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ISRAEL REJECTS AMERICAN REQUEST TO DENATIONALIZE POTASH INDUSTRY

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA) -- The Israel Government has rejected a suggestion made by Eugene R. Black, American president of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, who had asked that Israel denationalize its Dead Sea potash works, turning the enterprise over to private investors.

An announcement to this effect was made here today by Mordechai Bentov, Minister of Development. Mr. Bentov disclosed the disagreement with Mr. Black while answering questions regarding his Ministry's budget in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

Mr. Black was here recently, inspecting various Israeli enterprises, including the potash works, preparatory to a decision to be made by the World Bank next month about Israel's long-pending application for a multi-million-dollar loan. Part of the proceeds of that loan are earmarked for expansion of the potash industry. Another principal portion of the loan is to go, according to Israel's plans for broad expansion of port facilities.

According to Mr. Bentov, Mr. Black was told Israel must preserve public ownership of the Dead Sea potash industry, since the Dead Sea contains Israel's greatest national mineral resource. Mr. Bentov said the Government also feels that the profits from the potash industry must not be funnelled out of Israel but must, instead, be reinvested here.

Mr. Black was also told, the Development Minister stated, that, if the World Bank should insist on denationalization of the Dead Sea potash industry, such insistence would be interpreted as an attempt by the Bank to use its loan for political purposes. Mr. Black was assured, however, Mr. Bentov declared, that Israel would continue efforts to solicit foreign investments in the potash industry. But such investors, the Government holds, would have to be only partners, while majority ownership remained in the hands of the Government.

SEN. FULBRIGHT VISITS ISRAEL RESETTLEMENT AREAS; VOICES ENTHUSIASM

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA) -- United States Senator J. W. Fulbright, chairman of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee, voiced enthusiastic praise for Israel's resettlement and development projects today, declaring such projects "can be--already are--a model to other countries."

The Senator made that statement to an audience of Hebrew University professors and other guests when he visited the University this evening, after spending a day touring Israel by automobile and helicopter. He had just returned from the Lachish area, where Israel is implementing one of its most ambitious regional development schemes.

During his tour, he also visited Kalmania, where a second group of 100 Burmese ex-servicemen had just begun a year's training in agricultural work. "Other people will learn from Israel's experiences," Mr. Fulbright told his Hebrew University audience. "I like to think that our country has made some contribution to this work in Israel."

Mr. Fulbright seemed to be particularly impressed with the fact that immigrants from many lands are being integrated in the course of the Lachish regional development work. "Our American resettlement projects," he stated, "failed, during the New Deal, because, while the United States had all material means, it lacked knowledge in regard to bringing together material resources and intellectual and spiritual resources. Israel, however, does have this know-how."

After greeting the University faculty, and inspecting the Dead Sea scrolls there, Mr. Fulbright went to dinner at the home of Foreign Minister Golda Meir. There he was to meet Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and they were expected to discuss "substantive" matters concerning Israeli-Arab relations. The Senator and the Prime Minister met for a half hour in the latter's office here last night. But in that talk, they confined their exchange to general world and domestic Israeli affairs.

ISRAEL INSTITUTE TO CONDUCT RESEARCH ON COTTON FOR U.S. GOVERNMENT

WASHINGTON, May 17. (JTA) -- The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced today that basic research on cotton will be done for the department by an Israeli research unit. A grant to the Israeli Ministry of Commerce and Industry will finance a five-year study of the relationship of crimp to other fiber characteristics and its effect on cotton processing performance and product quality. Research will be done in Israel at the Ministry's institute for fibers and forest products research.

BEN-GURION CLAIMS ONLY 600 ISRAELITES HAD LEFT EGYPT IN THE EXODUS

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion was embroiled in a hot, new controversy today with Orthodox religious elements over a new version of the Biblical story of the Exodus which he expounded at a press conference.

Mr. Ben-Gurion said that only 600 Israelites had left Egypt in the Exodus and that the Israelites had lived in Egypt only two generations. According to the traditional version, the Israelites had remained in Egypt for 400 years and 600,000 of them had participated in the Exodus.

