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U. S. EXPLAINS SALE OF ROCKETS TO NASSER; WILLING TO SELL SAME TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7; (JTA) -- The State Department said today that Israel never sought to purchase American rockets of types provided to the the United Arab Republic but if Israel should now desire such rockets "the Department can see no reason why a normal export license should not be granted;"

The Department's views were made known in a letter by Assistant Secretary of State Brooks Hays to Senator Kenneth B. Keating, New York Republican. The letter sought to explain why the United States gave export licenses to the Nasser regime for U.S. Viper and Javelin rockets but rejected Israeli applications to purchase Nike anti-aircraft missiles; Israel desired the anti-aircraft missiles for defense against Soviet-built jet bombers furnished by Russia to the UAR air force.

Mr. Hays said that "in accordance with its policy of avoiding measures which might stimulate an arms race in the Near East, the United States has refrained from supplying (military) missiles to any of the countries of that region;"

In the State Department's view, said Mr. Hays, "the introduction of missile weaponry under present circumstances could only add to the volatility of the Near East situation and, given the enormous costs involved, would increase substantially the already heavy arms burdens of the Near Eastern states. A number of Near Eastern nations might then wish to acquire such advanced weaponry, and there would be no assurance that their acquisitions would be limited to defensive ground-to-air missiles;"

"At present no nation in the Near East possesses missile type weapons," Mr. Hays stressed. "It would indeed be inconsistent with our desire to see peace reinforced and progress achieved toward settlement of difficult Near Eastern problems were this country to bear first responsibility for setting off a new and more dangerous form of arms competition in that area. It would also be unfortunate were this country by actions of this kind to open opportunities for Soviet moves inevitably aimed at increasing tensions in the area and advancing the Communist cause; This would be neither in Israel's interest nor our own;"

Justifying the sale of Viper and Javelin rockets to Nasser, Mr. Hays said "they are of negligible military importance, and similar types are manufactured in several countries;" They were provided to Nasser "for meteorological research purposes;"

B'NAI B'RITH LEADERS MEET WITH HIGH SOVIET OFFICIALS ON JEWISH NEEDS

NEW YORK, Sept. 7; (JTA) -- Two proposals advanced by a Jewish delegation from the United States to high Soviet officials in Moscow, with regard to Jewish religion and education, were brushed aside by the officials, each of them giving the same answer--that these proposals would have to come from individual synagogues in the Soviet Union;

The delegation, composed of American B'nai B'rith leaders headed by Label A. Katz, president of the organization, conferred in Moscow separately with Alexander N. Kuznetsov, First Deputy Minister of Culture, and V. Riasanov, Deputy Chairman of the Council for the Affairs of Religions; Cults; The members of the delegation proposed separately to the two high officials:

1. That Soviet Jewry be represented at a forthcoming international conference on Jewish education, as well as other worldwide non-political conferences dealing with Jewish cultural and religious affairs;

2. That "as an act of friendship between Jewish communities," the B'nai B'rith should send to synagogues in the Soviet Union a gift of religious articles, including Bibles, prayer books and prayer shawls, which are in short supply in the USSR.

Mr. Katz, who returned today from Moscow, said that "each official gave the same answer to the first request"--that the request for Soviet Jewish participation in international Jewish conferences "would have to be initiated by individual synagogue groups in the USSR;" As to the offer of sending religious articles to Jews in Russia, Mr. Katz said that there was no response to it "except to say that we would have to take it up first with the synagogues;"

In reporting on the visit of the B'nai B'rith delegation to Moscow, Mr. Katz said here today that the delegation's observations on the lack of Jewish cultural and educational

institutions in the Soviet Union do not correspond with what it was told by USSR officials-- that Soviet Jews are not interested.

"Jewish cultural interests could easily flourish in the Soviet Union if they are accorded the same encouragement that is shown other Soviet ethnic groups," Mr. Katz said. "In our brief but intensive contacts, we found a persistent streak of Jewish consciousness, even among young Jews. But they are without almost any cultural means to express it. This contrasts quite sharply with the Soviet Government's support of cultural activities for other USSR nationality groups," Mr. Katz declared.

