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ISRAEL PRESIDENT FAILS TO INDUCE PARTIES TO RESTORE OLD COALITION

JERUSALEM, March 2. (JTA) -- President Ben-Zvi failed today in a last-ditch effort to induce leaders of the parties of Israel's outgoing coalition government to conciliate their differences and avoid general elections by agreeing to a new Government.

The President made his appeal to the party leaders at an unprecedented joint meeting which he called unexpectedly after completing an unsuccessful initial round of separate talks with party leaders which followed Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion's report that he was unable to form a new coalition to replace the one dissolved by his resignation on January 31.

Three of Mapai's coalition partners--the Progressive party, Mapam and Achdut Avodah--reiterated to the President today that they would not rejoin a coalition under Mr. Ben-Gurion as Prime Minister. The National Religious party and the Religious Workers party reiterated their readiness to rejoin a coalition under Mr. Ben-Gurion provided at least one more party, presumably the Progressives, would also join.

A Mapai spokesman emphasized the party's determined opposition to naming any other leader but Mr. Ben-Gurion and asserted that demands by the other parties for some other Mapai leader was tantamount to "dictating" to Mapai. He said his party preferred a negotiated solution to Israel's month-long Government crisis but that it was prepared to go before the electorate "with confidence."

Considers New Elections Untimely and Waste of Public Money

Mr. Ben-Zvi, in his appeal, urged the last-minute reconsideration by the party leaders saying that elections would be "untimely," and detrimental to the nation's interests. He also expressed the belief that elections would involve a waste of public money and loss of international prestige at a time when this was most needed.

The President also told the party leaders that a sudden political campaign at this time might cost Israel the loss of opportunities "which are on the horizon for the country's progress and development." He stressed that an election campaign would stretch nerves which in any case would be harassed by the testimonies expected at the trial of Nazi mass murderer Adolf Eichmann which begins April 11.

Adding that elections would produce only minor changes in the balance of political strength of the parties, he urged reconstitution of the outgoing coalition Cabinet with the understanding that the feud between Mr. Ben-Gurion and Pinhas Lavon, the ousted secretary-general of the Histadrut, would be closed by acceptance by all concerned of the findings of a Ministerial Committee as the last word.

This was a reference to a Ministerial report which in December exonerated Mr. Lavon of responsibility for a security disaster which occurred in 1954 when he was Minister of Defense. Mr. Ben-Gurion resigned in protest against the findings after calling the report one of half-truths, bias and distortion. Subsequently, Mr. Ben-Gurion forced Mr. Lavon out of his Histadrut post.

Mapai Holds Key to Solution of Crisis, Coalition Partners Assert

In reply to the plea of the President, leaders of the coalition parties asserted that the responsibility for plunging the country into an election rested with the Mapai party. Moshe Carmel of Achdut Avodah, speaking also for Mapam and the Progressives, also said that Mapai held the key to solution of the crisis without elections. He asserted that the party could have the Premiership with the same partners as the outgoing coalition with any leader other than Mr. Ben-Gurion.

Izhar Haxari, speaking for the Progressive party, recalled that after Mr. Ben-Gurion retracted his charges against the members of the Ministerial committee, he in effect revived the charges in his letter of resignation to the President. He added that this made it impossible for his party to accept Mr. Ben-Gurion's leadership.

Prior to Mr. Ben-Zvi's dramatic last minute effort at conciliation, all parties except Mapai announced that they wanted elections earlier than next fall. Mapam, Achdut Avodah and the Progressive party said they would fight for the earliest possible date--July 11. The National Religious party said it favored a mid-August date.

JEWISH GROUPS IN MOROCCO TO MEET ON GOVT. STAND TOWARD ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- A round-table conference of all Jewish groups in Morocco will be held for the first time this month to consider joint action on problems arising out of the Moroccan Government's official anti-Israel policy as it has affected Moroccan Jews, the Herald Tribune reported today from Rabat.

