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ISRAEL READY FOR INDEPENDENCE DAY 'FETE'; WILL SHOW NEW WEAPONS

TEL AVIV, April 28. (JTA) -- The Histadrut, the Israel Labor Federation, decided today that it would not arrange any major labor rallies on May Day because May 1, a Sunday, is the eve of the opening of the celebration of Israel's 12th anniversary of Independence. Small meetings will be called on Saturday instead.

The official Israel celebration of Independence Day will center in Haifa where the annual military parade will take place Monday. Several new weapons will be put on public display for the first time. One of them is a mounted mortar on half-tracks, an arrangement giving this fixed artillery piece much greater mobility, particularly on rough terrain.

Special trains from Tel Aviv will bring thousands of tourists to viewing stands for the parade. The celebration here will start Sunday night immediately after two minutes of silence in memory of those killed in Israel's War of Independence.

Fireworks will give the signal for the start of a parade of young Israelis who will be joined by other citizens along the route. Special entertainment units will be sent to remote settlements.

Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim issued a call urging the populace to refrain from any entertainment activities on Memorial Day Sunday. In his call he said "Let us honor the memory of those who, in dying, bequeathed life to us." He suggested attendance at special synagogue services Sunday morning instead of festivities.

CANADIAN LABOR APPROVES PICKETING OF EGYPTIAN SHIP AT MONTREAL DOCKS

MONTREAL, April 28. (JTA) -- Canadian maritime workers who yesterday started the picketing of an Egyptian ship, Star of Assuan, when the vessel reached the Montreal docks, received full support today at the annual conference of the Canadian Labor Federation. The conference, representing organized labor in Canada, adopted a resolution demanding freedom of passage through the Suez Canal of ships of all nations, including Israel.

The picketing against the Star of Assuan, a passenger-cargo ship, was started yesterday by the Maritime Trades Department of the AFL-CIO here. Members of the International Longshoremen's Union refused to cross the picket lines to unload the Egyptian vessel which arrived here from Mediterranean ports. Banners carried by the pickets were critical of the United Arab Republic's blacklisting of ships trading with Israel.

The Seafarers' International Union, which has been picketing the Egyptian ship Cleopatra in New York harbor since April 13, announced here today that it was "in sympathy" with the Montreal boycott.

French Leader Lauds New York Dockworkers for Picketing Cleopatra

HAIFA, April 28. (JTA) -- Guy Mollet, former French Premier, suggested yesterday at the opening session of the convention of the Socialist International Conference that the delegates should consider means of insuring free navigation, citing the boycott by New York dockworkers of the Egyptian ship, the Cleopatra.

Mr. Mollet said that the Seafarers' International Union and the international Longshoremen's Union were the first to take a specific step against "piracy," a reference to the Arab blockade of Israel shipping.

Eric Ollenhauer, chairman of the Social Democratic Party of West Germany, said this party favored establishment of diplomatic relations between West Germany and Israel. He expressed the hope that such ties would be established at the earliest possible date. He added the hope that Israel-West German trade would continue after the termination of the reparations agreement.

Syrian Maritime Workers Announce Boycott of Canadian Ships

LONDON, April 28. (JTA) -- Khaled Akhim, president of the Syrian Federation of Trade Unions, announced in Damascus today, according to a report received here, that Syrian maritime workers have imposed a boycott against all Canadian ships in retaliation against the picketing of the Egyptian ship, Star of Assuan, in Montreal.

MOSCOW REJECTS ISRAEL'S OFFER TO PURCHASE RUSSIAN TIMBER

JERUSALEM, April 26. (JTA) -- The Soviets have rejected "with regrets" an Israel offer to purchase Russian timber, it was disclosed today. The offer was made about two months ago after a Soviet diplomat in one of the European capitals complained to an Israel diplomat that Israel was neglecting the possibilities of trade with the Soviet Union.

Israel officials recalled that about a year ago, the Soviets refused to renew oil sales to Israel which were canceled by the Soviets after the Sinai campaign in 1956. Nevertheless, Israel officials decided, after the Soviet diplomat's apparent invitation, to make another test of Soviet interest in sales to Israel with the resulting rebuff.

