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U. N. BODY REPORTS ON ARAB REFUGEES; STUDIED REPATRIATION, RESETTLEMENT

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Oct. 16. (JTA) -- The Palestine Conciliation Commission today submitted a report to the United Nations General Assembly on the Arab refugee problem, indicating that it studied not only the question of repatriation of the refugees to Israel, but also their "resettlement and economic and social rehabilitation," in accordance with a resolution adopted by the Assembly in 1948. Resettlement and integration of the Arab refugees in the Arab lands is the central point studiously avoided by all the Arab delegations.

The PCC had been instructed by the Assembly last April to report not later than October 15 what progress, if any, had been made toward implementation of one clause in a long Assembly resolution adopted in 1948. The clause pointed to by the Arab delegations dealt only with repatriation of the refugees or their compensation.

In its report today, the Commission cited not only that section of the relevant 1948 clause, but also the section immediately following, in which the Palestine Conciliation Commission was ordered "to facilitate the repatriation, resettlement and economic and social rehabilitation of the refugees and the payment of compensation."

In the report, the Commission informed the Assembly formally that it had sent to the Middle East Dr. Joseph E. Johnson, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, as a special representative. Dr. Johnson, the report emphasizes, had conferred "at the highest level and with senior officials and experts" of Israel, the four Arab states involved, the Secretary General of the Arab League, the director of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, and members of the UNRWA advisory commission.

"Since his return from the Middle East," the report continued, "Dr. Johnson has been holding further conversations with representatives of the host countries and Israel. (The 'host' countries where the refugees reside are Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon.) These conversations are continuing. All of the officials with whom he has talked, both in the Middle East and since his return to Headquarters, have received him in a friendly manner, manifested a deep interest in seeking progress, and given him their views freely and frankly."

Sees Possibilities for Practical Steps to Deal with Refugee Problem

The report then implies that, so far, Dr. Johnson has not yet been able to get agreement between Israel and the Arab states on the refugee question, but holds out the hope that the Commission may be able to report "progress" soon. The Commission's report stated:

"While declaring that it was not yet possible to submit firm conclusions, Dr. Johnson informed the Commission that high officials of the host countries and of Israel had expressed the view that it might be possible to take practical steps with regard to the refugee problem without prejudice to the positions of the governments on other aspects of the 'Palestine question.' While it clearly would not be possible at this stage to develop an acceptable set of detailed proposals, the Commission hopes, in the light of Dr. Johnson's report, to be able to make suggestions in the near future with respect to methods of procedure that might lead to progress on the refugee question."

After reporting briefly on other activities, such as Israel's release of Arab refugee bank accounts, the Commission in today's report added a paragraph considered by observers here as highly significant. In this paragraph, the PCC calls the attention of Assembly delegations to two "working papers" issued several years ago dealing with "The Question of Reintegration by Repatriation or Resettlement" and "The Question of Compensation." Thus the Commission bolstered the view that repatriation of the refugees is not the only possible solution, and that reintegration and resettlement must also be considered, as Israel has constantly demanded;

No indication was given as to when a further PCC report indicating "progress on the refugee question" may be expected. The Assembly's Special Political Committee has placed the Arab refugee question next to the last item on its agenda so that it may not be reached

until late November or early December. It was presumed here today that a further report from the PCC on the refugee issue may be filed before the committee debate is begun.

Regarding the Commission's other activities, the PCC reported that it is continuing with its work of identification and evaluation of refugee property in Israel. The task is a vast one, according to the Commission, involving approximately 450,000 parcels of land.

Commission Reports on Israel's Release of Arab Refugee Bank Accounts

In connection with Arab refugee bank accounts in Israel, formerly blocked but now unfrozen by the Israel Government, the Commission reported that "as of June 30, 1961, there had been released (by Israel) a total of 2,790,045 pounds sterling of the accounts of refugees and absentee owners."

According to the Commission, Jordan, Lebanon and the United Arab Republic have now agreed to permit refugees in their areas to withdraw those accounts through Barclays Bank and negotiations with the new Syrian Arab Republic on this issue are underway. "It is expected that the release operation will start in the near future," the Commission reported.

