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STATE DEPT. TO BACK U.A.R. FOR SECURITY COUNCIL SEAT; LEHMAN PROTESTS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- State Department sources revealed here today that the United States would support the election of the United Arab Republic to the United Nations Security Council.

The UN General Assembly, which elects members to the Council, is expected to vote next month on filling three vacancies to result at the end of 1960 by the expiration of present incumbencies. One of the seats to be vacated is currently held by Tunisia, whose place the UAR is expected to obtain.

For weeks, since it became known that the United States would back the UAR for one of the Council seats, there has been controversy on the subject, with many protests voiced against an American vote for the UAR. The Cairo Government has been accused of violating United Nations resolutions in regard to the blockade of the Suez Canal against Israeli goods and shipping, of insisting that a "state of belligerence" still exists between Egypt and Israel despite the 1949 armistice agreements, and of acting as the principal country implementing the Arab economic blockade against Israel. Another such protest was voiced only today by former Senator Herbert H. Lehman.

Three weeks ago, "authoritative sources"--not emanating from the State Department--were quoted as saying they had an "absolute conviction" that the U.S.A. would not back the UAR for the Council seat. Today, however, the State Department's position was described as one holding that the UAR is the only appropriate candidate for the Council seat traditionally held by a Moslem state. The UAR is said to have the endorsement for this election of the majority of Moslem states that are members of the United Nations.

Mr. Lehman's objection to U.S. backing of the UAR at the United Nations was expressed here today in a letter to the influential Washington Post. "Failure of our Government to review and modify its apparent position," declared Mr. Lehman, "will court still another disaster for the United Nations."

Charging UAR President Gamal Abdel Nasser with "flagrant violations" of Security Council resolutions, Mr. Lehman stated: "To accord him a seat on the very body to which the world looks for the maintenance of peace could hardly fail to diminish the moral stature and even the authority of the Security Council."

Mr. Lehman expressed the hope that many others would join "in protesting the supine acceptance by the United States of the inevitability of the selection of the United Arab Republic for a seat on the Security Council."

EGYPTIAN MIG BELIEVED DOWNED, INFILTRATOR KILLED IN NEW BORDER CLASHES

TEL AVIV, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- One United Arab Republic jet fighter was apparently shot down, and an Arab trying to infiltrate Israel from the Gaza Strip was killed, in two separate clashes announced here today by Government spokesman.

The Egyptian ship believed downed was one of the MIG-17 jets that entered Israeli air space at dawn today. Israeli fighters rose to battle the MIGs, intercepting them northeast of Beerotayim, in the South-Central Negev. The Israelis and the Egyptians fought their battle at an altitude of about 20,000 feet. One MIG was reported by the Israelis to have been "clearly hit," but did not come down until it was back over Egyptian territory. The second MIG seemed to have got away. The Israeli fighters returned safely to their base.

Earlier in the night, an Israeli Army border patrol spotted an Arab infiltrator about two miles inside Israel's border. When the man was challenged, he tried to run back to the Gaza Strip frontier, and was shot down when he failed to obey orders to halt.

The area where the man was killed, south of Yad Mordechai, is the same region where, several weeks ago, an Israeli border patrol killed three Arab infiltrators. Among those three, one man was found carrying a number of documents containing intelligence about Israel defenses.

AGENCY EXECUTIVE STUDIES ISSUES FACING NEXT WORLD ZIONIST CONGRESS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency executive met today to study five principal issues in connection with the forthcoming 25th World Zionist Congress, to open here December 27.

The first will concern the Congress agenda and speakers. With non-Zionist delegates in attendance for the first time, the Congress will have to reflect the fact that it will represent practically the entire Jewish people, and will therefore have to deal with both Zionist and general Jewish problems.

The second task will be the approval of the invitation to the non-Zionist fraternal and associate delegations. The third will be authorization to the Jewish Agency executive to invite American non-Zionist delegations with which negotiations for participation in the Congress are not as yet completed.

The fourth task will concern a meeting of the American Jewish Agency, Inc., which will meet for the first time in Israel to approve the Agency's budget for the second half of the current fiscal year. The fifth task will be clarification of the relationship of the fraternal and associate Jewish organizations with the local Zionist central bodies in each country.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Agency, told the executive plenum that the next meeting of the Conference of Jewish Organizations, and the first in Israel, will be held in Jerusalem simultaneously with the World Zionist Congress.

Dr. Goldmann said that the conference meeting will begin preparation for the projected world convention on Jewish education, and will work on the establishment of a permanent organizational framework for the conference. He also described efforts in recent months at setting up a single representative body for American Jewry.

LAVON AFFAIR THREATENS MAPAI SPLIT; ESHKOL TRIES CONCILIATION

TEL AVIV, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- Efforts to conciliate a growing split within the Mapai party over the controversy surrounding the 1955 resignation of Pinhas Lavon as Minister of Defense marked the second day of a marathon meeting of the Mapai secretariat.

