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NEW ISRAEL CABINET MAY BE FORMED DURING WEEK-END; TALKS PROGRESSING

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Substantial progress made today in negotiations on a new coalition Government brought expectations that Prime Minister-Designate David Ben-Gurion will succeed in the formation within a few days of a new coalition Cabinet to be presented to the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, on Monday.

The negotiations took place at the bedside of Mr. Ben-Gurion, who is confined with a fever at his home. Mapai leaders met at his home with officials of Mapam and Achdut Avodah, the two left-wing partners of Mapai in the last coalition.

The indications were that if Mr. Ben-Gurion was able to complete negotiations with the Progressive party and the National Religious party, he would present a complete Cabinet of parties identical to those in the old coalition. If those talks remain unfinished, he would still be able to present a three-party coalition of Mapai and the two left-wing parties, which would have a slender majority in the fourth Knesset. Three portfolios would be held open for the Progressives and the Religious party in the second situation.

It was reported also that new Mapai candidates for Ministries would be Moshe Dayan, former Army Chief of Staff, as Minister of Agriculture replacing Kaddish Luz, who has become Knesset Speaker; Mapai Secretary General Giora Josephthal as Minister of Labor replacing Mordechai Namir, who has become Mayor of Tel Aviv; and Abba Eban, former Israel Ambassador to the United States, as Minister without portfolio, replacing Peretz Naphtali, who is retiring for health reasons.

Rabbis in Israel Protest New Election Rules for Chief Rabbi

JERUSALEM, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A delegation of Israel's Supreme Rabbinical Council today called on Rabbi Jacob Toledano, Minister for Religious Affairs, with a warning about the dangers of proposed changes in election rules for the office of Chief Rabbi. Rabbi Toledano reportedly agreed to postpone implementation of the changes after receiving the deputation.

The revisions would transfer to the Government, municipalities and other secular bodies the present authority of the Rabbinical Council to name candidates for rabbinical posts. Another revision provides that the Chief Rabbis must be citizens of Israel and must not be more than 70 years of age on election. The chairman of the election committee, who has a double vote under the new regulations, must be a ministerial appointment. Previously, the eight-man committee had been composed of four members named by the rabbinical council and four by the Ministry of Religions, all with an equal vote.

The effect of the new rules, it was asserted, would bar the candidacy of Rabbi Issar Yehudah Unterman, Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv, who is 71. They would also rule out the candidacy of Rabbi J. B. Soloveitchik, of Boston, who has been frequently mentioned for the post of Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi. This would apparently give a clear path to Rabbi Shlomo Goren, now Chief Chaplain of the Israeli Defense Forces, who has strong Mapai backing for the post.

The delegation today presented to Rabbi Toledano the Rabbinical Council's concern as embodied in resolutions in an extraordinary meeting of the Religious Council last night to which Rabbi Toledano was invited but which he did not attend. The delegation also reminded the Minister of the Rabbinical Council's earlier decision to boycott the elections to replace the late Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog.

A spokesman for the Ministry of Religions said today that the revised regulations would enable "any Diaspora rabbi" to be a candidate for the Chief Rabbinate if he assumed Israel citizenship on election. It was understood, however, that this clause does not concern the Rabbinical Council which did not raise it in the talk with Rabbi Toledano but did indicate adamant opposition to the age limitation proposal.

The Rabbinical Council's primary concern in regard to the Chief Rabbinate, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency was told, was to retain its present authority in the naming of candidates and to be consulted on any changes in the election regulations.

TEL AVIV POLICE DISPERSE DEMONSTRATION AGAINST RUMANIAN LEGATION

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A group of 50 Rumanian immigrants in Israel staged a demonstration last night near the Rumanian legation offices here and were dispersed by police when they tried to approach the building. The demonstrators demanded resumption of reunion of families which Rumanian authorities discontinued despite repeated promi-

ORTHODOX UNION OPPOSES 'REGULARIZATION' OF PRESIDENTS' CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Opposition to continuance of the Conference of Presidents of major American Jewish organizations in a "regularized" form was expressed today by the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. Continuance of the Conference on an interim basis as a forum of individual member presidents, and not as an organization of organizations, was urged by the Orthodox Union. The Orthodox Union made the following statement to the Presidents' Conference:

"We believe it to be desirable to have a forum through which to coordinate and express the opinion of the American Jewish community with regard to matters of special importance to the totality of the community. We do not believe that such a forum can or should be established by the Presidents' Conference in view of the sponsorship and auspices under which it originated and has functioned, as evidenced by its past activities.