SECOND ISRAELI FRIGATE, SOLD TO CEYLON, REACHES COLOMBO HARBOR

TEL AVIV, April 26. (JTA) -- The second of two Israeli frigates sold over a year ago to the Government of Ceylon was formally turned over to the Ceylonese Navy at Ceylon's capital of Colombo today, according to an official report from the frigate's Israeli crew received here.

The second of the ships, the Miznak, sailed from Israel's port of Eilat ten days ago with an all-Israeli crew. The first, the Mivtach, took a similar route a year ago, down the Gulf of Akaba, through the Straits of Tiran and eastward in the Red Sea into the Indian Ocean.

Ceylonese military, naval and high civilian officials greeted the Miznak as it sailed into the harbor at Colombo, the Israeli crew reported. With the completion of the Miznak's journey to Colombo, Israel has once again shown that she can sail the international waterway from Eilat without interference by the Arab states, the United Arab Republic and Saudi Arabia, whose shores, like Israel's, are along the Gulf of Akaba.

After the deal with Ceylon for the sale of the frigates had been announced, the UAR notified Ceylon that it disapproved of the plan to send a Ceylonese crew to board the ships at Eilat. Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion personally took charge of the issue when Ceylon indicated it preferred not to tangle with the UAR on this issue. He ordered the Mivtach to sail with an all-Israeli crew. Now the Miznak has been turned over in the same manner.

ISRAELI POLICEMEN DISCIPLINED FOR KILLING TWO JORDANIAN INFILTRATORS

JERUSALEM, April 26. (JTA) -- One officer and two sergeants of the Israel border police were reduced in rank by a police disciplinary court today in the killing of two Jordanian infiltrators. The officer was reduced from inspector to sergeant and the two sergeants to privates.

The three police commanded a unit which opened fire on a group of Jordanians who had crossed into Israel territory. An investigation and the disciplinary court hearing failed to substantiate the claim of the officers that they ordered the unit to shoot only after the Arabs opened fire first.

FRENCH INVESTORS NEGOTIATE FINANCING OF GAS PIPELINE IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, April 26. (JTA) -- French investors may participate in the financing of a gas pipeline from a field near the Dead Sea to Sdom and Beersheba, it was reported today.

Prospective French investors met with Israel Finance Ministry officials to discuss the prospects of such a joint enterprise. Israel is planning to build a short pipeline from the Zohar field to Sdom. The joint project calls for a 12-inch pipeline from Sdom to Beersheba at a cost of 4,000,000 pounds (\$2,240,000).

PINHAS LAVON RE-ELECTED SECRETARY GENERAL OF HISTADRUT

TEL AVIV, April 26. (JTA) -- Pinhas Lavon, secretary general of Histadrut, the Israel Federation of Labor, was re-elected to his post today at a meeting of the Federation's executive committee here.

The executive also elected Mrs. Yehudit Simhonit as head of Histadrut's political department. Head of the women's section of the Mapai Party, Mrs. Simhonit is well known in the United States, which she has visited as a lecturer. She succeeds to the post vacated recently through the resignation of Reuven Barkat.

'IRREGULARITIES' IN DISTRIBUTION OF U.S. FOODSTUFF RECTIFIED IN ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, April 26. (JTA) -- The "irregularities" in the distribution of surplus American agriculture commodities, with which Israel, among some other countries, was charged this week by the International Cooperation Administration, have now been determined to have all occurred in the fields of activities of voluntary agencies as distinct from official Government channels.

These "irregularities," which were minor in nature, occurred several years ago and have since been rectified, it was established.

CHARGES AGAINST AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS DENIED; ACHIEVEMENTS CITED

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- Accusations that the American Jewish Congress had devoted itself "almost exclusively to non-Jewish affairs" and that it had "neglected all Jewish activities" were rejected at a press conference here today by Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the organization, who branded these statements as "totally irresponsible."

