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U.S. ASKS ARABS AND ISRAEL FOR PROPOSALS ON PALESTINE REFUGEE PROBLEM

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 16. (JTA) -- The United States Government today called upon the Arab states and Israel to make "reasonable proposals" to solve the Arab refugee problem in the Middle East and "take greater initiative in the attainment of a solution of the refugee problem."

Francis O. Wilcox, Assistant Secretary of State for United Nations Affairs, made this appeal here in addressing the General Assembly's Special Political Committee, which has been debating the Arab refugee problem since Monday.

The present "impasse" in regard to the Arab refugee problem, Mr. Wilcox maintained, is "not fair to the people of the Middle East, who could profit so much from an era of tranquility and progress," is unfair to the United Nations, not fair to the contributing states that have given so much money to aid the refugees, and is unfair to the refugees themselves.

"For far too long has this impasse persisted," said the American diplomat. "We have delayed. We have procrastinated. We have put off until tomorrow what we should have done today."

Mr. Wilcox pointed out that the United States has spent \$232,000,000 to aid the Arab refugees--more than 70 percent of the total expended on their behalf. He chided "certain states"--obviously meaning the Soviet Union, but not naming Russia--for having contributed nothing to help the refugees.

The Arab states and Israel, whom he called "the governments concerned directly," have not utilized the services of the Palestine Conciliation Commission to effect a settlement of the refugee problem, Mr. Wilcox said. As a member of that commission--with Turkey and France--the United States, said Mr. Wilcox, "would welcome and carefully consider any reasonable proposals by any of the parties concerned for possible courses of action."

Criticizes Israel and Arabs for "Inflexibility" on Refugee Issue

The American expressed "keen disappointment" of the United States Government with "the parties concerned" which, he said, "have apparently not indicated their willingness to approach the refugee problem with adequate flexibility and with due adherence to principles often confirmed by the General Assembly."

"However," he continued, "we are fully aware that the Arab states and Israel are separated by a complex of problems. The Palestine refugee issue is one of the most important of these. A solution of this problem would clearly be in the long-range interests of all the states of the area."

"The governments directly concerned," he proposed, "must, in recognizing their primary responsibility for the fair and peaceful resolution of this issue, take greater initiative toward the attainment of a solution." He also proposed that the Palestine Conciliation Commission should continue its efforts "to prepare the way for progress toward a solution of the refugee problem."

In his address, Mr. Wilcox referred to the fact that there are "irregularities" in distributing relief to Arab refugees, and said "progress" had been made to eliminate these practices. The fact that there are many Arabs on the relief rolls, getting relief without being entitled to it, was the subject of a report made to Washington last year by two American Senators who investigated the situation.

Preceding Mr. Wilcox, Hassan Salah el-Din Gohar, of the United Arab Republic, addressed the committee. He repeated the old accusations of "Zionist imperialism" in the Palestine area, and blamed Israel for the misery of the refugees. In his talk, he attacked not only Israel but also Great Britain.

Harold Beasley, representing Britain, answered briefly, saying that the UAR delegate had quoted old reports "out of context." Michael S. Comay, chairman of the Israel delegation, also spoke up very briefly, telling the committee he would reply in detail at another point in the debate.

KNESSET DEFEATS COMMUNIST MOTION TO DEBATE AUTHORITY OF ISRAEL ARMY

JERUSALEM, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion today challenged Moshe Sneh, communist member of the Israel Parliament, to waive his parliamentary immunity and face prosecution for libel over the latter's allegation that an Israeli Army junta imposed its authority over the civilian administration in connection with the 1954 security mishap which led to the resignation of Pinhas Lavon as Minister of Defense.

The Premier, rejecting Mr. Sneh's charge as well as the intimation that Mr. Ben-Gurion himself headed the junta, said the allegations were malicious slander. There is no more loyal army than that of Israel, he declared, calling the charge "an unprecedented smear." He called on Mr. Sneh to "name the person to whom you allude" and challenged the communist deputy to waive his immunity to face a suit for slander.

