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NEW ISRAEL PARLIAMENT CONVENES; MAPAI LEADER ELECTED SPEAKER OF HOUSE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30, (JTA) -- The newly-elected Knesset, Israel's fourth Parliament since the establishment of the state, convened this afternoon and elected Kaddish Luz, leader of Premier Ben-Gurion's Mapai party, as Speaker of the House. Mr. Luz was Minister of Agriculture in the outgoing Cabinet.

Prior to Mr. Luz's election as Speaker, his resignation from the government was announced by Premier Ben-Gurion. With the Communist deputies abstaining, Mr. Luz was elected by 112 votes. The Communists explained their abstention as an expression of protest for not including one of their members among the Deputy Speakers.

The President's flag was borne into the Knesset--which still convenes in the improvised foyer of premises intended for a bank--as the distinguished guests took their seats. They included all ex-members of the previous houses, Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim, members of the Supreme Court and former French Premier Pierre Mendes-France, currently visiting Israel.

After reviewing the Knesset's guard of honor, President Ben-Zvi entered the chamber and in a brief address, welcomed the new and veteran legislators, and wished them a productive session. Former Speaker Nahum Nir was then invited to preside as the oldest member of the house. He called on each member alphabetically to take the oath and maintain the laws of the State. Interpreters translated the entire proceedings via an ear-phone system for the benefit of the seven Arab members.

Both President Ben-Zvi and Mr. Nir paid tribute to the late Speaker of the Knesset, Yosef Sprinzak, Deputy Speaker Israel Rokach and other members who died during the past year. The new Speaker, Mr. Luz, who is 64, was born in Bobroisk, Russia, and studied at universities in Esthonia and France. He was an officer of the Russian Army during World War I, and was later one of the leaders of the labor movement in Palestine.

There are 12 parties in the Fourth Knesset, nine of them Jewish and three Arab--one Moslem, one Christian-Arab and one Druze. The three Arab parties are all pro-Mapai and generally vote with Mapai.

There were fewer women in this Knesset than in the three preceding assemblies--only nine women having won seats. Esther Wilenska, the Communist leader who served in every Israeli Parliament, failed of election to this one. The youngest member of the house is Moshe Benjamin Nissim, 23, son of the Sephardic Chief Rabbi, who was elected on the General Zionist ticket.

ARAB DELEGATE AT U. N. REJECTS TALKS WITH ISRAEL ON REFUGEE PROBLEM

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 30, (JTA) -- The idea of solution of the Arab refugee problem through Arab-Israel agreement--suggested by a number of delegations at the United Nations General Assembly--was rejected today by Ahmad Shukairy, Saudi Arabian Minister of State for United Nations Affairs. Speaking at the General Assembly's Political Committee, which is now debating the Arab refugee question, he said that "solution by agreement is a barren slogan."

"Those who speak of solution of the refugee problem by agreement deny the right of the refugees to repatriation," he declared. He insisted on the "right" of the Palestine refugees to return en masse to Israel. (See page 2 for Israel's stand on the Arab refugee problem.)

"It is a problem of religious discrimination," he shouted. "It is discrimination against Moslems and Christians. My home lies within 300 yards of the armistice line but I cannot go to it because I am a Christian. Being a Jew is the only visa. My home is offered to any Jew in the world. Be he from Tokyo or Warsaw or any western area. It is the question of Jew against Gentile or rather of Zionist against anti-Zionist."

Preceding Mr. Shukairy, Dr. Izzat Tannous, representative of the so-called Palestine Refugee Committee, also made a plea for "complete repatriation" of all the refugees, voicing his appeal in purely personal terms. In his speech, Dr. Tannous accused Israel of breaking pledges to the United Nations prior to its admission to membership. As soon as he concluded, Mr. Comay took the floor and told the Committee that such allegations were "complete fabrications."

ISRAEL OUTLINES ITS POLICY ON ARAB REFUGEES AT UNITED NATIONS ASSEMBLY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 30. (JTA) -- Israel today reiterated before the United Nations previous offers to pay compensation to the Arab refugees "even before the achievement of a final peace settlement or the solution of other outstanding problems," providing international assistance were available.

