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### U. S. MAY SEEK INSPECTION OF ISRAEL'S NUCLEAR ENERGY ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The State Department today indicated that it may seek inspection of Israel's work in the field of nuclear research for peaceful purposes, should the United States Government not be satisfied with Israel's reply to inquiries about the alleged construction by Israel of a second atomic reactor with the aid of France.

A State Department spokesman stressed that the U.S. agreement with Israel, under which Israel received an atomic reactor some time ago for research purposes, included safeguards giving the United States the right of inspection to make certain that U.S. assistance would not be turned to military purposes.

The spokesman said that the State Department has not yet received any response from the Israel Government to the inquiries made when the Secretary of State called in Israel's Ambassador Avraham Harman, on December 9, "to express his concern and request information" about the reported construction of a new atomic reactor in the Jewish State.

White House press secretary James C. Hagerty said today that "stories about the atomic plant in Israel" were discussed yesterday at a White House meeting attended by President Eisenhower and top policy advisers. Other U.S. officials said that construction of Israel's second atomic reactor was noticed by American officials recently, when large-scale construction was observed in the Negev, near Beersheba. When inquiries were made about the project in Israel, the United States representatives were led to believe that a textile plant was under construction. However, long-range pictures of the construction revealed the true nature of the plant, the officials stated.

### State Department Views Summarized in Official Statement

The official attitude of the State Department to the reports on Israel's building of a second atomic energy reactor with the aid of France was made public last night in a statement issued by Lincoln White, the Department's press secretary. The statement said:

"The Department of State has noted press reports of statements by Israel Government spokesmen concerning the peaceful character of Israeli atomic energy activities. The Department welcomes these reported assurances that the Government of Israel has no intention of producing nuclear weapons and that its program is concerned exclusively with the peaceful uses of atomic energy.

"United States-Israel cooperation in the field of atomic energy is limited to research cooperation under President Eisenhower's Atoms-for-Peace program. In the same way as we have done in many countries in pursuance of our Atoms-for-Peace program, we have assisted Israel in constructing near Rehovot a small research reactor for peaceful purposes, and we have exchanged unclassified atomic energy information with Israel.

"Our bilateral agreement with Israel provides that our assistance may not be developed into military use and that safeguards, including inspection will be enforced to this end. United States cooperation or assistance in any program to develop a nuclear weapon capability would not be possible. Such action would be precluded by our policy of discouraging the proliferation of independent nuclear weapons capabilities and by the U.S. Atomic Energy Act.

"As a result of unofficial reports to the effect that a new and larger nuclear reactor was under construction in Israel, the Secretary of State called in the Ambassador of Israel on December 9 to express his concern and to request information. A response has not yet been received."

(In New York, two newspapers--the Herald-Tribune and the New York Post--were baffled by the "disproportionate" concern displayed in Washington over the reports of Israel's developing a second nuclear reactor. The Herald-Tribune said editorially that "despite the flurry in Washington, we are a bit sceptical about the likelihood--or at least the imminence--of Israel's building a nuclear bomb." The Post editorial was in a similar vein.)

WASHINGTON ALLOCATES \$2,600,000 FOR MODERNIZATION OF LYDDA AIRPORT

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- An allocation of \$2,600,000 in United States and Israeli currencies, to help finance the modernization of Lydda International Airport in Israel, was jointly announced today by the U.S. Export-Import Bank and the Development Loan Fund. The modernization program will put Lydda Airport on a par with the world's greatest airports.

(A special runway, 2,900 yards in length, was completed at Lydda Airport today, to provide landing space for jet planes, it was officially announced in Jerusalem. The runway will be lengthened still further, by an additional 325 yards, to enable jets to take off with full loads of fuel.)

The Export-Import Bank will furnish \$1,500,000 of the cost in dollars, while local costs will be covered by 2,000,000 Israel pounds (\$1,100,000) drawn from repayment of previous Development Loan Fund allocations to Israel. This is the first time the Fund has used its authority to re-lend funds.

The Export-Import Bank loan will be used to purchase in this country, such equipment as beacons and related auxiliary equipment for instrument lighting systems, high frequency equipment, receiving apparatus, control tower equipment, radio teletype equipment, VHF radio links for remote control and marker control, testing equipment, multipurpose radar equipment, runway and trafficway lights, diesel generators and cables.

The DLF loan will be used to meet local costs of buildings and structures, access roads and electrical and other installation work. Lydda Airport is used by 11 airlines.

RIFT BETWEEN BEN-GURION AND LAVON WIDENS; PREMIER ATTACKS LAVON

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The split between Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and Pinhas Lavon, secretary-general of Histadrut, the Israel Federation of Labor, has widened, with Mr. Ben-Gurion sharply attacking Mr. Lavon while the latter complains that rumors are being spread "deliberately" indicating that his days as head of Histadrut are numbered.

