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ISRAEL CABINET DISCUSSES SYRIAN INCURSIONS AND SUEZ BLOCKADE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet discussed at its regular weekly meeting here today the latest developments affecting Israel's security and foreign policy, in the context of the recent clashes along the Syrian border as well as in the failure of United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld to obtain any satisfaction regarding freedom of shipping through the Suez Canal from United Arab Republic President Gamal Abdel Nasser.

One of the topics at issue concerned the case of the Greek freighter *Astypalea*, which is still being held at Port Said after attempting transit through the Suez Canal in accordance with a previous agreement between Mr. Hammarskjöld and President Nasser. The latter reportedly told the UN Chief that there were "irregularities" in the *Astypalea* documents.

Israel immediately rejected this claim, but Mr. Hammarskjöld, unable to break the impasse of the Suez blockade, is seen here as catering to Nasser's intransigence by requesting "both parties" to provide "additional information" regarding the *Astypalea*'s papers.

(The release of the Danish freighter *Inge Toft* from its berth at the Port Said entrance to the Suez Canal, where it has been impounded since last May, is being held up because Egyptian customs authorities refuse to pay the cost of unloading the ship's cargo acquired in Israel.)

Meanwhile, Israel today notified the chairman of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission that it was willing to meet with Arab farmers owning land in the demilitarized zone adjoining the village of Beit Katzir, near the southeastern shore of Lake Tiberias, and discuss ways whereby the Arabs could resume cultivating their lands there.

Such a meeting, Israel informed the Commission, would take place as soon as Syrian military forces are withdrawn from the positions which they have occupied illegally in the area of Beit Katzir and the village of Tawafik, where last week's serious clashes occurred. Meanwhile, today, tranquility seemed to prevail in that area.

\$12,130,000 RAISED AT MIAMI CONFERENCE LAUNCHING 1960 U. J. A. CAMPAIGN

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The nationwide 1960 United Jewish Appeal was officially launched today as 500 American Jewish leaders meeting here contributed or reported large initial gifts that totaled \$12,130,000.

The gift-giving took place at the closing session of a three-day national inaugural conference at the Fontainebleau Hotel. The more than \$12,000,000 received represents one of the UJA's earliest and most successful starts.

Morris W. Berinstein, general chairman of the UJA, which now gets underway in 3,500 communities across the nation, announced that today's total of starting gifts is 11 percent greater than the amount the appeal received by this time a year ago. He termed today's outpouring of initial gifts "an inspiring indication that American Jews mean to complete the job of integrating all of the million refugees they have helped to reach Israel."

A plea to help Israel's people step up the absorption of immigrants was made today by Abraham Harman, Israel's Ambassador to the United States. At the same time he told the 500 Jewish leaders present that funds raised over the years by UJA have helped to make possible "the simplest and most successful refugee absorption program in Jewish history."

The Israel Ambassador told his audience that one factor that had contributed to the slow absorption of thousands of immigrants was Israel's "open door" immigration policy for Jewish refugees. He explained: "The number of health and social problems among immigrants to Israel has been unusually large as a result." Also of great concern, Mr. Harman said, is the need to provide decent, modest housing for some 90,000 newcomers, 60,000 of them in immigrant shanty towns.

Today's gifts were announced by individual donors or reported by community representatives who gave the results of preliminary meetings in their cities. An outstanding gift of \$250,000 toward the 1960 UJA special fund was made at today's meeting by Mrs. Moses L. Annenberg, of New York. The gift was announced at the request of her

son, Walter Annenberg, Philadelphia publisher. Mrs. Annenberg's gift continued a long tradition of support for United Jewish Appeal by members of the Annenberg family.

The 1960 United Jewish Appeal is a two-fold multi-million dollar campaign, whose aim is to exceed by many millions of dollars the \$69,300,000 in cash funds raised in its 1959 effort. In addition to giving to the regular campaign, contributors are being asked to contribute to a special fund both to speed the lagging process of immigrant absorption in Israel, and to care for immigrants expected in 1960.