At the same time, Michael S. Comay, deputy chairman of the Israel delegation addressing the General Assembly's Special Political Committee in the Arab refugee debate, repeated that Israel "is prepared immediately to enter into negotiations with the Arab governments directly or indirectly" not only regarding the refugee problem but also "for an overall and final settlement of all outstanding differences."

Mr. Comay's statement was the first formal enunciation of Israel's policy regarding the Arab refugees in the Committee debate which entered its fourth week today. After surveying the "historical perspective" of the Arab-Israel conflict which resulted in the refugee problem, Mr. Comay told the Committee that Israel has given serious consideration to the insistence by the Arab states that the refugees be given "free choice" between repatriation and compensation.

"In considering whether to permit any refugees to return," Mr. Comay stated, "the Government of Israel must obviously have regard to the situation as a whole, including such factors as the state of relations between Israel and its Arab neighbors, the attitude toward Israel of the refugees themselves, security consideration, and the basic social and economic problems.

"This is for us not merely a question of jurisprudence, but an intensely practical one. Is it seriously contended that 40 percent of the citizens of Jordan, who have accepted complete allegiance to a hostile state and its laws and policies, have a right to march across the Israel-Jordan border and enter Israel at their own private option?"

Stressing that the refugees have been employed by the Arab states for military purposes against Israel, and recalling that Palestinian fedayeen had been trained "for murder and sabotage" by the Egyptian army, and operated under Egyptian army command, Mr. Comay asked: "Is this alleged right of free choice vested in refugees who have been trained to fight against Israel, or who may be formed into an army to be used in a 'second round' against Israel?"

Refers to U. S. Offer of International Funds for Compensation to Arabs

Turning to the question of Israel's contribution to a solution of the refugee problem, Mr. Comay said: "Whatever Israel can constructively contribute, it will contribute-- but the basic solution lies in the Arab lands and not in Israel." He referred to the offer made in August 1955 by the late United States Secretary of State John Foster Dulles to help obtain international funds to aid Israel to pay compensation to refugees entitled to such compensation.

"If a solution of the refugee problem by integration in Arab lands were actually carried out, and if the international assistance offered in 1955 were available, Israel would be prepared to pay compensation, even before the achievement of a final peace settlement, or the solution of other outstanding problems," he declared.

Mr. Comay pointed out, however, that, in fixing the level of compensation by Israel, "it would be necessary to take into account Jewish property in areas such as the Jewish quarter of the Old City of Jerusalem, and the Jewish villages in the Jerusalem and Hebron districts; as well as the claims of Israel's citizens in respect of property left behind in various Arab countries."

The Israel delegate added the warning, however, that "the implementation of this compensation offer is bound to be affected by economic warfare carried out against Israel by the countries whose residents would be the claimants of compensation."

"Nobody need doubt Israel's will to peace," Mr. Comay stressed. "It gives no satisfaction to be walled in by hostility, and cut off from our immediate environment. But the peace will not be the peace of the grave. We are sometimes told that Israel might bring peace nearer if we weakened our country by amputating its territory, or by opening our borders to persons who opposed our statehood at its inception, and feel no possible allegiance towards it today. It is inconceivable that any government of Israel would be elected to office on such a mandate. What is more, it is inconceivable to us that any other country would behave any differently, if its situation were similar to ours."

Concluding his address, Mr. Comay told the Committee: "We repeat that Israel is prepared immediately to enter into negotiations for an overall and final settlement of all outstanding differences. If the time is not yet ripe for that, we are prepared to negotiate such measures as would relax tension and reduce the danger of another conflict, including a non-aggression pact, and an agreed regional scheme for disarmament, under suitable conditions of control and inspection.

"In any event, we are prepared to negotiate with the Arab governments concerned, regarding the refugee problem, to the extent that a solution of that problem depends on agreement between these Arab governments and ourselves. But it takes two sides to negotiate, and the question is one of basic willingness and not of finding channels of communication."

ISRAEL TO GET FIRST SUBMARINE FROM BRITISH NAVAL BASE THIS WEEK

LONDON, Nov. 30. (JTA) -- Israel's first submarine, the Tanin, will be officially launched within a few days at a British naval base, and then start a 16-day journey to Israel, it was revealed here today. The submarine is one of two sold to Israel last year in a transaction which marked a key turning point in British-Israel relations.