The newspaper Hamodia, organ of the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel, denounced Mr. Ben-Gurion's views as "heresies" and refused to publish them. It called him "a violator of the most sacred of Jewish values--the Bible." Dr. Jacob Unterman, Chief Rabbi of Tel Aviv, also sharply attacked Mr. Ben-Gurion for his views.

Mr. Ben-Gurion asserted that even the Septuagint version of the Bible said that the Israelites had spent 430 years in both Egypt and Canaan--not only in Egypt. Chapters of the Pentateuch and 'Chronicles, he said, described Moses as the son of Amram, the son of Kehat, the son of Levi. Since Levi and Kehat were among those who left for Egypt with Jacob, Mr. Ben-Gurion argued, it appeared that only Amram and Moses had been born in Egypt and, therefore, the stay of the Israelites in Egypt had only been for two generations.

As to the number participating in the Exodus, Mr. Ben-Gurion said, each son of Jacob brought up 50 descendants in two generations. By simple arithmetic, he said, that brought the number of Israelites at the time of the Exodus to 600. He suggested that the Biblical figure of 600,000 was the result of a misreading of the Hebrew word "elef" meaning "thousand" but which could also mean "family."

PREPARATIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION OF HAIFA SHIPYARD REPORTED COMPLETED

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA) -- Final technical preparations for the construction of the Haifa shipyard, in which Netherlands shipyard experts will assist, have been completed and bids will be issued to local contractors within two months, it was reported today.

N. Shamir and Y. Levertovsky, members of the management of the projected shipyard, also reported that the Dutch experts have been in Israel for three weeks in helping to complete the initial technical phases.

The shipyard will be built in three stages, the first involving an investment of about \$10,000,000 with almost 10,000,000 pounds already having been made available for the project. Negotiations for a \$5,000,000 loan are near a successful conclusion with The Netherlands Government, the two management officials said.

The shipyard is expected to be ready in mid-1961 to repair ships of all sizes and possibly to build vessels up to 10,000 tons. The first step will be an effort to earn income by repairing ships coming to Haifa. Construction of three ships annually will be the second objective. The goal for such construction capacity is the middle of 1962. In five years, the shipyard is expected to have two ways on which capacity to build vessels up to 30,000 tons will be available.

The Dutch experts have reported that excellent shipyard engineers are available in Israel but that workers for the project will have to be trained. Facilities will be provided for such training at a technical school maintained by the Dutch shipyard. Other facilities will be offered by foreign experts who will remain in Israel.

HAIFA REPORTED PLANNING UNDERWATER OIL PIPELINE TO SERVICE TANKERS

LONDON, May 17. (JTA) -- Work will begin in the fall on an underwater oil pipeline from oil installations in Haifa Bay to an anchorage at sea, for servicing some of the largest oil tankers now afloat, the Financial Times reports.

The newspaper also reported that the expanded 16-inch line which will connect Eilat with the Haifa refineries definitely will be completed next month. Operation will be turned over to a group of foreign investors headed by Baron de Rothschild in August. While the initial capacity of the 16-inch line will be only 1,700,000 tons annually, this can be boosted to 7,600,000 tons by the construction of additional pumping stations.

TAX EXEMPTIONS PROPOSED FOR ISRAELIS INVESTING 'HARD' CURRENCY

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA) -- The Israel Treasury today proposed new tax exemptions for Israeli residents investing "hard" currency in local stocks, in an effort to give further encouragement to such investments.

Under the proposal, such investors will be exempt from paying taxes on dividends and interest for a period of eight years from the time the investment was made. The proposed Treasury regulation is to go into effect after approval by Parliament's Finance Committee.

BRITAIN TO ASK U.S. TO MAKE IMPOUNDED NAZI RECORDS AVAILABLE TO PUBLIC

LONDON, May 17. (JTA) -- Britain will consult with the United States in an effort to improve public availability of the records of former members of the Nazi Party, now impounded by orders of the U.S. Government in the Nazi Archives Center in West Berlin.