Former Senator Herbert H. Lehman, in a message to the communal leaders attending the UJA conference, asked American Jews not to let their success in aiding and rescuing 2,700,000 oppressed and threatened Jews in the past generation "obscure the fact that thousands of our people are still suffering degradation, misery and discrimination."

Mr. Lehman said he would take an active day-to-day leadership role in the UJA campaign, in order together with a number of other New Yorkers to "dramatize our view of the seriousness of the problem." Some of the other New York Jewish leaders who will participate as active workers include Edwin Rosenberg, Edward M. M. Warburg, Barney Balaban, Samuel Rubin and Monroe Goldwater. With Mr. Rosenberg, Mr. Lehman will be chairman of the New York UJA person-to-person gift solicitation effort.

In his message, Mr. Lehman said: "I have accepted a major responsibility in the 1960 campaign because I believe that this is a decisive year for the UJA. For more than 50 years the cause which the UJA represents has been close to my heart and I have determined this year I will do all I can to advance it."

U. J. A. Raised \$1,132,000,000 in Two Decades, Meyerhoff Reports

Reporting on the UJA's accomplishments since its first campaign in 1939, Mr. Joseph Meyerhoff of Baltimore, a national UJA chairman, said that in the two decades of 1939 to 1959, the UJA raised and distributed through its beneficiary agencies \$1,132,000,000. He said that of even greater importance was the fact that during that 20-year period more than 2,700,000 men, women and children benefited from UJA-financed campaigns.

He said a total of 1,369,000 persons were permanently resettled in free countries throughout the world and that these included 1,044,000 settled in Palestine-Israel. The remainder of some 325,000 were reestablished in the United States, British dominions, Latin America and elsewhere.

The delegates also approved action to increase participation of lay leaders in the 1960 campaign in 3,500 communities throughout the nation. These steps included completion of the 66-man campaign cabinet headed by Melvin Dubinsky of St. Louis. The Cabinet and the UJA officers will guide the 1960 campaign.

Another was a decision to hold a series of large-scale leadership institutes to examine ways to bring the 1960 campaign to the public. A midwest institute will be held in Chicago, February 12-14 and a far west institute at Palm Springs, California the following weekend.

Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman, told the conference that intensified support of this year's UJA drive is needed not only for the absorption of earlier immigrants to Israel, but also for aid to the newcomers expected to enter Israel. Last year, the UJA raised \$69,300,000 to meet worldwide Jewish needs, with emphasis on aid for immigrants in Israel.

(A resolution calling upon all their affiliated groups, including almost 1,000,000 members, to mobilize their efforts behind this year's United Jewish Appeal campaign, was adopted in New York today at a conference held by 500 leaders of Jewish mass organizations.)

HISTADRUT CONVENTION WARNS WORLD AGAINST THE 'PLAGUE' OF ANTI-SEMITISM

TEL AVIV, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The ninth convention of the Histadrut issued a solemn warning to the world today that the ultimate target of Nazism and Fascism was not Jews but democracy and human rights.

The 900 delegates, in a resolution to that effect, called on all labor and progressive forces to raise their voice against the "plague" of anti-Semitism before "it is too late." The resolution said that while Jews were always the first victims of Nazism and Fascism, the real goals were the destruction of democracy, abolition of human rights and subordination of man, the "kindling of the wild instinct in men" and the undermining of cultural achievements.

EHRMANN CONFERS WITH SECRETARY OF STATE ON U.S. MIDDLE EAST POLICY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Herbert E. Ehrmann, president of the American Jewish Committee, met with Secretary of State Christian Herter this weekend to discuss "our foreign policy in the Middle East."

LAST MINUTE NEWS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Israel and Syria today both agreed to meet under the auspices of the United Nations Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission.