The transfer of the submarine came against the background of reports by British naval experts that the navy of the United Arab Republic had been further strengthened in recent months. These sources said that the UAR navy now includes two ultra-modern Skoryi destroyers; two destroyers of the Zet class--also Soviet made; one destroyer of the Hunt class, one sloop, six mine-layers, three mine-sweepers, 40 torpedo boats, two submarine hunters, eight large ocean-going Soviet-made submarines, and one smaller submarine.

Most UAR ships are Soviet-made, and the key officers are still mainly Soviet or Polish nationals, the experts said. They estimated that 15 of the commissioned and non-commissioned officers on each UAR submarine are foreign nationals. They also stressed that the UAR navy has been increased in recent months at a rate out of proportion to other branches of the fighting forces. Most of the ships are of ocean-going capability, and not adapted for local campaigns.

The experts suggested that the class of naval vessels seemed to point toward a Soviet plan to use the UAR as part of a wider Soviet strategic plan for the Middle East, as well as in support of UAR President Nasser's ambitions to control an empire from the Atlantic to the Red Sea.

The two Israel submarines--the second, the Rahav, being scheduled for delivery next year--will substantially redress the balance of power, according to the experts, who contend that even two submarines can have a considerable preventive influence, by exposing Arab shipping to speedy retaliatory action in case of UAR aggression.

ISRAEL'S ATTORNEY GENERAL URGES ABOLISHMENT OF OATHS FOR WITNESSES

JERUSALEM, Nov. 30. (JTA) -- Witnesses in Israeli courts will not in future have to take an oath to tell the truth if Israel's Parliament accepts draft legislation announced today by Haim Cohen, the Attorney General.

The Israeli law officer said that his ministry was submitting a whole series of revisions of the legal code and civil law, some of which dates back to Turkish rule, for action by the fourth Knesset which convened today.

The Attorney General explained that the oath was unnecessary because "it is a vestige of superstition and is not effective." Instead, the proposed code revision would have the court formally advise the witness or defendant that he would be subject to severe punishment if he failed to tell the truth.

An important change in the criminal code would bar a blanket guilty plea by a defendant. The defendant would be able to state the correctness or incorrectness of specific points in the charges against him but would not be able to make a blanket plea of guilty to the entire charge.

Mr. Cohen said that in the past innocent people had pleaded guilty only because their lawyers had advised them that that was the quickest way to get the trial over with. Another change recommended by the Attorney General was the holding of libel trials behind closed doors to avoid further unfavorable publicity.

RENAULT'S LETTER BREAKING CONTACT WITH ISRAEL SHOWN FIRST TO ARABS

PARIS, Nov. 30. (JTA) -- The Lebanese Embassy here revealed that the Renault automobile company in France had first submitted to the Arab League its letter suspending relationship with the Kaiser-Frazer firm in Haifa before sending the letter to Israel.

An Embassy official is reported to have stated that when the Renault Company pledged to the boycott committee of the Arab League that it will suspend its relationship with Kaiser-Frazer, the Arab League was not satisfied with that pledge. In order to certify to the Arabs the sincerity of its undertaking the management of Renault handed the letter to the Lebanese Embassy. The Embassy requested a formal authentication to the signatures of the two general managers of Renault. The letter was then authenticated by the police and was delivered to the Lebanese Embassy to be sent through its diplomatic pouch to the boycott committee of the Arab League in Cairo.

The letter was returned from Cairo to Paris again through the Lebanese diplomatic courier, the Embassy official stated. It was only then that the letter was mailed to Kaiser-Frazer in Israel. This explains why the envelope carrying a letter dated September 10, 1959, had the Paris post office seal of October 6. It also explains why the letter was not sent from Biancourt where the Renault offices are, but from the Victor Hugo post office which is next to the Lebanese Embassy.

(The latest issue of the Egyptian newspaper Al-Akhbar which has just been received in New York reports an announcement by Mr. Daumal, the head of the French Economic Mission in Egypt stating that the French automobile firm Renault intends to establish an assembly plant of automobiles in Egypt. The program is to start with small-scale production immediately and to progress further to full capacity.)