The B'nai B'rith president said that he and other representatives of his organization, during their stay in Moscow, were granted an opportunity to discuss "this apparent contradiction" in Soviet policy toward its 100-and-more ethnic groups during a 60-minute conference with Mr. Kuznetsov. "Mr. Kuznetsov was among those who attributed the almost total absence of Jewish-content newspapers and periodicals, either in Yiddish or the Russian language, and of Jewish educational facilities, or even secular school courses in Yiddish or Hebrew, to a disinterest among Jews themselves," Mr. Katz reported.

But, Mr. Katz added, "there is still a widespread use of Yiddish among Soviet Jews, and we told Mr. Kuznetsov that it is difficult to accept a conclusion that these people would not support enthusiastically a Yiddish press and other Yiddish cultural facilities, as well as Hebrew and Russian language institutions, if they are Jewishly oriented."

U.S. Leaders Cite 'Inconsistencies' in Soviet Policy on Jews

The Soviet minister also told the B'nai B'rith leaders that his government, as well as Soviet Jews, favored the continuing growth of a dominant Soviet culture and the elimination of other cultures that might tend to set groups apart. "For our part," Mr. Katz continued, "we suggested to Mr. Kuznetsov that this view created an inconsistency on two counts:

"First, the American experience has shown that the strengthening of diverse ethnic cultures in a nation does not compete with or weaken the national culture but, in fact, enhances it. Second, that Soviet leadership itself has accepted this concept by its support of programs--through schools, periodicals, the press, the theater, broadcasting and the like--to further the idioms and other cultural attributes of its various nationality groups;

"Since Soviet Jews are classified--even on their identification cards with the notation 'Yivrei' (Jew)--as a nationality group, any principle of equality requires that they be accorded the same opportunities for their cultural development," the B'nai B'rith delegation argued.

Mr. Katz said that official identification of Soviet Jews as a nationality group, and the anti-Semitic excesses during the last five years of the Stalin regime, "are at least two of the factors that have helped heighten Jewish consciousness among young persons who have lived their entire lives in the Soviet society." He cited the popularity of the five books published in Yiddish in the Soviet Union in recent years and "how much of a conversation piece we found Sovietish Heimland (Soviet Homeland), the new Yiddish bi-monthly, to be "as evidence of strong Jewish interests.

A B'nai B'rith analysis of the editorial matter in the bi-monthly found only a "minimal amount" of Jewish content. However, Mr. Katz expressed the hope that this first appearance of a Yiddish magazine in the Soviet Union in 13 years "may become a positive, if small step toward the restoration of Jewish cultural activity." He said he had expressed these sentiments to Mr. Kuznetsov.

In Budapest, the B'nai B'rith group met with Karoly Olt, chairman of Hungary's Bureau of Religious Affairs, and with secular and religious leaders of the Hungarian Jewish community. Mr. Katz said that the visits to the USSR and Hungary were conducted on an "unofficial basis," that the requests for conferences with government officials were granted "on short notice," and that the B'nai B'rith group was received with cordiality and interest;

BELGRADE PARLEY ADVOCATES PROTECTION OF RIGHTS OF RELIGIOUS MINORITIES

BELGRADE, Sept. 7: (JTA) -- Resolutions urging protection of the rights of religious minorities and condemning racial discrimination as "a grave violation of the United Nations Charter and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights" were adopted at the closing session of the conference of the "neutral" nations held here. The full texts of the resolutions were made public here today.

The text of the resolution on Palestine reads: "The participants in the conference condemn the imperialist policies pursued in the Middle East and declare their support for the full restoration of all the rights of the Arab people of Palestine in conformity with the charter and resolutions of the United Nations."

The text of the resolution on the rights of religious minorities read: "The participating countries declare solemnly the absolute respect of the rights of ethnic or religious minorities to be protected in particular against crimes of genocide or any other violation of their fundamental human rights."

BEN-GURION DECLINES INVITATION TO FORM NEW CABINET; EXPLAINS DECISION

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7; (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion today refused to accept President Izhak Ben-Zvi's request that he undertake formation of a new government. The rejection was made in a letter to the President in which the Prime Minister listed "profound concern for the security and honor of Israel" as the reason for the decision.