SOVIET CENSUS SHOWS 2,268,999 LIVE IN U.S.S.R.; 20 PERCENT SPEAK YIDDISH

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union has at least 2,268,999 Jews, and 20.8 percent of them--nearly half a million Soviet Jews--claim Yiddish as their native language, according to the latest Soviet census figures reaching here this weekend. The census was taken in the USSR in 1959.

The figure of 2,268,999 Jews is a minimum, since the census report makes it clear that Russian Jews were permitted, in response to questions by census takers, to identify themselves under any national classification that suited them. Under Soviet law, Jews are considered a nationality--like Russians, Ukrainians or Armenians--without reference to religious identification or practice.

Many other Jews, besides the 2,268,999 enumerated as such in the census, are known to have claimed other nationalities. An official Soviet report made recently to the United Nations listed the number of Jews in the USSR as 3,000,000. There were 5,000,000 Jews in the Soviet Union in 1941. Large numbers of them were killed by the Germans during the Nazi invasion of the USSR.

The fact that 20.8 percent of the Jews officially claimed Yiddish as their "native tongue" was seen here in sharp contrast to the fact that the publication of Yiddish newspapers or books, and the Yiddish theatre, have been virtually non-existent in the USSR in recent years. The Soviet Government claims that Soviet Jews are no longer interested in Yiddish.

HAMMARSKJOLD CONDEMNNS ANTI-SEMITIC MANIFESTATIONS; URGES U.N. ACTION

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, in a statement given to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today, "sharply condemned" the recent outbreaks of anti-Semitic manifestations around the world. He declared that "the United Nations and its specialized agencies must apply the means at their disposal as effectively as possible to counter resurgence of such tendencies."

The Secretary General was at Khartoum, Sudan, during the height of the swastika-daubing and hate sloganeering outbreaks last month, when he was asked about the anti-Semitic manifestations. For the first time, in his statement today, he made public the fact that, at Khartoum, he had been asked about the anti-Semitic manifestations, and had replied that, on the basis of the information he had been able to obtain, he "saw no reason to regard these manifestations as the result of any masterminded operation."

"In these circumstances," Mr. Hammarskjold added, "the interpretation that had to be given to these manifestations was that they reflected a renewed outburst of primitive and revolting currents of the human mind which hundreds of years of civilization have not managed to muster. Like every expression of racialism and of contempt for the human person, they were to be sharply condemned. That such manifestations were possible was, in fact, humiliating to us all, and in sharp contrast to the basic tenets of the United Nations. If permitted to continue, they would represent elements of risk also in a political sense, and all means must be used to correct the situation."

DESECRATORS OF COLOGNE SYNAGOGUE SENTENCED TO PRISON; LOSE RIGHTS

COLOGNE, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The two 25-year-old youths whose Christmas Eve smearing of the Cologne synagogue touched off a worldwide wave of anti-Semitic daubings were sentenced yesterday to prison terms and loss of their civil rights.

Arnold Strunk was sentenced to 14 months in prison. Paul Schoenen was sentenced to 10 months. Judge Hans Metz ordered them deprived of their civil rights for two years. He ruled that the evidence showed a Nazi ideological influence in the behavior of the defendants, but that their actions were not part of an organized anti-Semitic program.

The prosecutor, Friedrich Maier-Bode, had asked for a jail term of two years and three months for Strunk, a baker's helper, and 21 months for Schoenen, son of a well-to-do family who worked in his father's office supply business. Schoenen's grandfather was half-Jewish.

The trial was covered by more than 170 German and foreign correspondents. The defendants, who were expelled from the right-wing German Reichs Party after their arrest, said that they were adherents of such pro-Nazi groups as Mathilde Ludendorff's "Teutonic Circle." They were tried on charges of libel and blasphemy, defiling a house of worship and with "unconstitutional intent." They could have received maximum total terms of 15 years each.

Both men acted defiantly during the trial, neither showing any remorse for their acts. Schoenen told the court, in a closing speech after the testimony had been presented, that he felt he may go down in German history as a "nationalist hero." Strunk said he defaced the synagogue to draw attention to the "Jewish danger to the German race."