This development was disclosed as Attorney General Gideon Hausner studied a secret report by the Cohen commission which made a new probe of the circumstances surrounding the resignation of Lavon, who is now secretary-general of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation.

Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion ordered the new investigation, when evidence developed that forgeries and perjured testimony might have been involved in a first probe which ended with Lavon's resignation. Lavon demanded the second investigation as rehabilitation, contending he was forced to resign under conditions which made it impossible for him to defend himself publicly in a dispute involving security issues.

It was indicated that the Attorney General was expected to decide this week on whether there was reason to start criminal proceedings against those charged by Lavon with having given false testimony in the 1955 investigation. The results of that probe also never were made public.

The efforts at conciliation began last night when Finance Minister Levi Eshkol returned from an overseas visit, and began discussions aimed at creating a conciliation commission. He took part in the deliberations of the Mapai secretariat today, pushing his conciliation effort.

During a hot, eight-hour session yesterday, Yosef Almogi, the Mapai secretary, worked strenuously to restrain contending speakers and to maintain the unity of the party.

Speakers talked either for Lavon or for Shimon Peres, who was director general of the Defense Ministry when Lavon was Defense Minister. Peres is now Deputy Defense Minister. The Prime Minister was sharply critical of Lavon's statements in the renewed controversy. Mr. Ben-Gurion said that, as Defense Minister, he could be censured--but that he would not permit slandering of the Army and its officers, which he alleged Lavon had done.

Peres criticized his fellow party members for not acting to check Lavon's criticism of him, and he referred repeatedly to the "personality cult" which he said was being developed by Lavon's supporters in the controversy.

The Prime Minister declared strongly that "truth is more important than the party," at one point in the debate. He said that the Attorney General would have to decide whether two Army officers alleged to have forged documents, or to have manipulated evidence in the first investigation, should be brought to trial.

VATICAN ORGAN HAILS JUDEO-CHRISTIAN 'FRATERNITY' AND HOMAGE TO POPE

ROME, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- The message of the 120-member United Jewish Appeal mission to Pope John XXIII, delivered during a papal audience this week, was given front-page coverage today in Osservatore Romano, the official Vatican organ.

The newspaper calls the message, which praised the Pope's efforts on behalf of European Jewry during the Nazi period, a "homage to the venerated head of Catholics, reconfirming the profound gratitude of Jewish communities for what the Church did for Jewish refugees and persecuted during the war."

Summarizing the Pope's reply, the newspaper recalls the Pope's intervention as Papal Nuncio in Istanbul, to rescue a ship loaded with children. The newspaper emphasizes that Jerusalem's Chief Rabbi went to Istanbul specifically to thank the Nuncio, and adds that "from such a meeting a note of comfort emerged."

"Although there is a great difference between those admitting only the Old Testament and those adding the New Testament," the newspaper states, "nevertheless such a distinction does not suppress the fraternity deriving from the same origin, and uniting all men in the fundamental reality of coming from the same Father and having to return to the same Father."

U.S. FUND LENDS \$6 MILLION TOWARD DOUBLING ISRAEL TELEPHONE LINES

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- A move that will probably double the number of telephones in Israel was announced here today when the board of directors of the United States Development Loan Fund announced a \$6,000,000 loan to Israel for the expansion of the telephone facilities to a total of 50,000 lines. The loan will assist in financing foreign exchange costs in acquiring new equipment.

The equipment will be bought in the United States. The loan is for a ten-year term at three and one-half percent interest annually. It will be disbursed in Israeli currency. The Government of Israel will finance from its own funds an additional amount for equipment under this program.

ANTI-ZIONIST MEMBER OF ARABIC GROUP TO REPRESENT U.S.A. AT UNESCO

WASHINGTON, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- The White House today named Frank Maria, a leader of anti-Israel groups, to be a member of the United States delegation to the 11th annual session of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, to convene in Paris on November 14.

Mr. Maria, of Lowell, Mass., is a founder of the "American Friends of the Middle East," and has presided at anti-Zionist meetings. He was recently named by the Republican National Committee as an organizer of a "Committee for Nixon-Lodge" formed by "Americans of Arabic-Speaking Origin." Mr. Maria was also named by the Republican National Committee to serve as a campaign advisor to Vice President Nixon and the latter's Republican running mate, Henry Cabot Lodge.

ILLINOIS AFL-CIO CALLS ON UNITED NATIONS TO LIFT SUEZ BLOCKADE

CHICAGO, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- Positive steps by the United Nations to end the illegal Egyptian blockade of the Suez Canal, in order to make it freely accessible to all nations, and "strong positive measures leading to direct peace talks between Israel and her Arab neighbors," were urged in a resolution adopted by 2,400 delegates assembled at the third annual convention of the Illinois State Federation of Labor and the Council of Industrial Organizations in Springfield.

In another resolution the convention called upon the United States: a. To guarantee Israel's territorial integrity, and, b. "to repudiate and renounce the Arab boycott and correct those administrative practices which give aid and comfort to such a boycott program."

