Gurion over the issue about "Who Is a Jew?" Neither the members of the religious group, nor the members of Mapai, issued any statement after today's conference, saying merely that "the talks were fruitful."

DEBATE ON ARAB REFUGEES ENTERS FOURTH WEEK TODAY AT U. N. ASSEMBLY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 29, (JTA) -- The debate on the Arab refugee problem in the General Assembly's Special Political Committee enters its fourth week here tomorrow. Indications today pointed to the possibility that at least another week will pass before any action is taken by the committee for extension of the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. The mandate expires next June 30.

Israel's position regarding the Arab refugees, which thus far has not been announced during this year's debate, is expected to be heard at tomorrow's session, when Israel's representative to the committee, Michael S. Comay, will make a formal address. At least two more Arab spokesmen are expected to precede Mr. Comay tomorrow. They are Ahmad S. Shukairy, of Saudi Arabia; and Dr. Izzat Tannous, secretary of the so-called Palestine Refugees Committee.

After tomorrow's meeting of the committee, the group is expected to suspend the debate on the refugee problem, going on to other items on the agenda until the end of this week or early next week. Meanwhile, efforts will be continued behind the scenes to work out a resolution on UNRWA that will be acceptable to the United States delegation. The U. S. A., which pays 70 percent of the UNRWA funds, wants continuance of UNRWA but insists also on concrete steps looking toward a possible solution of the overall refugee problem.

During the week-end, the Soviet Union's delegation chairman, Arkady A. Sobolev, spoke in the refugees debate, backing the Arab position fully on complete "repatriation" of the refugees into Israel. Mr. Sobolev also called for extending UNRWA's mandate for five years, as demanded by the Arab spokesmen. It was noted, however, that Mr. Sobolev did not offer any USSR contribution to UNRWA. His Government has never contributed toward UNRWA expenses.

BEN-GURION REITERATES OFFER TO DISCUSS SOLUTION OF ARAB REFUGEE PROBLEM

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion reiterated this week-end Israel's readiness to discuss the Arab refugee problem independently of the issue of an overall Arab-Israel peace settlement, but added that Israel was opposed to a revival of the United Nations Conciliation Commission to handle the refugee problem. This has been suggested by several speakers in the current debate before the General Assembly's Special Political Committee on the future of the UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees.

Discussing the controversy between Premier Kassem of Iraq and President Nasser of the United Arab Republic, the Prime Minister said that Israel, as between the two Arab leaders, sided with Kassem. He explained that all Israel wanted in the Middle East "is the status quo" and that checking Nasser's "expansion desires" was a goal Israel shared with Kassem. He added that "of course, we do not expect any Arab leader to express his love for Israel."

Mr. Ben-Gurion spoke at the annual November 29 lunch with Israel correspondents, which commemorates the United Nations' Palestine partition decision of 1947. In reply to a question about the refusal of India's Premier Jawaharlal Nehru to establish diplomatic relations with Israel, because Mr. Nehru wanted to be a mediator between Israel and the Arabs, Mr. Ben-Gurion said "Nehru will not be the man to mediate between us and the Arabs."

Does Not Want Arabs Resettled in Egypt; Israel to Pay for Arab Land

In discussing Israel's stand on the Arab refugees, the Prime Minister said Israel's readiness to discuss the problem was on the understanding that the refugees would be resettled in Iraq and Syria, but not in Egypt. He said Israel could contribute to solution of the problem both by payment for abandoned Arab land and by offering Israel's experience in resettling and rehabilitating refugees.

He said such talks could be held directly between Israel and the Arab states or indirectly through a representative. He remarked that "we must not have Nasser at the table if he does not so wish." The Arab representative, he suggested, could act as a "messenger," taking and bringing conclusions of one party to the other in negotiations.

Mr. Ben-Gurion was asked whether Israel had invited Sekou Toure, President of Guinea. He replied that Israel would gladly invite any head of state who would accept an invitation, "be it Khrushchev or anyone else."

He expressed doubts that the UN would find a solution for the problem of the Danish ship, the Inge Toft, which has been detained at Port Said by the UAR with an Israel cargo since last May 21. He added that while the possibilities of effective UN intervention regarding the Inge Toft were slight, Israel would nevertheless have to wait for such intervention to produce results.

Lebanese Leader Urges Resettlement of Refugees in Jordan

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29. (JTA) -- A member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Lebanese Parliament has told the Committee that the Arab refugees in the Middle East should be resettled in Western Jordan, according to a report from Beirut in today's Falastin, an influential Jordanian newspaper.

The statement was reportedly made by Dr. Albert Nukheiber who, according to the Beirut dispatch, was quoted as saying that "it is up to the Arabs to solve the refugee problem by themselves, without seeking a patron, be it the United Nations or any other agency."

Dr. Nukheiber's statement, according to Falastin, "has created a furore," recalling that a similar statement was made last month by Pierre Gumeil, Lebanon's Minister for Public Works.

