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BEN-GURION RELUCTANT TO ACCEPT AUTHORIZATION TO FORM NEW CABINET

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- President Ben-Zvi formally requested Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion tonight to form a new Government. Mr. Ben-Gurion, awaiting the results of his bid to the National Religious Party, replied with a request that the President give him a few days time to determine whether he could accept the mandate.

The uncertainty as to whether the National Religious Party would accept the bid to join a new Mapai-dominated Cabinet had clearly upset Mr. Ben-Gurion's original schedule under which he had wanted to give the President his final answer by Sunday.

The executive of the Religious Party was scheduled to meet tonight, but it was known that the executive would not make a definite decision to accept Mr. Ben-Gurion's offer, which included one more Cabinet portfolio than the two held in the Government Mr. Ben-Gurion dissolved with his January 31 resignation. A final decision was expected to be taken at a meeting of the Religious Party's Actions Committee next week.

One of the reasons for the offer of the three Cabinet portfolios was that with Religious Party participation, Mr. Ben-Gurion could put together a coalition, even though one with a slender majority, and thus stave off new general elections.

Justice Minister Pinhas Rosen of the Progressive party, who had announced earlier that neither he nor his party would join a new coalition if Mr. Ben-Gurion was Prime Minister, sent a letter today to Moshe Shapiro, the leader of the Religious Party, recommending that the latter join the proposed coalition in order to avoid new elections.

Mapai Considers Eshkol or Sharett for Possible Candidates

Mapai circles indicated today that if the religious bloc refused to join the coalition, Mr. Ben-Gurion's efforts to create a new Government would be rendered impossible. Such an eventuality would strengthen the drive of several parties, including the General Zionists and the right-wing Herut, for new general elections. Another factor complicating the efforts to create a new Government is the refusal of two other former coalition partners, the left-wing Mapam and Achdut Avodah, to join a coalition if Mr. Ben-Gurion was the Prime Minister.

The Mapai sources suggested that if a deadlock developed in negotiations with the religious bloc, it was possible that the party would choose Finance Minister Levi Eshkol or former Prime Minister Moshe Sharett as the party selection for Premier-designate. This idea, it was indicated, was being considered as a means of avoiding new elections.

There are indications that Mapai's chances in new elections would be weakened by the aftermath of the ouster of Mapai leader Pinhas Lavon as secretary-general of the Histadrut, Israel's Federation of Labor. Evidence that such Mapai fears were justified developed in a poll of voters by the independent daily, Haaretz, on whether new general elections should be held.

The poll showed that Israeli public opinion was almost evenly split on the question--45 percent opposing new elections, 42 percent favoring elections and the rest undecided. The poll was undertaken to determine the impact of the Ben-Gurion--Lavon fight on the electorate in view of the possibility that the Prime Minister might be unable to form his hoped-for small coalition and thus make elections necessary.

The poll also found that 14 percent of those questioned said that in a new election they would vote differently than they did at the last election in November, 1959. The poll's other findings seemed to indicate that the majority of those who said they would vote differently had voted for Mapai in 1959 when that party received more than 38 percent of the total vote and 47 seats in Israel's Parliament.

If the poll findings accurately reflected voter moods, then Mapai would lose a minimum of seven seats and possibly ten, it was indicated.

Replies to another question revealed that 37 percent of the respondents had changed their opinion of Mr. Ben-Gurion because of his fight against Mr. Lavon and it was clear from the answers that the change was for the worse. Observers agreed that the poll findings would increase the reluctance of Mapai to go to the voters for a new popular mandate.

JEWS IN MOROCCO CONSIDER PROTEST OF THEIR LEADERS LACKING FIRMNESS

PARIS, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The communique issued Tuesday by the Council of Moroccan Jewish Communities, protesting treatment of Moroccan Jews in recent weeks, evoked a cool reception from Moroccan Jews who noted that the communique made no reference to arrests and tortures suffered by Jews in recent weeks.