The Commission also reported that many refugee account holders have so far failed to apply for funds due them; According to the Commission, the Arab states agreed in 1956 to permit refugees to apply for the unfrozen funds but so far this agreement "remains unimplemented." The Commission asserted in its report that its help to refugees for obtaining these funds "remains available."

MAPAI OFFERS FOUR PORTFOLIOS TO LIBERALS IN ISRAEL COALITION CABINET

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16: (JTA) -- Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, in renewed efforts to form a new Government coalition under his mandate from President Izhak Ben-Zvi, met with leaders of the Liberal party today and was believed to have offered them four portfolios--the Ministries of Justice, Development, Transport and Posts.

It was also believed that Mr. Eshkol's Mapai party might be ready to offer the Liberals the Ministry of Education portfolio instead of the Ministry of Transport or Posts. If Mapai and the Liberals come to agreement, the coalition Cabinet would also include the National Religious party.

Mr. Eshkol also reportedly expressed his party's readiness to meet some of the Liberals' demands about supervision of the Defense Ministry by the establishment of a special Ministerial Committee for Defense. The Finance Minister was also believed to have offered compromise solutions about other Liberal demands in the fields of health and economy. In earlier talks, the Liberals had demanded, among other things, that they receive the Ministry of Commerce and Industry portfolio.

It was also learned today that the National Religious party, which has been assured of three portfolios--the Ministries of Religious Affairs, Interior and Social Welfare--is now demanding a fourth portfolio. Their latest demand is based on the argument that Mapai, which lost six seats in the recent Knesset elections, should relinquish one portfolio in the Cabinet. This would still leave Mapai with a Cabinet majority.

500 ARAB RESIDENTS IN ISRAEL PERMITTED TO LEAVE COUNTRY FOR TOURS ABROAD

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16: (JTA) -- More than 500 Israeli Arabs took summer tours to Europe this season, the Ministry of the Interior announced here today. Included among the Arab tourists were teachers, clerks, farmers and businessmen, while one-third were in the 20-year to 25-year-old bracket, the Ministry stated.

Applications by Arab residents wishing to leave Israel are never rejected, the Ministry stated. Thousands, it was pointed out, have crossed into Jordan and Lebanon under Israel's policy of facilitating the reunion of families. According to the Ministry, anyone in Israel wishing to go to Jordan or Lebanon may do so--if the authorities on the other side of the border also approve those applications. Similarly, the Ministry pointed out, hundreds of Arabs from Arab lands have been permitted to enter Israel under the family reunion plan.

U.N. CONTRIBUTED \$6,500,000 TO PROMOTE SPECIAL PROJECTS IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16: (JTA) -- The United Nations expanded program of technical assistance has contributed a total of nearly \$4,500,000 to Israel, while the UN Special Fund has allocated \$2,000,000 for long-term projects in this country. These figures were announced here today at a news conference called by Raymond Gauthereau, resident representative here for the UN Technical Assistance Board and the UN Special Fund.

Nearly \$4,000,000 were contributed by Israel to promote the special projects for which the Special Fund has expended \$2,000,000, the UN official said. Since 1952, according to Mr. Gauthereau, 50 experts have been sent to Israel by various United Nations Agencies. Israeli experts have been sent by the UN during that period to work on technical assistance projects in other countries. At the present time, he said, Israeli experts are at work on UN technical assistance programs in Colombia, Ghana, Singapore, Ceylon, Argentina, Congo, Philippines, Liberia and Nigeria.

JEWISH AGENCY ALLOCATES MORE FUNDS FOR HOUSING FOR NEW IMMIGRANTS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16: (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency executive decided today to increase its allocation for housing for new immigrants by 30,000,000 Israeli pounds (\$16,800,000), as an advance against subsequent budgets.

The increase raises the Agency's allocation for immigrant housing for the current year to 52,000,000 pounds (\$29,120,000). In addition, 13,500,000 pounds (\$7,560,000) was included in the Agency's original budget for the present year for completion of houses under construction. Work on these houses had been begun before the beginning of the present budget year.