"We recommend that such a coordinating agency be created outside of the Presidents' Conference. Until such an agency can be created, we feel it is desirable to preserve the existing forum of the Presidents' Conference, providing: a) the chairmanship of the Presidents' Conference is rotated in intervals not to exceed six months among the member presidents; b) the organization headed by the acting chairman assumes responsibility for carrying on necessary correspondence and convening any meetings of the Conference which may be required during the period of its responsibility; c) the conference functions informally as it was originally constituted. The foregoing will eliminate any need for a budget and secretariat, personnel or permanent offices."

The principal reasons given for the Orthodox Union opposition were: "1. The Conference is dominated by the Jewish Agency and Zionist groups; 2. More can be accomplished on behalf of Israel by a truly representative American Jewish coordinating body which is independent of political influences; 3. The constituency of the Conference is unduly restricted and does not fully represent the American Jewish community; 4. The manner in which the Conference is conducting its activities impairs the organizational sovereignty of its members."

Moses L. Feuerstein, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, stated:

"The Jewish Agency originated and sponsored the Presidents' Conference. It still plans to pay for 50 percent of the budget. While it is proper for presidents to be convened by the Jewish Agency concerning a crisis in Israel, it is quite a different matter for Jewish organizations to so identify themselves in an organization that must deal with the United States Government and other bodies. In such situations, the independence of American Jewish organizations will be of prime importance as far as their effectiveness is concerned. It is the height of short-sightedness to limit the effectiveness by exposing the Jewish organizations to such a charge.

"The problem is compounded by the nature of the membership of the Presidents' Conference. In order to assure the Jewish Agency of control, the Zionist organizations comprise practically a majority. They vote equally with non-Zionist organizations, both secular and religious, many of which represent vast constituencies. While the record of the Zionist organizations in the United States is a striking one indeed, their purposes as well as those of the American Jewish community can be harmed more than benefited by the implications inherent in such an organization."

Dr. Goldmann Replies; Says Feuerstein Is Distorting Facts

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, commenting on Mr. Feuerstein's statement, said that the main contentions made by the leader of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations are "incorrect." He said he did not want to argue with Mr. Feuerstein, but merely to correct the "distortions" he made. Dr. Goldmann declared:

"1. The initiative to 'regularize' the Presidents' Conference did not come from me but from the presidents of a number of organizations who felt that after five years of existence, the Conference should operate in a more regular form with elected chairmen and a budget. I fully approved of this idea. It is the best indication that the Jewish Agency does not want to dominate the Presidents' Conference because this regularization implied obviously that I should not be any more the de facto chairman of the conference since another chairman would be elected every year.

"2. The Presidents' Conference was never 'dominated' by Zionist groups or by the Jewish Agency. The whole concept of domination with regard to the Presidents' Conference is illogical as the Conference operates on the principle of unanimity and no majority vote can bind dissenting organizations. With regard to the composition of the membership of the Conference it was based originally on a kind of 50-50 membership as between Zionist and non-Zionist groups. The list of the presidents to be invited was submitted by me to all the presidents in the first meeting and was fully approved. If no new organization has been admitted, this was because of decisions of the whole membership. I personally have often advocated the admission of new groups.

"3. The Jewish Agency has never insisted on providing the whole budget or even half of the budget of the President's Conference. We are perfectly willing to provide our share as one of 18 organizations;

"4. I want to conclude by stating that in all these years that Mr. Feuerstein has participated quite regularly in the meetings of the Conference, he has never raised an objection against its composition and the so-called 'domination' by the Jewish Agency or the Zionist organization."

207, 000 JEWS RECEIVED J. D. C. ASSISTANCE DURING 1959, LEAVITT REPORTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- More than 207, 000 persons in 25 countries received assistance from the Joint Distribution Committee during 1959 in one form or another, it was reported today by Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-chairman of the JDC. Plans to aid 250, 000 persons in 1960 will be discussed at the 45th annual meeting of the JDC which takes place tomorrow. More than \$28, 000, 000 was expended by the JDC during 1959 in assistance to needy Jews overseas.