The disagreement between the two leaders--one heading the Government, the other heading the labor organization which is the backbone of the dominant Mapai party--goes back to the internal crisis of three months ago over the so-called "Lavon Affair." At that time, charges were made that there had been perjury in 1955, committed allegedly by some Army officers, resulting in Mr. Lavon's resignation from the post of Defense Minister.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, who had absented himself over the week-end from a meeting of the Mapai secretariat, today sent a letter sharply attacking Mr. Lavon and saying he would discuss the affair further when the Ministerial Commission, recently appointed, goes into the entire "Lavon Affair."

According to Mr. Lavon, not only Mr. Ben-Gurion but also Yosef Almogi, one of the most powerful politicians in the Mapai party, has turned against him. Two other important members of Mapai, Israel's Foreign Minister Golda Meir and Moshe Sharett, are understood to be sympathetic to Mr. Lavon but feel that he has recently made some unwarranted statements on the entire affair.

ISRAEL SUPREME COURT BANS PUBLICATION OF PETITION AGAINST MONOPOLY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Supreme Court here today banned publication in Israel of a petition filed with the court last week, aimed at upsetting a planned monopoly to a British firm for the assembly and sale of Diesel trucks and buses in this country.

The court petition was filed by Jos Miller, Ltd., of Haifa, agent for one of two Swedish firms that have been selling the bulk of the heavy Diesel trucks and buses now used in Israel. Muller is the agent for Scania-Vabis, of Sweden, which has sold 170 Diesel trucks of 11 tons to 22 tons. The other firm which would be affected if the monopoly went into effect would be the Volvo firm of Sweden which has supplied 180 of the 500 heavy Diesel trucks sold in this country last year.

According to the complainant, the Israel Government has agreed to give a monopoly on the heavy Diesel vehicles to Leyland Motor Company, a British firm, which would set up an assembly plant in this country and would be protected against competition by the Swedish firms. All Diesel truck and bus imports would be banned for a three-year period, under the agreement with Leyland. After three years, import duties would be imposed to protect Leyland truck sales.

The Muller firm of Haifa wants the Israel Government to show cause why its planned monopoly should not be banned by the court. According to Muller, Scania-Vabis had also offered to build an assembly plant in Israel. Hugo Tamm, Swedish Ambassador here, has called on the Foreign Ministry to discuss the case at the request of the two Swedish firms. The Supreme Court is expected to rule on the show cause application next week.

### U.N. ALLOCATES FUNDS FOR VOCATIONAL TRAINING CENTERS IN ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Paul G. Hoffman, managing director of the United Nations Special Fund, announced today that the organization's governing council has approved his recommendation for an allocation of \$816,400 to Israel for the development of training centers for vocational instructors, technicians and foremen.

Israel will match this UN allocation with its own contribution, equivalent to \$1,380,000, for the development of this program. The five-year program in Israel, said Mr. Hoffman, will be under the executive authority of the International Labor Organization, a UN specialized agency.

"The specialized skills required by industry in Israel," Mr. Hoffman said, "are not in sufficient supply at all levels, particularly regarding the intermediate levels of technicians and supervisors. Training facilities for vocational instructors are also inadequate. Between 1957 and 1960, the Government of Israel, with the assistance of ILO experts, made an effort to create the training facilities needed. However, the rate of industrial development is such that this scheme cannot cope with the pressure of demand."

### ISRAEL DELEGATION AT U.N. BACKS HAMMARSKJOLD ON ACTION IN CONGO

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Israel today announced full support of Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold's actions in the Congo, and voted in favor of a resolution sponsored by the United States and Britain backing the Secretary General's "vigorous efforts" in the Republic of the Congo. The resolution sponsored by the Washington and London representatives, however, was not adopted--just as another resolution, sponsored by Afro-Asian and Arab states, also failed to pass.

Speaking in the long, drawn-out debate on the Congo problem, Ambassador Michael S. Comay, chairman of the Israel delegation, told a plenary session of the General Assembly that the first necessity here is that "we must support the United Nations." He told the representatives of the 99 nations:

"I do not think it matters at this moment whether we fully agree with everything that has been done by the Secretary General and his representatives on the spot. What matters is that it is the United Nations and only the United Nations, which can still hope to bring the situation under control."

### COMMANDER OF AUSCHWITZ CONCENTRATION CAMP ARRESTED IN GERMANY

HAMBURG, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Richard Baer, last commander of the Auschwitz concentration camp, was arrested here Tuesday. He was a leader of Hitler's SS, the Nazi "elite guard."

Josef Schoenen, the 25-year-old youth who desecrated the Cologne synagogue last Christmas Eve, thereby touching off a spate of anti-Semitic incidents throughout the world, was released by the Cologne police today, for lack of evidence in connection with charges that he again daubed swastikas last weekend on buildings in that city.

Schoenen, who last month finished serving a jail sentence for the Christmas Eve incident, was re-arrested yesterday with another youth, Willi Nickel, for allegedly smearing swastikas and anti-Jewish inscriptions on buildings in a Cologne suburb. Nickel was also released by police today.

### SOVIET AUTHORITIES PERMIT BUILDING OF NEW SYNAGOGUE IN LENINGRAD

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Soviet Government has granted permission for the construction of a new synagogue at Leningrad, it was reported here today by Dr. Gerhard Riegner, European director for the World Jewish Congress.