BROWN & WILLIAMSON INFORMS 'PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE' ON END OF BAN

NEW YORK, Oct. 16: (JTA) -- The Brown and Williamson Tobacco Company, which has for five years refused to sell certain brands of cigarettes to Israel, under Arab pressure, today notified the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish organizations that it is "fully" resuming its trade relations with Israel. A telegram sent by the tobacco company to Rabbi Irving Miller, president of the Conference, read:

"In view of our extended conversations over a period of several years regarding Brown and Williamson's trade relations with Israeli cigarette importers, we are happy to inform you that the matter is being satisfactorily resolved. Our request for issuance of cigarette import licenses for Lucky Strike, Pall Mall, Viceroy and other Brown and Williamson brands, is being granted by the Israeli Government, and trade relations will be fully resumed. I would appreciate your informing your constituents accordingly."

In notifying the presidents of the 18 organizations participating in the Conference about the contents of the telegram, Rabbi Miller said that the Brown and Williamson boycott of Israel first became evident in 1956, when it sent letters to Israeli importers notifying them that no future orders could be accepted. Soon afterward, the Presidents Conference issued a pamphlet, "A Report on the Arab Boycott Against Americans," which stated that Brown and Williamson Tobacco Corporation had been "forced to succumb to pressures of the Arab League."

According to Rabbi Miller, about three weeks ago a Brown and Williamson representative indicated to the Presidents Conference the willingness of the company to resume shipment of all its cigarettes to Israel, and that it would approach Israeli trade officials accordingly.

Rabbi Miller said that the Presidents Conference is "gratified that Brown and Williamson--together with its parent body, the British American Tobacco Company--has concluded that it is better ethics and morality to resist the Arab boycott demands and to resume its trade relations with Israel. They will find, in the long run, that it is better business too," he said.

TRIAL OF SIX NAZI OFFICERS OPENS IN GERMANY; CHARGED WITH KILLING JEWS

KARLSRUHE, Germany, Oct. 16: (JTA) -- Six former SS officers accused of having murdered more than 2,000 Jews in the vicinity of Kovno and Kiev in 1942 and 1943, went on trial in the Karlsruhe Jury Court here today.

The principal defendant is Eric Ehrlinger, 51, who was arrested here two years ago, after living quietly in this city, under an assumed name following World War II. The trial is expected to last three weeks. More than 150 witnesses have been summoned by the prosecution, to testify against the six defendants.

SOVIET DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWS CONDEMNED BY SECRETARY OF LABOR

NEW YORK, Oct. 16: (JTA) -- Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg last night condemned the "vigorous anti-Jewish policy" pursued by the Soviet Union. Addressing a dinner at which Mr. Goldberg was presented with the "Man of the Year Award" by the Men's Club of the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue, the Labor Secretary said the Russians have closed synagogues, turned them into grain warehouses, confiscated Jewish funds, banned ritual and private prayer meetings, and destroyed memorials and cemeteries.

Mr. Goldberg said reliable reports of Russian anti-Semitism have been received despite "the protestations of the Soviets that the Jewish people have voluntarily integrated themselves in Soviet culture." The Jewish people in the Soviet Union face political and social exclusion, he declared. "They are denied in general even those small rights and advantages granted to other minority groups in Russia. They are isolated as a matter of public policy," Mr. Goldberg stressed.

ISRAELI CONSTRUCTION FIRM TO BUILD FIRST LUXURY HOTEL IN TANGANYIKA

DAR-ES-SALAAM, Tanganyika, Oct. 16: (JTA) -- A luxury hotel estimated to cost 675,000 pounds sterling (\$1,890,000) will be built here next year by an Israeli construction firm, Mlonot, Ltd., according to an agreement signed here today between Tanganyika's Ministry of Commerce and Industry and officials of Mlonot. Construction is expected to start next February and the hotel is scheduled to be in full operation by September 1963.

