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BRITISH PREMIER EVASIVE IN PARLIAMENT ON HIS TALK WITH BEN-GURION

LONDON, March 22. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Harold Macmillan today evaded going into details in the House of Commons on his talk with Israel's Premier David Ben-Gurion who is leaving England tomorrow for Jerusalem. Mr. Ben-Gurion remained resting in Oxford today.

The British Prime Minister limited himself to telling the members of the House of Commons that Mr. Ben-Gurion was spending a few days in England on a private visit. "He called on me, at his request, and we discussed problems of the Middle East and the world," Mr. Macmillan stated.

Laborite Dingle Foot demanded to know whether the question of British supply of arms to Israel had been discussed, and whether an assurance of such a supply had been given to Mr. Ben-Gurion in reply. Mr. Macmillan said he stands on the answer to a similar question given in Parliament last week by Joint Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs Robert Allan.

Mr. Allan had told the House that it was not in the public interest to disclose whether or not arms requests had been received from foreign governments. He had also added that the Government would not give the assurance that an arms request from Israel would be denied before Commons had had the opportunity of discussing such a request.

"I did observe," the Premier added, "that, in an interview, Mr. Ben-Gurion said he favored complete disarmament in the Middle East, with mutual inspection, before world disarmament begins. An embargo in the present position, when a great power is sending arms to one country, would be a great injustice."

When Mr. Foot persisted on eliciting from the Prime Minister a statement on whether he favors an attempt to control arms supplies to the Middle East, Mr. Macmillan answered: "I am in favor of anything we can do to reduce tension there, as part of and perhaps in connection with, world disarmament."

In another statement to the House, Mr. Macmillan rejected a Labor request that a Royal Commission be named to investigate the record of British, French and Israel Government consultations prior to the Suez campaign of 1956. All these matters, Mr. Macmillan stated, were discussed in Parliament at the time of the Suez campaign, and subsequently. For that reason, he declared, he saw no reason for further inquiry.

ARSONISTS SET FIRE TO OFFICES OF JEWISH AGENCY IN MARSEILLES

PARIS, March 22. (JTA) -- The offices of the Jewish Agency in Marseilles were severely damaged by fire last night and local police authorities said they were "certain the fire had been purposely set."

It was the second time in six months that a Jewish Agency office in France had been damaged by arsonists. The previous effort, six months ago, was made at the Agency offices in this city, but gasoline-soaked newspapers had, for some reason, failed to catch fire.

(In Jerusalem, an Israeli radio commentator expressed the belief that the Marseilles blaze, like the one attempted earlier in Paris, was the work of Algerian rebels, members of the Algerian National Liberation Front.)

Reports from Marseilles received here this afternoon indicated that the Jewish Agency offices there were still being used, despite the damage. Files, other furniture, and typewriters were destroyed by the flames on the second floor of the Agency office. Marseilles police believed that the culprits had entered the offices during the night with passkeys.

Anti-Israel propaganda, emanating from Cairo has been circulated frequently of late, chiefly among Moslems, in this country. The propaganda materials have singled out the Jewish Agency as the organization which directs the immigration of Jews to Israel, charging that the Agency uses the Port of Marseilles as the point of departure.

WORLD BANK MISSION TO STUDY ISRAEL'S REQUEST FOR \$46,000,000 LOAN

JERUSALEM, March 22. (JTA) -- G. Stuart Mason, head of a mission to arrive here next week from the headquarters of the World Bank in Washington, came to Israel today and was received by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol.

The mission will tour Israel for a month, in connection with Israel's application for a loan from the bank, reportedly totaling \$46,000,000. Of the total, it is understood, Israel would earmark \$30,000,000 for construction work at the new port of Ashdot Yam, appropriating the remainder for potash, phosphate and other mineral developments in the Dead Sea and other Negev areas.

HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDS FOREIGN AID BILL TO CHECK ARAB BLOCKADE

WASHINGTON, March 22. (JTA) -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee today adopted an amendment to the Foreign Aid bill, calling upon the President to ensure that no foreign aid given by the United States endangers the principle of freedom of navigation. In the form of a Joint Resolution, the amendment would express outright United States opposition to Arab blockade and economic restrictions in the Suez Canal and elsewhere.

Declaring that America's "traditional" policy of freedom of the seas "is presently being violated," and stating that the United States "deplores such violations," the amendment declares it the sense of Congress that the purposes of the Mutual Security Act would be negated, and the peace of the world endangered, if nations receiving assistance under the Act "wage economic warfare against other nations assisted under this Act, including such procedures as boycotts, blockades, or the restriction of the use of international waterways."

The amendment specifies further that "in all negotiations between the United States and any foreign State, arising as a result of funds appropriated under the Act or arising under the Agriculture Trade and Assistance Act, the principles shall be applied as the President may determine." The measure calls upon the President to report on measures he has taken to implement the principles.

Reference to the Agriculture Act indicates that the committee had in mind Arab, anti-Israeli discriminations like the one requiring that ships bringing United States agricultural surpluses to Arab ports must be vessels that do not trade in Israeli ports.

The amendment had been originally submitted by Rep. Leonard Farbstein of New York. Today, the measure was co-sponsored in the committee by another member of the Foreign Affairs group, Rep. Wayne Hays, of Ohio. Both are Democrats.

ISRAEL INTERCEPTS JORDANIAN CIVILIAN PLANE FLYING OVER ITS TERRITORY

TEL AVIV, March 22. (JTA) -- Israeli fighters intercepted a Jordanian civilian plane, flying over Israeli territory, yesterday, but did not fire on the craft when the Jordanian pilot returned to Jordanian air-space, an Army spokesman declared here today.

Jordan had complained to the Mixed Armistice Commission that the plane, carrying 19 passengers, including 11 Americans, had been "fired on" by the Israelis. According to the Israeli spokesman, no arms whatever had been used. He said that when the Israelis noted that the Jordanian plane had crossed into Israeli air-space, the fighters went up and warned the Jordanian. The ship then turned back into Jordanian area, ending the incident.

DR. GOLDMANN URGES EAST-WEST GUARANTEE OF ISRAELI-ARAB STATUS QUO

BUENOS AIRES, March 22. (JTA) -- The best method for stabilizing the situation in the Middle East is for a joint East-West guarantee of the Israeli-Arab status quo, accompanied by arms control and "some kind of arms embargo," Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, declared here today.

Dr. Goldmann made that statement upon his arrival today to participate in the centennial celebration of the settlement of Jews in Argentina. The Middle East situation now, he said, is "unstable and potentially dangerous." He pointed out that, while the United Arab Republic and Iraq are being furnished with "great quantities of highly-modern weapons at the cheapest prices," Israel must buy some defensive materiel "expensively."

On the subject of the recent wave of anti-Semitism in Germany and elsewhere, Dr. Goldmann said that the World Jewish Congress had tabulated more than 1,000 incidents in 34 countries, nearly half of them in Germany. He stressed that there is "no immediate, serious danger" to Jews as a result of these incidents, but warned that the incidents should be "considered a serious symptom regarding the future."

Regarding the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union, the Jewish leader emphasized that "anti-Semitism in Russia is not greater than usual. Rather, it is a case of spiritual genocide. He said he told a Russian diplomat last week, when the latter asked what Russia should do: "Allow Russian Jews the same rights they have in Hungary or Rumania."

PARLIAMENTARY BODY IN GERMANY EXAMINES THREE ANTI-DEFAMATION BILLS

BONN, March 22. (JTA) -- Three bills, aimed at the protection of minority groups in West Germany from defamation, were being scrutinized here today by the Bundestag Judiciary Committee, in an effort to reconcile differing versions of the proposed legislation drafted by the Government and by opposition parties.

