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MOROCCAN JEWS ASK GOVERNMENT TO FORM REPRESENTATIVE JEWISH BODY

RABAT, March 20. (JTA) -- A resolution asking the Moroccan Government to organize the Jewish community in Morocco into a community separate from that of the Moslem population although enjoying the same rights as the Moslems, was adopted here today at the congress of Moroccan Jewish Communities.

The resolution was adopted following a stormy debate in which speakers pointed out that it is an error to believe that a Jewish consistory similar to that existing in Western countries can be a success in a country with a theocratic regime. Mubarek Bekkai, Moroccan Minister of Interior who presided at the opening of the congress, left the hall immediately after the resolution was adopted apparently dissatisfied with the resolution.

The Jewish Community of Casablanca, largest in Morocco, did not participate in the congress. The Casablanca community had decided not to participate because it considered the internal political situation in Morocco as inopportune for holding such a congress. Three members of the executive of the Casablanca community who backed the holding of the congress resigned from leadership in the community. They were Marc Sabbah, vice-president; David Azoulay, secretary-general; and Max Loeb, an executive member. Meyer Obadia, president of the Jewish community, and former Minister Dr. Leon Benzaquen had voted earlier that the congress be postponed.

The resolution proposing the establishment by the Government of an elected Jewish body to act in liaison with the central authorities and to advise the Government on all problems and administrative questions facing the Jewish community was expected to meet with disapproval on the part of the Government and with strong opposition on the part of Moslems. Jewish community organizations in Morocco have been limited hitherto to religious, welfare and education activities.

In addressing the congress, Interior Minister Bekkai said that King Hassan II of Morocco considers Moroccan Jewry as an integral part of the nation "wholly integrated" into the country. More than 250 delegates attended the congress at which it was reported that passport restrictions had been eased for individual Jews, but that Jewish families still met with difficulties in leaving the country.

FRANCE TO SAFEGUARD ALGERIAN JEWS WHO WISH TO REMAIN FRENCH CITIZENS

PARIS, March 20. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Michel Debre today pledged that the French Government will always safeguard the interests of Algerians who want to stay French, no matter what the outcome of the self-determination issue in Algeria. In an address in Strasbourg, the Premier declared:

"France will do all in her power to ensure the security and the fundamental freedom of those who, whatever their religion, wish to remain French. If the self-determination vote is for union or association with France, she is ready to undertake a great work of cultural, social and economic development. If the vote rules this out, you may rest assured France will ensure the safeguarding of her national interests."

Algerian Jews, meanwhile, are anxiously awaiting the outcome of talks now taking place between representatives of the French Government and the Algerian FLN nationalist organization with regard to their future status. The FLN has been circulating a pamphlet advocating the position that Algerian Jews were to be considered Algerians.

KNESSET COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS AUGUST 15 AS DATE FOR NATIONAL ELECTIONS

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- The House Committee of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, today voted to recommend August 15 as the date for holding elections to the new Knesset. The recommendation is scheduled for a first reading tomorrow.

Government statisticians and other officials of the Interior Ministry reported to the Committee on the completion of arrangements for the balloting. Eight of the Committee's 17 members had sought an earlier date.

There is still doubt in the minds of many in Israel as to whether the elections will really take place. Hope is being entertained that some kind of an understanding might yet be reached to avert elections even after the adoption by the Knesset of a definite date for national voting. This despite the fact that the Mapai has already started its election campaign, following the rejection by the Progressives and the Religious bloc to join a "small coalition" Cabinet.

ISRAEL REPORTED ASSURING ADENAUER ON CONDUCT OF EICHMANN TRIAL

BONN, March 20. (JTA) -- The trial of Nazi war criminal Adolf Eichmann in Israel, which is scheduled to begin in Jerusalem on April 11, will be conducted in a way not to affect the present friendly relations between the Jewish State and the West German Government, the Israeli Government was reported here today as having informed Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

Despite the assurances, however, which were conveyed to the Chancellor by the Israel Mission in Cologne, Dr. Adenauer and many of his associates expect a new wave of anti-German feeling abroad when the concentration camp atrocities of the Nazi regime are reviewed before the Israeli court next month.

A special West German prosecutor's office will be set up to study evidence emanating from the Eichmann trial which would incriminate West Germans. Dr. Franz Myers, Premier of the North Rhine-Westphalia state, said that any such evidence would be checked immediately to prevent any "long period of smoldering unrest."

In reassuring the West German Chancellor on the prosecution of the case, the Israeli Government, it was learned, informed Dr. Adenauer that they do not intend to handle the Eichmann trial in a way that "would put German-Jewish relations back to where they were in 1945."

The Israeli Government also indicated that Eichmann's testimony on his role in the murder of millions of European Jews may involve comparatively few disclosures about German war criminals that are not already public knowledge.

Eichmann's list of war criminal associates is reported to include former Nazis already tried by German and Allied courts; war criminals still at large in the Middle East, South America and elsewhere outside Germany; and persons in West Germany still awaiting prosecution by German courts.