ISRAEL COMPANY SIGNS CONTRACT TO BUILD PASSENGER SHIP IN FRANCE

PARIS, Nov. 29. (JTA) -- An agreement for the construction in a French shipyard of a new, 10,000-ton passenger vessel, was signed here this week-end between representatives of the Zim-Shoham Israel Navigation Company and a leading French shipbuilding firm, Ateliers & Chantiers de Bretagne.

The vessel, with accommodations for 600 passengers, will be built at a cost of \$3,750,000, and will be used in the Israel company's expanding Mediterranean service. The new ship is expected to be ready for service early in 1961.

COMAY NAMED ISRAEL'S PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE TO THE UNITED NATIONS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29. (JTA) -- Michael S. Comay, deputy chairman of Israel's delegation to the current General Assembly at the United Nations, has been appointed as Israel's permanent representative to the UN. In that post, he succeeds to one of the two top positions held by Abba Eban, who was, at the same time, Israel's Ambassador to Washington.

Yosef Tekoah, Israel's acting permanent representative to the United Nations, has been appointed Ambassador to Brazil.

Z. O. A. LEADERS WARN ON 'RISING TIDE' OF JEWISH ASSIMILATION IN U. S.

NEW YORK, Nov. 29. (JTA) -- A warning that a "rising tide" of assimilation is leading to the disintegration of Jewish cultural life in this country, coupled with a call for an overhaul of the Jewish education system was sounded by Zionist leaders here today.

Addressing several hundred members from all parts of the country gathered at a two-day meeting of the National Executive Council of the Zionist Organization of America, Abraham A. Redelheim, president of the organization, said that "before our very eyes we see large Jewish settlements, particularly in suburbia drifting away from our spiritual heritage and become total strangers to traditional Judaism." He further asserted that the "alleged revival of religion that is so much touted about represents but a temporary response to what we may describe as 'gimmick' Judaism."

The ZOA head further pointed out that while close to \$60,000,000 a year is being spent on Jewish education in this country, half of the Jewish educational network consists of Sunday classes where children receive no more than one hour or one and a half hours tuition a week. He termed this type of education as "practically useless."

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the World Confederation of General Zionists and member of the Jewish Agency executive, led a discussion on the problems to be dealt with at the forthcoming sessions of the World Zionist Actions Committee opening in December in Jerusalem. Speaking of the proposed revision of the constitution of the World Zionist Organization, Dr. Neumann urged support for certain recommended changes which do not infringe on basic Zionist principles.

"Included among such recommendations," said Dr. Neumann, "will be a far-reaching proposal to invite representatives of American Jews, both Zionists and non-Zionists, active in mobilizing support for Israel, to share in the responsibility of planning the programs and framing the budgets of the Jewish Agency. If American Jewish leaders are now desirous of having a voice in the disposition of the funds raised in the United States, then we, Zionists, should welcome this inclination."

Max Bressler of Chicago, associate chairman of the National Executive Council, who presided, joined in the warning that American Jews are "in great danger of ultimate extinction by assimilation." To counteract this danger he said that the Zionist movement must assume as one of its special functions "the development of Jewish educational systems for our young that will serve as an efficient instrument for the transmission of our Jewish heritage to succeeding generations."

Dr. Joseph Tenenbaum, chairman of the National ZOA Committee for Hebrew Culture, also urged the launching of greater efforts by American Zionists in the cultural field. Jacques Torczyner of the World Zionist Affairs Committee of the ZOA, joining in the warning against the dangers of assimilation, urged the development by Zionists of day schools and the strengthening of teachers' institutions.

Other principal speakers at the session were Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, Abraham A. Goodman, of New York, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the ZOA, who presented a detailed report on its activities, and Dr. Harris J. Levine, chairman for Israel Projects.

U. S. JEWISH LABOR CONVENTION SETS \$5,000,000 GOAL FOR HISTADRUT DRIVE

NEW YORK, Nov. 29. (JTA) -- A \$5,000,000 goal for the 1960 Histadrut campaign was adopted here today at the closing session of the 36th annual convention of the National Committee for Labor Israel. Delegates from all parts of the country presented more than \$600,000 in cash toward the newly adopted goal.

Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein of Chicago was elected national chairman of the organization, succeeding Joseph Schlossberg, 85-year-old dean of the American Zionist Labor movement in this country who stood at the helm of the Histadrut campaign for the past 25 years. Mr. Schlossberg was elected to the newly created post of president.

In his acceptance speech, Rabbi Weinstein expressed confidence that "the liberal Jews of America have the will and the intelligence to aid Israel develop along the lines forged out by the present leadership of that young democracy." Dr. Dov Biegun, who is retiring as national secretary after five years in office, was guest of honor at a convention breakfast.

The convention sessions have been addressed by Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman, Joseph Almogi, member of the Knesset; Isaiah Avrech, former director general of Israel's Ministry of Education, and other guest speakers from Israel. Louis Stulberg, secretary treasurer of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, announced that in addition to the \$1,000,000 already contributed by his organization to build the new Histadrut hospital in Beersheba, the Union would present a \$100,000 check within the next few days.