The Government's draft of the measure was passed on third reading in the Bundestag last December. Since then, however, parliamentary members representing several parties, as well as spokesmen for the Central Council of Jews in Germany, expressed opposition to the new legislation. The opponents of the drafts hold that the bill would single out the Jewish population, "imprisoning the Jews in a golden Ghetto."

SEVEN GERMANS RECEIVE JAIL SENTENCES AND FINES FOR ANTI-JEWISH ACTS

BONN, March 22. (JTA) -- Six men and a woman received jail sentences and heavy fines for anti-Semitic acts in West Germany during the last week-end, according to reports received at Government headquarters here today. In two other instances, both in the State of Schleswig-Holstein, the State Ministry of Education has received complaints from parents who accused teachers and courts of being too harsh against pupils charged with anti-Semitic acts.

Among those convicted of slandering Jews were Anton Plass, a 47-year-old watchmaker, of Minden, sentenced to four months in jail plus a fine; a 24-year-old truck driver in Mannheim, sentenced for three months; a carpenter at Bad Nauheim, sentenced to eight months' imprisonment; a laborer and a forester, at Bad Nauheim, sentenced to two months and four months, respectively; and a housewife at Steinheim, fined 200 marks.

In Hanau, a 45-year-old laborer has been sentenced to two months in jail for yelling at a Jewish bar owner that "since Hitler forgot to kill you, I will do it now." The laborer, Ernest Krebs, pleaded before the Hanau Jury Court that he had been intoxicated but Judge A. Gatzsche said "severe punishment" was needed as a deterrent to others.

At Launburg, in Schleswig-Holstein, parents complained that a high school principal "unjustly" caused the arrest of a 15-year-old boy caught painting the swastika on the walls of the school building.

At Wetzlar, in the same State, a 12-year-old boy was sentenced in juvenile court to detention, after being caught scribbling on a shop window the words "SS Is Fine." The boy's parents claimed the letters SS stood for the name of his girl friend, Susanna Schmidt, and not for the initials of the Hitler security police. However, the court threw out the complaint, after ascertaining that the boy's mother had been a school mate of the late Josef Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda minister.

SURVEY SEEKS TO ESTABLISH REACTION OF GERMANS TO SWASTIKA SMEARING

BONN, March 22. (JTA) -- Between four percent and 11 percent of the West German population "may be assumed to be anti-Jewish," the Institute for Opinion Research, at Bielefeld, stated today in summing up the results of a public opinion survey conducted recently among a scientific sample of the German people.

According to the Institute, the survey showed that 79 percent "severely" condemned anti-Semitism as demonstrated through last Winter's swastika-smearing incidents. Exactly one percent of the respondents "lauded" the incidents, many of these declaring that "The Jews are often at fault themselves" or "I believe they ought to go to Israel." Three percent, the Institute stated, refused to express an opinion, "probably because they are anti-Jewish." Seven percent more were seen by the Institute as being "on the border line between anti-Semitism and indifference."

GERMANY ALLOCATES \$80,000 FOR UPKEEP OF JEWISH CEMETERIES IN HESSE

BONN, March 22. (JTA) -- The State of Hesse has allocated 320,000 Deutschmarks (about \$80,000) out of federal and state funds for the upkeep of Jewish cemeteries in the State, according to a report received by government officials here today. The 320,000-mark appropriation exceeds last year's allocation by 22,000 marks.

At the same time, word was received here today from Bad Kreuznach, in the State of Rheinland-Pfalz, that 80 Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts in the town have started on a project of renovating the 19th Century Jewish cemetery there. Tools for the project have been supplied to the youngsters by the headquarters of the American Army's Eighth Division, while the State has contributed 3,000 marks (about \$750) for the work.

WOMEN'S CONFERENCE PLEDGES \$1,000,000 FOR HEBREW UNIVERSITY LIBRARY

CHICAGO, March 22. (JTA) -- A pledge of \$1,000,000 to help rebuild the Library of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was subscribed today by representatives of the National Women's Division, American Friends of the Hebrew University, at the conclusion here of their week-long Founding Conference. Mrs. Louis S. Gimbel, Jr., New York communal leader, was elected national president of the women's organization.