GOLDA MEIR REVIEWS AMERICAN-ISRAEL RELATIONS IN KNESSET SPEECH

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- American-Israel relations were reviewed today in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, by Foreign Minister Golda Meir who praised the efforts of the U.S. Government to bring peace, security and freedom to the world. She spoke during a debate on the budget of the Foreign Ministry.

"We derive encouragement from President Kennedy's endeavors to introduce increasing understanding between East and West and we follow with special interest the creation of a peace corps," she said. She noted that during the eight years of Republican administration, we were in a firm relationship of friendship "with all echelons of the U.S. Administration."

Declaring that American aid "helped a good deal to fructify and expand our economy," she told the Knesset: "I would be less than truthful if I were not to add that there were differences of opinion between us and severe ones at that. Nevertheless, with all the divergencies of approach, deep friendship sustained on the part of the American people and their leaders toward our undertaking, proved an enduring base for relations between us."

"It is too early to speak about the approach of the new U.S. Administration to questions that vex our region," Mrs. Meir continued. However, she cited a statement by the Vice President a few weeks ago declaring that the American Government believed in the possibility of reducing the burden of armaments. "Towards that objective," Mrs. Meir asserted, "Washington will find a loyal partner in the Israel Government."

The Foreign Minister warned that UAR propaganda was seeking to exploit restiveness in Latin America to the detriment of Israel. She noted that Arab propaganda had increased in South America.

AMERICAN-ISRAEL COMMITTEE ASKS U.S. TO PROMOTE ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE

WASHINGTON, March 20. (JTA) -- The American Israel Public Affairs Committee today called on the U.S. Government for "a sustained effort" to promote Arab-Israel peace and not be restrained by fear that working for peace will provoke Arab resentment. It stressed that peace can be obtained only by direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.

The Committee's position was enunciated in a policy statement adopted at the conclusion of a conference here. It was submitted to Lewis P. Jones, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

Expressing belief that the American people "have been heartened by the courageous and vigorous leadership of President John F. Kennedy," the statement expressed hope that the Administration "will ensure a firm policy in the Near East which will deter aggression, promote peace and economic development and strengthen freedom."

The Committee urged a firm commitment to resist aggression in the Near East, vigilance by America and its Western allies to ensure that the arms balance in the Near East is maintained, opposition to Arab boycotts and blockades, and continued economic aid to the peoples of the Near East.

AUSTRIAN INDEMNIFICATION PAYMENTS MADE CONDITIONAL ON GERMAN FUNDS

VIENNA, March 20. (JTA) -- A move to allay the criticism voiced by Jewish organizations against the Austrian Government for delaying legislation on payment of indemnification to Nazi victims was made this weekend by the Social Committee of the Austrian Parliament in approving a bill that would provide at least a token indemnity payment to the surviving victims, including those who were forced to flee Austria during the Nazi regime.

However, the bill was approved with the stipulation that it would enter into force only if the West German Government signed an agreement to contribute to the cost of indemnification. The Austrian Government is reportedly seeking a contribution of \$500,000,000 from the Bonn Government.

Negotiations on West German contribution to Austrian indemnification have already begun between the two countries and will be continued next month when Austrian Foreign Minister Bruno Kreisky visits West German Foreign Minister Heinrich von Brentano at a vacation resort in southern Germany. The Bonn Government has not yet committed itself on any specific sum. The Austrian claim on West Germany is based on the fact that the Hitler regime was responsible for the deaths and persecution of hundreds of thousands of Austrian citizens.

(In Jerusalem, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Claims Conference, indicated today that the conference between the Austrian and West German Foreign Ministers on indemnification to Nazi victims in Austria will take place on April 9. This conference, Dr. Goldmann said, may be decisive because further negotiations may be stopped if Austria will not present a reasonable offer. If the negotiations are terminated, the West German Government would channel its own share of indemnification directly to the representatives of 30,000 Austrian Jews eligible to receive indemnification.)

Payments under the Austrian bill would include 350 schillings (\$13.50) for each month of incarceration; 6,000 schillings (\$230.75) to each Jew who was made to wear the Star of David insignia for at least six months; 10,000 schillings (\$484.65) to persons whose earning capacity was reduced 50 percent for a period of three-and-a-half years; and 6,000 schillings to persons who could not complete their education because of the persecution of their parents or themselves. Claimants falling into more than one category, according to the bill, would not be eligible for more than one payment.

NATIONWIDE CENSUS OF SURVIVORS OF NAZI CAMPS ANNOUNCED IN ITALY

MILAN, March 20. (JTA) -- A nationwide census of all political and racial inmates of Nazi camps who survived the experience and returned to Italy was announced here today by the National Association of Former Inmates.

Purpose of the census, which will be similar to such polls already held in other European countries, is to determine the precise number of such survivors for the goal of coordinated action to obtain adequate compensation.

There were believed to be about 1,000 such survivors living in Milan. Nationally, it is estimated that about seven percent of the total of such deportees to Germany returned to Italy after the collapse of the Nazi regime.

