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KENNEDY DOES NOT PLAN TO 'DEFER' EFFORTS FOR ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- High Administration sources today denied a report that President Kennedy had decided to "defer" White House efforts for Arab-Israel peace.

These sources, close to Mr. Kennedy, said the reports were spread by a State Department faction seeking to placate the United Arab Republic at a time when other elements within the Department have lost patience with Nasser's support of pro-Communist forces in the Congo and elsewhere in Africa.

The White House has positively made no decision to abandon the objective of Arab-Israel peace and Mr. Kennedy's position remains precisely as stated last August, sources said. They pointed out that the President has so far had no opportunity to act on the Arab-Israel situation because of more pressing crucial situations involving the Congo, Cuba, Laos, delicate diplomacy with the USSR, and the missile gap problem as well as the domestic recession issue.

While the Big Powers are maneuvering at the United Nations on the alignment of Afro-Asian forces on the Congo crisis, allegations were spread and "planted," sources said, without Mr. Kennedy's knowledge or authority, that the White House was abandoning plans to promote Arab-Israel peace. Sources familiar with the weekend developments characterized it as a "short-sighted" attempt by some State Department elements to propagandize Nasser.

President Max Bressler, of the Zionist Organization of America, stated today at the Jewish National Fund assembly here that "we still cherish" President Kennedy's promise to work toward an early Arab-Israel peace. "We realize full well that President Nasser is exercising his influence in Asia and in Africa not only against Israel but against the United States, as has been amply demonstrated by his role in the Congo," Mr. Bressler said. "I am firmly convinced that the time has come for our country to undertake such steps that would put an end to the pernicious influence and activities in the Near East that are both anti-American and anti-Jewish."

The ZOA President pointed out that the United States has within its power to reward its friends and restrain its enemies, actual as well as potential. "Let this power be used for peace and progress in the Middle East, as indeed it is being used throughout the world," he urged. "I say this is an American profoundly concerned with our American prestige abroad and America's aspirations for world peace. Our country's national interests and those of Israel fully coincide."

Last August 26, Mr. Kennedy promised the ZOA he would use "all the authority and prestige of the White House" to promote Arab-Israel peace. Mr. Kennedy hoped to bring about a peace conference of Arab states and Israel.

OPENING OF EICHMANN TRIAL SET FOR APRIL 11; ALL JUDGES ARE GERMAN-BORN

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- The trial of Nazi Adolf Eichmann will open on April 11, it was officially announced today. The opening of the trial had been set originally for March 9 but it was postponed at the request of Dr. Robert Servatius, Eichmann's West German defense lawyer.

The new date was set by Justice Binyamin Halevi, president of the Jerusalem District Court, after a meeting with Dieter Wechtenbruch, Dr. Servatius' West German assistant, and Attorney General Gideon Hausner.

The three-man court which will try the Gestapo Colonel charged with directing the extermination of 6,000,000 European Jews will be presided over by Supreme Court Justice Moshe Landau. The other members will be Judge Halvrand Huldge, Yitzhak Ravel of the Tel Aviv District Court. All three judges were born in Germany and immigrated to Palestine during the period of the British Mandate.

(A television film on Eichmann, "On the Henchman's Trail," will be shown on the nation-wide German Television network March 13, the Cologne Broadcasting station announced today. The film will attempt to present a "profile" of the Gestapo colonel through documents and interviews with surviving eye-witnesses. A book entitled "There Were Many Eichmanns" was published in Munich this weekend.)

BEN-GURION INSISTS ON ELIMINATING LAVON FROM MAPAI ELECTION LIST

JERUSALEM, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- The Mapai Party, which has not yet recuperated from the crisis of the Lavon Affair and its consequences, was faced today with a new crisis following a warning given by Premier David Ben-Gurion that in case new general elections are held--as seems likely now--he will demand veto power over the composition of the list of candidates which the Mapai will put up, in order to make certain that Mr. Pinhas Lavon, whom he ousted from Histadrut leadership, is not included among the candidates.

