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NEW SOVIET-EGYPTIAN PACT ON ARMS VIEWED IN PARIS AS THREAT TO PEACE

PARIS, Dec. 27; (JTA) -- The reported Soviet-Egyptian weapons agreement, under which Egypt is to be provided with additional Soviet submarines and MIG fighter planes in exchange for use by Soviet fleet units of Egyptian naval bases, was termed by French officials here today as a serious threat to peace not only for Israel but for the entire Mediterranean area.

It was emphasized that France has consistently taken the position that President Nasser of Egypt represented one of the most dangerous threats to Western influence in the Middle East and North Africa. The reported agreement was viewed today by French officials here as confirmation of that judgment.

The French press expressed concern editorially about the possible consequences of the reported Soviet-Egyptian understanding. The Aurore declared today that "we hope that our American friends will now finally realize the blunder they made five years ago when they saved the Egyptian dictator during the Suez campaign."

(In Washington, the State Department today continued to state that it received no information from its diplomatic representatives in Cairo on the reported Soviet-Egyptian arms pact. State Department officials said that they know nothing more about the pact except the news carried by the newspapers.)

Observers in Paris anticipate that the stiffening French attitude toward Nasser would be expressed in increased aid to Israel. The influential Le Monde asked whether the United States intended to adopt a Middle East policy which would be "something else than a constant submission to blackmail."

By "re-starting the arms race" in the Middle East, Nasser "willingly engaged" his country and the entire Middle East in the cold war, the French leader said. It expressed doubts that Egyptian bases had been made available to the Soviet naval forces but considered it probable that various installations will be built by Egypt which "may be useful some day to the Soviet bloc."

JE WISH COMMUNITIES IN EUROPE SEEK AID TO COPE WITH FLOOD OF REFUGEES

LONDON, Dec. 27; (JTA) -- The Combined Overseas Rehabilitation and Refugee Appeal reported here today that European Jewish communities were "facing almost impossible problems in attempting to cope with a new flood of refugees."

The organization said that the refugees had created "immense problems, both immediate and long-term, for the Jewish organizations to which they have turned for assistance."

A flood of refugees is concentrated in Marseilles, CORRA reported, declaring that "the city's Jewish population rose from 8,000 in the 1950's to nearly 40,000 even before the Jewish refugees started to swell its numbers." The organization stressed the refugees "need emergency aid, cash, food, medicines and housing."

The report said that the most recent arrivals of refugees are from Tunisia and estimated that 3,500 Tunisian Jews have entered France in the last few months. It emphasized that about two-thirds are French nationals and are eligible for government assistance, but more than one-third are Tunisian citizens and are dependent on assistance from local Jewish agencies.

The Tunisian Jews, the report stated, represent only a part of the picture. The number of Egyptian Jews arriving, and being helped, is also rising. The Joint Distribution Committee, in collaboration with the Fonds Social Juif Unifié--central French Jewish fund-raising organization--provides emergency aid to the new refugees, the CORRA said, urging British Jewry to do its share.

A wave of Jewish refugees in France is also anticipated from Algeria as a result of the situation there. Algerian Jews automatically French citizens can enter France without any difficulties. However, they will need aid before adjusting themselves to a new life. The CORRA therefore foresees that the need for aiding "new" Jewish refugees in France may increase in 1962.

ISRAEL'S FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATE POLICY TO BE DISCUSSED IN WASHINGTON

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27: (JTA) -- Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel, will leave for Washington next week for talks with officials of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank on various aspects of Israel's finances.

Mr. Horowitz will meet with IMF director Per Jacobson to discuss Israel's foreign exchange rate policy which was sharply criticized in a report of the Fund. The meeting with World Bank officials will deal with Israel's application for a loan to help finance a \$60,000,000 road building program.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT URGED TO CLARIFY COUNTRY'S MONETARY SITUATION

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27: (JTA) -- Several far-reaching investment schemes for Israel planned by investors in the United States and Canada have been postponed pending clarification of the monetary situation in Israel, it was reported here by Dr. Yeshayahu Foeder, chairman of the board of directors of Bank Leumi.

Dr. Foeder said that "it is high time for the Government to declare in unambiguous terms that it will not devalue the currency during the present term of the Knesset (Israel's Parliament), or to carry out devaluation forthwith and without hesitation."

In demanding that "some decision either pro or con be made" with regard to the monetary situation, the Bank Leumi chairman stated that "the present condition of insecurity and uncertainty, with the myriads of rumors and hints from various sources is most undesirable." He added that the rumors about devaluation of Israeli currency had caused a sharp decline in the demand for Israeli securities.

Meanwhile, it was announced here today that Israel's foreign currency receipts for the first six months of the current fiscal year which began last April 1, increased by 12.5 percent. Figures released today by the Treasury showed that receipts during the period amounted to \$397,000,000 compared with \$353,000,000 during the same period last year.

HIGHER TAXES ON AUTOMOBILES, REFRIGERATORS BECOME EFFECTIVE IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27: (JTA) -- Higher purchase taxes on automobiles and refrigerators became effective today to provide part of the 118,000,000 pounds (\$66,000,000) supplementary budget for Israel for the year ending March 31, 1962.

Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, who asked Israel's Parliament last night for approval of the supplementary budget, said the additional funds were needed to provide housing for immigrants who were arriving in greater numbers than had been anticipated when original budget estimates were made. Other increased government expenditures were required to meet civil service pay increases, drought relief and repair of substandard school buildings, Mr. Eshkol explained.