The Parliament, meanwhile, overwhelmingly defeated a motion by Mr. Sneh to debate the question of civilian authority over the Army. Mr. Sneh had told the House in calling for the motion, that recent disclosures in connection with the 1954 mishap had "proved the existence" of a junta made up of Army hierarchy and "unauthorized" civilians of a certain party.

The Herut and General Zionist deputies abstained on the communist motion, a spokesman for the latter faction explaining that there was no need to discuss the matter in open session as long as the issue was being investigated in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee.

In his sharp reply to the charges, Premier Ben-Gurion declared that, while the mishap occurred when he was out of office and in retirement in Sde Boker, he believed that the Army's character and principles had remained unchanged during the 11 years he knew them.

CONGRESS OF MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES FROM 34 LANDS OPENS IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- The flags of 34 countries--including West Germany's--decorated Habimah Hall here today as the 15th Congress of the International Union of Local Authorities opened this morning.

President Izhak Ben-Zvi and Mrs. Ben-Zvi led the high-ranking Israelis present at the opening ceremonies. In addition to Mr. Ben-Zvi, who greeted the delegates, first in English then in Hebrew, the mayors and other municipal administrators from 34 countries were welcomed also by Foreign Minister Golda Meir and Minister of the Interior Moshe Shapiro.

Other members of Israel's Cabinet were present, as well as members of the diplomatic corps, ranking heads of Israeli Government departments, and mayors and members of city councils from many Israeli municipalities. Only city council members representing the Herut Party boycotted the session, in protest against the display of the German flag.

In a ceremony opening the Congress, West Berlin's fighting, anti-Nazi Governing Mayor Willy Brandt, turned over to Tel Aviv Mayor Mordechai Namir the flag of the IULA, which has been in his custody since the organization's last congress. Mayor Brandt compared Jerusalem and Berlin as two divided cities, pointing out that, despite the partition of the two capitals, both of the cities are growing and expanding. Mayor Namir, in response, spoke of Tel Aviv's vast growth since the Jewish State was established.

Berlin Mayor Says Germans Regret the Past; Applauded by Delegates

The West Berlin Mayor pleaded with Israelis to believe him that responsible people in today's Germany seriously try to learn from the past and that their actions are based on the lessons of history. He was warmly applauded by the delegates, including several hundred Israelis.

"A German who speaks in Israel," Mayor Brandt declared, "has to bear the terrible burden of the past. I bear this burden. I do not believe in the wisdom of letting the grass grow and forgetting the past." He said that Germany's great hope was the younger generation and they should be prepared to bridge over the past, since it is these men who will assume the responsibility for tomorrow's world.

Since his arrival here Monday evening, Mayor Brandt, who is the Socialist party's candidate for the chancellorship in the West German elections next year, received full red carpet treatment from Israeli officials. Yesterday, the West Berlin Mayor was given a helicopter tour of the country during which he declared that, if he becomes West German Chancellor, he would work for normal diplomatic relations between his country and Israel.

Last night, Mayor Brandt was the dinner guest of Foreign Minister Golda Meir. He met with Finance Minister Levi Eshkol earlier today and he will be received by Premier David Ben-Gurion tomorrow.

PROF. HABER REPORTS 'TIDAL WAVE' OF JEWISH STUDENTS TO HILLEL CENTERS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16, (JTA) -- The campus population explosion in American universities and colleges has brought a "tidal wave" of Jewish students to Hillel centers throughout the country, necessitating increased Jewish religious and cultural activities in the colleges, Prof. William Haber, University of Michigan economist, declared here.

Dr. Haber, who is national chairman of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Commission, addressed the Commission's annual, two-day meeting. He called upon the Hillel Commission to insure that the increasing number of Jewish students in the colleges are provided with "a lifetime certificate of adequate religious and cultural instruction."

Three experts at the meeting agreed that Jewish undergraduates are struggling between "a revived acceptance of Judaism" and an insufficient knowledge of what Judaism stands for. Rabbi Robert Gordis, a leader in the Conservative synagogue movement, decried the "gross misunderstandings" which, he said, "have led Jewish youth to believe that Judaism is merely the beginning of a Judeo-Christian tradition."

