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TWO LEFT-WING PARTIES MAY JOIN ISRAEL'S NEW COALITION CABINET

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The Knesset, Israel's Parliament, did not hold its session today in order to enable the leaders of the political parties to continue their negotiations for joining the new Cabinet which Premier David Ben-Gurion will present to the Knesset tomorrow. The postponement of today's session followed indications that the two left-wing labor parties--Mapam and Achdut Avodah--may, at the last minute join the coalition Cabinet.

Mapai negotiators met again today with leaders of Mapam and Achdut Avodah and reportedly reached a last-minute agreement on a compromise formula to bring the two parties into the new coalition Cabinet.

The new Cabinet of Mapai, the Progressives and the National Religious party was worked out over the week-end and scheduled for presentation to the Knesset for a vote of confidence today. Mr. Ben-Gurion's continuing cold, however, brought postponement of the presentation and the lag was seized as an opportunity for renewed negotiations with the two left-wing parties.

The question at issue was Mr. Ben-Gurion's contention that the Premier had the right to dismiss Ministers voting in the Knesset against Government motions, as well as Ministers whose parties' deputies voted against Government motions. Abstentions from voting are permitted on matters of principle and conscience.

Under the compromise, a Cabinet Minister's vote against a Government motion will be considered as automatically creating his resignation. The resignation would become effective by announcement by the Premier in Knesset, which would not be subject to debate or to a vote. The formula required formal approval by the governing bodies of the three parties but this was considered certain. Several portfolios were left open in the new coalition for the two left-wing parties.

ISRAEL DECIDES TO ABOLISH DECLARATIONS OF CURRENCY FOR FOREIGNERS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The Israel Treasury has decided to abolish the requirement that all foreigners must declare their holdings of currency on arrival, it was reported today. The move was expected to ease a burden for tourists. The decision will be implemented within a few weeks after technical arrangements have been completed.

A considerable expansion in Israel's agriculture and industry was indicated today by the Israel State Bank summarizing the main economic developments in the first six months of 1959. Between January and September, the foreign currency balance rose by 91,000,000 pounds as compared to a rise of 37,000,000 pounds in the same period in 1958, the bank reported.

The bank cited higher incomes, an increase in consumption and employment and a 12 percent drop in joblessness. It reported that income in salaries rose more than six per cent, exports expanded rapidly and the foreign trade deficit declined by $18,000,000.

ISRAEL ASKS U.N. TRUCE CHIEF TO ACT ON SYRIAN PROVOCATIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Israel urgently requested last night that Col. Robert Rickert of the United States Army, acting chief of the United Nations Truce Organization, act to prevent further Syrian acts of violence against Israel fishing in Lake Kineret. The demand followed a new Syrian foray Saturday night in which the Syrians slashed beyond repair 120 fishing nets laid near the lake's eastern shore.

The entire lake is within Israel territory since Israel possesses a narrow strip of land between the lake's eastern shore and the Syrian border. Israel permits nearby Syrian villagers to engage in shore fishing in the lake and the Syrians have an approach which they use for acts of violence.

MORDECAI ISH SHALOM, MAPAI CANDIDATE, ELECTED MAYOR OF JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Mordecai Ish Shalom, the Mapai candidate, was elected Mayor of Jerusalem today by a vote of 12 to seven.

The National Religious party threw its support to the Mapai candidate in return for an agreement that the municipality would tighten Sabbath observance and would regulate Jerusalem's controversial swimming pool to provide two days of separate bathing for observant Jews.

AMBASSADOR HARMAN DISCUSSES MIDDLE EAST PROBLEMS IN STATE DEPT.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman met today with G. Lewis Jones, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, for an exchange of views on the current situation in the Middle East and matters of mutual American-Israeli interest.

A favorable analysis of Israel's new investment laws has been published by the United States Department of Commerce which describes how Israel is encouraging foreign investment. The analysis is featured in the Government periodical "Foreign Commerce Weekly," which is widely read by American business leaders.

