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DEMOCRATIC PARTY CONVENTION PLEDGES TO SEEK END OF ARAB BOYCOTT

LOS ANGELES, July 12. (JTA) -- The Democratic National Convention today adopted its official 1960 platform clarifying the attitude of the Democratic Party toward various problems in the Middle East, including the Arab-Israel situation.

"In the Middle East," the platform pledges, "we will work for guarantees to insure independence for all states. We will encourage direct Arab-Israel peace negotiations, the resettlement of Arab refugees in lands where there is room and opportunity for them, an end to boycotts and blockades, and unrestricted use of the Suez Canal by all nations."

The platform called for continued economic aid to Israel and the Arab states. It said: "We urge continued economic assistance to Israel and the Arab peoples to help them raise their living standards. We pledge our best efforts for peace in the Middle East by seeking to prevent an arms race while guarding against the dangers of a military imbalance resulting from Soviet arms shipments."

The platform also noted foreign discrimination against American citizens on a religious basis such as that practiced by the Arab states. It called for "protection of rights of American citizens to travel, to pursue lawful trade and to engage in other lawful activities abroad without distinction as to race or religion." Such protection was termed a "cardinal function of the national sovereignty."

The platform said: "We will oppose any international agreement or treaty which, by its terms or practices, differentiates among American citizens on grounds of race or religion."

The platform pledged to adjust immigration, nationality and refugee policies "to eliminate discrimination and to enable members of scattered families abroad to be united with relatives already in our midst." It denounced the national origins quota system, called for the admission of a greater number of immigrants, removal of distinctions between native-born and naturalized citizens and called for action by a Democratic President to implant a new and liberal spirit in American immigration law.

The convention's request for "direct" Arab-Israel peace negotiations represented the first time since 1952 that a Democratic platform has contained such a call for direct talks. The platform appeared to reject efforts by Chairman J. W. Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and others to transfer the burden of responsibility for Arab refugees to Israel. This was indicated by the platform's call for resettlement of Arab refugees in Arab countries while no mention was made of compensation or re-admission by Israel.

GOVERNMENT ACTS ON ILLEGAL CROSSINGS BY ISRAELIS INTO ARAB COUNTRIES

JERUSALEM, July 12. (JTA) -- A bill to make illegal crossings from Israel to Arab countries equally punishable with infiltration into Israel from Arab countries passed its first reading today in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

The bill, which has been introduced in the form of an amendment to the anti-infiltration law, would set a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment for illegal border crossings from Israel.

Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres said, in introducing the bill, that such illegal crossings were becoming an increasing problem. He disclosed that 536 Israelis crossed illegally to neighboring countries in the past three and a half years, including 136 during the past six months.

Mr. Peres said that the reasons for such crossings might be personal--a family quarrel, a desire for adventure or a wish to meet with relatives. But once an Israeli crosses over into an Arab country, the Israeli official said, he is usually used by Arab intelligence as a source of information.

ISRAEL-JORDAN ARMISTICE BODY MEETS ON KILLING OF JEW BY JORDANIANS

JERUSALEM, July 12. (JTA) -- The Jordan delegate at an informal meeting of the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission asserted today that a 75-year-old Israeli, who was killed a few days ago after crossing into Jordan had tried to use a knife when he was arrested. The Jordanian delegate insisted that all Jordan border units had been instructed on how to treat Israelis who inadvertently crossed the border. He added that the elderly Israeli had resisted arrest.

JEWS IN CONGO PANICKY; MANY HAVE NO BELGIAN NATIONALITY; NONE HARMED

TEL AVIV, July 12. (JTA) -- Many members of the Jewish community of the Congo are in a panicky state because they do not have Belgian nationality but none of them have been harmed, according to an eye-witness report by an Israeli official who returned here this morning from the strife-torn new African republic.

