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ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUES RAISED IN BRITISH PARLIAMENT; GOVERNMENT EVASIVE

LONDON, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- The British Government declined, in the House of Commons, today, to take any definite stands on a number of Israeli-Arab issues raised chiefly by the Labor Party opposition.

Hugh Gaitskell, leader of the Labor party, led off a foreign affairs debate that turned into a lengthy wrangle between the laborites and the top government foreign affairs experts present, Undersecretaries John Profumo and Robert Allen.

The Labor MP's tried to pin the government down on application of the 1950 Tripartite Declaration by Britain, France and the United States, guaranteeing the existing Arab-Israeli borders; freedom of shipping through the Suez Canal; and the recent border clashes between Israel and Syria.

Both Mr. Profumo and Mr. Allen were evasive in their answers to all the questions. On the 1950 Declaration, Mr. Profumo said the query must be made the subject of a specific question in writing.

Regarding the Suez Canal situation, Mr. Profumo declared that issue involves "a legal argument, and is not an argument for us but between Israelis and the Egyptians." He reiterated the Government's stand, however, in favor of the principle of freedom of navigation.

Asked whether there was indeed "a state of war" between Israel and the UAR--as claimed by the Egyptians and denied by the Israelis--Mr. Profumo replied again that "this is a matter which is capable only of legal interpretation, and is not our affair." The two undersecretaries refused also to go into the recent Syrian-Israeli border clashes, declaring that was a matter for the United Nations to handle.

ISRAEL SUPPLIES HAMMARSKJOLD WITH DATA ON SHIP DETAINED AT SUEZ

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- The Israel Foreign Ministry today sent to Yosef Tekoah, Israel's acting permanent representative at the United Nations, the documentation requested by Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold in connection with the Greek freighter Astypalea, which the United Arab Republic has kept berthed at the Port Said entrance to the Suez Canal since mid-December.

Mr. Hammarskjold had asked for further information after UAR President Gamal Abdel Nasser told the UN Chief at Cairo, last month, that the Israel-originated cargo carried on the Astypalea was not shipped f. o. b. Haifa. Israel has insisted that the cargo had been bought and paid for by French Somaliland purchasers.

Israel's latest move, in supplying the documentation to the UN, is seen here as a willingness on the part of the Government to continue "playing Hammarskjold's game." Insistence by Hammarskjold on the information sought by Nasser is considered as only an evasion by Hammarskjold himself, who claims that the "technical arrangements" he had made with Nasser earlier are still valid. Those arrangements include a Nasser pledge to let Israeli cargoes go through the Canal in foreign bottoms, if the cargoes were in fact at the time owned by foreign, non-Israeli dealers.

Privately, Hammarskjold has admitted--it is said here--that, should Israel try another test shipment living up to those "practical arrangements," Nasser may be forced by "the political situation" to bar such a shipment again.

(At the United Nations today, Mr. Tekoah conferred for 45 minutes with Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Undersecretary for Special Political Affairs, who had accompanied Mr. Hammarskjold in the latter's talks at Cairo with President Nasser.)

BAHREIN, ARAB SHEIKDOM, BARS POSTAL CONNECTION WITH ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- The Arab Sheikdom of Bahrain, a Persian Gulf area which is a "protected principality" of Britain, notified Israel today that, in the future, it will bar all postal connection with Israel.

(In London, a spokesman for the British Foreign Office told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the British postal services act "only as agents" for the Sheikdom of Bahrain and have "no responsibility for Bahrain's political decisions.")

WHITE HOUSE EXPLAINS NAVY'S ORDER AIDING ARAB BOYCOTT OF ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- The White House today sought to explain the motive behind the order issued by the U.S. Navy with regard to awarding of contracts to American shipping firms. The order has evoked many protests because it is considered as aiding the Arab boycott against Israel.