The letter came soon after four former partners of the Prime Minister's Mapai party in the former coalition took a firm position that Mapai should not have a majority in any new coalition and the Prime Minister's decision was presumed to be related to this fact.

Talks held between Mapai leaders by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and representatives of the former coalition partners reached an impasse; Mapai negotiators refused to budge from the position that as the largest and leading party, Mapai was entitled to a Cabinet majority despite the fact that, since the August 15 election, it had only 42 seats as against the 46 commanded by the former four coalition partners.

The issue was discussed by the Prime Minister with other Mapai leaders at a meeting today of the Mapai central committee before the Prime Minister made known his position to President Ben-Zvi; The letter of rejection referred dramatically to the successive Israel Chiefs of Staff, whom the Prime Minister lauded for devotion and loyalty. In his letter, the Prime Minister also said farewell to colleagues in the government "with whom I have long been associated."

ISRAEL SEEKS \$30,000,000 LOAN FROM WORLD BANK FOR ROAD CONSTRUCTION

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7; (JTA) -- Israeli Treasury officials have contacted the International Development Agency, a subsidiary of the World Bank in Washington, for a \$30,000,000 loan for road construction, it was reported here today.

The road project, to cost a total of \$150,000,000 over a period of five years, covers a plan for widening, improving and extending the country's six major highways to care for increasing volumes of traffic on the roads. Included are the Tel Aviv-Haifa road, the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway, and routes to Beersheba, the Negev and the southern port of Eilat.

CANADIAN OIL PROSPECTING FIRM GETS OFFSHORE DRILLING RIGHTS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7; (JTA) -- A grant of offshore drilling rights to the Canadian prospecting company, Sancana, by the Israel Petroleum Council was announced last night by Menahem Bader, director-general of the Israel Development Ministry.

The Canadian firm has undertaken to investigate drilling possibilities along Israel's Mediterranean continental shelf. Part of the seabed is composed of limestone similar to the composition of some of Canada's largest oil fields.

90,000 RATION CARDS OF DEAD ARAB REFUGEES STILL CIRCULATING IN JORDAN

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7; (JTA) -- At least 90,000 ration cards of Arab refugees who are long dead are still in circulation among the refugees in Jordan, according to a statement to a Jordanian newspaper made last night by Roy Lucas, Jordanian director for the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East.

In an interview with a correspondent for a Jordanian daily newspaper, Al Jihad, Mr. Lucas said he is negotiating with Jordanian Government authorities for the surrender of these 90,000 ration cards. He said also that a joint commission composed of representatives of Jordan and UNRWA will investigate cases of wealthy "refugees" who continue to draw rations.

LONDON COURT REMANDS ISRAELI ON EXTRADITION WARRANT FROM JERUSALEM

LONDON, Sept. 7; (JTA) -- Sholem Starkes, uncle of an Israeli boy who was spirited away from his parents more than a year ago by his Orthodox grandfather, was remanded today in custody for another week on an Israeli extradition warrant. The warrant accuses the 22-year-old religious school teacher of child stealing and perjury.

Mrs. Esther Iwi, Starkes' attorney, told the police court at the hearing that her client had been granted bail on Tuesday and that she again wanted bail for the teacher. R. L. Wolf, representing the Israel Government, objected to the bail plan, and said the whereabouts of missing Yossel Schumacher was a matter of "grave concern." Detective inspector Margaret Heald also opposed bail and said the police had "very good information" that the missing child was in England.

AMERICAN NAZI ARRESTED IN WASHINGTON FOR MAILING ANTI-SEMITIC THREATS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7; (JTA) -- Federal authorities today announced the arrest of a supporter of George Rockwell, American Nazi Party leader, on a warrant charging violation of the U.S. Criminal Code by sending libelous and threatening anti-Semitic postcards through the mails. Ronald Harner, 19, was taken into custody. Bail was set at \$1,000 by the Federal District Court and Harner was ordered to appear September 19 before a United States Grand Jury. The arrest resulted from an investigation by postal inspectors.

ISRAEL EDUCATORS AID SOCIAL WORKERS BEGIN ADVANCED STUDIES IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- A group of seven leading Israeli social workers arrived here today to begin advanced studies at universities in this country under the Overseas Scholarship Program of the National Council of Jewish Women. The Israelis, who will spend from one to two years studying in the United States, will be trained to adapt American techniques for the advancement of their fields in Israel.