SWEDISH GOVERNMENT GRANTS \$20,000 TO ORT FOR WORK IN OTHER COUNTRIES

GENEVA, Oct. 16; (JTA) -- The Swedish Government today approved a grant of 100,000 kroner (\$20,000) to Ort to aid the organization in carrying out its work among refugees. Although Ort maintains no schools in Sweden, the organization received the grant from the Swedish Government for its vocational programs in other countries.

During the past year, World Refugee Year encouraged fund-raising for refugees in Sweden and Ort benefited from two allocations made by the Swedish Refugee Committee. Some 10,000 of the more than 40,000 men, women and young people trained by Ort last year were refugees.

N. Y. CHURCHES HOUSE REFORM JEWISH CONGREGATION LACKING ITS OWN TEMPLE

NEW YORK, Oct. 16; (JTA) -- A two-year old Reform congregation, which still does not have a home of its own, was disclosed today to be using the facilities of four Protestant churches for its various functions. The four churches which have extended the helping hand to the first Jewish congregation in Brooklyn Heights are the First Unitarian Church, the first Presbyterian Church, the Plymouth Church and Spencer Memorial Presbyterian Church.

The 125 Jewish worshipers hold weekly Sabbath services at the Unitarian Church, have their religious school at the First Presbyterian Church, hold their young adult activities at the Spencer Memorial Church, and conduct Sisterhood meetings at Plymouth Church. Rabbi Sanford Jarashow said that a congregation committee has been looking around for a suitable site for a house of worship.

BEN-GURION TO EDIT HISTORY OF JEWS IN PALESTINE FOR BRITISH FIRM

JERUSALEM, Oct. 16; (JTA) -- A popular, illustrated work, covering the complete history of the Jews in Palestine from their earliest settlement, and edited by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, will be published by the British Aldos Publishing House, a subsidiary of Doubleday and Company, it was disclosed here today.

Donald Brewick, one of the company's editors, arrived here today to complete the arrangements for the project which was first conceived during Premier Ben-Gurion's visit to London earlier this year. At that time, the company suggested to Mr. Ben-Gurion that he write the book himself, but it was later agreed that the Premier edit and supervise the work.

Mr. Ben-Gurion is expected to meet shortly with a number of Israeli scholars, and will then name the collaborators for the work. The book will be published in album format and will include maps and photographs.

NEW YORK CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE URGES ARABS TO ADAPT ISRAEL'S ACHIEVEMENT

NEW YORK, Oct. 16; (JTA) -- An appeal to all nations in the Middle East to regard Israel as a pilot plant and to "adapt her astounding achievements in science and technology to their own pressing problems" was made today by Jacob R. Sensibar, president of the American Technion Society, addressing the closing session of the fourth annual Conference on Science and Technology in Israel and the Middle East, held at the Hotel Astor.

"It is the hope of the planners of this Conference that the day is not far off when these annual gatherings will be held in Israel and in surrounding countries, at which there will be a free and open exchange of scientific and technical information that will benefit all peoples," he declared.

William M. Q. Halm, Ambassador of Ghana to the United States, told the Conference of Israel's technical assistance to his country. Mr. Halm said: "When we entered into the new era which afforded us new hopes and new aspirations, we found ourselves faced with problems which could only be solved by new skills and new techniques, some of which we lacked. We therefore had to cast our eyes on the horizon, looking for help, and from Israel, timely help, in the form of technical assistance, came."

ISRAEL BANK OPENS BRANCH IN LOS ANGELES FOR WEST COAST OPERATIONS

LOS ANGELES, Oct. 16; (JTA) -- The Bank Leumi le-Israel, Israel's largest commercial bank, opened an office in Los Angeles for west coast operations. To honor the opening of the branch, the California-Israel Chamber of Commerce held a luncheon attended by a record turnout of members of the chamber, guests and representatives of the banking profession.

Dr. Y. Foerder, chairman of the Bank Leumi, and Gideon Strauss, president of the Israel Foreign Trade Credits Corporation and manager of Bank Leumi in New York, addressed the luncheon.

Leo Gallin has been named California representative of Bank Leumi, which has 135 domestic branches in Israel, a branch in Wall Street, New York and affiliated banks in London and Zurich.