Noting Israel's economic growth in the face of adversity and her devotion to democratic principles, the resolution hailed the contribution of Histadrut, Israel's Federation of Labor, to the welfare of the people of Israel as "one of the brightest pages in the history of trade unionism, worthy of the highest commendation by the American labor movement." Greetings on behalf of the Histadrut were extended to the delegates by Isaiah Avrech, American representative of Histadrut.

AMERICAN WOMEN'S GROUPS, TECHNION AND PIONEERS, VISITING ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- Delegations from two major American Jewish groups were in Israel today. The Women's Division of the American Technion Society, led by Mrs. Gustav Rosen, came as the first large organization group under Technion auspices.

Also present were 91 members of Pioneer Women, the first of a total of 500 who are coming to participate in the 40th anniversary of the Women's Council of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, and the 35th anniversary of Pioneer Women.

ISRAEL TOURISM RISING, TO YIELD \$40,000,000 ANNUALLY

NEW YORK, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- A "substantial growth" of tourism in Israel, resulting in earnings of \$16,000,000 in foreign exchange and an increase in the number of tourists in 1959 to 94,000, as against 75,000 in 1958, was announced here today in a report issued by the New York office of the Tourist Industry Development Corporation of Israel. The report shows that, through loans provided by the corporation, 336 new hotel rooms have been constructed in Israel, while 517 existing rooms have been improved.

During the first seven months of this year, the report shows, there has been a 36 percent increase in tourism, over 1959, with 72,000 visitors registered in Israel for the period.

An announcement by Lawrence C. Laskey, chairman of the American section of the firm's board of directors, stated that the corporation's sales of seven percent debentures in this country has reached a total of \$2,060,000. According to Mr. Laskey, the Israel Government has granted permission for ultimate repayment of the debentures in United States dollars.

A five-year plan for the Israel tourist industry, made by a group of American experts, calls for an investment of 60,000,000 Israeli pounds (\$34,000,000), the doubling of the existing rooms available to tourists, and a goal of 250,000 tourists by 1965. The corporation's figures show that income to be earned from such development would exceed \$40,000,000 annually.

The American section of the corporation's board of directors, in addition to Mr. Laskey, include Jacob Arvey of Chicago, Louis H. Mayer of Los Angeles, Rudolf G. Sonneborn of New York, Dewey D. Stone of Boston, and Benjamin H. Swig of San Francisco.

ORT TO CONVENE INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS; HABER HEADS U.S. DELEGATION

NEW YORK, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- Dr. William Haber, president of the American ORT Federation, will head a delegation of 31 Americans to an international Congress of the world ORT organization, it was announced here today. The meeting to be held in London is scheduled for October 23-27. Vice-chairmen of the delegation are Adolph Held, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee, and Mrs. Joseph P. Gayl of Philadelphia, national president of Women's American ORT.

The Congress will deal with problems of Jewish vocational education, especially the growing demand for technical schooling in Israel, where ORT conducts the largest system of trade schools in the country.

AGUDAH EXECUTIVE FAVORS HOLDING WORLD CONGRESS IN ISRAEL IN 1961

NEW YORK, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- A recommendation that the next world congress of Agudas Israel be held in Jerusalem, in the summer of 1961, was adopted here last night at a meeting of the American section of Agudah's world executive. The organization held its last world congress in 1954. The decision to convene the next world session in Jerusalem is still to be confirmed by the Israeli and European sections of the organization's world executive.

ZIM LINES TO EXPAND CARGO SERVICE BETWEEN EAST COAST, MEDITERRANEAN

NEW YORK, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- An expanded Israel-flag cargo service between United States and Canadian East Coast ports and the Western and Eastern Mediterranean will be established in December by the Zim Israel Navigation Co., Ltd., of Haifa, it was announced today by the American-Israeli Shipping Company here.

Supplementing the present year-round, tri-weekly service provided by the Zim Lines from New York to Gibraltar, Piraeus and Haifa, the expanded service will call monthly at Halifax, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Norfolk and New York to load cargo for ports in Portugal, France, Italy, Greece, Israel and other Mediterranean countries. West-bound vessels will call at Mediterranean ports of Israel, Greece, Italy, France, Spain and Portugal.

STATE COURT RULING ON SCHOOL PRAYERS GOING TO U.S. APPEALS BENCH

NEW YORK, Oct. 19. (JTA) -- The United States Court of Appeals will be asked to rule on the constitutional validity of a New York State Appellate Division decision which has upheld the non-compulsory recitation of a prayer in the state's public schools, it was announced today by the New York Civil Liberties Union.

The state's Appellate Division unanimously rejected the CLU suit in a decision handed down this week. The suit, filed on behalf of five parents whose children attend school in the nearby Nassau County, had been rejected earlier by the New York Supreme Court. Three of the five plaintiffs in the current suit are Jewish.

According to the CLU, the recitation of the prayer--first recommended by the New York State Board of Regents in 1951--violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The prayer reads: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our country."