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Z.O.A. CONVENTION ASKS U.S. TO BRING ABOUT DIRECT ARAB-ISRAEL TALKS

NEW YORK, Aug. 28. (JTA) -- A series of resolutions dealing with United States policy vis-a-vis the Middle East, calling among other things for the United States Government to "undertake a new initiative to bring Israel and the Arab states into direct negotiations at the peace table," was adopted here today at the conclusion of the 63rd annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America at which Max Bressler, of Chicago, was elected president.

The resolutions were adopted following an announcement made last night by Vice President Richard M. Nixon to the delegates of the convention that, if he is elected President of the United States, he would assign "the primary responsibility for directing negotiations" with regard to the Arab-Israeli dispute to Henry Cabot Lodge, former head of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations and now Republican candidate for Vice President of the United States. Mr. Nixon made this announcement in a tape recorded message to the convention.

Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell, addressing the ZOA convention last night in person, took issue with Senator John F. Kennedy, Democratic Presidential candidate, who, addressing the convention last Thursday evening, proposed that "all the authority and prestige of the White House be used to call into conference the leaders of Israel and the Arab states to consider privately their common problems." Senator Kennedy voiced belief that such an approach from the White House "would be lightly rejected by either side."

Commenting on Senator Kennedy's proposal, Secretary Mitchell, a Republican, told the convention: "The things that Senator Kennedy suggested here on this platform--intervention and conciliation under White House auspices--are descriptions of what may be possible when all else has succeeded. He has described a possible pleasant ending of the hard road before us, but not the road itself. I suppose it is a human frailty to look forward with an anxious hope to an easy ending, but it is seldom consistent with the facts of our history."

Secretary Mitchell then went on to describe the U.S. policy in the Middle East. "Our policy in the Middle East--non-partisan, non-interventionist," he said, "is one of objective pursuit of peace, through support of United Nations activities to reduce tension. Secretary of State Herter, early this year, reiterated our support of Secretary General Hammarskjold's attempts to effect a fair resolution of the Suez Canal transit problem. We, of course, support the principle of freedom of passage as endorsed by the United Nations."

"Without the reduction of tensions, without the clearing away as far as possible of animosities and mistrust between nations, intervention by superior powers may lead to fresh animosity and renewed mistrust. To pursue an immoderate policy of intervention, whether joined or not by other nations, is at this time to sacrifice respect for the United Nations ability to build a way to peace by careful reduction of turbulence."

"Proposals such as those made by Sen. Kennedy to you are well-intentioned, without question. They are sincere, without question. They may appear as logical solutions to some earnest, active and intelligent persons who would like to get to peace quickly. But I would refer you to the history of your own organization, to the many years of vigor and of patience, of constant devotion to your cause and your ideal, as an example of the kind of effort that finally changes history, partly despite and partly because of the hard realities of the world," Secretary Mitchell stated.

Nixon Wants Overall Settlement of "The Palestine Question"

Vice President Nixon, in his recorded message, said that the Middle East would continue to be a source of tension as long as the "Arab boycott and blockade continues," as long as "Americans are barred from certain countries because of their religious faith, and as long as Arab refugees are confined to camps and their unhappiness continues." He then outlined the following policies that he believed the U.S. should follow to meet these problems:

"Strong unceasing efforts to establish freedom of passage through the Suez Canal, and to put an end to discriminatory practices throughout the area. Encouraging and

supporting measures making it possible for the Arab states to develop their material resources to raise their living standards and thereby increase opportunities for growth, and for the resettlement of Arab refugees where their labor and skills can be employed to full advantage.

"Continued and increased support of the courageous and successful efforts of the people of Israel to make the desert bloom and to turn their country into a new Land of Promise. Israel has dramatically demonstrated to the world the effectiveness of free institutions and the democratic way by these efforts and also by the technical aid it has extended to the newly independent and underdeveloped nations in Africa and Asia.