The Council is appointed by Moroccan authorities and not elected. The communique was regarded as fresh proof of the Council's inability, because of fear, to speak up for the Moroccan Jewish community. Moroccan Jews had been expecting a statement denouncing the Nazi-like tortures suffered by some Jews in Moroccan police stations. There was a widespread feeling that the communique was lacking completely in force or firmness.

The International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism issued a communique here today expressing grief over the renewed arrests of Moroccan Jews and stating it would again contact Moroccan authorities at Rabat to make its views known.

The organization denounced "the criminal agents provocateurs who try, by circulating incendiary tracts, to incite the Moslem population against their Jewish countrymen." The organization asked an investigation to find and punish those who circulated the pamphlet to Moroccan Jews, urging them to leave the country. The renewed arrests, largely in towns in southern Morocco, followed the distribution.

The European director of the American Jewish Committee, Zachariah Shuster, was in Morocco today to observe the Jewish situation in the country. He hoped to be received by the Minister of the Interior, Mr. Bekkai. Meanwhile, he met with several leaders of the Moroccan Jewish community, including David Amar, secretary-general of the Council of Moroccan Jewish communities.

ALGERIAN REBEL LEADER SAYS HE CONSIDERS JEWS AS FULL ALGERIANS

PARIS, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Ferhat Abbas, the leader of the Algerian rebels, said today in his first statement on Algerian Jews, that the rebel organization considers the Jews as Algerians but that "discussions and evolutions on this subject are possible."

The Prime Minister of the Algerian Provisional Government made the statement in an interview which appeared in the French newspaper "L'Express." He told French writer Jules Roy that "the Algerian Revolution considers the Jews as Algerians" and that Algeria had always been "their homeland."

Noting that "many of them want to become citizens of an Algerian Republic" and that some Jews "want to remain French," the rebel leader declared: "What I can say is that we have unshakeable convictions only on what concerns the fundamental basis of the revolution. For everything else we are prepared to discuss and to solve. New situations can arise," he added, "which we will study in a spirit of political realism which none can doubt."

Jewish Leaders in Algeria Discuss Emigration Plans

ALGIERS, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Plans for setting up a fund for aiding poor Algerian Jews who wish to emigrate to countries other than Israel were set in motion today when the Jewish Committee for Social Studies met with other Jewish organizations to discuss methods of helping Jews of modest means to emigrate before the political situation rendered it difficult, if not impossible.

Countries considered as possibilities for such immigration were Canada, Australia and several Latin American nations. Since the events of last December, when the Algiers Great Synagogue was sacked, the Jewish community has been living in great anxiety in view of persistent rumors concerning their status in a future independent Algeria.

Ulpanim, centers for the intensive study of Hebrew, have now been organized in three different parts of the city by the Education and Culture Department of the Jewish Agency, in view of the increasing number of Jews wishing to emigrate to Israel. The courses offer instruction in Hebrew for six hours per week to supplement existing Hebrew courses. Special trips to Israel at reduced rates, are being offered to middle class Jews here to enable them to investigate the possibilities of investment and immigration to Israel.

LAWYER FOR JEWS IN COMMUNIST GERMANY LEAVES FOR EICHMANN TRIAL

BERLIN, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Jewish communities and individuals in East Germany will be represented at the trial of Adolf Eichmann, the Nazi war criminal who directed the mass killing of 6,000,000 Jews in Europe, by Friedrich Kaul, East Germany's leading Communist lawyer, who left today for Tel Aviv.

The Jewish communities and individuals are seeking to act as secondary plaintiffs at the trial which is due to open in Jerusalem during the second week in April.

AMBASSADOR HARMAN MEETS WITH UNDER-SECRETARY OF STATE CHESTER BOWLES

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman met tonight with Under-Secretary of State Chester Bowles to get acquainted with the newly installed official. The visit to Mr. Bowles' office at the State Department was described as a courtesy call.

U.S. CONDEMNS NASSER'S ROLE IN CONGO; U.A.R. SUPPLIES SOVIET ARMS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Dean Rusk condemned today the pro-Communist role of President Nasser of the United Arab Republic in the Congo crisis before a closed meeting of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, it was learned from committee sources.