"The differences between Judaism and Christianity," said Rabbi Gordis, "far outweigh their similarities. Unless Jewish education emphasizes the unique and distinctive character of Judaism, we face a threat not of assimilation but of becoming a community of non-Christians instead of understanding Jews."

Dr. Gordis' views were echoed by Rabbi Maurice Pekarsky, of the University of Chicago, senior campus director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel staff, and Prof. Louis Gottschalk, of the University of Chicago, a member of the Hillel Commission. Each urged that the Hillel campus program stress the fundamentals of Judaism "to provide students with a sense of Jewish direction." The Jewish community, said Dr. Gordis, "must be increasingly concerned with how many minds, not feet, enter a Hillel house on the campus."

A proposal for the establishment of national Hillel religious and advisory councils was advanced by Rabbi Benjamin M. Kahn, Hillel national director. He declared that, by involving intellectual leadership that has a mature awareness of Jewish purpose, "the Hillel movement will be better able to encourage enthusiasts for Jewish cultural life."

BUDGET OF 41 JEWISH EDUCATION AGENCIES REACHES \$6,000,000 IN YEAR

DETROIT, Nov. 16, (JTA) -- The combined operating budgets of 41 central agencies for Jewish education in the United States, in 1959-60, totaled \$6,000,000, Isaac Toubin, executive director of the American Association for Jewish Education, reported here to the regional meeting of the association's board of governors. Of the \$6,000,000 total, Mr. Toubin said, 67 percent was covered by local Federation allocations.

Philip Lown, president of the association, announced the appointment of three fellows to conduct experimental action-research in the Jewish religious schools. This work is a major project of the National Curriculum Research Institute, directed by Dr. Judah Pilch.

The three fellows are Dr. Meir Ben-Horin, associate professor of education, and chairman of the School of Education at Dropsie College for Hebrew and Cognate Learning, Philadelphia; Dr. Gerhard Lang, lecturer in the Graduate School of Paterson State College, Wayne, N. J.; and Rabbi Zechariah Dershowitz, a candidate for the Ph.D. degree at New York University. The three were granted, respectively, the Frank Cohen, Philip W. Lown and Philip Klutznick fellowships.

WOMEN'S LEAGUE TO PROVIDE WORLD-WIDE JEWISH EDUCATIONAL ASSISTANCE

KIAMESHA LAKE, N. Y., Nov. 16, (JTA) -- Plans to provide educational assistance on an international scale to Jewish women in countries throughout the world, were announced here today at the biennial convention of the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America. Mrs. H. Herbert Rossman, who was re-elected president of the group, told the 1,500 delegates that Jewish women in countries throughout the world "look to American Jewry for practical help in developing educational programs for adults and for children in their synagogues."

The convention voted to increase from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 the quota to be raised by the Women's League for the Mathilde Schechter Residence Hall, a girls' dormitory to be built at the Jewish Theological Seminary. The Residence Hall will provide housing for young women from all parts of the world, training for teaching professions in the field of Jewish education.

The convention also adopted a quota of \$500,000 for the coming year, for the Torah Fund campaign to support the Jewish Theological Seminary. Principal speakers at the convention included Avraham Harman, Israel Ambassador to the United States, and Dr. Edward T. Sandrow, president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America.

KENNEDY ASKED TO ARRANGE BEN-GURION--NASSER MEETING IN WASHINGTON

ATLANTIC CITY, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- Rabbi Bernard Bergman, national president of the Religious Zionists of America, today opened the four-day annual convention of the organization by appealing to President-elect John F. Kennedy "to arrange a speedy meeting in Washington between Prime Minister Ben-Gurion of Israel and President Nasser of Egypt, for the ultimate objective of establishing a firm, enduring and stable peace in the Middle East." Rabbi Bergman delivered his presidential address before 600 delegates assembled in the Chelsea Hotel in Atlantic City.