The report noted that Israel and Jews in general are frequently bracketed in official Moroccan Government attitudes despite Government statements that its adherence to the Arab League stand against Israel did not imply anti-Semitism. The report indicated that the Moroccan Jewish groups hoped that the conference would be an occasion for the Moroccan Government to clarify its policy and thus prevent any further confusion between anti-Zionism and anti-Semitism.

The lumping of Jews with Israel has led to a policy of automatic exclusion of competent Jewish civil servants from Moroccan Embassy staffs and missions to the Middle East, the despatch reported, adding that similar attitudes prevailed in cultural circles. Moroccan Jews frequently are ignored because their presence at conferences, lectures and even ordinary social functions would irritate United Arab Republic staffs "who engage actively in anti-Israel propaganda," according to the despatch.

Orthodox Jew Who Visited Israel Is Expelled from Morocco

PARIS, March 2. (JTA) -- Moroccan authorities have expelled Jacob Elkrief, an Orthodox Jew, for having visited Israel several years ago, it was reported here today from Casablanca. Mr. Elkrief, who was well-known in rabbinic circles in Morocco, was forced to leave behind all of his possessions which apparently will be disposed of by the Moroccan Government.

From Marrakesh it was reported today that a Jewish truck driver was attacked there by four Moslems when he refused to give in to their demand that he remove the six-pointed star, which formed part of the manufacturers emblem of his truck--a German-made Henschel. The Jew, identified as M. Hamou, persisted in his refusal even after local police intervened and demanded that he remove the "Zionist" star.

M. Hamou was released after he showed the police and the Moslem attackers a Moroccan coin bearing a six-pointed star. "I will remove the star from my lorry when these coins are withdrawn from circulation in Morocco. If my lorry is Zionist, so is the Moroccan money," he stated.

DR. GOLDMANN CONVEYS WITH GERMAN FINANCE MINISTER ON INDEMNIFICATION

BONN, March 2. (JTA) -- Problems of West Germany's indemnification program were discussed today at a meeting of Dr. Franz Etzel, the West German Finance Minister, and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany.

A Ministry spokesman said later that there had been basic agreement between the two leaders on all important questions. Topics discussed included acceleration of the individual indemnification program and the need for an early agreement between the West German and Austrian Governments on compensation measures for victims of the Nazi period in Austria.

The spokesman added that during the meeting Dr. Etzel expressed concern about the impact on the West German budget arising from the Government's commitments to provide financial aid to development countries. However, the spokesman added, Dr. Etzel "in no way associated these problems with indemnification commitments." Dr. Goldmann also conferred yesterday with Heinrich von Brantano, the Bonn Foreign Minister.

THREE LITHUANIANS SENTENCED TO DEATH; HELPED NAZIS TO KILL JEWS

LONDON, March 2. (JTA) -- The State Supreme Court of Soviet Lithuania has sentenced three Lithuanians to death for crimes committed during the Nazi occupation of that country, it was reported here today from Moscow.

The three men were charged with responsibility for the murder by the Nazis of more than 60,000 Jews, Poles, Byelorussians and Lithuanians. The three, who were tried in Vilna, were Alfonsas Niksaits, Bernardas Skultas and Stasys Petrasukas.

The Moscow report also said that in the presence of thousands of persons, a monument was erected on the site of the mass graves of the Jewish victims who were murdered in the Nazi death camp, Tagala, near Tallin, capital of Estonia. Jews from Russia, Poland, Germany, Czechoslovakia and other countries were among the victims.

SENATE CONFIRMS KLUTZNICK AS U.S. REPRESENTATIVE TO U.N. ASSEMBLY

WASHINGTON, March 2. (JTA) -- The Senate today voted to confirm the nomination of Philip M. Klutznick, noted American Jewish leader, as a U.S. representative to the forthcoming session of the United Nations General Assembly in addition to Mr. Klutznick's present duties as American representative to the UN Economic and Social Council.

THREE-DAY NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF ISRAEL BOND ORGANIZATION OPENS TODAY

MIAMI, March 2. (JTA) -- The three-day Inaugural Conference for Israel Bonds, which will launch the 1961 drive for the sale of \$80,000,000 in Israel bonds, opens here tomorrow with the participation of more than 2,000 representatives of Jewish communities throughout the country.