An examination is made of the law for encouragement of capital investment of 1959 which replaced the law of the same title of 1950, as amended in 1955. The more important benefits accorded by the law to enterprises approved by the Israel Investment Center are described in detail in the report.

AMERICAN FIRM TO START DRILLING OF NATURAL GAS WELL IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The Israel Negev Petroleum Corporation, an American-owned firm, will drill its first natural gas well within the next 30 days in partnership with the Naphtha Israel Oil Company at a location due west of the southern tip of the Dead Sea. This was announced here today by Douglas Ball, a Denver petroleum geologist who returned this week from inspecting the new Zohar natural gas field as a consultant for the Israel Negev Petroleum Corporation.

Mr. Ball, who predicted further discoveries in the Negev gas fields during the coming year, told a press conference here that the Zohar wells already in operation for the Naphtha Israel firm, had a production capacity of more than 30 billion cubic feet with a daily production rate of 15,000,000 cubic feet of natural gas. He said the most productive of the wells was the Zohar 4, tests on which were completed in October.

"The significance of the Zohar discovery," Mr. Ball emphasized, "is that it proves there are hydrocarbons in the Eastern Negev." Referring to the Arab boycott of firms doing business with Israel, Mr. Ball noted that, if it were not for political considerations, "the major oil companies, most of whom have close ties with the Arab world, would be interested in Israel's prospects."

ISRAEL TO SHIP CABBAGE AND CAULIFLOWER TO U.S. FOR CANNING INDUSTRY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The first shipment of Israel cabbage and cauliflower to the United States will arrive in New York next month, it was announced here today.

A New York canning factory has ordered 1,000 tons of cabbage and 250 tons of cauliflower, which will be carried on a Zim liner operating between Haifa and New York City.

(Israel will export 25,000,000 flower bulbs to the United States during the coming year, it was announced here today by Aryeh Manor, Economic Counsellor of the Israel Embassy. He told a press conference that the Israeli bulb growing season extends from October to May and includes three crops instead of the single crop per season in Holland.)

LACK OF RAIN THREATENS ISRAEL FARMERS WITH DROUGHT; PROVOKES WORRY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Smiling skies and warm sun prevalent over most of Israel began today to cause grave concern in agricultural circles here although the people in the towns gloried in the continued vacation weather.

This is Israel's winter, the rainy season when the country receives most of its annual precipitation. Bright, warm sun, instead of rain which should be falling now, threatens the country with another drought, similar to last year's.

So far this winter, Israel has had only a few days of rain--not enough to replenish the diminishing supplies in the country's reservoirs. The water level of the country's rivers, which usually begins to rise in November, is steadily falling. The flow in the Yarkon River, which usually rises to 11.5 million cubic meters, is now only 9,000,000 cubic meters.

CLOSE TIES BETWEEN ISRAEL AND FRANCE STRESSED BY NEW FRENCH ENVOY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- France's new ambassador to Israel, Jean Adolphe Bourdeillette, today presented his letters of credence to President Ben-Zvi. In his statement to the President, Ambassador Bourdeillette stressed the close ties between the two countries. The envoy also noted the importance of the recently-signed Israel-French cultural agreement.

President Ben-Zvi, in his reply to Ambassador Bourdeillette, said that friendship between the two countries, which was expanding and deepening, now penetrated all fields of culture, science, economics and politics. "In a recent hour of danger, we learned by experience how valuable this friendship is and how close the cooperation was," France, which traditionally has been the defender of the freedom and rights of small countries, is now, under President de Gaulle, even more ready to fulfill this traditional task, President Ben-Zvi said.

VIOLENT ACCUSATIONS AGAINST JEWS MADE IN SOVIET RADIO BROADCAST

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Government officials here noted a violent new anti-Jewish broadcast transmitted in recent days within the Soviet Union. The broadcast, originating in Kirovograd on the Odessa regional service, attacked religious Jews as "swindlers under the mask of God's servants."