"Senator Kennedy has constantly pledged his good offices to effectuate a fair and honorable settlement between the Arab countries and Israel," Rabbi Bergman said. "Both major political parties are committed in their solemn election platforms to strive to terminate the state of tension and strife which has plagued the Middle East during the past decade. Peace and friendly relations among the Middle Eastern states are absolutely indispensable to prevent any further Soviet incursions into that strategic military sector of the world.

"The American Government," he pointed out, "has a vitally historic mission to resort to effective and powerful means to safeguard Israel and her neighbors from Communist attempts at economic penetration, military dominance, and political seizures. By setting up a climate of peaceful communications and dealings between Israel and the Arab nations, the whole Middle East will experience a vast social revolution in such momentous fields as social hygiene, scientific research and medical progress."

Rabbi Bergman praised the State of Israel for "its stupendous contribution" to the economic and social strides of the newly developed communities of Asia and Africa. "The Arab countries," he said, "would benefit immeasurably from Israel's great reservoir of gifted, trained and competent personnel if they abandoned their foolhardy and nonsensical program of bestiality, venom and rancor toward Israel. The Arabs are in desperate need of social welfare measures to overcome their horrible conditions of poor health, malnutrition, illiteracy, squalor, and emotional instability."

Rabbi Bergman continued by criticizing the State Department for "allowing the Arab leaders to carry on a vicious campaign of indefensible blackmailing, immoral boycotting and shady political pressuring a gainst American business enterprises which maintain commercial associations with Israel." He concluded his address by appealing to the American and world Jewish community "to adopt rigorous counter-measures to mitigate the vicious effects of Arab chicanery and trickery in the use of their boycott techniques."

HERZL CENTENNIAL CELEBRATED IN NEW YORK; 1,500 CROWD CARNEGIE HALL

NEW YORK, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- Dr. Theodor Herzl, the "father" of political Zionism, was probably the only intellectual of his time who had correctly appraised the plight of European Jewry 60 years ago. Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, American Zionist leader, declared here last night addressing the "Herzl Centennial Celebration" held at Carnegie Hall. The celebration, attended by more than 1,500 people, marked the climax of the three-day National Assembly of American Zionists.

"Dr. Herzl knew that anti-Semitism would not subside in Europe, that the Jewish people could not be assimilated, and that granting the Jews political equality would not reach the heart of the problem, nor would there be any solution in emigration from one country to another," Rabbi Silver said. The solution that Dr. Herzl discovered, Rabbi Silver said, was the establishment of the Jewish State, legally recognized, in an organized immigration of the masses of Jewry with their consent to a territory which would be given them by a charter so that they could have self-government and be in control of their own destinies.

Dr. Silver also emphasized that Dr. Herzl imbued Jews with the spirit of self-reliance. This meant reliance "not on the philanthropists, not on the notables, not on the few, but on the whole of the Jewish people itself," Rabbi Silver said. He pointed out that the Jewish people "had never put its knowledge of that lesson to better use than in its accomplishment of the task of building a state from scratch, setting up a new government and the orderly processes of life in the face of hostile neighbors bent upon belligerency by the boycott and blockade; in absorbing unselected immigrants from all parts of the globe and in maintaining an adequate economy with the most meager natural resources."

Dr. Silver's address was followed by a concert of contemporary classical and Hebrew music performed by a quartet of Israeli soloists and a series of readings from "The Diaries of Theodor Herzl" by Shakespearean actor Arnold Moss.

CAIRO REPORTS TWO CANDIDATES FOR POST OF CHIEF RABBI OF EGYPT

JERUSALEM, Nov. 16. (JTA) -- Two candidates are in line to succeed to the post of Chief Rabbi of the Egyptian Jewish community, vacated by Rabbi Haim Nahum, who died this week in Cairo, the Cairo Radio reported today. The broadcast listed the candidates as Rabbi Haim Douek, secretary of the Egyptian Chief Rabbinate, who was Rabbi Nahum's assistant, and Rabbi Shmuel Ozer, chairman of the Cairo synagogue.