Samuel Rothberg of Peoria, one of the founders of the Israel Bond Organization and national chairman of trustees, has been named chairman of the National Inaugural Committee to direct the opening phase of the 1961 Israel bond campaign. He will also serve as chairman of the Miami conference. Ira Gilden, national campaign chairman of the Israel bond drive will serve as co-chairman of the Inaugural Committee.

Abba Eban, Minister of Education of the State of Israel, and former Ambassador to the United States, will be the guest of honor at the Saturday evening session. He will inaugurate the 1961 drive. In accepting the chairmanship of the National Inaugural Committee, Mr. Rothberg said that the committee will conduct the initial stages of a campaign which will be dedicated to the celebration of Israel's Bar Mitzvah anniversary, as well as the tenth anniversary of the Israel bond drive. Since its inception in 1951, the Israel bond campaign has raised more than \$475,000,000 for the development of every phase of the country's economy.

EBAN ARRIVES IN U.S.; WILL ADDRESS MEETINGS IN MIAMI, NEW YORK, CHICAGO

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- Abba Eban, Israel's Education Minister and former Ambassador to the United States, arrived in New York today for a series of speaking engagements on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and the State of Israel Bond Organization.

Mr. Eban is visiting the United States for the first time since 1959 when he ended his mission as Israel's envoy in Washington and at the United Nations. Since his return to Israel, he has served as the president of the Weizmann Institute of Science and, after election to the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, was made a member of the Israel Cabinet.

Mr. Eban will address key meetings of American Jewish leaders in Miami, New York and Chicago. His first appearance will be as guest of honor at the 1961 inaugural conference for Israel Bonds in Miami Beach Saturday night. The UJA meetings to be addressed by Mr. Eban will be held Monday in New York and Tuesday in Chicago.

SENATE BODY CONFIRMS MERIWETHER TO EXPORT-IMPORT BANK POST; VOTE IS 5-4

WASHINGTON, March 2. (JTA) -- The Senate Banking and Currency Committee today voted by five to four to confirm the nomination of Charles Meriwether, of Alabama, as a director of the United States Export-Import Bank after a heated hearing in which Mr. Meriwether denied anti-Semitism but proclaimed that he still favored the racial segregation of Negroes. The nomination, which President Kennedy is continuing to support, now faces a fight on the Senate floor.

Mr. Meriwether admitted accepting the political support of the Ku Klux Klan in political campaigning he helped direct. He was questioned about his personal connection with R. M. Shelton, Grand Dragon of the Alabama Ku Klux Klan, and his work for retired Admiral John Crommelin, an anti-Jewish agitator.

Mr. Meriwether indicated, in response to examination, that Admiral Crommelin's anti-Semitism was not the basis for their break. Other political moves by the retired admiral were responsible, he testified. Mr. Meriwether said he did not share KKK views on Jews and Catholics but that he did advocate the segregation of Negroes in public schools.

Senate sources revealed that the four votes cast against Mr. Meriwether were those of Senators Maurene Neuberger of Oregon; Joseph Clark of Pennsylvania; William Proxmire of Wisconsin; all Democrats; and Senator Jacob Javits of New York, a Republican. Interrogated at length by Committee members, Mr. Meriwether denied the accuracy of documents including an assertion that he once stated that "We ought to run all the damn Jews into the Atlantic Ocean."

Mr. Meriwether told the Committee that he had never had "any problem of anti-Semitism" and was "friendly toward Jews and 'the colored race.'" Sen. Proxmire wanted to know what the nominee's attitude would be toward Israel and African and other nations. Mr. Meriwether said he would "make a great effort to work with them in a co-operative manner if the business was in the interest of the United States."

Senator Neuberger questioned Mr. Meriwether's basic qualifications as a director of the Export-Import Bank and drew from him admissions that he was unfamiliar with such important fiscal legislation as the Cooley amendment.