The explanation is contained in a letter addressed to Adolph Held, national chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, who had sent a telegram to President Eisenhower, protesting discrimination by the U.S. Navy in awarding contracts for oil cargo transport to acquaint shipping firms who wanted to trade with Israel. Signed by Wilton P. Persons, assistant to the President, the letter reads:

"On behalf of the President, I am replying to your recent telegram concerning Navy shipping contracts. The Secretary of the Navy advises that recent newspaper articles reflect a misunderstanding of the purpose and effect of contractual provisions in Navy charters. No vessel owner is precluded from bidding on a Government contract for the transportation of oil cargoes. In awarding contracts for ocean transportation, the fact that a vessel has, or has not, traded with Israel is not taken into consideration.

"The Military Sea Transportation Service of the Navy is the agency responsible for ocean transportation for the Department of Defense. That agency's contracts, I am informed, have a provision putting shipowners on notice that ships that have traded with Israel may not be permitted by certain countries to come into their ports. It spells out the options that the Government may exercise in the event a ship that has traded with Israel is not permitted to load.

"By doing so, it assists the shipowner who might unknowingly undertake a service he cannot perform and thus tends to avert financial loss to him. It is also of assistance to the Government in preventing offerings of ships that would be unable to unload important cargoes of aviation and fleet fuel."

U. S. Maritime Unions Condemn Navy's Order; Urge Congress Probe.

BAL HARBOR, Fla., Feb. 10. (JTA) -- A resolution protesting against the United States Navy policy which in effect supports the anti-Israel boycott proclaimed by the Arab League was adopted here last night by the executive board of the Maritime Trades Department representing 250,000 maritime workers organized in 28 AFL-CIO unions.

The resolution called upon the U.S. Government to rescind the Navy's stand. It termed the Navy's policy a "Hitlerite boycott." It called upon Congress to make a thorough investigation of the "disgraceful and un-American contacts with Arab states."

The board's resolution went on to say that "certain American ships, manned by American seafaring men and built by American shipyard workers" were barred from the Middle Eastern trade because they were owned "in whole or in part by persons of the Jewish religion."

The resolution charged also that the Government was put in the position of joining the Arab states in discriminating against American flag-shipping. The board said further that the current policy put the United States in the position of contradicting the stand expressed in the United Nations upholding freedom of the seas.

(A similar protest was made yesterday in New York by Paul Hall, president of the Seafarers International Union. The SIU's protests were made in letters to President Eisenhower, the Navy, the Agriculture Department and the Commodity Credit Corporation. Mr. Hall said the policy endorsed the Arab boycott, permitted foreign nations to bar American ships from carrying their own government's cargoes, created an American government blacklist of American vessels and threw new burdens on the already hard-pressed American merchant fleet.)

Rabbinical Conference Chides U.S. Navy for Yielding to Arabs

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Feb. 10. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Council of America, an Orthodox group, called upon Congress last night to investigate the "discriminatory policies of the United States Navy toward those shipping companies which deal with the State of Israel." In a resolution adopted at its mid-winter conference, the Rabbinical Council chided Navy officials for "yielding so readily to Arab pressure and becoming a tool in the Arab campaign of international boycott."

In another resolution, the Council denounced Egypt for interfering with the passage of Israeli products through the Suez Canal and called upon the United Nations to adopt measures to terminate "illegal seizures and searches."

The rabbinical group also appealed to the West German Government to "purge its Cabinet ranks of all former Nazi party members." The Council also deplored the "injection of any religious considerations" into the 1960 Presidential campaign in the United States.

At today's session, the Council appealed to New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller to exercise his influence for the enactment of a fair Sabbath law "so that Jews will not be hampered in their observance of Saturday as a day of spiritual welfare." The rabbinical group declared in a report that the compulsory observance of Sunday as a day of religious consecration violates the American guarantee of complete separation of Church and State.

GERMAN MINISTER, ACCUSED OF KILLING JEWS; TO TESTIFY ON CHARGES

BONN, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Dr. Theodor Oberlaender, Federal Minister for Refugees, will appear before a Tribunal of Honor of Chancellor Adenauer's Christian Democratic Party to reply to charges that he participated in the 1941 massacres of the Jews in Lemberg during the Nazi occupation of Poland, it was reported here today.

Dr. Oberlaender, himself a member of the Christian Democratic Party, has not denied that he was a member of the Nazi Party during the war but he has denied that he was involved in the Lemberg massacre. The Tribunal of Honor would not examine the political aspects of his career, but whether or not his activities during the Nazi period were "dishonorable," it was explained.