Of the Jews who received JDC aid during 1959, more than 104, 000 were in Moslem countries, principally North Africa and Iran, Mr. Leavitt said in his report. There were also some 56, 000 in Europe, more than 42, 000 in Israel and nearly 4, 600 in such other areas as Australia. "In Israel, Malben-JDC, which cares for aged, ill and handicapped newcomers and their families, aided some 20, 300 persons, including hundreds through an expanded program of non-institutional care for the aged. In addition, nearly 14, 000 were aided there through cultural and religious programs," the JDC leader reported.

"JDC's assistance continued to cover a broad range of needs," Mr. Leavitt stressed. "There were 32, 355 persons receiving cash relief, chiefly in Europe; 85, 685 benefiting from feeding programs, more than 56, 000 of them in Moslem areas; 5, 790 in homes for the aged; the bulk in Israel; 29, 970 receiving medical aid and 68, 670 receiving educational assistance, these last two programs concentrated also chiefly in Moslem countries. In addition, 5, 365 children and young people received other kinds of aid; and 36, 545 were aided through cultural and religious programs."

Deplores the Shutting Off of Jewish Emigration from Rumania

"One of the most disheartening single developments of 1959 was the shutting off of Jewish emigration from Rumania," the JDC executive vice-chairman declared. "After some 15, 000 persons had passed through Vienna en route to Israel, the Bucharest government halted the issuance of exit permits early in March; as a result, the mass movement from Rumania which had started in the fall of 1958 came virtually to an end.

"When the emigration ended, there were more than 15, 000 Jews in Rumania who had been fully documented for departure and were ready to leave. These lost their homes and their employment and were left in difficult economic circumstances.

"On the other hand," Mr. Leavitt continued, "there was continued movement of Jews into Poland under the Soviet-Polish repatriation agreement which was to have expired at the end of 1958. The movement of those who had already registered was first permitted through March and then through June 1959. However, the movement also continued in the third quarter of the year, making a total of almost 4, 000 Jews who were repatriated to Poland during the first nine months of 1959. In the same period, 2, 921 persons emigrated from Poland to Israel."

Emigration from Egypt was limited chiefly to cases of family reunion, according to the JDC leader. At the same time, the resettlement of Egyptian refugees, residing mainly in France, continued at a modest pace. As of October 1, 1959, 1, 036 Egyptian Jews had been admitted to the United States under Public Law 86-316, Section 15; of this number, 635 were admitted this year, Mr. Leavitt reported.

Reviewing the aid given by the JDC to Jews in European and Moslem countries, Mr. Leavitt said: "The Jewish communities of Europe have made a remarkable recovery since the end of World War II. Today there exists in most of the countries of the continent a network of Jewish institutions and specialized services, established with the help of JDC. But the ranks of leadership--both lay and professional--remain depleted. Most urgent is the shortage of rabbis, teachers, youth leaders, social workers and other communal workers." In the Moslem countries, Mr. Leavitt reported, an atmosphere of insecurity today surrounds the Jewish population.

ISRAEL SHIP, DAMAGED IN COLLISION, SAILS FOR HAIFA TODAY WITH PASSENGERS

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Zim liner, the SS Israel, damaged in a collision in New York harbor on October 29, will sail for Haifa tomorrow with 200 passengers and resume regular transatlantic service after having missed one round trip.

Repairs on the 10, 000-ton cargo-passenger liner were completed last week. Gottlieb Hammer, president of the American-Israel Shipping Company, representative here of the Zim Lines, said today that the SS Israel passed inspection this week and will alternate tri-weekly sailings for Haifa with her sister ship the Zion. He lauded Captain Jacob Por for his exemplary conduct during and after the collision and for maintaining the "best tradition of the sea."

Mr. Hammer also announced plans for doubling the 1960-61 Caribbean cruise schedule after a new 6, 500 ton liner, to be built in France, is added to the Mediterranean service.

