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PRESIDENT EISENHOWER SAYS UNITED STATES WILL NOT SELL ARMS TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower today rejected the idea of United States arms sales to Israel even though he acknowledged that Soviet-bloc arms were arriving in some Arab states. He also indicated dismissal of the idea of a possible American-Israel mutual security pact.

Mr. Eisenhower told his press conference that the United States, as a matter of policy, never served as a major supplier of arms to Israel and does not intend to assume such a role now for Israel or any other country in that area.

Acknowledging that certain Arab states were receiving Communist arms, Mr. Eisenhower pointed out that Israel was being supplied with military equipment by France and Great Britain.

Mr. Eisenhower said he would be "frank" in stating that the United States was sending enough arms to enough nations and that he would let somebody else carry that responsibility regarding Israel.

He said he was unfamiliar with a recent suggestion by Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, that a mutual security treaty be negotiated to link America with Israel in defense. He added, however, that he had heard the same idea discussed many times before.

He indicated dismissal of such a defense treaty, stating he told the United Nations the United States would deal with the Arab states and Israel as a unit for economic development assistance if the Arabs and Israel could agree. If such agreement could be reached, the United States still stands ready to support and coordinate a policy of regional development assistance, he declared.

Says He Is Unaware of Navy's Policy Aiding Anti-Israel Boycott

The President said he is unaware of any United States Navy policy on ship charters that might tend to discriminate against ships trading with Israel. He indicated that would be contrary to American policy.

Commenting on the current status of the Suez Canal impasse involving Israel and the United Arab Republic, Mr. Eisenhower recalled his 1957 statement that if operation of the canal was unfair, this should cause action by the United Nations.

He said he believed that the Suez Canal matter had been handled by the United Nations. His reference was presumed to be to the recent efforts of United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjöld to resolve Israel-UAR differences over the canal.

The official transcript of the questions put to the President and his reply to these questions reads as follows:

Question: Mr. President, in a speech recently, Senator Javits said that it would be in the best interests of this country to join with Israel in a mutual defense pact. He pointed to the fact that Soviet arms and military personnel are flowing into the Middle East Arab countries, and expressed the view that a defense pact with Israel would serve as a deterrent to any Soviet-inspired or encouraged Arab military action there. In view of present tensions in the area, would you comment on Senator Javits' recommendation?

The President: Well, I don't know exactly the -- as a matter of fact, I didn't read this particular recommendation. I have heard similar ones from many people. The United States, as a matter of policy, has never been a major supplier of arms for Israel, and doesn't intend to be, nor to any other country in the area.

As a matter of fact, I went to the United Nations and, making a talk about the whole Mideast situation, said if these countries could get together in any kind of a program or plan for economic development of the whole region, the United States would be greatly interested in dealing with the whole group.

Now, with regard to the allegations of the arms the Soviets are sending in there, of course they have. We know they've been in that area, but Israel has also been getting

arms from Britain and France for a long time and, frankly, I think we're sending arms to enough nations, really. I think let somebody else carry a little responsibility."

Question: Mr. President, in recent weeks, spokesmen for the Navy seem to have admitted that it discriminates against American ships in trade with Israel. In the view of critics, it does this by discouraging the owners of such ships from bidding on transportation that involves use of Arab ports, because the Arabs refuse to accommodate the vessel. The effect, these critics say, is to comply with the Arab boycott of Israel. Would you say that this was in line with our foreign policy?

The President: Certainly not within our policy. Right after the Suez incident, you recall that the United States joined in saying that if their--if the operation of the canal was not so conducted as to be fair to the traffic of all nations, that this should be a cause of action by the united group. And I believe this matter has been up in the United Nations; well, I know it has, and---well, I believe it has; put it that way. And certainly the United States has always stood for that principle. Now, I didn't know about the incident to which you refer, and I would suggest you ask the Navy Department itself about that."

SECRETARY HERTER UNDER FIRE IN HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ISRAELI ISSUES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Christian Herter came under heavy fire today on Israeli shipping issues, when he testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The climax of today's hearing came when Rep. Leonard Farbstein, New York Democrat, a member of the committee, told Mr. Herter that he was seriously considering an amendment to the Mutual Security Act to bar American aid to any nation denying the principle of freedom of the seas.

Rep. Farbstein told Mr. Herter that, in view of the massive American aid now being given the United Arab Republic, the United States had a right to ask the UAR about its Suez Canal restrictions against Israel, without depending entirely on United Nations action.

Mr. Herter replied that the American Ambassador in Cairo had made representations to President Nasser's regime, that the United States was supporting efforts of UN Secretary General Hammarskjold, and that Mr. Herter had expressed himself on the matter at the United Nations.

Chairman Wayne Hays, of the foreign affairs body's subcommittee on the State Department, asked Mr. Herter if the U.S. Navy was not, in effect, patrolling the Suez Canal "for Nasser" because the Navy charts ships from American shippers in a manner that respects Arab blockade and boycott requirements.