Using Nazi-like terminology, the broadcast, which was in the Ukrainian language, said that "stuffing themselves with matzoh and special fruit received from Israel, the preachers of Judaism pray only to the Golden Calf: How to collect more money from believers." Also that they "pray for the militant spirit of the Israeli militarists."

During the Soviet rule, said the broadcast, many of the Rabbis "had an inimical attitude toward the Socialist system and opposed the interests of the Soviet people." It charged that the Rabbis served "internal counter-revolutions and international imperialism."

Mentioning a number of Rabbis by name, the broadcast said that "hiding under the cloak of believers" they "busy themselves with swindles; they appropriate the money given by believers; when this is not enough they go to the people to collect donations, which then go into the bottomless pockets."

The allegation was made that "reactionary" Jewish sermons preached in Soviet synagogues reveal that "the Jewish faith has been strongly intermixed with Jewish bourgeois nationalism and Zionism, already possessing a strong reactionary essence." The broadcast also alleged that in Soviet synagogues following Saturday services, synagogue leaders gorge themselves on "vodka, wine, and snacks." It alleged that swindled money was used to finance these "drinking bouts."

Circumcision was condemned for its "nationalistic character." The broadcast said: "Its specific significance lies in the fact that it gives proof of belonging to the 'Chosen People,' the Jews. At the same time it imbues Jews with repugnance and hatred of those who do not possess this special sign. Besides, the rite of circumcision is a cruel rite and not always harmless, because it is carried out in a crude manner by circumcisers, people who have no inkling of medicine."

According to the Communist broadcast "Judaic sermons are sermons of bourgeois Zionists. Such sermons are tools of the nationalistic, Israeli, cosmopolitan, American bourgeoisie. With their tentacles, the Jewish bourgeois nationalists, with the help of Judaism, try to reach into our Soviet garden. But they will never succeed."

The broadcast credited "the working people of Jewish nationality" with building "the Communist society" and a portion of credit for the creation of Soviet sputniks. But the attack on the Jewish religion and the State of Israel was without restraint.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AUTHORITIES ASKED TO INVESTIGATE THE SITTLER CASE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, today asked United States immigration authorities to investigate the case of Dr. Edward V. Sittler, Long Island university teacher recently exposed as an ex-Nazi who renounced American citizenship to serve Hitler's Germany.

Senator Javits asked General Joseph Swing, immigration commissioner, for a report on how Sittler obtained an alien visa and the background of previous deportation actions against him. (In an interview with the New York Post today Sittler said that he still thinks that the Jews dictated America's entry into World War II.)

A native-born American, Sittler embraced the Nazi ideology, went to Germany in 1937. He renounced American citizenship, joined the Nazi party, and did propaganda work for the Nazis during the war. In 1946 he was brought to the United States as a witness in treason cases. He was not tried for treason himself because he had renounced his citizenship.

He fought a number of deportation orders, remaining in the United States until 1953 when he went to Cuba. He returned in 1954 with an alien visa. He subsequently filed for American citizenship and is slated to appear before a hearing in New York Thursday in connection with his petition for citizenship. Sittler has been supported by a number of Long Island university authorities.

CHILDREN IN GERMAN SCHOOLS TO RECEIVE MORE INSTRUCTION ON NAZI ERA

BONN, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Children in West German elementary schools will receive more instruction on the Nazi period, it was announced today by the Conference of Provincial Ministers of Culture. The educational committee of the conference also decided that school administrators should issue special rulings to compel reluctant teachers to give such instruction.

The State of Hesse is the only West German state to make instruction about the Nazi era compulsory in public schools. Other states so far have only recommended inclusion in the history curriculum of material dealing with the period after the first World War.

AMERICAN TECHNION SOCIETY TO ESTABLISH TECHNOLOGICAL CENTER IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- A plan to establish a Technological Center in Israel to accelerate the industrial development of that country was announced today at a press conference by Jacob R. Sensibar, newly-elected president of the American Technion Society.

Emphasizing "Israel's urgent need to attain a balanced economy in the shortest possible time," Mr. Sensibar said that the projected Technological Center would in effect be an extension of the Technion's teaching and research functions. The Center would be under the auspices of the American Technion Society.