Yaacov Levav, a Solol Boneh director, who was a member of an Israeli delegation to the Congo independence celebration, said the Congo Jews who were frightened had retained their former Greek or Italian nationality. He added that among the 2,500 Jews in the Congo Jewish community, many of whom are former residents of Rhodes, talk about migrating to Israel was becoming more frequent. He said he had heard that Jews of other African countries, south of the equator, also were thinking about migration, a thought which had never occurred to them before.

Describing the situation generally in the Congo, Mr. Levav said it was "very hot," to the point that economic talks between the Israeli delegation and Congo leaders had been suspended. He expressed the hope that the talks would be resumed when "quieter" days come.

Jews Flee Luluabourg; Feel Safer in Elizabethville

BRUSSELS, July 12. (JTA) -- Reports received here today indicated that a number of Jews have fled from the anti-European rioting in Congo with the worst situation existing in Luluabourg where the atmosphere is tense.

At Elizabethville, where most Congo Jews reside, the situation was reported as not alarming. Chief Rabbi Levy has not left Elizabethville. The situation in Stanleyville was reported, in telephonic communications received in Brussels today, to be calm. The Jewish population was not molested and there has been no pillaging.

Information from Leopoldville, an area of considerable disorder, was meager except for a radio message that Maurice Alhadeff, president of the Leopoldville Jewish community, and his staff were "all right." A number of Jews were reported to be stranded in Luluabourg where the situation was tense and the entire white population assembled at the airport awaiting transportation.

EICHMANN TRIAL MAY NOT BE HELD THIS YEAR, ISRAEL POLICE CHIEF SAYS

LONDON, July 12. (JTA) -- Commander Avraham Selinger, director of Israel's sixth police bureau which is assembling data for the trial of Adolf Eichmann, expressed the opinion here today that the trial of Hitler's mass murder specialist would not be held this year.

The police official came to London in the first of a series of visits to European cities seeking data for the trial. He said that Eichmann's crimes were committed in Europe and "therefore I have come to Europe to collect whatever evidence I can."

Declaring that it was difficult to specify when the Eichmann trial would take place, the police official added: "I would say the trial will not be held this year--perhaps in 1961." Commander Selinger spent Wednesday at the Wiener Library which contains one of the largest collections of files and photographs on the tragedy of European Jewry in the world.

He said he had seen Eichmann only a few days ago and that the Nazi criminal was impassive but cooperative. "He talks a lot and writes a lot," Selinger said. He smilingly evaded questions about the exact location of the jail in which Eichmann is being detained. "This is still a matter of security, not only as far as the outside world is concerned but also for Eichmann's own security," he stated.

Italian Group Wants Eichmann Trial to be Held in Israel

ROME, July 12. (JTA) -- A resolution urging that the trial of Adolf Eichmann be held in no other country but Israel was adopted here today by the Israel-Italy Friendship Association. The Association, which met under the chairmanship of Professor Arangio-Ruiz, declared its solidarity with "all those advocating all possible guarantees of justice for the trial and for ample publicity of all the proceedings."

The resolution also expressed the hope that protests raised by Argentina concerning the violation of its sovereignty "may be satisfied by a friendly agreement between the two countries."

Ben-Gurion Tells Knesset of Israel's Action on Nazi Physician

JERUSALEM, July 12. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion told the Israel Parliament today that Israel envoys were informing governments throughout the world of the wartime crimes of former Nazi physician Josef Mengele, whose extradition from Argentina was requested recently by the Bonn Government.

The Premier made the statement in reply to a question by General Zionist Deputy Eliezer Rimalt, who wanted to know what the Government was doing to publicize the crimes of the infamous Nazi doctor.

DE-SALTED SEA WATER WOULD COST LESS THAN FRESH WATER IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 12. (JTA) -- Water produced from the sea by the Alexander Zarchin desalination process will be competitive in costs with water for household purposes from normal sources but the de-salted water will be too costly for large-scale irrigation use, Mordechai Bentov, Israel's Minister for Development, said today.