Dr. Prinz cited a number of AJCongress accomplishments "benefiting the entire American Jewish community," including the fight against Aramco's anti-Jewish job practices, the fight against Arab boycott of American firms doing business with Israel, intervention with the West German Government against swastika smearing on Jewish institutions and action against attempts to introduce religion in American public schools.

Dr. Prinz also denied a press report that a "revolution" was being planned against the American Jewish Congress by a number of its affiliated groups. He revealed that the officers of the American Jewish Congress had unanimously encouraged him to serve another term as president and that he would accept nomination on a platform of "closing ranks in support of a total AJCongress program." Election of a new president will take place at the AJCongress national biennial convention May 26-30 in New York.

The American Jewish Congress leader said he was confident the convention would give him a "mandate" to carry out a three-point program aimed at: 1. Strengthening AJCongress activities in the area of Jewish education and culture through establishment of a Commission on Jewish Communal Affairs; 2. Setting up a Commission on Community Interrelations to study anti-Jewish sentiment in the U.S., and to recommend action for meeting the problem; 3. Continuing the activities of AJCongress' Commission on Law and Social Action in the field of civil rights and civil liberties.

JEWISH GROUPS ADVANCE REQUESTS TO DEMOCRATIC PARTY FOR 1960 PLATFORM

PHILADELPHIA, April 28. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress called on the Democratic Party today to include a plank in its 1960 election platform that would protect American citizens against growing religious discrimination by foreign governments. Professor Samuel A. Hendel of the City College of New York, a spokesman for the AJCongress, called for "vigorous Government action in the face of a continuing assault on the rights of American citizens of Jewish faith by Arab countries."

Professor Hendel, who made the statement before a platform hearing of the Democratic National Committee, also urged the adoption of means to strengthen the Federal Civil Rights Commission to enable it to investigate vandalism against Jews and other minority groups.

A spokesman for the National Council of Jewish Women today urged, in testimony before the Democratic hearing, that the United States should withhold economic aid from the United Arab Republic "while it continues to use the Suez Canal as a political weapon." Mrs. Saul Liss of Fairlawn, N. J., declared that the United States should insist upon "the adherence of the UAR to its international obligations of freedom of passage of ships of all nations through the Suez Canal."

U.S. JEWS INFLUENCED BY JEWISH INTERESTS IN THEIR VOTING, STUDY SAYS

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- Jews, as other ethnic and religious groups in the United States, are influenced in their voting by special group interests, according to a study published today by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, formerly the Fund for the Republic.

The study, by Dr. Moses Rischin, a member of the research staff of the American Jewish Committee, found that the Jews in the 1956 election were influenced in their voting by policies on Israel. The study also concluded that by and large the Jews inclined to the Democratic Party as the liberal party of Franklin D. Roosevelt.

The report, based on a study of the 1956 election, supported its contention that Israel was a major factor with Jewish voters by analyzing the Jewish vote in the Javits-Wagner senatorial contest in New York. Although Jacob K. Javits is Jewish, the study noted, "the 'Jewish vote' stuck to (Mayor Robert F.) Wagner, as expected though a number of Jewish Democrats and a handful of Liberals crossed party lines to vote for Javits." In New York, the study found, "Jewish voters opposed the presence of (Secretary of State John Foster) Dulles and (Vice President Richard) Nixon on the Eisenhower team."

In summarizing the position of the Jewish voter in the 1956 election, Dr. Rischin declared: "Jews felt strongly about a Middle East crisis which, more than the Iron Curtain problem, might have been managed better by those Americans who were responsible for foreign policy. In essence theirs was a protest vote. Yet perhaps, more fundamentally, Jewish voting was rooted in a strong emotional attachment to FDR, the liberal, the enemy and nemesis of Hitler."

For the second time most Jews voted for Stevenson, the man they saw as wearing Roosevelt's mantle. As the Javits-Wagner contest showed, Jews did not care much whether or not a candidate was Jewish--especially in New York State, where they had occupied important offices for over a generation," the study pointed out.