Here to attend a meeting of the World Congress organizational committee, as well as to participate in the 25th World Zionist Congress which opens in Jerusalem a week from today, Dr. Riegner told a press conference that he saw signs of possible easing of Soviet Russia's attitude toward Jews in the USSR.

Among the signs, he said, are the permission for the building of the new synagogue, the announced readiness by the Russian Government to publish some Yiddish literature, and the request recently made by Jewish writers in Russia to publish a Yiddish manual. These moves, Dr. Riegner said, have encouraged Jewish leaders to hope that "more positive developments may be anticipated in the Soviet Union regarding Jewish culture and religion."

### NEW FREIGHTER FOR ISRAEL LAUNCHED IN GERMANY; BUILT AS REPARATIONS

HAMBURG, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- One of the largest freighters built for Israel under the West German reparations agreement was launched here. The 22,000-ton vessel was named the "Ein Gedi."

DELEGATES FROM 15 LANDS TO ATTEND FIRST WORLD CONGRESS OF POLISH JEWS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- More than 150 delegates from 15 countries--but not including representatives of the Jewish community in Poland--will participate in the first World Congress On Polish Jewry which will open January 14 at the Mann Auditorium here, it was announced at a press conference today by members of the preparations committee.

A committee spokesman said that the Warsaw Farband in declining to attend the Congress had at first claimed that they were not notified of the agenda and could not agree to discuss reparations from Poland. The Polish group still declined to attend, however, even after being assured that no such discussion of Polish reparations was contemplated.

The opening session will be a memorial meeting for the 6,000,000 Jews who perished under the Nazis. Subsequent sessions of the five-day conference will be devoted to discussions of major problems concerning the safeguarding of the heritage of Polish Jewry as well as compensation by Germany to Polish Jews.

The Congress will elect a special representative body empowered to negotiate with the Germans regarding Jewish property looted in Poland and taken to Germany. Such payments would become a means of helping thousands of Polish Jews scattered throughout the world, members of the committee indicated here.

The participants will include large delegations from Israel, the United States and Argentina and smaller groups from Great Britain, France, Canada, Brazil, Uruguay, Peru, Chile, Mexico, Australia, Belgium, Denmark and Sweden.

B'NAI B'RITH TAKES POLL AMONG JEWISH STUDENTS ON CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- A nationwide poll of Jewish students shows that most of them do not object to Christmas festivities in public high schools "as long as the religious elements are excluded." Similarly, Jewish youngsters in almost the same proportions, favor Chanukah activities in high school, the survey conducted by the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization discloses.

Only one out of five Jewish students flatly opposed Christmas or Chanukah observances--"because they feel it is improper to hold religious holiday celebrations in public schools." Many of the objectors expressed the view that "anything pertaining to Christmas and Chanukah is, or should be, religious."

The sentiment of many Jewish students to Christmas and Chanukah celebrations is that "they are good for intergroup relations," the survey reports. One-third of the respondents strongly endorsed "the Christmas activities held in their school; one-half voiced the same enthusiasm for Chanukah programs.

Results of the study were announced today by David Blumberg of Knoxville, Tenn., national chairman of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization. The survey was conducted by B'BYO in association with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Dr. Irving Canter of Washington, D.C., B'BYO program director, supervised and analyzed the poll.

Almost every Jewish youngster who was polled--96 percent--said he has encountered some form of Christian activity in his high school. Slightly less than half of the group also reported some form of Chanukah celebration in the classroom or assembly hall. "Despite the heavy exposure to Christmas activity in public school and in the community, the survey indicates that Jewish teenagers do not adopt Christian-oriented activities at the expense of their Jewish loyalties, Dr. Canter reported.

A small number of the respondents, about five percent, reported having "unpleasant experiences" in or around school with non-Jews during the Christmas season. However, a considerably larger number reported "positive experiences" with Christian classmates during this time of the year. A majority of the Jewish students said they enjoyed singing Christmas carols. Others were not "disturbed by it." But when the songs are Christmas hymns or have strong religious overtones, almost one-half say they object strenuously to such group singing in the classroom.

Dr. Canter emphasized that the study did not take into account the controversial church-state issue of religion in public education, but "dealt with the psychological impact of school-centered observances on Jewish youngsters."

ORTHODOX GROUP ESTABLISHES RABBINICAL COURT ON FAMILY PROBLEMS

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Council of America, an Orthodox rabbinical organization, today announced the establishment of a Beth Din, a rabbinical court, to give guidance to Jews in the field of marriage and family problems regardless of synagogue affiliation. The Beth Din will function largely in advance of civil authorities. It will seek to preserve marriage ties. It will also act as arbitrator up to the point where courts take over.

The court will be under the direction of the religious law commission of the RCA, which is headed by Rabbi Joseph B. Soloveitchik of Boston, Mass., and by Dr. Samuel Belkin, president of Yeshivah University. Rabbi Emanuel Backman will preside at the Beth Din to which local rabbis will refer couples for consultation on their family problems.