R.A. Allan, Joint Parliamentary Undersecretary for Foreign Affairs, today gave that assurance to the House of Commons, after being pressed on the point by members of the Labor Party opposition. On behalf of Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd, who is in Paris now attending the Summit conference, Mr. Allan pledged the Government to try to get the American authorities to ease the ban on disclosures from the Nazi archives.

Labor members in Commons have been demanding that the Nazi files be opened, especially in view of the fact that the West German statute of limitations for prosecution of former Nazis accused of major crimes went into effect May 8 in the former American zone, and will become effective in the former British zone of occupation at the end of next month. The Government of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, in Bonn, has refused demands by German Social Democrats and other opposition parties to extend the statute of limitations for four years more.

The Laborites also called on the British Government to urge the authorities at Bonn to speed inquiries into charges that many judges in West Germany committed crimes while serving in judicial capacity during the Nazi regime. Pending completion of probes into the alleged Nazi records of accused judges, Labor demanded, the suspected German judges should be suspended from office.

In another intervention in Commons today, the Labor Party urged the Foreign Secretary to negotiate an international agreement providing for a ban on nuclear weapons in the Middle East. John Profumo, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, told the House that no such negotiations have been undertaken.

SOCIAL DEMOCRATS INSIST ON TIME EXTENSION FOR CHARGES AGAINST NAZIS

BONN, May 17. (JTA) -- Social Democratic Party officials disclosed today that they would soon make a new bid to the Adenauer Government to extend the statute of limitations on the crime of manslaughter committed during the Nazi regime.

The period during which prosecution could be initiated for such crimes expired on May 8 after the Government rejected a Social Democratic demand that it be extended to September, 1964. The Social Democrats are planning to propose a compromise arrangement under which charges could be filed until the end of 1961.

GERMAN CHIEF OF POLICE UNDER INVESTIGATION; URGED KILLING OF JEWS

STUTTGART, May 17. (JTA) -- The Central War Crimes Investigation Commission disclosed today that it had undertaken an investigation of the record of Dr. Walter Zirpins, head of the criminal police of Lower Saxony. Zirpins was one of the police officers who took part in the "investigation" of the Reichstag fire in 1933.

The police official's name was brought to the Commission's attention on April 30, when Dr. Josef Wulf, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent in West Berlin, in a broadcast over the North-German Radio Station, revealed Zirpin had written an article early in the war calling for the "liquidation of the Lodz Ghetto."

Zirpin, Dr. Wulf disclosed, was a member of the S.S. - Hitler's Elite Guard - and had called for the extermination of the Jews in the Polish city in an article in the Gestapo periodical, "Kriminalpolizei."

EX-NAZI, CHARGED WITH MURDER OF JEWS, COMMITS SUICIDE IN JAIL

BAYREUTH, Germany, May 17. (JTA) -- An ex-Nazi who had served one prison term, and who had been rearrested here on charges of complicity in the murder of Jews and other East Europeans during the war, committed suicide by hanging himself in the local jail here.

The man was August Meier, a former Nazi storm trooper. He had served ten years in a French prison for war crimes. Late last year, he was arrested at his home near Bayreuth on the new charges.

8,500 JEWS OF BADEN-WURTTENBERG ANNIHILATED BY NAZIS, SURVEY SHOWS

STUTTGART, Germany, May 17. (JTA) -- A total of 8,500 of the 30,491 Jews living in this south-German Province of Baden-Wurttemberg, at the time of Hitler's ascent to power, were exterminated by the Nazis, figures compiled here by the Evangelical Aid Society revealed today.

About 21,500 of the Baden-Wurttemberg Jews succeeded in escaping from Hitlerite Germany, the survey showed. After the collapse of the Nazi regime, in 1945, 701 Jews returned to the province from concentration camps.

U.S. JEWISH TEXTBOOKS FREE OF BIAS AGAINST OTHER RELIGIONS, STUDY SHOWS

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- Jewish religious textbooks deserve "the highest mark" for being free of material prejudicial to any race, religion or color, it was announced here today by scholars who have completed a three-year study of such texts.