Included among the group was Shraga Adiel, Israel's Assistant Director General for Elementary Education, who will study educational administration at Columbia University's Teachers College. Others in the group were: Mrs. Margalit Ben-Zvi, a Moroccan-born Israeli and the sole teacher at the school for deaf children in Beersheba, who will study at the Central Institute for the Deaf in St. Louis; Joseph Ritter, supervisor of field workers in the Tel Aviv Welfare Department's youth division, who will study at Western Reserve University.

Also among the scholarship recipients who arrived were: Rafael Levy, an English teacher at the Hebrew University High School in Jerusalem; Mordechai Gonen, Assistant District Inspector for Haifa in the Ministry of Education, who will study at the University of Michigan; Rivka Kostrinsky, a psychologist and educational counselor at the Jerusalem Child Guidance Clinic, who will study at the University of Chicago; and Avraham Zalkin, inspector of secondary schools for Israel's Southern Region, who will attend Teachers College at Columbia University.

A total of 14 scholarships were granted to Israelis this year under the NCJW program which has financed advanced study for 177 educators and social workers since 1946.

CHICAGO RABBIS INDICATE CAUTION OF FIGHTING ILLINOIS SUNDAY LAW

CHICAGO, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- Chicago rabbinical groups indicated an attitude of caution today in plans to combat the Illinois Sunday closing law for automobile dealers which was signed into law last week. The measure was signed by Governor Otto Kerner over objections of religious groups which also included the Seventh Day Adventists, Seventh Day Baptists and other denominations who cannot transact business on their Sabbath, which is Saturday.

Rabbi Harold P. Smith, legislative commission chairman of the Orthodox Chicago Rabbinical Council, said the council planned to study the new law before any action was taken. Rabbi Philip L. Lipis, president of the Chicago Board of Rabbis, said the board, made up of Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis, opposed the measure "because we felt that it infringes on the religious rights of the Sabbath observer."

Automobile dealers sought a local injunction and said they would take the case to the Supreme Court if necessary. The Supreme Court recently ruled similar Sunday closing measures as constitutional.

JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OF AMERICA PRESENTS AWARD TO DR. GOLDSTEIN

NEW YORK, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Goldstein, world chairman of the Keren Hayesod and member of the Jewish Agency for Israel, was honored today during his visit from Israel, where he now makes his home, by the board of directors of the Jewish National Fund at a special convocation.

Maurice Levin, JNF treasurer, presented the JNF Award of Merit to Dr. Goldstein in recognition of his decade of leadership of the JNF. Albert Schiff, JNF president, lauded Dr. Goldstein's contributions. Mrs. Clara Leff, Pioneer Women president, presented Dr. Goldstein with a JNF certificate designating the planting of a forest in Israel in honor of Dr. Goldstein and his wife, a past president of Pioneer Women, for their distinguished careers in the Zionist movement.

AMERICAN JEW BORN IN ISRAEL WINS U.S. FINALS IN COUNTRY-WIDE BIBLE CONTEST

NEW YORK, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- Tuvia Goldman, an American Jew born in Israel and now living in Cincinnati, won the United States finals in the country-wide Bible contest conducted here last night. As American Bible champion, he will compete in the International Bible Contest to be conducted at Jerusalem on October 3. Mr. Goldman competed against four other Americans, all non-Jews.

The judges of the U.S. finals competition, which was televised, were three prominent scholars: Dr. Harry M. Orlinsky, professor of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion; Father John LaFarge, a prominent Catholic scholar and well-known Jesuit; and Professor James Muhlenberg, one of this country's most prominent Protestant theologians.

FRENCH GOVT. HONORS ARGENTINE LEADER OF JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- A prominent Argentine Jewish leader was presented here with the French Order of the Legion of Honor by the French Ambassador Armand de Blanquet de Chayla at ceremonies at the headquarters of the Jewish Colonization Association. Simon Weil, an Argentinian engineer who is active in the affairs of the JCA, was cited by the French Ambassador for his important contributions to the field of agriculture and education. The Jewish Colonization Association is currently observing its 70th anniversary.