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MANY ABSTENTIONS ANTICIPATED IN ISRAEL'S ELECTIONS, INDIFFERENCE SEEN

JERUSALEM, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- The present election campaign in Israel will cost more than any of the previous national elections held since the establishment of Israel, but it is practically certain that it will call out the least number of voters ever participating in electing members to the Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

This became clear today, a week before election day, although attendance at election rallies has increased during the last few days. Earlier, the public evinced little interest in the campaign meetings. The elections will be held Aug. 15.

Because the voting in this year's elections takes place in the Summer - the previous elections were held in the Fall - there will be quite a large number of absentees. In addition, it is anticipated that many will abstain from voting because of lack of interest. It is also expected that many voters will cast blank ballots to demonstrate their indifference to the result of the elections, or their protest that the elections were not necessary.

The elections this time are generally considered by many Israelis as "untimely". They were brought about as a result of Premier Ben-Gurion's resignation over the "Lavon Affair". This resignation led automatically to the fall of the Cabinet and the dissolution of Israel's Parliament, necessitating new national elections.

ISRAEL SEEKS CLARITY ON STATE DEPT. STATEMENT ON ARAB BLOCKADE

JERUSALEM, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- The Foreign Ministry today instructed the Israel Embassy in Washington to seek clarification from the Department of State concerning a statement issued by Assistant Secretary of State Alexis Johnson which, according to political observers here, apparently accepts the position of the United Arab Republic in maintaining the blockade of Israel shipping and ships trading with Israel from using the Suez Canal. (See statement on page 2)

Observers here stressed that the approach revealed by Mr. Johnson's statement, which was contained in a letter to Joseph Curran, president of the U. S. National Maritime Union, seems to accept U. A. R. non-compliance with a specific resolution of the United Nations' Security Council which called upon that country to lift her blockade of the Suez Canal against Israeli shipping and to comply with the provisions of international law. Observers here also pointed out that Mr. Johnson's statement ignored the basic fact of Arab refusal to discuss a peace settlement with Israel.

Political sources here also expressed surprise over a reply to Mr. Curran on the blockade issue by U. N. Undersecretary Ralph Bunche in which Mr. Bunche declared that the United Nations could only act upon requests by specific governments and that no such requests had been received on the Suez blockade issue, from any government - not even from the Israeli government. It was stressed here that the Israel delegation to the U. N. has repeatedly raised the issue at meetings with Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, continuously urging action in the direction of implementation by the U. A. R. of the resolutions on the Suez blockade against Israel.

'ADMIRER' OF ROCKWELL ARRESTED FOR POSSESSION OF MILITARY MACHINE GUN

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., Aug. 7 (JTA) -- Possession of a German military machine gun of a portable type used by S. S. and Panzer troops today caused the arrest here of Harry J. Connors, Jr., who told arresting officers he was an "admirer" of George Rockwell and follower of the American Nazi Party. Connors is being held in city jail on Federal charges of violating the U. S. Government's National Firearms Act. Bond was set at \$1,500, but was not posted and the accused remains in jail pending trial. Assistant U. S. Attorney Roger Williams said Connors, who is about 20 years old, had an assortment of Nazi swastika arm-bands in the trunk of his car when he was arrested for possession of the weapon described by city police as "a military sub-machine gun".

U. S. OPPOSES STRONG GOVERNMENT PRESSURE ON NASSER TO EASE BOYCOTT

NEW YORK, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- The United States is against applying strong pressure by individual governments upon the United Arab Republic to ease its boycott against Israeli ships and ships trading with Israel, it was revealed by the State Department in a statement to the National Maritime Union made public here today by Joseph Curran, president of the Union.

The statement was sent by the State Department in reply to a plea made by the National Maritime Union last month to President Kennedy urging him to initiate action in the United Nations to stop "continued United Arab Republic violations of the principle of freedom of the seas with respect to Israeli ships and other ships trading with Israel".

Mr. Curran said that he directed the plea to the White House with a warning that continuation of the Arab restrictions could result in a boycott by members of the 6,500,000 member International Transport Workers Federation. In his request to President Kennedy, Mr. Curran complained specifically about denials of free passage through the Suez Canal to Israeli ships or vessels with cargo destined to or from Israel. He also charged that American merchant seamen were subject to indignities and abuses in Arab countries.

In making the State Department reply public, the leader of the National Maritime Union said that the delegates to the International Transport Workers' Seafarers Section executive council meeting last week in Rotterdam has promised to address similar pleas for action to their governments. The section meeting was attended by delegates from 13 maritime nations, he stated.

State Dept. Says Such Pressure Would Complicate 'Quiet' Efforts

Mr. Curran also noted that he had turned to the White House after being informed by Dr. Ralph Bunche, Undersecretary of the United Nations, that the UN could act only on the basis of complaints brought by governments and that there had been no complaints before it -- even from Israel.

