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BEN-GURION RETURNS TO ISRAEL; LEFT ENGLAND WITH 'PLEASANT IMPRESSIONS'

LONDON, March 23. (JTA) -- "I am going home, filled with pleasant impressions of this great and fair-minded country, where our young State can learn a great many useful lessons," Israel's Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion declared today in a statement prior to his departure for home.

He arrived at London Airport shortly before his scheduled departure on a non-stop flight direct from London to Israel's Lydda Airport. In the party to bid farewell to Mr. Ben-Gurion were members of the Israel mission, led by Ambassador Arthur Lourie; Sir Francis Rundall, former British Ambassador to Israel; and several leaders of British Jewry, including Sir Simon Marks and Israel Sieff. The plane took off at 2:54 p. m., London time.

"I am leaving this country," Mr. Ben-Gurion said at the airport, "with a deep sense of gratitude for the kind hospitality extended to me. I was glad to meet the Prime Minister and members of his Cabinet, as well as many old friends, at the luncheon given to me by the Prime Minister on the first day of my arrival in London for the first time since the re-establishment of our State.

"In the conversations I held the same evening, at 10 Downing Street, with the Prime Minister and the Foreign Secretary, we discussed the situation in the Middle East and the world at large. I met also Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Gaitskell (Mr. Gaitskell is the leader of the Labor Party), whom I had met before in Israel, as well as many of our Jewish friends from the Zionist Organization and from the Board of Deputies of British Jews."

Mr. Ben-Gurion concluded his departure statement by recalling that he had had "a very pleasant rest in a country hotel" at Oxford where he indulged "in my vice" of book browsing, purchasing a number of books at Blackwell's and other book shops.

The Times of London declared in an editorial today that Mr. Ben-Gurion "seems well satisfied" with his talks in Washington and London. The editorial stated:

"Presumably, he now believes that an East-West detente, after the Summit conference, will not include a Middle East agreement, arranged without consultation with Israel, at her expense. This he was said to have feared. Presumably, also, he now considers Israel can count on support if attacked, and upon assistance over defensive weapons--jet aircraft or anti-aircraft missiles, for instance--if the armament of her Arab neighbors is sizably increased."

Referring to Israel's "concern" over the mounting costs of defense, especially in view of "probable economic difficulties" that may face Israel in the next few years, the Times editorial concluded: "It is small wonder, therefore, that the Israelis are endeavoring to encourage investment and to expand exports, in particular the products of light industry, and that they view with concern the mounting costs of defense."

Mapai Convention at Tel Aviv to Hear Ben-Gurion Report Today

TEL AVIV, March 23. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, in his capacity as leader of the dominant Mapai Party, will report to his party tomorrow on his visits to the United States and Britain, and his talks with President Eisenhower, Germany's Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and Britain's Prime Minister Harold Macmillan.

This morning, Mapai opened the second session of its ninth convention at Mann Auditorium here, with 2,000 delegates from all over the country in attendance. The first session, held last April, was devoted principally to the platform and policies facing the party in connection with last November's elections, from which Mapai emerged victorious.

Today, at the opening of the session, addresses and reports were delivered by Moshe Sharett, former Foreign Minister and ex-Prime Minister; Giora Josephthal, former party secretary, who is now Minister of Labor in Mr. Ben-Gurion's Cabinet; and Yosef Almogi, the present general secretary of the party.

However, principal interest centered on tomorrow's session, when Mr. Ben-Gurion will address the convention. In addition to reporting on his mission to the West, the Prime Minister will also discuss his long-standing proposal for amalgamating all labor parties in Israel.

DETAILS ON SOVIET SUPPLY OF ARMS TO ARAB STATES REPORTED IN SENATE

WASHINGTON, March 23. (JTA) -- Details of a massive flow of Soviet arms into Arab states were revealed today in a Senate speech by Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican. He told the Senate he had obtained Administration statistics revealing that about three-fourths of all Soviet bloc military assistance to non-Communist states--\$580,000,000 out of a total of \$780,000,000--went to the United Arab Republic, Iraq, and Yemen, from 1955 to 1959.

The largest recipient of Soviet arms is the UAR in the amount of \$443,000,000. Iraq received \$120,000,000 in arms, while Yemen got \$17,000,000 worth. New advanced planes, tanks, and other modern weapons are pouring into Egypt in a "huge Soviet build-up," said Sen. Javits. He stressed that "these alarming statistics" were disclosed to him by the Administration in its summary presentation of the Mutual Security program for fiscal year 1961.

He also called attention to Soviet economic penetration of the Arab countries through aid totaling \$696,000,000. Of this sum \$515,000,000 went to the United Arab Republic. He warned that the UAR was adopting a more aggressive policy against Israel, and threatening peace. He urged that the United States assist Israel to maintain a balance of power.

Senator Javits called for a reaffirmation of the 1950 Anglo-French-American Tripartite Declaration, and a decision by the Three Powers on action if the declaration has to be invoked for aggression. The alternative, he said, is to give Israel the military equipment to maintain its own defenses. He said the Soviet Union applies pressure in the Near East whenever such pressure seems attractive to its global strategy. "It ought to be made clear that such moves will not be profitable," he stated.