ISRAEL'S EXPORTS TO CANADA REPORTED INCREASED DURING SIX MONTHS

OTTAWA, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Israel's exports to Canada during the first six months of this year increased by 50 percent over the same period last year, according to figures released here by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics. A total of \$1, 465, 000 worth of Israel products, including oranges and unset diamonds, were sold to Canada from Jan. 1, to June 30, 1959.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE LAUNCHES \$250,000 STUDY ON EFFECTS OF BIAS

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee today announced that it was initiating a long range series of studies, financed by a \$250,000 foundation grant, to explore the effects of prejudice and discrimination upon the nation's economy and its manpower resources and other aspects of human relations. The grant was given by the Maurice and Laura Falk Foundation of Pittsburgh and the research project will be known as the Maurice Falk Studies.

Waste in power, morale and productivity resulting from discrimination costs American industry some 30 billion dollars a year, according to a recent report of the President's Committee on Contract Compliance. Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president of the AJC, announced that the broad-gauged research program will be the first major study project of the Committee's new Institute of Human Relations. The Institute is a center of research and education in the field of human relations and serves also as the new national headquarters of the American Jewish Committee. Dr. Slawson made his announcement at a luncheon honoring Samuel J. Bloomingdale, who was an early participant in the development of the Institute.

Outlining the purpose and scope of the Maurice Falk Studies, Dr. Slawson said that one of the areas for study will be the field of executive recruitment and development in American corporate enterprise. This would be joined with campus studies of occupational interests and choices of students--Christian and Jewish, White and Negro. The campus studies would investigate: the students' estimate of opportunity of advancement in their chosen or preferred field; the extent to which occupational choices of the members of minority groups appear to differ from those of the majority and the reasons for the difference, the influence of the family, the fear of discrimination and other factors affecting occupational choice.

The impact of discrimination on the economics of housing will also be an important area of research for the Maurice Falk Studies. To be explored are the effects of both segregated and integrated housing on land values, and on the economy of local communities. Dr. Slawson said that available studies in this area "are highly contradictory" and that objective material "is sorely needed as a basis for intelligent citizen action."

Citizenship duties and responsibilities as affected by economic discrimination will be another major emphasis in the study program. Barriers to full-fledged participation by minorities in the political areas of national life would be investigated, as would the responsibility of members of minority groups "to participate fully and constructively in the political and communal life of the community, state and nation."

The Committee anticipates, Dr. Slawson declared, that the results of the campus, community and industry studies would provide "substantial raw, factual data for systematic consideration by educators, industrialists and civic leaders."

PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORPORATION TO INVEST \$2,800,000 IN ISRAEL IN 1960

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Private U.S. investments exceeding \$3,000,000 in 1959 in Israel industrial, agricultural and commercial enterprises and \$2,800,000 additional commitments for investments in 1960 have been made by the Palestine Economic Corporation, New York, it was announced tonight by Joseph Meyerhoff, president, at the annual dinner of the 34-year-old company at the Savoy-Hilton Hotel.

Mr. Meyerhoff was presented with the "PEC Man-of-the-Year" award by Edward M. M. Warburg, a director and vice-president of PEC, who acted as dinner chairman. Speakers included Israel's Ambassador Avraham Harman, Senator Jacob K. Javits, and Colonel John Furman, executive vice-president of PEC in charge of operations in Israel. Senator Javits paid tribute to the pioneering role PEC has played in fostering new enterprises in Israel.

Palestine Economic Corporation, with 10,000 stockholders throughout the U.S. and some \$17,000,000 in assets, is the oldest and largest U.S. company devoted to the economic development of Israel through private investment.

EDUCATION OF JEWISH YOUTH IN MOSLEM LANDS DISCUSSED AT N. Y. PARLEY

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Support by Jewish organizations throughout the world for alleviation of the "tragic plight" of Jewish youth in Moslem countries was urged last night in a resolution adopted at a conference on the problems of Jewish education in Arab countries. The conference was sponsored by Ozar Hatorah, the Society of Jewish Youth education in the Middle East and North Africa. More than 20 organizations participated in the parley.

Isaac Shalom, president of Ozar Hatorah, reported that the organization now provides Hebrew and secular education, as well as food, clothing and medical help for more than 18,000 children in Morocco, Tunis, Syria, Lebanon and Iran. The resolution urged financial support to provide for the admission of 4,000 more such children into the program, which is partly subsidized by the American Joint Distribution Committee.

The resolution warned that children left in the streets of the congested ghettos for lack of such opportunities are growing up without any education and are subject to assimilation and other harmful influences.