U. Alexis Johnson, deputy Undersecretary of State, told Mr. Curran in his reply that the State Department had "long been concerned" by the Arab boycott. Explaining the Arab contention that the denial of the Suez Canal passage was justified by the existence of a state of war between Israel and the UAR, Mr. Johnson said:

"It is clear from the foregoing that the undesirable restrictions to which your telegram refers are an outgrowth of the deep political problem created by the unresolved Arab-Israel situation. While we have repeatedly made clear our willingness to assist the parties in achieving a solution of the problem between them, we have also felt that the United Nations is the appropriate agency for the settlement and that strong pressure applied unilaterally by a Government or by private groups would not only cause sharp resentment but would also complicate quiet efforts to achieve progress."

Mr. Johnson added: "The United States Government has given full support to the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to work towards a solution of the transit problem". As for alleged indignities and threats of violence to seamen, Mr. Johnson said the State Department had received no recent complaints. He said that the State Department would extend every appropriate assistance to American seaman who may encounter difficulties abroad

California Legislature Asks U. S. to Resist Arab League Boycott

SACRAMENTO, Calif., Aug. 7 (JTA) -- The California Legislature approved a joint resolution today calling on the State Department to resist the Arab League boycott of American firms with Jewish personnel after hearing anti-Semitic slurs by Arab spokesmen.

One of the Arabs, a student at Sacramento City College, told the law-makers that American Jews "controlled" the wealth of the United States. William Becker, San Francisco representative of the Jewish Labor Committee, told the legislators that it was inconceivable that a foreign government should have the right to try to influence state legislation in this country. He also said that foreign students should not be permitted to make public hate-mongering attacks on American citizens.

The resolution described the blacklisting of American ships which touch at Israeli ports, the blacklisting of firms with Jewish workers and of Hollywood film stars. It also noted that American Jewish servicemen were barred from United States bases in Arab countries.

SYRIAN PRISONERS ACQUITTED IN ISRAEL; SHOUT 'BRAVO, ISRAELI JUSTICE!'

JERUSALEM, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- Six Syrian prisoners, who were detained by Israeli authorities four months ago aboard their schooner when it was intercepted in Israeli territorial waters, broke into spontaneous shouts of "Bravo, Israeli Justice!", when District Court Judge Moshe Perez today acquitted five of them and suspended a four-month sentence of the sixth.

The Syrians, whose schooner, the Murad, was taken into custody by Israeli authorities near the Gaza Strip, wept with joy when they heard the judgment. The captain, who was at the wheel of the vessel when it was detained, will have to serve his four-month jail sentence if he is caught again in Israeli territorial waters within a two-year probationary period. All six Syrians were turned over to United Nations Truce Observers for safe conduct home through Lebanon.

100 FRENCH JEWS LEAVE TUNISIA FOR FRANCE; RETURN AS FRENCHMEN

PARIS, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- More than 100 French Jews arrived in Marseilles and Paris from Tunisia this weekend as part of a large-scale exodus of Frenchmen returning to Metropolitan France due to the tension between the two countries since the Bizerte affair last month. The returning Jews told community workers here that they decided to leave Tunisia as Frenchman, not as Jews.

The Fond Social Juif Unifie opened up temporary welfare offices in Marseilles where most of the repatriates arrived, but less than a score of families were in need of assistance. Most returning Jews have family ties in France and it is hoped they will easily be resettled in the French economy.

Although the emigration gate from Tunisia still stands wide open, few Tunisian Jews are known to have left the country. No anti-Jewish measures have been adopted by the Tunisian authorities and the country's Jewish community was reported to be "as quiet as can be expected under the circumstances".

TWO LONDON JEWISH GROUPS PROTEST STATIONING GERMAN TROOPS IN BRITAIN

LONDON, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- Two British Jewish organizations spoke out strongly today against the stationing of West German panzer units for training in Wales.

The first Jewish-sponsored protest meeting has been called for London on Sept. 7, the day when the troops are scheduled to arrive at Wales. The meeting was called by the Poale Zion organization and will be held in North London, which has a large Jewish population.

The other Jewish organization was the Workmen's Circle Friendly Society which passed a resolution expressing the "deepest concern" over the troop training program. The resolution, which was sent to the British Home Secretary and the Board of Deputies of British Jews, said: "As a Jewish organization, many of whose members lost members of their families under the Nazis in concentration camps, we feel the deepest sense of indignation that many who actually participated in the mass murders are free today in Germany. While the West German Government permits this to happen, our members will continue to feel alarmed that Nazi influence will persist. The presence in this country of German troops is an insult to the murdered millions and the British people who fought against Nazism. We urge the Government to reverse its decision".