The Senator charged that the UAR now has 12 modern Soviet submarines in operation, threatening the Eastern Mediterranean. He said intelligence reports indicated crews of the UAR submarines include Soviet-bloc naval personnel.

MOSCOW SUPPORTS SAUDI ARABIAN EFFORTS AGAINST ISRAEL AT GENEVA

GENEVA, March 23. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union today supported Saudi Arabian efforts to establish a maximum 12-mile limit for territorial waters at the 84-nation Law-of-the-Sea Conference. The Arabs are seeking a 12-mile limit to seal off the narrow Gulf of Akaba to Israeli shipping.

Today's proposal by Soviet delegate Grigori I. Tunkin would grant every state the right to push its sea borders out 12 miles. Israel and the United States advocate a six-mile limit.

ISRAEL TO RATION WATER; MUST CONSERVE RESOURCES DEPLETED BY DROUGHT

JERUSALEM, March 23. (JTA) -- The Ministry of Agriculture announced today that water rationing will be instituted during the summer months, with a goal of saving 50,000,000 cubic meters of water.

The objective is to conserve water resources severely depleted by the worst drought ever recorded in the country. The nationwide water reduction will range from 15 to 20 percent of the of the normal supply for domestic use. Agricultural uses also will be curtailed. The Ministry said it was working out a list of priorities for water use.

Residents of Eilat, Israel's most southerly settlement and port on the Gulf of Akaba, will enjoy income tax exemption for another year as a partial compensation for the rigors of their existence. The Cabinet voted to extend the exemption for another year, but reduced the exempt income from 400 pounds (\$225) monthly to 300 pounds.

ISRAEL RABBINATE ANNOUNCES OPPOSITION TO JERUSALEM SCULPTURE GARDEN

JERUSALEM, March 23. (JTA) -- The Chief Rabbinate announced its opposition today to the projected Jerusalem sculpture garden designed to house the million-dollar collection presented to the Municipality by American theatrical producer Billy Rose.

Following a meeting of the Chief Rabbinate Council, a spokesman for the body told the press today that the project was "contrary to the spirit of Judaism and constitutes profanation of the name and character of the Holy City." The Chief Rabbinate called on the Jerusalem Municipal Council to frustrate the plan "before it is too late."

The Municipality, which is the licensing authority for all construction in the city, has already approved the plan for the garden at the projected site. This was not related, however, to the subsequent plan of the American producer to donate his famous collection of sculpture.

GERMANY REPORTED WILLING TO GRANT \$500,000,000 CREDIT TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 23, (JTA) -- A special Israel delegation will soon leave for West Germany to open negotiations in connection with the \$500,000,000 credits promised to Prime Minister Ben-Gurion by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, according to reports by Israeli correspondents who accompanied the Premier on his trip to the United States and Britain.

Premier Ben-Gurion's private secretary, Yitzhak Navon, did not return to Israel with the Premier today, but will fly to Cologne to brief Ambassador Eliezer Shinar, head of Israel's Mission in West Germany, on the outcome of the Ben-Gurion - Adenauer meeting in New York last week.

The \$500,000,000 credits would be made available to Israel, at the annual rate of \$50,000,000, as long-term loans and direct investments for maritime and agricultural development projects, including large-scale development plans for the Negev, the correspondents reported.

GERMAN TRADE UNIONS PLAN INVESTMENTS IN CONSTRUCTION IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 23, (JTA) -- The bank of the West German trade unions and cooperatives plans to invest funds in housing construction in Israel, David Tanne, director of the Labor Ministry's housing division, revealed here today.

Mr. Tanne, just returned from the United States, where he headed a delegation of Israeli contractors negotiating American investment potentials, reported details of the commitment in principle received by the delegation from a group of American businessmen and contractors.

As a result of that commitment, the Israeli contractors will receive a loan of \$2,500,000 for private housing, while the Government will get \$9,500,000 for government housing schemes and commercial centers. The American investors will lend the money at nine percent to a special mortgage bank now being formed here, Mr. Tanne said.

FRENCH POET PLACED ON TRIAL IN PARIS FOR COLLABORATING WITH NAZIS

PARIS, March 23, (JTA) -- Abel Bonnard, 77-year-old French poet, was placed on trial here today before the High Court of Justice on charges of collaborating with the Nazis during World War II.

M. Bonnard, a former member of the French Academy, was expelled from the Academy in 1944. Minister of Education in the pro-Hitler Vichy Government of France, he fled to Spain just before the liberation of France from Nazi rule in 1944. In absentia, he was tried for collaborationism and sentenced to death. Two years ago, he returned to France voluntarily, was imprisoned for a brief period, then freed because of his alleged poor health.

AUSTRIAN COURT ACQUITS NAZI WHO ORDERED KILLING OF ELEVEN JEWS

VIENNA, March 23, (JTA) -- A Graz court today acquitted the former commander of the Volkssturm Nazi auxiliary troops in Austria, Oscar Reitter, who ordered the shooting of 11 Jewish forced laborers in April 1945.