SAPIR OUTLINES POSSIBILITIES IN ISRAEL TO AMERICAN INVESTORS

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- Israel's recently enacted legislation to aid foreign investors was described here yesterday by Pinhas Sapir, Israeli Minister of Commerce and Industry, as "a model of liberal investment regulations." Addressing a meeting of the America-Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Sapir announced that Israel hopes to attract \$500,000,000 worth of new foreign investments to Israel in the next four years.

Under the new investment-aid legislation, he stated, all profits can be remitted in dollars, and even the principal invested by foreigners can be brought back if desired. "Liberal tax exemptions," he continued, "including accelerated depreciation and the availability of development loans combine to start off new enterprises in Israel on the road to success."

Thus far, Mr. Sapir said, American investors have put more than \$130,000,000 into more than 200 enterprises in Israel. Not only Jewish firms are investing, he declared, but non-Jewish American firms as well. He told the Chamber that at least two American chemical firms are to establish plants in Israel.

"We want to attract more private investment," the Israeli Cabinet member said, "because we believe that free enterprise is the way to stimulate new ventures in Israel. Public investments have laid the foundation for a modern and progressive economy. Now, as a result, it is possible to offer better security to private initiative."

HARMAN ADDRESSES CONFERENCE OF PROFESSORS ON SIGNIFICANCE OF HEBREW

LEXINGTON, Ky., April 28. (JTA) -- The significance of the revival of Hebrew as a medium of communication was discussed tonight by Avraham Harman, Israel's Ambassador to the United States at the 13th University of Kentucky Foreign Language Conference.

Ambassador Harman was welcomed by Governor Bert Combs of Kentucky, Dr. Frank Dickey, University president, and Dr. Samuel Blumenfield, chairman of the department of education of the Jewish Agency. The Lexington Jewish Community Council gave a reception in the ambassador's honor following his lecture.

Members of the National Association of Professors of Hebrew, who are attending the conference, were luncheon guests of Chavay Zion Synagogue. Dr. Abraham Katch, chairman of the New York University's Department of Semitic studies, presented a lecture after the luncheon. Rabbi Stanley M. Wagner, spiritual leader of the congregation, is a member of the association.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DR. HERZL'S BIRTH OBSERVED AT COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- The 100th anniversary of the birth of Theodor Herzl, founder of political Zionism, was observed tonight at Columbia University under sponsorship of the Center of Israel and Jewish Studies of the University and the Theodor Herzl Institute.

Among the speakers who discussed Herzl's impact on Jewish history were Prof. Salo W. Baron, director of the Columbia center, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Herzl Foundation, Ben Halpern, of the Center of Near Eastern Studies of Harvard University, Dr. Oskar Rabinowicz, former Czechoslovakian professor, and Jacob C. Jurewitz of Columbia University.

TEL AVIV MAYOR ARRIVES IN U.S.; WILL ATTEND INTERNATIONAL ASSEMBLY

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- Mordechai Namir, Mayor of Tel Aviv, and Peretz Naphtali, chairman of the Tel Aviv Finance Committee, arrived today by El Al airlines for a four-week visit to the United States.

The Tel Aviv officials will attend the conference of the International Municipal Assembly to be held in Chicago next month. They will also visit several large cities in this country to study various forms of municipal government. While in this country, they will seek investment capital to finance Tel Aviv development projects.

U.S. GERMAN-JEWISH WEEKLY 'AUFBAU' CELEBRATES 25TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- Aufbau, German Jewish weekly in the United States, celebrated its 25th anniversary today with a special 140-page edition devoted to the issues facing a new generation of readers.

Messages from world leaders, including President Eisenhower and Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of West Germany, cited Aufbau's contributions in aiding former refugees from Nazism to rebuild their lives in the United States and in serving as a bridge between the United States and the German speaking world.

In honor of the anniversary, an award for study in Israel will be made by the Weizmann Institute of Science at Rehovot and the Aufbau Friends of the Weizmann Institute. Each has contributed \$2,500 to establish the Albert Einstein Fellowship.