The Poale Zion, which has been an affiliate of the British Labor party for 40 years, also announced it would submit a resolution on the troops to the 60th annual conference of the Labor party opening in Blackpool on Oct. 2 under the chairmanship of Richard Crossman.

Meanwhile, criticism was voiced here against Sir Barnett Janner, Member of Parliament and president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, for not having joined the MPs who voted in Commons against the Government in the debate held in connection with the proposal to train West German troops in Wales.

FILM DEPICTING NAZI ATROCITIES AGAINST JEWS WINS MOSCOW MEDAL

VIENNA, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- A new version of the anti-Nazi film "Professor Mamlock", depicting the excesses carried out against the Jews in Germany after Hitler's assumption of power, has been awarded a gold medal at the recent Moscow film festival, it was reported today in the Warsaw Jewish newspaper, Folkstimm. The film was produced in West Germany.

U. S. ITALIANS MAY RETALIATE AGAINST TOBACCO FIRM BOYCOTTING ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- An American boycott which may be expanded worldwide against cigarettes manufactured by the Brown and Williamson Tobacco Co. of Louisville, Ky., for recognizing the Arab boycott against shipments to Israel, was threatened today by Congressman Alfred E. Santangelo. He said the Brown and Williamson Tobacco Co. was following "an un-American trade policy abhorrent to the American way of life."

Congressman Santangelo, New York Democrat, revealed that he had written to W. S. Cutchins, president of the Brown and Williamson Tobacco Co., giving the firm a deadline of August 14th to offer satisfactory assurances the boycott against shipments of Brown and Williamson cigarettes to Israel will be lifted. Cong. Santangelo advised Mr. Cutchins that he had scheduled an emergency meeting of the Federation of the Italian-American Democratic Organizations of the State of New York for August 14th, formally calling for the launching of a boycott against cigarettes produced by the firm.

The Congressman recalled to the Brown and Williamson president that this will be the second time this year that the Federation spearheaded a fight through boycott means. On March 9th, a boycott began against Liggett and Myers, producers of Chesterfield, Oasis, L&M and Duke for sponsoring the A. B. C. -TV show "The Untouchables" for defaming Italians and Americans of Italian extraction. The boycott lasted only 48 hours when the McCann-Erickson Advertising Agency for Liggett and Myers, announced termination of prime sponsorship of the "Untouchables" this fall.

J. W. B. REMOBILIZES FOR SERVICES TO INCREASED U. S. ARMED FORCES

NEW YORK, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- The National Jewish Welfare Board today reported to President John F. Kennedy that it is remobilizing all its resources and manpower to meet additional demands for religious and welfare services to Jewish military personnel and their dependents resulting from the emergency build-up of Armed Forces strength requested by the President and approved by Congress.

In a letter to President Kennedy, Solomon Litt, president of the J. W. B., declared: "On behalf of American Jewry, which the National Jewish Welfare Board has represented since World War I in serving the religious, welfare and morale needs of Jewish military personnel and their dependents, it is my privilege to report to you that we are remobilizing all our resources and manpower to meet whatever needs may arise in the light of your call for a build-up of military strength."

The J. W. B. is the Government-authorized agency for meeting the religious and morale needs of Jewish military personnel and of Jewish patients in Veterans Administration hospitals, and represents the Jewish community in the United Service Organizations. The J. W. B. is also the national association of Jewish community centers and YM-YWHAs.

SURGEONS FROM 11 COUNTRIES ATTEND NASAL SURGERY COURSE IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- The first international scientific seminar to be held at the new Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, opened here today with the participation of 29 surgeons from 11 countries in a course in reconstructive nasal surgery. The 10-day course is being attended by specialists from Algeria, Australia, France, the Netherlands, India, Nigeria, the Philippines, Scotland, South Africa and the United States. Eleven specialists from Israel are also taking part.

A group of 150 dentists from the United States will begin a dental seminar tomorrow at the Hadassah-Hebrew University School of Dentistry. More than 60 members of the group belong to Alpha Omega, which helped found the dentistry school.

B'NAI B'RITH INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL TO REVIEW ITS WORK IN 39 LANDS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 7 (JTA) -- The B'nai B'rith International Council will hold its two-day annual meeting in Paris next week to review activities of the fraternal organization in 39 countries, it was announced here today.

Speakers will include Maurice Couve de Murville, French Foreign Minister, and Arthur Lourie, Israel Ambassador to Britain. American and Canadian delegates and members of a B'nai B'rith European survey mission will leave for Paris at the end of this week.

At the end of the Paris meeting, the American delegates and survey mission members will separate into four groups to tour B'nai B'rith installations and visit Jewish communities in Europe. A fifth group will go to Israel as the first "Flying Institute of Judaism" of the B'nai B'rith Adult Jewish Education department.