Mr. Herter replied that the State Department had just heard about the shipping issue and would study it. He indicated that the Department was discussing it with the U.S. Navy Department. Rep. Hays is an Ohio Democrat.

NASSER ANNOUNCES HE WILL NEVER PERMIT ISRAELI CARGOES TO PASS SUEZ

LONDON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- President Nasser of the United Arab Republic today served formal notice that the UAR will never permit Israeli ships or goods to transit the Suez Canal.

Speaking before thousands of wildly cheering Syrians in Aleppo, Nasser declared that Israeli goods seized in any UAR port, including the Canal entrances, would be confiscated and sold for the welfare of Palestinian Arab refugees.

(In Jerusalem, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Israel will continue to send cargoes for transit through the Suez Canal, and will press the United Nations to push demands for Israel's passage rights. The Inge Toft returned to Haifa today minus its Israel cargo after a nine-month detention by the United Arab Republic at the entrance to the Suez Canal.)

ISRAEL DISPUTES RULING OF ARMISTICE BODY ON VILLAGE DEMOLITION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Israel sources asserted today that the ruling yesterday of the Syrian-Israeli Mixed Armistice Commission condemning Israel's demolition of an Arab village in the demilitarized zone southeast of Lake Tiberias contradicted the views of the United Nations observers on the incident.

The commission, meeting without attendance of the Israel representatives, also condemned Israel yesterday for alleged overflights of jet planes in Syrian air space. Israel refused to take part in the meeting on grounds that the zones are sovereign Israeli territory concerning which Syria has no standing. The resolutions were proposed by Syria. Because Israel was absent, no counter-resolution was submitted against intervention in the zone by Syrian military forces.

BRITAIN REJECTS NASSER'S CLAIM TO 'BELLIGERENCE RIGHTS' AGAINST ISRAEL

LONDON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Selwyn Lloyd, Britain's Foreign Secretary, told the House of Commons today that Britain does not recognize the United Arab Republic's claim--rejected by Israel--that "a state of war" exists between the UAR and Israel.

Egypt has been persistently claiming that it is entitled to exercise so-called "rights of belligerence" due to the continued existence of the alleged "state of war."

Leading members of the opposition Labor Party asked the Government in writing whether it recognizes the claims of "state of war" and whether the Tripartite Declaration of 1950, issued then by Britain, France and the United States, is still considered as being in effect. That Declaration guaranteed the borders of Israel and its neighboring Arab states.

In regard to the Declaration, Mr. Lloyd revealed that the three Western Powers discussed its effectiveness with the UAR since the Egyptian-Syrian union was formed. He said the powers "agreed that the Tripartite Declaration remained a valid declaration of policy."

Britain, however, said Mr. Lloyd, cannot call upon the UAR to stop claiming the existence of a state of war with Israel because such a request would amount to admitting that a "state of war" does exist. He added that, in the British Government's official view, such a situation "does not exist."

BONN ISSUES 'WHITE PAPER' ON ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS; COVERS 685 CASES

BONN, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The West German Government today issued a White Paper reporting 685 anti-Semitic incidents in West Germany last month. The document said no evidence of an organized conspiracy had been found.

The White Paper, covering the incidents sparked by the Christmas Eve smearing of the Cologne synagogue, was published on the eve of a Parliamentary debate on anti-Semitism in West Germany, which will open tomorrow. The document said direct ties between vandals and political groups were found only in eight cases, seven of them involving the German Reichs party.

Among those arrested, the report said, 130 were children under 20, 49 were persons under 30, 38 were under 50, 11 under 60 and six were 60 years old and older. The report said 63 offenders have received fines, detention or jail terms ranging from two to 17 months.

The report said that of the 685 incidents listed up to January 28, 215 were "children's scribbblings." Seventy-three cases were determined to be politically motivated and of these only about one-fourth were considered "genuinely anti-Semitic."

The White Paper said most of the incidents were committed by persons who "allowed themselves to be carried away by smoldering political undertones." In a few cases, a Communist ideological background was uncovered. According to the conclusions drawn, the reaction of sections of the public showed that the overwhelming majority of the German people reject anti-Semitism and are ready to take steps to oppose it.

ROME COURT REJECTS AMNESTY PETITION FOR NAZI WHO MASSACRED JEWS

ROME, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- A Rome court dismissed today a petition for amnesty from former SS Col. Herbert Kappler who is serving a life term for responsibility for the Ardeatine Cave Massacre in which hundreds of Jews were murdered.

Kappler, who was sentenced by an Italian court in July 1948, is an inmate of the Gaeta military prison. The court ruled that Kappler's crimes were not of the political nature for which amnesties have been considered and approved in other cases but common crimes committed against Italian citizens.