In making this declaration at a meeting of the secretariat of the Mapai party, Mr. Ben-Gurion said he is not prepared to appear on the same list of candidates with Lavon. However, he promised not to interfere otherwise with the formation of the list of Mapai candidates.

The announcement by Mr. Ben-Gurion came as a shock even to some members of the Mapai secretariat who supported him in the fight with Lavon. Should Ben-Gurion succeed in forcing a party majority not to include Lavon in the list of candidates, it may create an intra-party crisis far greater than the original Lavon crisis, some of his supporters fear.

Mr. Ben-Gurion made his declaration against having Lavon on the Mapai list of candidates for new elections after the party officially rejected the idea of a new coalition Government without him as Prime Minister--a possibility hinted in the press after the National Religious party turned down his bid to join a small coalition. The Mapai rejection was embodied in a resolution approved at a meeting of the Mapai secretariat, its Cabinet Ministers and its faction in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

The secretariat decided to continue efforts to form a new government to replace the one toppled by Ben-Gurion when he resigned on January 31. If the attempt fails, the secretariat decided, after a short period Mapai would seek new general elections as soon as possible. A spokesman for the party told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that a "short period" means two days because Mr. Ben-Gurion has already asked President Ben-Zvi to receive him tomorrow.

Religious Party Leaders Seek to Reverse Last Week's Decisions

Meanwhile, leaders of the National Religious party--which last week decided not to join a "small coalition Cabinet"--were reportedly making today another effort to reverse the decision of their presidium. Such a reversal is formally possible, although not very likely, when the executive committee of the party meets this week to confirm the presidium's decision.

The executive of the Progressive party called an urgent meeting this afternoon at the request of several of its members who are seeking a reversal in the party's decision not to join a coalition under Premier Ben-Gurion. However, Justice Minister Pinhas Rosen, leader of the Progressives, said that he did not believe that the executive would revise its attitude toward joining the coalition. Last night the executive of the Progressive party voted 20 to one to start negotiations with the General Zionists and with other parties with the goal of creating a "liberal front" of all non-Socialist parties.

The General Zionist executive, meanwhile, decided to mobilize all party workers to prepare for the elections. Similar steps have been taken by Herut. Interior Ministry circles believe that the earliest date when elections could be held was next July. Mapai leaders, however, favor a later date, possibly next October or November, after the Eichmann trial is expected to be over.

The secretariat of Mapai today nominated Aharon Becker, head of the Trade Union department of the Histadrut, to become Histadrut secretary-general, succeeding the ousted Pinhas Lavon. Since the Mapai has a majority on the Histadrut's ruling executive committee, the nomination of Mr. Becker was tantamount to his election.

CASABLANCA POLICE RELEASE 30 JEWS AFTER TWO WEEKS DETENTION

CASABLANCA, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Some 30 Jews who were arrested after the distribution two weeks ago of leaflets to Jews in various towns in Morocco, have been released by Casablanca police, it was reported here today. Interior Minister Embarek Bekkai personally ordered the release of the prisoners, with a view to easing the minds of Moroccan Jewry.

It was learned, however, that a number of Jews charged with an attack on the security of the State and who allegedly participated in clandestine immigration activities and distribution of leaflets to Jews, were still in prison.

(In Paris, the newspaper Le Figaro reported today that eleven Moroccan Jews and two French Jews were brought before a court in Meknes, in southern Morocco, for detention. They had been arrested earlier this month on charges of distribution of illegal leaflets. The French Ambassador in Rabat has protested the detention of the two French Jews.)

PRESIDENT KENNEDY GREETES J. N. F. ASSEMBLY; LAUDS AMERICAN PARTICIPATION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- President Kennedy today sent greetings to the triennial national assembly of the Jewish National Fund of America which is concluding its three-day session here tonight. More than 500 delegates, representing JNF branches throughout the country, are participating in the assembly which is meeting in celebration of the 60th anniversary of the Jewish National Fund.