"Above all continued and tireless search for practical means to achieve a solid and lasting peace in the Middle East. Now this means the avoidance of good promises, the futility of which have been proved many times over, and concentration rather on persistent negotiations through every diplomatic channel available to us.

"I believe the time has come when we should try to bring about an overall settlement of the Palestine question in all its aspects. I refer to the status of the Arab refugees, the development of the waters of the Jordan and other relationships between Israel and its neighbors. Finding a settlement of these problems with justice and fairness to all is important not only to Israel and its neighbors but to the peace and security of the United States and of the whole world.

"There will, of course, have to be considerations by each side of the problems of the other side, and the United States should be willing to contribute generously toward bringing about such a settlement. It will not be easy and I promise no miracles, but it is imperative to the nation's interest that a solution be found, that we must devote our best efforts to that end," Mr. Nixon stated.

Dr. Silver Speaks on Relations Between Israel and Diaspora

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver, speaking at the ZOA dinner last night which was given in his honor, emphasized that "Zionism which built the State of Israel must presently buttress it." At the same time he urged that "Zionism must continue to invigorate the life of our people everywhere, not for the sake of Zion only but for the sake of universal Israel." Declaring that "Zionism was always far more than scaffolding for the erection of the State of Israel," Dr. Silver said that "It was and is the expression of the unbroken wills of our people to live creatively and in freedom, which time and again rebuilt the fallen tabernacle of David."

In an indirect answer to some Israeli leaders who have been critical of the American Zionist movement, Dr. Silver declared: "Zionism was the architectural design, the material out of which the State of Israel was built and the will that built it. Zionism will remain its sure and main support in the days to come. It would be folly to break the cask and still hope that the wine will be retained."

The Zionist leader further voiced the view that: "The Diaspora cannot solve all the problems of Israel, but neither can Israel solve all the problems of the Diaspora. Each has a life of its own and will continue to have a life of its own. But Zionism can serve both as a two-way breach open at all times for spiritual and cultural profit, to transmit the inspiration of one to the other."

Dr. Silver received the ZOA Herzl Gold Medallion, awarded each year by the ZOA for outstanding services to the Zionist cause. The first two recipients of this award were Israel's President Itzhak Ben-Zvi, and Lord Balfour, nephew of the author of the Balfour Declaration who accepted the award in behalf of his late uncle. In addition to Secretary Mitchell the principal speakers at the dinner included Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman, Maurice Berinstein, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, and Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization. Dr. Emanuel Neumann presided at the dinner.

Z. O. A. to Create Body to Protect U.S. Firms Against Arab Boycott

In its resolution urging the U.S. Government to take the initiative to bring about direct Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, the ZOA convention pointed out that the late Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, had asserted in 1956 that "the preservation of the State of Israel is one of the essential goals of United States foreign policy." The resolution emphasized that "the objectives and policies of the United States qualify our Government to assume leadership in achieving an Arab-Israeli peace."

Another resolution dealt with the Arab boycott against Israel and against American firms and individuals dealing with Israel. This measure directed the incoming administration of the ZOA to "give high priority to the creation of a committee for the protection of Americans from the Arab boycott, with power to take any and all appropriate legal measures to combat the said boycott and blacklisting." The committee was directed to coordinate and cooperate with all other bodies that may be existent or may be created for the same purpose in the United States.

A separate resolution dealing with the Arab boycott congratulated Congressional opposition to discrimination by countries receiving American aid against any Americans on grounds of race or religion.

STATE DEPT. PROTESTS TO KUWAIT ON ANTI-ISRAEL LETTERS TO U.S. FIRMS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 28. (JTA) -- The Department of State said yesterday it had protested orally to Kuwait against the blacklisting of American firms trading with Israel, but did not consider such Arab pressure an "unfriendly act" since "this action was not directed against the United States as such."