The study was headed by Dr. Bernard D. Weinryb, professor of Jewish history at the Yeshiva University's Bernard Revel Graduate School, who is also on the faculty of the Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, Philadelphia. He was aided by Meir Ben-Horin as consultant, and by Daniel Garnick as researcher.

The study embraced a large sample of about 220 books, plays, and issues of periodicals drawn from 46 organizational and individual publishers covering most of the Jewish schools in the United States.

Ninety percent of intergroup references in all the texts were found free of prejudice and, on the other hand, teaching friendliness and anti-prejudice toward "Christians, Negroes, Italians." Most of the 10 percent of prejudicial matter in texts, according to the scholars, was "left in the texts through oversight, reprinting material originating in Europe, or otherwise unintentional."

The study found that, in reference to "interrelationship between Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Judaism" there was "much more" prejudiced material in the texts than there was in regard to non-Jewish groups.

COLLEGE EXAMINATION BOARD APPROVES HEBREW FOR ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- The College Entrance Examination Board which administers college entrance tests to high school graduates throughout the country has approved the addition of a Hebrew achievement test as part of the Board's college entrance language examinations, Dr. Judah Lapson, of the Hebrew Culture Council, reported today. The decision to include Hebrew tests in the College Entrance Board examinations is in accord with the policies of some 1,500 colleges and universities, which accept high school Hebrew study as fulfilling their entrance requirements.

Queens College here has decided to accord Hebrew full parity with other foreign languages for fulfilling degree requirements, it was reported here. All four New York City colleges now offer students the opportunity of studying Hebrew in complete fulfillment of degree language requirements.

LONDON CONFERENCE OF RABBIS DENOUNCES SO. AFRICA'S APARTHEID POLICY

LONDON, May 17. (JTA) -- The Conference of Anglo-Jewish Ministers and Preachers, putting aside its normal attention to theological issues, put on record today a vigorous denunciation of the apartheid policy of the Union of South Africa.

Dr. Israel Brodie, Chief Rabbi of the British Commonwealth, expressed in his opening address the solidarity of Britain's Jewish rabbinical leaders with their colleagues in South Africa "who have voiced their protests against the instances of the callous application of a doomed and disastrous policy."

He expressed the hope that the South African Government would "modify and humanise" its apartheid policy. The conference, attended by 60 rabbis, approved a resolution stressing that South Africa's racial policies were "abhorrent" to Jewish teachings and expressing the hope that Premier Verwoerd would try to find a just solution to the problem.

(A resolution protesting against "racial persecutions practiced by the Government of the Union of South Africa" was adopted today at a meeting of the Jewish Community in Bologna, Italy. Roundly denouncing the South African Government, the resolution called upon all governments and private associations throughout the world "to support the fight of the South African Negroes for equality.")

MAURICE SCHWARTZ BURIED IN NEW YORK; THOUSANDS ATTEND FUNERAL

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- Thousands of Jews participated here today in the funeral of Maurice Schwartz, world famous Jewish actor and founder of the Yiddish Art Theatre, who died last week in Israel following a heart attack. His body was brought here yesterday on an El Al plane for burial in New York in accordance with his last wishes.

His body lay in state last night at a funeral chapel on Second Avenue -- the East Side that he loved -- while thousands passed before the bier for a last look at the actor widely acclaimed the most powerful force of the Yiddish theatre for 50 years. Funeral services were held at noon today. Second Avenue was roped off by police as thousands jammed the street, unable to get into the chapel, listening to the services over loud speakers. Burial was in the Mt. Hebron Cemetery of the Jewish Theatrical Alliance.

From Actors Equity, the professional organization of the American stage, came George Jessel to represent his profession at the services. Simon Rechtzeit officially represented the Hebrew Actors Union. The editors of the Yiddish press were there, as well as an official representative of the Israel Government, Consul David Rivlin. Dr. Israel Goldstein conducted the services, and the liturgy was chanted by Cantor Moshe Koussevitsky. Thousands of telegrams and letters of condolence were received from all over the world.