President Kennedy said in his message of greeting that the JNF represents one of Zionism's most constructive achievements in human welfare and social development. "You have made it possible for many Americans to join in an important and lasting cooperative enterprise of freedom," he added. "I hope that your meetings in Washington have been successful in projecting new opportunities and programs for the future."

Senator Kenneth B. Keating, New York Republican, in addressing the assembly, urged Administration efforts toward Arab-Israel peace and called on Israel to establish "a whole string of freedom forests in Africa" as Israel's unique contribution to world peace and progress.

World Chairman of J. N. F. Unveils Imposing 20-Year Plan

A 20-year plan for the last phase of what he termed "Israel's war against the desert," involving development of the Negev and other areas, was unveiled at the assembly by Yaacov-Tsur, world chairman of the Jewish National Fund in Jerusalem and former Israel Ambassador to France and Argentina. Mr. Tsur called for "doubling Israel's territory within her present borders."

His plan involved reclamation of 625 million acres in the Negev, Galilee, and Judea; the planting of 250 million trees; and settlement of 100,000 families. The cost of the plan was estimated at 500,000,000 Israel pounds or \$250,000,000. American Jews were urged by Mr. Tsur to contribute their share toward the total required for implementation. He said it would double present useful territory within present boundaries "without resorting to war."

Mr. Tsur pointed out that 60 percent of Israeli territory remains wasteland and must be developed. He speculated that "perhaps we shall one day deserve the compliments paid the Dutch who drained off the sea to win more land for fertile fields." He hoped it would be said that "God created the world and the Jews made Israel." He pointed out that last December the Israel Parliament designated the JNF as sole accredited agency for soil amelioration, land development and afforestation for the entire State of Israel.

The JNF world chairman called on American Jewish youth to come to Israel to contribute their skills toward conquest of the desert.

Assembly Pledges \$5,000,000 Annually for New J. N. F. Project

Today the assembly adopted the Tsur Plan and pledged \$5,000,000 and more annually for 20 years toward the world goal of \$250 million. In appealing for American Jewish support, Mr. Tsur said it was "clear that the two million Jews already in Israel cannot alone, as citizens bear the heavy obligations for the defense and welfare of the State, and, in addition, do what not even the richest state can do, namely, reclaim vast areas in a poverty stricken country for settlement and to meet the needs of a growing population."

"The annual budget of the Government of Israel now exceeds a billion dollars, and the contribution of Diaspora Jewry, with all due respect to its unflinching and devoted help, represents but a fraction of the sacrifice made by the Israelis," he pointed out.

The assembly adopted a resolution "to mobilize in the United States through the Foundation for the JNF and its traditional collections, the sum of \$5,000,000 in the next 12 months."

Another resolution honored Dr. Harris J. Levine upon completion of his 10th consecutive term as president of the JNF of America, and his election to the honorary presidency of the JNF. "The assembly's closing dinner was dedicated as a tribute to Dr. Levine."

Resolutions were adopted honoring and saluting the effective work of Mendel N. Fisher, executive director of the JNF of America; President Albert Schiff and his administration; and Yaacov Tsur, chairman of the board of the JNF in Jerusalem, president of the Zionist Council, and former Israeli diplomat.

Other resolutions called for increased volume of bequests and insurance with the JNF as beneficiary, continuation of traditional collections, doubling of blue-white boxes in Jewish homes, increase of inscriptions and other new efforts. Stress was placed on the work among youth and in the field of education to strengthen ties of world Jewish youth with Israel.

SPEAKERS ASSAIL JEWS AT 'FUNERAL SERVICE' FOR LUMUMBA IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Jews as well as Negro leaders, including Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, Under Secretary of the United Nations and Roy Wilkins, executive secretary of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, were denounced here yesterday at a three-hour "funeral service" for the slain Patrice Lumumba, former Premier of the Congo. The "funeral" was sponsored by the United African Nationalist Movement, headed by James Lawson.