N. Y. SENATE VOTES FREE TRANSPORTATION FOR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

ALBANY, March 22. (JTA) -- A bill to provide free bus transportation for private and parochial school pupils in New York State, which would benefit Jewish parochial schools, has been passed by the State Senate.

The bill provides that the free bus service must be furnished by local school boards for all pupils living within a ten-mile distance from parochial and private schools. Until now, the local school boards have not been required to furnish such free travel for pupils beyond a limit of eight miles. The bill was passed by a vote of 45-9, with all negative votes cast by Republicans.

Under present legislation, a local school board may provide such free bus service. But, where the local board refuses to do so, the board may be over-ruled by the State Commissioner of Education who, it is known, frequently exercises that power.

One of the questions involved is whether the bill might infringe on the constitutional guarantee of separation of church and state. In the Senate debate on the bill, however, that issue was not raised. The opponents only criticized the measure on the grounds that it would increase educational costs in New York State by about \$3,000,000.

ISRAELI ARCHAEOLOGISTS TO START LARGEST SEARCH FOR ANCIENT SCROLLS

JERUSALEM, March 22. (JTA) -- The largest Israeli archaeological expedition ever organized will soon start systematic searches for ancient scrolls believed still hidden in caves in the Judean Desert, it was announced here today by Dr. Benjamin Mazar, president of the Hebrew University, who is also chairman of the Israel Exploration Society.

Scrolls and other relics are believed hidden in the caves where, recently, archaeological diggings have discovered many fragments and artifacts hidden by Jewish rebels in their revolt against the Romans, after the destruction of the second Temple.

While there was no official statement to that effect, it is believed that many scroll scraps and other antiquities have been stolen from those caves by roaming Bedouins who later sold the valuable materials in Jordan. The area is near the Jordanian border.

The new expedition, according to Prof. Mazar, will include members of the Exploration Society, members of the Hebrew University faculty, students, and staff members of the government's Antiquities Department. The expedition will receive full support from the Israeli Army, including transport, communication, supplies and protection.

SOUTH AMERICAN CONFEDERATION OF GENERAL ZIONISTS MEETS IN BRAZIL

SAO PAULO, March 22. (JTA) -- The first plenary meeting of the South American Confederation of Independent General Zionists and the first territorial convention of Brazilian independent Zionists were inaugurated here with speeches by Dr. Israel Goldstein of New York.

A formal reception marking the return of Brazil's General Zionists to the World Zionist Organization and Israel Appeal here was held last night at the Israel Embassy. The reconciliation was effected through the efforts of Leon Dultzin, member of the executive of the Jewish Agency.

GENERAL ZIONISTS TO HOLD REGIONAL PARLEYS IN EUROPE, LATIN AMERICA

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- The World Confederation of General Zionists, headed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, today announced that two regional conferences of General Zionists--one in Europe and the other in Latin America--will convene this summer in preparation for the 25th World Zionist Congress. The European conference will be held in Antwerp on June 24-26, with the participation of delegates from western European countries. The Latin American conference will take place in Rio de Janeiro in the middle of July.

The principal issues to be discussed are elections of delegates to the Zionist Congress, problems related to the changes in the constitution of the World Zionist Organization, ideological issues confronting the Zionist movement at the present time, Jewish education, as well as organizational matters related to the activities of General Zionist organizations.

FIRST ISRAEL BOND CONFERENCE HELD IN BRAZIL; MAPS NATIONWIDE DRIVE

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil, March 22. (JTA) -- The first Israel Bond conference to be held in Brazil concluded here today. Delegations from this city, Sao Paulo, Bahia, Recife, Belo Horizonte and Porto Alegre participated in the parley. Reports on bond drives in various parts of Brazil were presented to the conference which mapped future country-wide campaigns.