Senator Paul H. Douglas, of Illinois, asked Mr. Meriwether to pledge "without any mental reservation" that he repudiated KKK religious bias. Mr. Meriwether said he repudiated anti-Semitism and anti-Catholicism but "I believe in segregation in public schools."

JEWS IN SO. AFRICA TO FIGHT BILL OPENING DOOR FOR BIAS IN UNIVERSITY

JOHANNESBURG, March 2. (JTA) -- Steps taken by the South African Jewish Board of Deputies to defend the "conscience clause" in the statute of the Orange Free State University, which university officials are seeking to have eliminated in part, were reported at the monthly meeting of the Board.

The conscience clause is a provision in South African university legislation which bars religious discrimination in staff appointments or student admissions. The Orange Free State University seeks to have the portion relating to staff appointments nullified.

Arthur Suzman, chairman of the Board's public relations committee, reported that the university had tried at its inception to omit the conscience clause but the South African Parliament had insisted on inclusion of the clause in the university's enabling act. The university introduced a bill at the current session of Parliament to obtain the partial nullification.

The Board of Deputies sent all MP's a detailed memorandum on the issue which stressed the case for retention of the full clause, Mr. Suzman noted. He told the Board that no special position was being claimed for the Jews because non-Protestant Christians would be equally affected.

He said that the Board's stand was based on the principle of maintaining South Africa's tradition of religious non-discrimination. He added that the bill was not a Government measure and each deputy was free to vote his convictions, and that he hoped the principle would prevail. Members of the Board unanimously endorsed this stand of the Board's executive.

N. Y. BOARD OF RABBIS WITHDRAWS OBJECTION TO STATE AID TO STUDENTS

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- The New York Board of Rabbis said here today that Governor Nelson Rockefeller's student incentive plan, as revised, did not violate the church-state separation provisions of the Constitution. The Board, which is an association of 750 Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis in the New York area, had objected to the Governor's original proposal on the grounds that it might be used to provide funds for sectarian colleges.

The original plan would have provided \$200 in aid to every student paying more than \$500 a year in tuition. The revised proposal provides \$100 to \$300, depending on need, to those students who meet academic tests and who pay more than \$200 a year tuition. "The merit test, the means test and the awarding of the scholarship directly to the students on the high school level, remove this legislation from the area of church-state conflict," the Board said.

NEW YORK MAYOR PROCLAIMS 'ORT DAY'; LAUDS WORK OF ORT ORGANIZATION

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- In a ceremony at City Hall today, Mayor Robert F. Wagner proclaimed March 8 as "Ort-Day" 1961, in honor of the more than 58,000 members of Women's American Ort in the New York area and throughout the country.

The proclamation praised Ort for providing "trained manpower for nations of the free world and skilled hands for underdeveloped nations," and for "vital and constructive rehabilitation of underprivileged and deprived people throughout the world."

AMBASSADOR HERZOG CONFERS WITH CANADIAN PRIME MINISTER IN OTTAWA

OTTAWA, March 2. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Yaacov Herzog conferred here today with Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker, who is scheduled to leave for London this week to attend the Conference of Commonwealth Prime Ministers next week. The subject of the discussion between Ambassador Herzog and the Prime Minister has not been disclosed.

ISRAEL TO OPEN PERMANENT CONSULATE IN PHILADELPHIA; NAMES CONSUL

PHILADELPHIA, March 2. (JTA) -- The Israel Government has decided to open a permanent Consulate in Philadelphia, it was reported here today. Michael Deouell, head of the Israel Investment Authority here and formerly Vice Consul of Israel in Atlanta, Ga., will serve as Consul here. For the past two years, Binyamin Peled, Israel Consul in New York, has been serving as consular representative in Philadelphia.

ITALIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION TO RESUME EXCAVATIONS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 2. (JTA) --- An Italian Archaeological expedition will resume excavations soon at the Roman Byzantine city of Caesarea, it was announced here today. The team, headed by members of the faculty of the Lombardo Scientific Institute of Milan, will be coming to Israel for a third period of excavations. This year, the team will dig into the site of a Roman theater.