Mr. Rusk indicated to the committee that while President Kennedy did not name the United Arab Republic in his warning last night against aggression in the Congo, the President's remarks applied to Nasser as well as the Soviet Union.

The Secretary told the Secret Congressional Committee session that the UAR had closely coordinated its Congo activities with Moscow. Mr. Rusk reported that the UAR was supplying Soviet-manufactured arms and munitions to the pro-Communist Stanleyville group of Antoine Gizenga.

The Gizenga faction, supporters of the slain pro-Communist Patrice Lumumba, is backed by the Soviet Union. The UAR was the first nation to follow the Russian lead in recognizing Gizenga as the "rightful" government of the Congo, Mr. Rusk noted.

Mr. Rusk told the committee that Nasser was playing a dangerous game. He expressed hope that Nasser would recognize the danger to its own independence in the Soviet attack on the United Nations African role. The Secretary told Congressmen that the State Department had information about many loads of Russian weapons reaching Gizenga in Stanleyville from the United Arab Republic.

State Department sources meanwhile pointed out that President Kennedy's reference yesterday to the United Nations role in the Gaza Strip may have not been accidental. It could have been an indirect warning to Nasser, reminding him that the United Nations rescued him in the Sinai-Suez situation of 1956-1957.

Mr. Kennedy last night told his press conference of an example of United Nations action, stating that "the fact that they (the UN) maintained troops in the Gaza Strip for a number of years I think has been helpful in maintaining peace in that area."

NEHRU CONFERS WITH ISRAELI DIPLOMAT; TALK PROVOKES POLITICAL INTEREST

NEW DELHI, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Considerable importance was attached by political sources here today to a 30-minute private talk between Prime Minister Nehru and Gideon Rafael, the deputy director of the Israel Foreign Ministry.

Mr. Rafael is attending a World Health Organization meeting here and is the only delegate to whom the Prime Minister has granted a private audience so far. The interview was considered significant because of plans of the Arab League to open an office in New Delhi. The Israel Foreign Ministry had expressed his concern about the plan to the External Affairs Ministry of India.

Mr. Rafael said he and the Prime Minister had discussed international affairs and matters of interest to both countries. He also met separately with Mrs. Lakshmi Menon, the Indian Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs.

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN ITALY PROTEST ORDER TO RELEASE ARRESTED NAZI

ROME, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The decision of a Naples court to free Ludwig Zind, the anti-Semitic West German schoolteacher, was strongly criticized today in a memorandum from Dr. Sergio Piperno, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, to the Attorney General of Naples. The Naples court order releasing Zind has been appealed to the Supreme Court of Cassations and Zind meanwhile remains in prison.

Dr. Piperno, who is an attorney, stressed in his memorandum that under a 1952 Italian law, the charges against Zind are valid in Italy, even though Zind was sentenced by a West German court. The Italian Jewish leader urged the application of article 13 of the Italian Penal Code, dealing with extradition, and said that Italian law anticipated the punishment of the offenses for which Zind was sentenced in West Germany. The Naples court ordered Zind released on grounds that he was a political refugee and entitled to asylum.

Zind fled from West Germany a day after an appeals court upheld a lower court sentence of a year in jail for his declaring publicly that not enough Jews were gassed. Zind was spotted in Naples by some Israeli sailors as he was boarding a ship for Egypt. He was arrested and jailed. The Naples court said his remark about gassing Jews was a "personal opinion."

MUNICH MUNICIPALITY PLANS ISRAELI CULTURAL WEEK FOR NEXT YEAR

MUNICH, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Officials of the Munich Municipality said today the city is planning an Israeli Cultural Week to be held May 5-11 in 1962. Two Israeli theatrical and music groups will be invited to participate. An Israeli arts and crafts exhibit is being planned for the city museum.