(From The Hague it was reported today that Dr. Oberlaender will be invited to testify again before the international committee there investigating the Lemberg, massacre in Nazi-held Poland.)

Meanwhile, Hannes Schneider, chairman of the League of Christian Democratic Students, and another leader of the group, Rudolf von Roegen, today resigned from the League, after reiterating demands that Dr. Oberlaender resign from the Cabinet. The League adopted a resolution a week ago calling for Dr. Oberlaender's resignation.

The resignation of Dr. Oberlaender from the Cabinet has long been demanded by the Social Democratic Party. Last week it was also urged in "Die Welt," an influential weekly of the Christian Democratic Party of which Dr. Oberlaender is now a member. The publication said that Dr. Oberlaender "had been sometimes a Democrat, sometimes a Nazi before 1945, according to which way the wind blew."

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE ASKS GERMANY TO DISCHARGE CABINET MEMBERS

NEW YORK, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- A resolution calling for the "re-tooling of the world's educational systems, including the United States and West Germany, to teach the lessons of brutality against mankind by the Nazis," was passed at a labor conference here tonight, called by the Jewish Labor Committee to speak out against recent anti-Semitic manifestations in the United States, West Germany and other areas of the world.

Benjamin Tabachinsky, national director of the JLC, addressing 500 delegates of local labor unions, called on the West German Government to discharge three Government ministers whose records were "replete with Nazism." The three are Hans Globke, secretary of the chancery, Theodor Oberlaender, a former SS captain and now Minister for Refugees and Interior Minister Gerhard Schroeder.

Adolph Held, national chairman of the JLC, who presided, reported on his meeting last week in Amsterdam with Dr. Adolf Arndt, a leader of the West German Social Democrats. Mr. Held said the two had issued a joint statement calling for increased efforts in West German elementary and high school curricula concerning the crimes of the Nazi past.

JEWISH CONGRESS PROTESTS SUPPRESSION OF DATA ON NAZIS IN GERMANY

NEW YORK, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress charged today that a tacit "gentleman's agreement" existed between the State Department and West Germany aimed at suppressing information about the role of ex-Nazis in the Bonn regime.

In a letter to Secretary of State Herter, the AJC protested a decision by American authorities in West Berlin denying newsmen and civic organizations access to the Berlin Document Center. The Center's archives contain "one of the few comprehensive records of the Nazi party and of the persons identified with it," the letter noted.

Ira Guilden, chairman of the Commission on International Affairs of the AJC, said the "inescapable conclusion" of the U. S. action was that "our government seems to be engaged in a deliberate attempt to conceal or suppress relevant information relating to German history and, specifically, to the past record of German officials."

DUTCH JEWS PROTEST MINISTER'S PLAN TO PARDON GERMAN WAR CRIMINALS

THE HAGUE, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- The Ashkenazic, Sephardic and Liberal Jewish communities joined today in a protest to the Dutch Senate about the plan of Dr. A. C. W. Beerman, Dutch Minister of Justice, to pardon German war criminals detained in Holland who have already had their terms commuted from the death penalty to life imprisonment. The Jewish leaders stressed that the war criminals were responsible for the murders of many thousands of Dutchmen, most of them Jews.

All parties in the Dutch Senate today urged Beerman not to pardon the four German war criminals detained in Breda who were responsible for the deaths of 100,000 Dutch Jews during the second World War.

BRITISH NEWSPAPER SEEKS TO END BAN ON JEWS IN ITS TOP POSITIONS

LONDON, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- The trustees of the Sunday Observer are seeking legal advice on the possibility of interpreting the newspaper's trust deed to end a ban on employment of Jews and Catholics in top policy-making positions on the newspaper staff, David Astor, editor, disclosed today.

SOVIET SCIENTIST CLAIMS SPACE INVADERS BLASTED SODOM AND GOMORRAH

LONDON, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- A Soviet scientist has suggested that Sodom and Gomorrah were destroyed, not by fire and brimstone as recounted in Genesis, but by a nuclear blast set off by invaders from space.