SHAZAR, GROSSMAN ARRIVE IN NEW YORK FOR JEWISH AGENCY MEETINGS

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Zalman Shazar, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency executive in Jerusalem and Meir Grossman, member of the Jewish Agency executive, arrived today in New York to participate in important consultations with the executive of the New York section of the Jewish Agency.

TENURE OF CHIEF RABBINATE COUNCIL IN ISRAEL TO BE EXTENDED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The tenure of the Chief Rabbinate Council, scheduled to expire on Monday, will be extended by a Government regulation slated for approval at the Cabinet meeting Sunday, Rabbi Jacob M. Toledano, Minister of Religions, said today in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

The period of the extension, during which elections for a new Council will be held, has not yet been decided, Rabbi Toledano said, but it will probably be for six months.

BOSTON JEWISH COUNCIL REITERATES OPPOSITION TO RELEASE TIME IN SCHOOLS

BOSTON, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston reminded Jewish parents here again today that the Boston Jewish community has been united in its opposition to release time religious instruction programs in the public schools. The JCC issued the reminder in taking note that new efforts were underway to revive the program.

The JCC statement noted that in 1947 the United States Supreme Court ruled that such programs, as practiced in Illinois, were unconstitutional but that in 1952 the high court ruled that such programs were legal, if they were not conducted on public school premises and if parents voluntarily choose to enroll their children for such instruction.

The JCC cited its recommendation in 1949 to the Boston Bureau of Jewish Education that it should not provide facilities for such education on grounds that such programs were "neither adequate religious education nor sound Americanism." At that time, the JCC stressed that ample facilities for Jewish religious education were available for all Jewish children in Boston in after public school programs and on Saturdays and Sundays.

JEWISH CONGREGATION MAY JOIN CATHOLIC FIGHT ON ZONING RESTRICTIONS

PITTSBURGH, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- A Jewish congregation here may join the Roman Catholic Diocese of this city in fighting zoning restrictions in a suburb which forbids the erection of houses of worship in certain areas of that community.

The suburb is Mt. Lebanon. Congregation Beth El has applied for permission to build a new synagogue there on land it owns in Mt. Lebanon. The town's board of commissioners has reserved decision on granting or denying that permission, until it receives a ruling from the Mt. Lebanon Planning Commission. Meanwhile, however, the Catholic diocese, which has been denied the right to erect a church in the same area, is testing the Mt. Lebanon zoning ordinance in court.

William Crosby, attorney for the Jewish congregation, said today he may enter the Catholic case, joining the diocese as "amicus curiae," or friend of the court, in pressing the appeal against Mt. Lebanon's stand.

NEW YORK MAYOR PROCLAIMS 1960 AS 'SOLOMON IBN GABIROL YEAR'

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Mayor Wagner has proclaimed the year 1960 as "Solomon Ibn Gabirol Year" in New York City in a proclamation presented to leaders of the Hispanic Jewish community here. The proclamation declared that "the power of the Hispanic culture derives from its singular, aesthetic and emotional character combined with the unique and extraordinary integration of the Jewish past into the Hispanic present."

The proclamation noted that a one-year cultural program was underway sponsored jointly by the Hispanic and Jewish communities of New York City. It added that it was fitting that the program should be centered around Solomon Ibn Gabirol, "early poet and philosopher of the Hispanic world, upon the 900th anniversary of his death." It said that Ibn Gabirol was "the greatest of Hebraic poets who left an imperishable impression on Christian thinking."

RABBINICAL COUNCIL OF AMERICA TO HOLD ITS CONVENTION IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Council of America, an Orthodox organization, announced here today that it will hold its 25th annual convention in Israel. The convention, according to Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, president of the Council, will take place in July, 1961.

One of the features of the convention, Rabbi Rackman said, will be the dedication of a Rabbinical Council Grove of 25,000 trees as part of the Jewish National Fund's Freedom Forest in Israel.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT TO RE-INTER REMAINS OF ZALMAN SHNEUR IN TEL AVIV

NEW YORK, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- The remains of the late Zalman Shneur, famous Yiddish-Hebrew author who died in this country last year, will be flown for interment in Israel next month, it was announced here today by the Israel Consulate General.

The Government of Israel is financing the re-interment. A memorial service for the late Mr. Shneur will be held here March 9, and the remains will be interred March 11 in the old cemetery in Tel Aviv not far from the graves of the late Chaim Nahman Bialik and Ahad Ha'am.

DR. RIVKIND, LEADING ZIONIST, DIES IN ISRAEL; WAS DIRECTOR OF EL AL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Abraham Rivkind, a leading Zionist and deputy director of El Al-Israel National Airlines, died here this morning after a brief illness. He was 53. Born in Lodz, Poland, Dr. Rivkind participated in all Zionist congresses since 1929. He was a senior official of Keren Hayesod until he was appointed in 1948 to establish the Israeli airline.