NEW JERSEY CONFERENCE ENDORSES RAISING SPECIAL U. J. A. FUND IN 1960

NEWARK, N. J., Nov. 30. (JTA) -- A resolution endorsing the establishment of a United Jewish Appeal Special Fund in 1960 to meet the vast unmet human needs existing in Israel, arising from the absorption of thousands of immigrants who have arrived in Israel in recent years, was adopted here yesterday at the New Jersey State Leadership Conference of the UJA. A recommendation to establish the Special Fund was made by the UJA Overseas Study Mission which returned last week from Israel after completing a survey of the needs there.

In order to help New Jersey raise its standard of fund-raising and assure a better program for the 1960 UJA campaign, a second resolution urged the establishment of a State Campaign Cabinet. The conference named a steering committee to organize this State Campaign Cabinet. Principal speakers at the conference included Morris W. Berinstein, general chairman of the UJA; Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman, and former Governor Theodore R. McKeldin of Maryland.

Noting that roughly a quarter of a million people of the 1,000,000 brought to Israel since 1946 still need help, Rabbi Friedman reported that there were 65,000 men, women and children still living in tents and shanties, though they were brought to Israel a decade ago.

"These people are living in squalor. It is morally indecent," Rabbi Friedman said. "We, in this country, have no moral right to sleep one night in peace, if we don't get the shanty towns cleaned up within a year." He warned that "if these tent communities (ma'abarot) were not cleaned up and if the people still living in slums were not provided for, the humane side of UJA's work for Israel would not have been accomplished."

Rabbi Friedman cited another situation that required intense support from the UJA. He described a group of agricultural laborers who, because of the lack of farm equipment and animals, were not able to work their farms productively. Because of this, he said, this group of workers are forced on a public works program 12 days a month for about \$30.00 a month. He said that "Israel has no unemployment but it has under-employment" and reported that 100,000 men in Israel currently were living on that type of public works employment.

J. D. C. TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW YORK; KLUTZNICK IS GUEST SPEAKER

NEW YORK, Nov. 30. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee will hold its 45th annual meeting on December 10th, it was announced today by Edward M. M. Warburg, JDC chairman. Philip M. Klutznick, noted Jewish leader, will be a principal speaker.

Other speakers at the dinner climaxing the meeting will be Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice chairman, and Mr. Warburg. Both will have just returned from a survey of needs and welfare problems in Europe, North Africa and Israel. Charles H. Jordan, JDC director-general, will report on JDC's current aid programs in 25 countries and will present a proposed assistance budget for 1960.

U. S. GOVERNMENT GRANT ENABLES CONSTRUCTION OF NEW BUILDING AT TECHNION

HAIFA, Nov. 30. (JTA) -- The cornerstone for the humanities and social science building at the Institute of Technology was laid here today in the presence of several hundred guests. Ogden Reid, Jr., American Ambassador to Israel, was the guest of honor.

Construction of the building was made possible by a \$300,000 grant from the United States Government through its special cultural program for Israel. Gen. Yaacov Dori, president of the Technion, expressed the institute's appreciation to the United States Government for providing the Technion "with yet another instrument to help assure Israel's continued growth and development."

WARSAW YIDDISH STATE THEATRE ARRIVES IN ISRAEL FOR PERFORMANCES

TEL AVIV, Nov. 30. (JTA) -- Members of the Yiddish State Theatre of Warsaw, which is named after the noted Jewish actress Esther-Rochel Kaminska, were given an overwhelming ovation yesterday when they arrived in Israel for two weeks of performances.

The group, headed by Ida Kaminska, daughter of Esther-Rochel, was greeted at Haifa port by members of the Knesset, Haifa Mayor Abba Khoushy, stars of the Israel theatre and representatives of Polish Jewry in Israel.

LOUIS J. FOX ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF LARGE CITY BUDGETING CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Nov. 30. (JTA) -- Louis J. Fox of Baltimore was elected chairman of the Large City Budgeting Conference, succeeding Michael A. Stavitsky of Newark, it was announced here today. The following vice-chairmen were also elected: Irving Hill of Los Angeles, Irving J. Levick of Buffalo, Sol Satinsky of Philadelphia, Harold Thurman of Miami, and Lewis H. Weinstein of Boston.

The Large City Budgeting Conference is an association of 23 Jewish federations and welfare funds in cities with the largest Jewish populations. The conference analyzes the programs and budgets of national and overseas Jewish agencies which appeal to local communities for funds, and recommends appropriate financing. There are at present ten national and overseas agencies participating in the joint review process.