William B. Macomber, Jr., Assistant Secretary of State, wrote Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, that Arab blacklisting affecting some United States companies did not appear intended "to disrupt the substantial and mutually beneficial commercial intercourse now carried on between considerable numbers of American and Kuwaiti firms. Rather it appears to have been directed only against certain American and perhaps other firms, whose business associations with Israel were cited in a recent Israel publication which was distributed by various Israel missions abroad."

Nevertheless, the Department requested Kuwait to stop sending "unwarranted letters" to American business firms. Such letters have inquired into whether firms are "Jewish" and whether they trade with Israel.

The State Department communication resulted from inquiries by Sen. Javits. He cited instances in which American companies were threatened by Kuwait with blacklisting unless they responded by a given date to offensive questionnaires. Mr. Macomber informed Sen. Javits that, allegedly, Kuwait "did not participate in the hostilities against Israel" and therefore was not governed by any armistice accord.

Commenting generally on the blacklisting issue, Mr. Macomber made known it is the Department's view that "in the absence of a definitive settlement between Israel and the Arab states, including settlement of such vital matters as the plight of thousands of refugees who have had to leave their homes in Palestine, the establishment of permanent boundaries between the Arab states and Israel, and freedom of transit through the Suez Canal, various manifestations of the Arab-Israeli tensions are unfortunately likely to continue."

Mr. Macomber asserted that the U.S. Government "does not condone the Arab boycott, particularly so far as it adversely affects American firms and citizens. It has sought through all feasible ways and means, within the context of maintaining friendly relations with other members of the free world community, to eliminate such boycott practices."

Citing the Javits-Morse amendment to the Mutual Security Bill, Sen. Javits said "it will be our job to see to it that international law is fully complied with in this situation, and that this offensive action is discontinued."

ISRAEL TO TRAIN EXPERTS FOR CONGO REPUBLIC; CLOSER TIES ANNOUNCED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 28. (JTA) -- Special courses will be organized by Israel for the training of cultural leaders and technical assistance experts from the Congo Republic (former French colony), it was announced here today.

The announcement was made in a joint communique issued by President Itzhak Ben-Zvi and Congo President Fulbert Youlou. The communique affirms the confidence of both governments that "the forging of closer ties in all fields, between the peoples and the governments, expresses the aspirations of both nations."

President Youlou today concluded a week's visit to Israel. He was one of many African and Asian statesmen, government leaders and scientists attending the International Conference on the Role of Science in the New States, held at the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot. Similar cultural and technical assistance agreements were concluded here last week with Nepal and Chad.

President Youlou, in a statement prior to his departure for home today, said: "My country and my people have much to learn from you Israelis. Many youths from the Congo have especially much to learn from your agricultural methods." He told newspapermen at Lydda Airport that he was "very much impressed" with Israel's "vivid accomplishments," expressing the opinion that "the world at large can learn much from the Israeli people."

ISRAEL TO PROVIDE 1,000 SCHOLARSHIPS FOR AFRO-ASIAN STUDENTS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 28. (JTA) -- Israel will provide 1,000 scholarships next year for study in Israel by African and Asian students.

Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, announced the plan at a dinner tendered by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion in honor of delegates to the recently-concluded Conference of Scientists at Rehovot. Currently, there are 350 Asian and African students in Israel on such scholarships.

Mrs. Meir cited agriculture, education and cooperative movements as fields in which Israel was offering scholarships. She also disclosed Israel was ready to provide special year-long courses for training foremen in metal and woodwork. The dinner, attended by several hundred guests, also was addressed by delegates from Africa, the Far East, the Middle East, Europe, the United States and Latin America.

N. C. C. J. ISSUES APPEAL AGAINST BIGOTRY IN 1960 ELECTION CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Aug. 28, (JTA) -- Prejudice and bigotry have no place in the 1960 political campaign, Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, warned here today.

In a statement issued on behalf of the NCCJ, Dr. Jones declared that "any appeal for or against any candidate, based on religion, is contrary to American principles."