The Israel Mission reported here today that 11,000 marks had been willed to Israel by Mrs. A. Zeller, a member of one of the oldest Jewish families in Essen who died last month in the Jewish Old Age home in Cologne. Mrs. Zeller, who was blind, stipulated that 10,000 marks be granted for a home for the blind in Israel and the other 1,000 marks to be used for planting trees in memory of her deceased husband.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE OPPOSES STATE AID TO SECTARIAN COLLEGES

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee's first state-wide Civil Rights Conference today urged sharp opposition to Governor Rockefeller's recent proposal of aid to private sectarian colleges.

The proposal now under consideration by the New York State Legislature would require the state to give \$18, 200, 000 a year to private colleges and universities for expansion purposes. Under the program, grants of \$200 a year would be given to every student attending a college in the state whose tuition exceeds \$500 a year. The funds would be paid to colleges with religious sponsorship as well as to non-sectarian institutions.

In a resolution, the Committee's Civil Rights Conference urged the Governor to appoint a commission which would study the "serious questions" raised by his proposal. Earlier last week, the Committee's New York City chapter had stressed that the "basic interests of all citizens, as well as the institutions of higher learning, will best be served if the constitutional guarantees of separation of church and state are strictly observed."

Support for the Governor's program was expressed at an all-day conference of the Rabbinical Council of America here. The Orthodox rabbis were told by their president, Rabbi Charles Weinberg, that the student aid proposal was "vitally needed for the growth, expansion and enlargement of higher educational facilities in New York State."

Asserting that the proposal "does not interfere in the slightest," with the principle of church-state separation, Rabbi Weinberg said the Governor's plan would allow "our heavily burdened students to help defray the ever-mounting cost of university study. Tuition charges are so prohibitively high today that poorer students in ever-increasing numbers are compelled to abandon any quest for professional and technical training essential for community progress and welfare."

10,000 COMMUNITIES THROUGHOUT THE U.S. TO OBSERVE BROTHERHOOD WEEK

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA)-- More than 10,000 communities throughout the United States will participate in the 28th annual observance of Brotherhood Week which starts on Sunday, it was reported today by the National Conference of Christians and Jews which sponsors the celebrations.

Special religious services which will be held all through the week in churches and synagogues will emphasize the moral and spiritual value of brotherhood as a rule of behavior for all citizens of every religious, racial and national group. Twenty-five national committees have enlisted the cooperation of schools and colleges, churches and synagogues, community organizations, labor-management groups, and all branches of the media of mass communications.

Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, today issued a special appeal for all people of the United States to join in the celebration of Brotherhood Week. "The practice of brotherhood means putting the great principles of liberty, equality of opportunity and justice into operation in every aspect of our national life," Dr. Jones said. Mr. Bob Hope is national chairman of Brotherhood Week this year.

LOUISIANA SUPREME COURT RULES IN FAVOR OF MIXED SEATING IN SYNAGOGUE

NEW ORLEANS, La., Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The Louisiana State Supreme Court today ruled in favor of mixed seating in the Orthodox Chevra Thilim synagogue here, reversing a lower court decision which banned mixed seating in 1957.

Mixed seating was first instituted in the synagogue in 1956, after a large majority of the membership voted in favor of it. An Orthodox minority group brought suit the following year and secured the decision barring mixed seating. The courts, which normally do not rule on religious disputes, did so in this case, since the conditions of a trust under which the synagogue was built were involved.

REUBEN FINK, JEWISH AUTHOR AND JOURNALIST, DIES IN NEW YORK; WAS 72

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Reuben Fink, Jewish author and journalist, who died yesterday at the age of 72. He was born in Russia and came to the United States in 1903.

Mr. Fink, who lived in Washington for many years, did editorial work for the Department of Commerce and was Washington correspondent for the Yiddish daily, The Day, from 1914 to 1919. He was founder and former president of the League Against Discrimination in Employment and he belonged to the advisory committee of the American Jewish Congress. Among his works were "Jews in the Civil Service," and "The American Citizen."

Mr. Fink was the editor of the American War Congress and Zionism and was the compiler, with Bernard G. Richards, of the Jewish Community Directory of New York. He was a member of B'nai B'rith, the National Press Club and the Jewish Press Club.