The Soviet News Agency, Tass, transmitted yesterday in factual style the speculation by M. Agrest, a physico-mathematician, as it appeared in a "Literary Gazette" article. Dr. Agrest suggested that Lot's wife, who was turned into a pillar of salt for looking back at the burning cities in the Biblical account, was actually petrified when she disobeyed a warning not to linger in the area.

He suggested that the earth might have been visited by space travelers who landed at the Baalbek Terrace, a platform of huge stone slabs in the Anti-Lebanon Mountains of Syria. Dr. Agrest noted that there has never been a satisfactory explanation of the Baalbek Terrace which he said might have been built by the invaders as a launching platform.

He noted also that the area is not far from the Libyan desert where there have been found glassy bits called tektites. These contain radioactive isotopes of aluminum and beryllium which, the Russian scientist said, were at least a million years old and products of extremely high temperatures. He said the tektites might be traces of the spacemen's atomic missiles.

ILLINOIS ELECTIONS FALL ON PASSOVER; JEWS SEEK SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

CHICAGO, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Efforts were underway today to induce Illinois state election officials to make special arrangements for Jewish voters to take part in the April 12 primary which falls on the first day of Passover. Many requests also have been made to the Board of Election Commissioners of Cook County to change the date of the primary.

Milton H. Miller, a candidate for a Democratic committee post in Chicago, said that since observant Jews were not permitted to cast ballots on a religious holiday, many Jewish citizens would in effect be disenfranchised and be deprived "of the right of suffrage."

Mr. Miller, in letters to various officials, including Gov. William G. Stratton and Sidney T. Holzman, chairman of the Cook County Board of Election Commissioners, urged that a proclamation be issued "construing the election laws" in a manner permitting "citizens of the Jewish faith to ask for and receive assistance by the precinct election judges so that they may vote without violating their religious beliefs."

Mr. Holzman said that the Illinois Constitution set the primary date since 1870 and that there was no way to alter it other than having the legislature pass an absentee ballot bill.

SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONISTS SEEK FUNDS FOR GROWING JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- The South African Zionist Council announced today a decision to set up a commission to study the problems of financing the growing Jewish day school movement in South Africa. A request will be made to the Jewish Agency for a loan of 200,000 pounds to meet immediate needs of these schools.

The decision was reached at a meeting here attended by Zionist leaders from all provinces and Rhodesia. The Zionist Council reported that there are Jewish day schools in Johannesburg, Capetown, Port Elizabeth, Durban and Pretoria but they are all struggling with financial problems.

YOUNG JEWS REPORTED ATTENDING SYNAGOGUE SERVICES IN SOUTHERN RUSSIA

TEL AVIV, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Younger Jews attend synagogue services in southern centers in Russia, Prof. Abraham Katsh, of New York University, declared here today upon his arrival for a visit in Israel, after spending six weeks in the Soviet Union.

The educator, who was studying old Hebrew manuscripts in the Soviet Union, said he found many Hebrew scholars in Russia, Jewish and non-Jewish, and stated that many of the scholars asked him for news about Israel. He also reported that he has found in Russia manuscripts of the works of Judah Halevi, the Hebrew poet of the 11th Century, which were "hitherto unknown or only partly known." He said he has microfilmed these manuscripts.

JENNIE GOLDSTEIN, LEADING JEWISH ACTRESS, DEAD; FUNERAL TODAY

NEW YORK, Feb. 10. (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Jennie Goldstein, leading actress of the Yiddish theater, who died here yesterday at the age of 63. Miss Goldstein, whose tragic roles were especially popular to Yiddish theater-goers in the Twenties and Thirties, was stricken late Monday night after appearing in a rehearsal of "Columbia Workshop," a dramatic television program on the Columbian Broadcasting System.

Born in New York City, Miss Goldstein first appeared on the stage at the age of 6. Versatile in repertory as tragedienne, singer, comedienne, and producer, Miss Goldstein was a strong force in building a vigorous and attractive American Yiddish theater with its base in New York. On celebrating her 25th anniversary on the stage Miss Goldstein was given a gold medal of honor by the French Academy of Arts.