He said that work was proceeding on schedule on the desalination plant being built near Eilat by his Ministry and the Fairbanks Whitney Corporation of Chicago. He said the plant would go into operation early next year. He also estimated, at a press conference, that the cost of the de-salted water would be appreciably less than the present cost of water in highly elevated Jerusalem or in the more distant central Negev areas.

The Minister revealed that an agreement had been reached with the newly established America-Israel Phosphate Company, a subsidiary of the United States Alumina company, giving the subsidiary prospecting rights for phosphate over a substantial area in the Negev.

ISRAEL PRESIDENT LEAVES ON MEDITERRANEAN CRUISE; LUZ IS ACTING PRESIDENT

TEL AVIV, July 12. (JTA) -- President and Mrs. Ben-Zvi left today on a nine-day Mediterranean cruise on the SS Jerusalem. The President and Mrs. Ben-Zvi were accompanied by a daughter-in-law and two granddaughters as well as his aide de camp and secretary.

The President will pay a short visit to Naples and Marseilles during his cruise. The Presidential party was given a farewell by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, Kaddish Luz, Speaker of Israel's Parliament, and members of the diplomatic corps headed by the Soviet Ambassador, Mikhail Abramov. Mr. Luz will be Acting President.

WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS TO BE PRECEDED BY FIVE REGIONAL PARLEYS

JERUSALEM, July 12. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency executive disclosed today plans for five regional Zionist congresses to be held this fall in preparation for the 25th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem next December.

The regional gatherings will include an American Zionist Congress previously announced for November 17. The other assemblies will be one in Argentina at the end of August for South America; one early in September in Italy for French and Italian-speaking European countries; one in the middle of September in Holland for English, Dutch and German-speaking Europeans and one in Mexico in early October for Central America.

The executive also decided to propose the holding of a General Zionist Council meeting at the end of October in Jerusalem to make final arrangements for the World Zionist Congress agenda and for participation in it of non-Zionist organizations.

CONVENTION OF B'NAI B'RITH YOUNG ADULTS DISCUSSES BONDS WITH ISRAEL

STARLIGHT, Pa., July 12. (JTA) -- American Jewish youth were criticized today for being lax in their pursuit of knowledge of Israel's history, development and current affairs. The charge was leveled by delegates attending the 15th annual convention of B'nai B'rith Young Adults, a constituent division of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization.

A resolution adopted by the convention said that such lack of interest was a holdover from the old concept of dual loyalty. The resolution, rejecting this concept, declared: "We reaffirm our basic belief that our political allegiance is to the country of which we are citizens. But in so doing, we do not diminish our firm conviction that American Jewish youth should feel a deep spiritual and cultural bond with Israel."

The delegates declared that the most effective means for stimulating these bonds was through organization membership. They cited leadership taken by their own organization in encouraging an exchange of views with Israeli youth through pen-pal clubs and the annual summer institute sponsored by the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization which takes a group of American and Canadian members for a seven-week work and study visit to Israel. A group of 40 BBYO members is currently in Israel on such a visit.

PARLIAMENT IN BRAZIL ASKED TO ENACT LAW BANNING ANTI-SEMITISM

BRASILIA, July 12. (JTA) -- A member of Brazil's Chamber of Deputies today called for the enactment of a law banning anti-Semitism in this country. The deputy, Aurelio Viana, declared in the House that anti-Semitism was a "prelude to genocide" and said that a measure specifically outlawing anti-Semitism was necessary in spite of the fact that race hatred was banned by the constitution.

Mr. Viana called attention to the fact that an intensive anti-Semitic campaign was being waged in the northern province of Alagoas and told the Parliament that such hate-mongering was repugnant to the Brazilian people.

PHILADELPHIA NOT TO ASK FOR REVISION OF TEXTBOOKS LENIENT ON NAZIS

PHILADELPHIA, July 12. (JTA) -- Fear of charges of censorship emerged today as one of the reasons why the Philadelphia Board of Education will not ask publishers to revise textbooks found to give inadequate reports on the Hitler era, particularly the Nazi atrocities against European Jewry.