Reitter claimed in his defense that he himself had been ordered to liquidate the Jews because they had typhus. Two former high Nazi functionaries had testified in Reitter's defense. Even the Wiener Zeitung, official Government organ, terms the acquittal of the Nazi commander "a sensation."

EXHIBITION OF 33 ISRAELI ARTISTS OPENS IN MUNICH; ATTRACTS ATTENTION

MUNICH, March 23, (JTA) -- An exhibit of the works of 33 Israel artists opened here yesterday and is attracting widespread press comment. The exhibit is being held under the auspices of the Society for Christians and Jews.

The exhibit includes works by Pinkas Shaar and Efraim Molad which have been particularly lauded by West German critics.

BILLY GRAHAM RECEIVED BY ISRAEL'S MINISTER OF RELIGIOUS AFFAIRS

JERUSALEM, March 23, (JTA) -- Evangelist Billy Graham closed today his five-day visit to Israel with a disclosure that he plans to return with his wife in October to shoot a color film of Israel's Holy Places.

The evangelist, who said the next visit will last a month, was received yesterday by Rabbi Jacob M. Toledano, Israel's Minister of Religious Affairs, and Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, who tendered him a luncheon.

CANADIAN JEWISH COMMUNITIES TO HOLD LARGEST FUNDRAISING PARLEY

MONTREAL, March 23. (JTA) -- One of the greatest concentrations of Jewish community leadership ever to take place in Canada will take place here on Sunday, April 3, at a conference on fundraising which is being convened by the National Fundraising Council under the co-chairmanship of Samuel Bronfman, Canadian Jewish Congress president and Lawrence Freiman, Zionist Organization of Canada president, it was announced today.

The conference will seek pledges of increased financial commitments for 1960 from every campaign in Canada. The conference is one of the first major results of the recent Canada-Israel Mission. It implements one of the three key resolutions adopted by members of the Mission to step up fundraising efforts on behalf of the United Israel Appeal and the United Jewish Relief Agencies in view of the proven need for funds to re-settle 10,000 immigrant families still living in the primitive ma'aboroth, to consolidate existing agricultural settlements and to establish new settlements in the Negev and elsewhere.

A preliminary to the conference will be a meeting in connection with the formulation of a proposed investment in Israel enterprises. The initial sum of investment capital sought is \$5,000,000. The establishing of the investment corporation was approved in principle by the Canada-Israel Mission.

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE CONVENTION OPENS TOMORROW IN ATLANTIC CITY

ATLANTIC CITY, March 23. (JTA) -- More than 500 delegates from all over the United States, Canada, Mexico and Israel will attend the Silver Jubilee Convention of the Jewish Labor Committee which opens here Friday morning, at the Ritz-Carlton Hotel. Adolph Held, national chairman of the JLC, will preside.

Highlight of the convention will be the Silver Jubilee banquet on Saturday evening at Ritz Hall at which George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO, will acknowledge receipt of a JLC tribute to the organized labor movement "for its steadfast devotion over the past quarter of a century in the fight against oppression, injustice and racism."

David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, AFL-CIO, will address the convention on domestic and international issues. Several hundred former DP's, from Nazi and Soviet slave labor camps, whom the JLC was instrumental in rescuing, will be present at the sessions.

AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL HONORS ISRAEL'S CONSUL-GENERAL PRATT

NEW YORK, March 23. (JTA) -- The Israel Consul-General, Simcha Pratt, was honored tonight by the American Zionist Council, central representative body of all Zionist organizations in the United States, at a farewell reception given to him prior to his return to Israel to assume an important post in the Foreign Ministry.

Principal speakers who addressed the audience of several hundred Zionists included Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, and Mrs. Rose Halprin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency, who lauded Mr. Pratt's contribution to cementing the relations between American Jewry and Israel.

ISRAEL APPOINTS NEW DEPUTY HEAD TO U.N.; NAMES CONSUL TO LOS ANGELES

JERUSALEM, March 23. (JTA) -- Israel's Ambassador to Uruguay, Arie Eshel, has been appointed deputy head of the Israel delegation at the United Nations, it was learned here today. Mr. Eshel, who will hold the personal rank of Ambassador, was formerly director of the Foreign Ministry's East European division.

Yaacov Nash, former spokesman for the Ministry of Police and director of the Inspector General's office, was named Consul in Los Angeles, the Foreign Ministry announced.

The Foreign Ministry also announced today the appointment of Israel's first Consul-General in Nigeria, the British African colony which will be given its independence later this year. The post went to Shlomo Argov, a graduate of the Foreign Service Institute of Georgetown University and of the London School of Economics.

RABBINATE REJECTS BEN-ZVI'S AMENDMENT TO PRAYER FOR NAZI VICTIMS

JERUSALEM, March 23. (JTA) -- The Chief Rabbinate Council adopted a resolution today declaring that it saw no reason to amend the existing text of a memorial prayer for the victims of the Nazi holocaust.

The Council had been asked by Rabbi Yaacov Toledano, Minister for Religious Affairs, to re-examine the text at the suggestion of President Itzhak Ben-Zvi. The President had proposed that the phrase "German murderers" be changed to "Nazi German murderers."