EXCHANGE OF JEWISH DELEGATIONS BETWEEN HUNGARY AND ENGLAND PLANNED

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- The possibility of an exchange of visits by a Hungarian Jewish delegation and a British Jewish group was disclosed today by Sir Barnett Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Sir Barnett said there had been an exchange of correspondence with officials of the Hungarian Jewish community and that the board would give further consideration to the idea when more definite information was available as to the time of the suggested visit to Britain and other relevant information.

The letter from Hungarian Jewish leaders urged the board to act on the issuance and dissemination of anti-Jewish propaganda by groups of Hungarians in Britain. Sir Barnett said the board had replied that it was aware of the "pernicious activities" and had taken steps to deal with the problem. The board also wrote that British authorities were keeping a "watchful eye" on "these harmful activities."

HUNGARIAN FASCISTS PUBLISH ANTI-SEMITIC JOURNAL IN LONDON; JEWS PROTEST

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- The Agudah World Executive protested to Home Secretary R. A. Butler today over the continued publication in the United Kingdom of a strongly anti-Semitic journal edited by a former member of the Hungarian Fascist party.

The publication, *Hidfo*, containing pro-Nazi material, is edited by the ex-Hungarian fascist from his residence in Germany while the periodical itself is published here. The Agudah executive had received protests on the publication from rabbinical and lay leaders of the Central Board of Hungarian Jews.

N. C. J. W. CONVENTION OPPOSES GOVERNMENT AID TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

PITTSBURGH, March 20. (JTA) -- The convention of the National Council of Jewish Women which is taking place here today issued a plea against granting Government aid to private and religious schools, emphasizing that such aid "would undermine the very foundations of public education in the United States."

A statement adopted by over 800 delegates, representing 123,000 council members in 329 affiliated local units, declared that proposals for Federal aid to religious schools are based on the same reasoning as Governmental aid to parents who do not wish to send their children to desegregated schools. "There is no difference in these approaches," added the women's group whose membership represents a cross section of all shades of American Jewish belief.

"The public educational system has always been based on the concept that the state must provide for the education of children in Government-sponsored schools, open to all," the statement said. "Today, in a confusing shift of approach, it is being argued that the Government's obligation is to aid the child being educated, whether in public or private schools. It is urgent to help keep the issue clear in our own communities. While parents have a right to choose private education it is not the Government's business to subsidize private preference."

The Council noted that "it is in the public school that children of diverse national origins, religions and races learn to know each other and get along together," and that "the public school is where the fundamental American principle of separation of church and state has its most significant application."

Dr. Solomon B. Freehof, president of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, addressed the convention this morning. Rabbi Freehof praised the council for its community service and social action programs which, he said, reflect the Jewish belief that "the world has a basic meaning, which human beings can embody in their public work as in their private lives."

NEW ISRAELI FREIGHTER LAUNCHED IN FRANCE; WILL ENTER SERVICE IN MAY

PARIS, March 20. (JTA) -- A new Israeli freighter, the 13,600-ton "Nurit," built by the Societe des Forges Et Chantiers for the All Seas Israeli Shipping Company, was launched today.

Israel Ambassador Walter Eytan took part in the launching ceremony for the new ship which will enter service in May. The construction of the Nurit was in line with a policy of building as many Israel ships as possible in French shipyards. Other industrial equipment also has been ordered by Israel in France.

IMPORTANT ARCHAEOLOGICAL RELICS DISCOVERED IN JUDEAN HILLS

TEL AVIV, March 20. (JTA) -- Important archaeological relics were discovered during the weekend by the Israel Archaeological Mission in the Judean Hills near Ein Gedi. Prof. Yigael Yadin reported today. One group of archaeologists found many scrolls and papyri in the same cave where a group led by Prof. Yadin last year found the Bar Kochba letters.

Professor Yadin said on a taped interview on Kol Yisroel that the newest findings were made by chance. He said one man among the group investigating the cave hit a stone and moved it, revealing beneath it bottles of skin. Further examination disclosed relics which apparently had belonged to a woman, such as yarn and a jewelry box. He said the finding also included wrapped scrolls and papyri which will be examined later.

The excavators also found a coin which had engraved on one side the word "Shimon" and a palm tree on the other. Another find was a Roman-style sandal. Other groups working in the same area found the remains of many men, women and children, assumed to belong to the end of the Bar Kochba uprising against the Romans in 132-135 C. E. Ein Gedi was one of the last strongholds of the revolt.

PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORPORATION SELLS ITS HOLDING IN ISRAEL BANK

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- Sale of Palestine Economic Corporation's 50 percent interest in the Union Bank of Israel, Ltd., to Bank Leumi le-Israel was announced here today. Palestine Economic Corporation, New York, and Bank Leumi le-Israel had each owned 50 percent of Union Bank's capital. According to a joint announcement, acquisition of PEC's interest was made "by friendly agreement between BLI and PEC who will cooperate closely in other fields in the future."

Union Bank, with assets of \$45,000,000 and eight branches in Israel, will continue its business in the present form, maintaining its special character. The bank is active in all phases of commercial banking with emphasis on foreign trade financing, especially in the diamond industry. Bank Leumi, which maintains an agency in New York, is Israel's largest and oldest commercial bank.