A medical expert testified that both men are "psychopathic scatterbrains, with no intelligence rating, and an animal-like fanaticism."

JEWISH GROUPS DENOUNCE U.S. SUPPORT OF ARAB ANTI-ISRAEL BOYCOTS.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The American Government's support of the Arab embargo on ships calling at Israel ports was denounced today by a group of major Jewish organizations.

In a joint statement, six national Jewish bodies and 51 Jewish community relations councils in cities throughout the United States, all affiliated with the National Community Relations Advisory Council, said of the policies of the Navy, Agriculture Department and Commodity Credit Corporation that "this almost defies credulity."

Copies of the statement, with letters urging action to bring about discontinuance of the policies, were sent to President Eisenhower, Secretary of the Navy Frank B. Rowan, Secretary of Agriculture Benson, Secretary of State Herter, Senate Agriculture Committee Chairman Ellender, House Agriculture Committee Chairman Cooley, Senate Armed Services Committee Chairman Russell, House Armed Services Committee Chairman Carl Vinson, Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Fulbright, House Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Morgan.

The major Jewish organizations which joined in the statement were: The American Jewish Congress, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and United Synagogue of America.

"Every American's pride in the dignity and stature of the United States Government must be shaken by the disclosure that not only the United States Navy, but the Department of Agriculture and the Commodity Credit Corporation as well, have bowed submissively to an Arab embargo on the freedom of United States flag merchant ships to touch at Israel ports," the statement said.

"In doing so, these agencies of our government have made the United States a party to the imposition upon American businessmen of limitations on their freedom to transact legitimate business with their own government, purely because they do or have done business with persons or companies in a nation with which the United States maintains friendly and cordial relations. This almost defies credulity.

"This submission to the willful obduracy of Arab dictator Nasser can only contribute to his intransigence and feed his sense of power. It thus diminishes the prospects for stability and amity among nations in the Middle East. The policies of the United States Government agencies involved are humiliating to American pride and inconsistent with American prestige, American tradition and American vital interest. Our national dignity demands that they be discontinued," the statement concluded.

PHYLACTERY AND WEAPONS OF BAR KOCHBA ERA DISCOVERED IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Discoveries of archaeological finds considered by scientists here as of extraordinary importance, including a phylactery scroll and weapons apparently dating back to the era of Bar Kochba, about the year 150 of the Common Era, was announced here today by the Hebrew University.

The discoveries resulted from diggings in a high mountain cave in the Judean Desert, west of the Dead Sea, not far from the site at Kumram, in Jordan, where the famous Dead Sea scrolls had been found in caves. One of the scrolls discovered now antedates the Dead Sea scrolls by about 70 years.

The phylactery (tefillin) scroll contains the first 16 verses of Chapter 13 of the biblical Book of Exodus. It was written on parchment, apparently by an expert, in the same style in which the Dead Sea scrolls has been inscribed. With this parchment, the scientists found papyrus covered with square Hebrew lettering also used in the same period. The papyrus is believed to be part of a letter, but exact deciphering will have to await careful investigation in university laboratories.

Other finds in the cave, the University officials declared, lead to the belief that the cave may have been used as a cache by the Bar Kochba forces. The scientists found ancient coins, arms and ammunition, including arrow shafts painted red and black. The dry climate in the area has apparently preserved not only the items discovered but also the original paint.

In addition to the finds dating to the Bar Kochba era, other discoveries go back to a much earlier period. These include wooden and clay implements and bits of linen and leather dating back as far as the Chalcolithic period, about 4,000 years before the Common Era. The cave yielded also remnants of ancient Roman fortresses believed to have been erected to guard Nahal Tzeelin, which is one of the largest canyons north of Massada.

The diggings were carried out by archaeologists of the Hebrew University and the Ministry of Education. University students and residents of nearby settlements assisted the scientists, while the Israel Army built a special camp for the project, and provided transportation.