The convention was also addressed by former American Ambassador to Israel, Edward B. Lawson, who said that his four and a half years of service in Israel was a "remarkably satisfying and stimulating experience." He spoke enthusiastically of the "compelling drive and accomplishment" of the people of Israel. He referred to Histadrut as "one of the most unusual trade unions in the free world."

A. J. C. ASKS FOR IMMEDIATE HEARING ON ARAMCO'S REFUSAL TO EMPLOY JEWS

NEW YORK, Nov. 29. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress today addressed a letter to the New York State Commission Against Discrimination requesting an immediate hearing on charges against the Arabian American Oil Company, Aramco, that it discriminates against Jewish job applicants and thus violates the State fair employment law.

The AJC request came after the New York State Supreme Court ruled that Aramco must obey the State fair employment law. The SCAD originally indicated that it may appeal against the court's ruling, but changed its mind last week and announced that it will make no such appeal. Aramco announced that it would appeal the ruling, although it admitted that it requires all prospective employees to fill out Saudi Arabian visa application forms, which include a question of religion. Saudi Arabia admits no Jews, regardless of their citizenship.

NEW JERSEY'S SUNDAY CLOSING LAW BECOMES EFFECTIVE; COURT TO REVIEW ISSUE

TRENTON, N. J., Nov. 29. (JTA) -- New Jersey's ban against business on Sundays in 12 of the State's 21 counties, including the most populous regions in the northern sections of the State, went into effect temporarily today. The State Supreme Court, highest tribunal in New Jersey, refused at an extraordinary session yesterday to halt enforcement of the new Sunday closing law even while arguments against the law are to be reviewed at a session of the court scheduled for December 22.

Representatives of Jewish organizations in this State have been opposing enforcement of the law, contending it is unconstitutional. The court's unanimous ruling was handed down by Chief Justice Joseph Weintraub, a Jew.

JEWISH TEACHERS IN N. Y. PUBLIC SCHOOLS OPPOSE RELIGIOUS PROGRAMS

NEW YORK, Nov. 29. (JTA) -- The Jewish Teachers Association of New York, an organization composed of teachers in the New York City public school system, appealed to the New York Board of Education this week-end to see to it that schools avoid use of "religious ceremonies, symbols and hymns" during the forthcoming Christmas-Chanukah season.

Asserting that the Jewish teachers are devoted to Judaism "in frankly sectarian terms," the association insisted, nevertheless, that "the school must maintain complete impartiality as regards children of variant faiths." In past years, some schools have displayed the Christian "nativity" scene and other religious symbols, and have allowed the singing of Christmas songs.

JEWISH HOSPITAL AT DENVER DEDICATES \$1,250,000 RESEARCH FACILITIES

DENVER, Nov. 29. (JTA) -- \$1,250,000 research facilities were dedicated at National Jewish Hospital here and named in honor of Walter Neustadt, Ardmore, Okla., independent oil operator and philanthropist.

Mr. Neustadt, a trustee of the free, non-sectarian institution, is a native of New York City who moved to Oklahoma in 1917. He is a board member of the American Council of Judaism, the Oklahoma University Foundation, and the Oklahoma University Medical Research Foundation. He has made numerous contributions to education.

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY GETS FUND TO ESTABLISH CHAIR IN YIDDISH CULTURE

WALTHAM, Mass., Nov. 29. (JTA) -- A trust fund to enhance teaching of the Yiddish language and culture has been established at Brandeis University by Jacob D. Berg, a New York realtor. It will be known as the "Jacob D. Berg Chair in Yiddish Culture."

Mr. Berg has been identified with Jewish education for more than 40 years. Born in Poland, he emigrated to London, England, and in 1914 came to the United States. He is president of Sholem Aleichem Folks Institute and a director since 1943 of the Yivo Institute of Jewish Research. He is a founder of the Congress of Jewish Culture and has served on its administration committee since 1949. In 1950, Mr. Berg was elected to the board of the Jewish Teachers Seminary and has held the post since that time.

\$640,000 PROPERTY SALE WILL FURTHER RESEARCH AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY.

NEW YORK, Nov. 29. (JTA) -- The sale of an apartment building in Trenton, New Jersey, for \$640,000 will result in support of major educational projects such as the furtherance of scientific research at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. This was stated today by the Charles Charcowsky Foundation, Inc., seller of the property.

Mr. Charcowsky, New York and Miami Beach philanthropist and businessman who established the Foundation, has previously announced gifts of \$300,000 to the Hebrew University of Jerusalem--\$200,000 towards a science building, and \$100,000 for a Chair in Poultry Science and Animal Hygiene. Mr. Charcowsky, who recently observed his 75th birthday, arrived in the United States in 1904 as an immigrant house painter. In recognition of his outstanding support, the Hebrew University of Jerusalem has named a square on its new central campus at Givat Ram, "The Charles Charcowsky Square."