JEWISH CONGRESS URGES PRESIDENT KENNEDY TO ACT ON JOB DISCRIMINATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress today called on President Kennedy "to fulfill promptly his pledges to deal effectively with racial and religious discrimination by use of his Presidential powers."

In a resolution, the organization's National Governing Council urged the President to issue Executive Orders barring discrimination in Federally assisted housing and in employment on Government contracts. It said these orders were "already overdue." The resolution was adopted at a meeting of the American Jewish Congress national policy-making body attended by 100 persons.

The resolution called for: 1. An Executive Order establishing a single agency to investigate and eliminate discrimination under Government contracts, in Government employment and in Federally subsidized vocational training programs; 2. An Executive Order barring discrimination in all housing receiving Federal aid and applicable "not only to the Federal Government but also to all agencies, governmental or private, that have power to affect distribution of benefits under any of the Federal housing programs."

In urging a new and stronger Executive Order to fight job discrimination on Government contracts and in Federal employment and vocational training programs, the resolution emphasized the necessity of "power to take court action restraining violations of the non-discrimination clause in Government contracts."

AMERICAN ZIONIST LEAGUE URGES MERGER OF ALL ZIONIST GROUPS IN U. S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- The merger of all American Zionist groups into a single Zionist organization and the severance of connections with political parties was called for in resolutions adopted at the National Board meeting of the American Jewish League for Israel in New York today. Other resolutions urged drastic changes in the structure of the World Zionist Organization and supported the reorganization program for the WZO proposed at the Zionist Congress by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the world Zionist movement.

Samuel H. Daroff, president of the League, addressing the session, said that non-affiliation with political parties in Israel "is not just a slogan" to the League. "It is the essential element needed by Diaspora Jewry to unite behind Zionism and Israel as a whole," Mr. Daroff asserted. "As soon as other Diaspora groups end their affiliations with political parties in Israel, unity will be not only possible, but feasible and extremely probable."

Reports on the World Zionist Congress were presented at the all-day session by Ezra Z. Shapiro and Judge Louis E. Levinthal, members of the Zionist Actions Committee. Other speakers included Eleazar Lipsky, vice-president of the League, who stressed the importance of grass root activity to bring about the one unitary Zionist organization in America.

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY ANNOUNCES MICROFILMS OF ANCIENT MANUSCRIPTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- The Jewish Theological Seminary now has available on microfilm a large collection of Hebrew manuscripts representing about 30 percent of all known important works, it was announced today. The collection, which is available to scholars, has been in the making since 1953 and is said to be the first project of its kind in this country.

Established in the memory of the late Dr. Louis Ginsberg, Professor of Talmud and Bible at the Seminary from 1902-1953, the more than 750 microfilm reels include all the Hebrew manuscript collections in the British Museum and in the Bibliotheque Nationale in Paris. An important achievement of the collection is the bringing together, for the first time, of all the manuscripts of the Cairo Genizah, which had been scattered in various libraries throughout the world.

QUEEN OF BELGIUM ATTENDS SYNAGOGUE SERVICE HONORING JEWISH CHAPLAIN

BRUSSELS, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Queen Elisabeth attended a special service held in the Brussels Great Synagogue today to mark the 25th anniversary of Pinhas Kahlenberg, chief cantor who is also Jewish chaplain in the Belgian Army.

The services were also attended by Monsignor Cammaerts, Chief Catholic Army chaplain, who is the first Catholic Bishop ever to attend a synagogue service in Belgium; the Chief Protestant Army chaplain, leading rabbis and Jewish personalities. After the services, Queen Elisabeth sent Cantor Kahlenberg a bouquet of flowers with a handwritten letter of congratulations and later telephoned him personally to express her appreciation of the ceremony.

JUDGE MAXIMILIAN MOSS NAMED HEAD OF ISRAEL BONDS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- The Greater New York Committee for Israel Bonds announced yesterday the appointment of Surrogate Maximilian Moss of Kings County as its 1961 chairman. Surrogate Moss, who is also president of the Brooklyn Jewish Community Council, will head a committee to raise investment funds for the economic development of Israel.