Under the plan, American business and industrial executives would exhibit molds, dyes and finished products of American manufacture at the Center, which would be located on the Technion's campus. Israeli industrialists seeking to expand their manufacturing facilities would be able to study the American products on exhibit at the Center, and would be afforded opportunities to study the techniques of American manufacturing and distribution methods through direct meetings with the American exhibitors.

Dr. Ephraim Lahav, Scientific Counsellor to the Israel Embassy, who introduced Mr. Sensibar at the press conference, discussed the newly-signed agreement between the American firm, Fairbanks, Morse & Co., of Chicago, and the Israeli Ministry of Development, for the construction of a plant in Israel to desalt sea water.

"Israel, like our neighboring countries, must overcome a shortage of water to meet the rising need of food supply," Dr. Lahav said. "If our desalting process will be as economic as is predicted by American and Israeli experts, fresh water may become available for all the waste lands in our region. The time may soon come when we will discuss new forms of collaboration with our neighbors who will, I hope, look upon the very existence of Israel as a blessing to the Middle East."

AMERICAN ISRAELI PAPER MILLS ANNOUNCES $12,000,000 EXPANSION PLAN

NEW YORK, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Directors of American Israeli Paper Mills, Ltd. have declared the regular quarterly dividend of six and a quarter cents on the American Depositary Receipts which are traded on the American Stock Exchange, Joseph M. Mazer, chairman of the board, reported today.

The dividend is payable on January 21, 1960 to stockholders of record December 21, 1959. Each ADR is equivalent to five shares of ordinary Israeli stock, on which the company has been paying regular dividends of five cents annually for the past five years.

Mr. Mazer announced that the company, which was the first Israeli-incorporated company to be listed on stock exchanges in the United States, is now in the final stages of a $12,000,000 expansion program. This program, which is expected to be completed in the early part of 1960, includes an expansion of the company's existing paper machine, a second paper machine, a pulp mill, which will be Israel's first, and additional converting facilities.

"Addition of the new and expanded facilities will enable American Israeli Paper Mills to produce a larger variety of paper grades and to market consumer goods such as towels, napkins, and toilet tissue under its own trade name," Mr. Mazer said. At the present time, American Israeli Paper Mills supplies about 40 percent of Israel's total paper needs, estimated at some 45,000 tons annually.

UNIVERSITY OF ALGIERS HONORS PRESIDENT OF LISBON JEWISH COMMUNITY

ALGIERS, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The president of the Lisbon Jewish community, Professor Moise Amzallac, today received an honorary doctorate from the University of Algiers. During his stay here, Dr. Amzallac met with local Jewish leaders and delivered a lecture on the history of the Portuguese Jewish community.

HUMAN RIGHTS ORGANIZATION IN MEXICO HONORS FRENCH-JEWISH STATESMAN

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The Mexican Human Rights Front has awarded a special medallion to the French-Jewish statesman, Rene Cassin, the noted crusader for human rights. The medallion, which is awarded by the organization once each decade, was accepted on behalf of Mr. Cassin by the French Ambassador here, Jean de Lagarde, at a ceremony in the UN Information Office here.

WIFE OF PRESIDENT OF BRAZIL HONORED BY JEWISH HOSPITAL IN SAO PAULO

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- Mrs. Sara Kubitschek, wife of the President of Brazil, was presented with a gold medallion by the Albert Einstein Hospital Society at ceremonies here marking the groundbreaking of a new building for the Jewish hospital. The Brazilian First Lady flew to Sao Paulo to take part in the ceremony.

UNESCO TO HONOR MEMORY OF ZAMENHOF, JEWISH CREATOR OF ESPERANTO

PARIS, Dec. 15. (JTA) -- The United Nations Education, Scientific and Cultural Organization will participate in the celebration of the centenary of Dr. L. Zamenhof, a Warsaw Jew who has given the Esperanto language to the world. UNESCO executive board members said it was "perfectly appropriate" for the creator of an international language to be honored by an international organization.