JEWISH ATHLETES AT OLYMPICS ATTEND SERVICES IN ROME SYNAGOGUE

ROME, Aug. 28, (JTA) -- The Israel Olympic team and Jewish members from the Australian, Brazilian and Moroccan teams joined Roman Jewry in a solemn ceremony at the main synagogue here for Sabbath services. Rome's Chief Rabbi, Elio Toaff, addressed the cosmopolitan congregation in Hebrew when he welcomed and blessed the athletes. Also on hand to greet the Jewish athletes were Sergio Piperno, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities and Fausto Pitigliani, president of the Rome community.

The president of the Israel Olympic Committee, Mr. Zysam, replied in Hebrew. He stressed that the Israeli athletes now competing in Rome included farmers, workers and officials and represented "the vital reality" of Israel which includes peoples from many nations. After the ceremony the Jewish athletes met leaders of the Italian Jewish communities and organizations at a reception in the Jewish Community Center.

COLLEGE FRATERNITY MODIFIES MEMBERSHIP RULES ON DISCRIMINATION

ASHEVILLE, N. C., Aug. 28, (JTA) -- Alpha Tau Omega Fraternity, one of the largest college social organizations in the country, adopted an amendment to its constitution at its convention here yesterday, permitting modification of its membership requirements to meet various state and university rulings forbidding discrimination on account of race or religion.

There has been an increasing number of state and university rulings in recent years, denying fraternity charters to local groups practicing racial or religious bias. Alpha Tau Omega has 119 chapters in colleges and universities throughout the country, with a total membership of more than 66,000.

The constitutional change, according to Gerald B. Johnson, of Cleveland, who was re-elected president of the fraternity, indicates a desire "to cooperate with university authorities in their anti-discrimination rulings." However, he added, "the traditional membership character" of the organization is not expected to change.

JACK DAVIS NAMED CHAIRMAN OF COMBINED DRIVE FOR REFORM JUDAISM

NEW YORK, Aug. 28, (JTA) -- Jack Davis of New York, noted Reform Jewish layman, has been appointed general chairman of the nationwide Combined Campaign for American Reform Judaism, it was announced today. The campaign, which has a 1960-61 fiscal year goal of \$4,122,769, is conducted for support of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion. The campaign will be launched October 4.

Mr. Davis succeeds A. B. Polinsky of San Diego, California. Funds raised by the campaign are divided equally between the UAHC and the HUC-JIR. In its campaign for 1959-60, which ended on June 30th, the campaign brought together a total of \$3,328,008.32 representing a better than six percent increase over its previous year's fund-raising result.

CORNERSTONE LAID FOR NEW \$550,000 BUILDING OF RABBI KOOK YESHIVAH

JERUSALEM, Aug. 28, (JTA) -- The cornerstone for a new building at the Rabbi Kook Universal Yeshivah was laid here this afternoon. The ceremony coincided with the 25th anniversary of the death of the first Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Avraham Yitzchak Hacohen Kook. The ceremony was attended by President Ben-Zvi, cabinet members, Chief Rabbi Nissim, Jerusalem Mayor Mordechai Ish Shalom, religious scholars, theologians and heads of the community.

The new million-pound (\$550,000) project which adjoins the Rabbi Kook Institute will contain dormitories for 400 students and a library which will be completed within 18 months. Knesset speaker Kaddish Luz, Interior Minister Moshe Haim Shapir and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Nissim were among those that addressed the gathering.

ALTER HELLER, JEWISH POET AND ESSAYIST, DEAD; WAS 72 YEARS OLD

NEW YORK, Aug. 28, (JTA) -- Alter Heller, well-known Yiddish and Hebrew poet and essayist, died in New Rochelle this week-end. He was 72 years old. Born in the Ukraine, he studied in France and came to the United States in 1910 where he continued his studies while teaching in Jewish schools. He was one of the Jewish poets who concentrated around the literary magazine "Di Feder," published in New York, and participated in other publications. He was the author of critical essays on a number of Jewish poets.