A Philadelphia Fellowship Commission survey, which presented documented evidence that social studies and history textbooks were lacking in such material, was made public at the Commission headquarters. David A. Horowitz, associate superintendent of Philadelphia public schools, said the survey was "accurate and fair." However, he added that the Board would merely transmit the findings to textbook publishers without recommendations for revisions.

Mr. Horowitz said that the public school teachers here cover the issues involved in Commission criticisms "probably better than in most of the United States." He added that the Board of Education would not make any recommendations to avoid becoming involved in what might be considered censorship.

He said two steps would be taken to improve the situation. One will be meetings next fall with social studies department heads in all senior and junior high schools with the Commission for a discussion on ways of handling the Hitler era in classroom teaching. Regular annual meetings will be held by the Board for its social studies department heads and possibly teachers.

Maurice B. Fagan, Commission executive director, said the Commission would send a report to all textbook publishers and to the National Education Association. Educators, he declared, had an "obligation" to say what they wanted in books "to overcome the bland treatment" by publishers. "In some books, you don't know whether the authors are for or against Hitler," he pointed out.

400 HADASSAH MEMBERS START ON 'PILGRIMAGE' TO ISRAEL; TO STAY TWO WEEKS

NEW YORK, July 12. (JTA) -- Leaders and members of Hadassah from all parts of the United States sailed for Israel today aboard the SS Independence. They are part of a 400-member Hadassah Pilgrimage to Israel, headed by Mrs. Herman Shulman, former national president of Hadassah. Other Hadassah participants in the Pilgrimage will make the trip to Israel by chartered flights.

The high point of the Hadassah Pilgrimage's two-week stay in Israel will be the dedication on August 3rd of the \$25,000,000 Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center. The Medical Center is located on the western outskirts of Jerusalem, at Kiryat Hadassah, overlooking Ein Karem.

Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and Ogden Reid, United States Ambassador to Israel, will speak at the Medical Center dedication ceremonies. Other key speakers will be Dr. Miriam K. Freund, national president of Hadassah; Professor B. Mazar, president of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem; and Dr. Kalman J. Mann, director-general of the Hadassah Medical Organization in Israel. The Medical Center has been under construction for four and a half years, at a site selected by Israel's Prime Minister for this purpose.

ORT IN ISRAEL TO TRAIN YOUTHS FROM NEWLY INDEPENDENT AFRICAN STATES

JERUSALEM, July 12. (JTA) -- Forty youngsters from the newly independent states of Africa will be brought to Israel next year to learn trades in Ort schools here, it was announced today. The youngsters will come here in a joint project of the Ort, the Israel Government, UNESCO and the International Labor Office.

The project is described as the first of its kind since it will involve vocational training for teenagers. Generally, scholarships for students from underdeveloped countries are restricted to college undergraduates or graduates.

JUDEO-CHRISTIAN SECT IN INDIA INTERESTED IN EMIGRATING TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 12. (JTA) -- A Judeo-Christian Sabbatarian sect living in the Indian state of Kerala has shown interest in emigrating to Israel, according to press reports today. The Cochin Immigrants' Association, the Cochin Jews who came here from Kerala, was reported in contact with the sect which numbers about 100,000 and claims kinship with the Jews.

Members of the sect, which practices some Jewish customs, claim descent from Cochin Jews who were converted to Christianity by missionaries generations ago. One of the sect is a member of the Indian Parliament. He is said to have assurances that his co-religionists could take their property with them if they emigrated to Israel.

BRIDE OF ISRAEL'S AGED MINISTER OF RELIGION IS 30 YEARS OF AGE

JERUSALEM, July 12. (JTA) -- The bride of several days of Israel's Minister for Religious Affairs, 81-year-old Rabbi Yaacov Toledano, is about 30 years of age, it was disclosed today in the Israel press. The afternoon daily Maariv had reported yesterday that the bride was 18 years old.