The new taxes raise by one pound (56 cents) per kilogram the levy on the weight of passenger cars, and from 80 pounds (\$44.80) to 100 pounds (\$56) the levy on refrigerators. However, as an offset, customs duties on electronic parts, which ranged from 60 to 100 percent of the prices of the parts, were cut today to 40 percent.

The change in the electronics parts duties were in line with recommendations of the Stanford Research Institute mission which is now in Israel preparing a report on the development of Israel's electronics industry.

ISRAEL'S FOREIGN TRADE REACHED \$800,000,000 IN 1961, MINISTER REPORTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27: (JTA) -- Israel is now maintaining trade contacts with 78 countries on all continents, Pinhas Sapir, Minister of Commerce and Industry, declared here today. He said Israel's foreign trade, which totaled \$400,000,000 in 1955, reached a total of \$800,000,000 this year.

Mr. Sapir noted that Israel had not sought membership in the European Common Market, preferring an arrangement through which the activities of the ECM would not be disadvantageous or discriminatory to Israeli trade.

ISRAEL DENIES USE OF BELGIAN-MADE 'UZI' SUBMACHINEGUNS IN KATANGA

JERUSALEM, Dec. 27: (JTA) -- An Israel Foreign Ministry spokesman denied today a report from London that Belgium-made "Uzi" submachineguns were among the equipment captured by United Nations troops in Katanga.

The spokesman, in his comment on the report by the London Observer, said he had nothing to add to a recent statement in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, by Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres that the Israel contract with the Belgian firm permitted transfer of the Israel-developed weapons to a third country only after consultation with Israel.

ISRAEL SEEKS TO CURB SOCIAL AND CULTURAL RELATIONS WITH GERMANY

TEL AVIV, Dec. 27; (JTA) -- An inter-Ministerial committee has been set up by the Israeli Cabinet to curb social and cultural relations between Israel and West Germany, it was reported here today. The decision followed political arguments which developed from contacts between individuals of the two countries, particularly a visit by an Israeli teachers' delegation to West Germany.

Among the plans understood to be ready for implementation by the Cabinet committee are a ban on allocations of foreign exchange for studies by young Israelis in West Germany and on acceptance of scholarships for such studies. Another restriction will bar older students from going to West German advanced schools or technology institutions, unless their work is vital to Israel and they cannot get training elsewhere in their fields.

A ban will be applied to exchanges of artists and against creation in Israel of branches of West German societies. Visitors from West Germany will have to pass a screening to determine whether they were former Nazis.

EX-INMATES OF NAZI CAMPS ARE STILL SUFFERING FROM EMOTIONAL DISORDERS

NEW YORK, Dec. 27; (JTA) -- Former inmates of Nazi concentration camps are still suffering from emotional and physical disorders directly attributable to their camp experiences, it was reported here today by Medical Tribune, an authoritative medical weekly.

This fact, reversing previous medical opinion, has been established by a team of ten Norwegian specialists, the medical organ said. The Norwegians examined 100 former camp prisoners and found 96 of them suffering from memory impairment, tendency to fatigue, difficulty in concentrating, emotional instability, sleep disorders and headaches.

As a direct result of these findings, Medical Tribune reported, the World Veterans Federation, which co-sponsored the Norwegian study, has called a world conference at The Hague to deal with "delayed effects of concentration camp imprisonment."

SHARP DECREASE IN VANDALISM AGAINST JEWISH INSTITUTIONS REPORTED

NEW YORK, Dec. 27; (JTA) -- Vandalism against Jewish institutions in New York City was far less frequent during 1961 than in the previous year, a Jewish civic defense agency reported today, adding this was true throughout the United States.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith listed 11 cases of swastika daubings, cemetery desecrations and synagogue vandalism during 1961 and said this was about one-tenth of the incidents recorded in New York City during 1960 after the neo-Nazi desecration of a synagogue in Cologne on Christmas Eve, 1959. That desecration touched off a worldwide spate of such smearings.

The ADL said that nationally there were 158 such incidents recorded during 1961 compared to 814 during 1960. The organization reported that most of such activities have involved young people and that there was no reliable information on how much of it was due to simple vandalism and how much from anti-Semitic motives.

JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE TO GRANT INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 1962-63

NEW YORK, Dec. 27; (JTA) -- The ninth annual program of international scholarship and fellowship grants for the academic year 1962-63 will be offered by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Jacob Blaustein, senior vice-president, announced today.

The grants will be awarded to Jewish victims of Nazi persecution who qualify for scholarships in Jewish teacher training and in Jewish studies, and for fellowships to carry on independent research projects in the Jewish arts, letters and social sciences.

Last year, scholarship and fellowship grants went to 164 candidates in 18 countries: Argentina, Australia, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Holland, Italy, Peru, Sweden, Switzerland, United Kingdom, United States and Yugoslavia.

Applications must be submitted on special forms which may be obtained from the offices of the Claims Conference in New York. Candidates in Europe may obtain the forms from the Central British Fund for Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation, London, or from the American Joint Distribution Committee, Geneva.

Scholarship and fellowship applications must be submitted to the Claims Conference, New York, no later than March 31, 1962. Applications submitted after that date will not be considered.

The scholarship and fellowship grants are part of a greater program for Jewish cultural and educational reconstruction carried on by the Conference.

ISRAEL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA GIVES GALA CONCERT ON 25TH ANNIVERSARY

TEL AVIV, Dec; 27; (JTA) -- A brilliant performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony--with the choral portions sung in English instead of the standard German--last night marked the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra;

The jubilee concert was held under the auspices and in the presence of President Izhak Ben-Zvi. Cabinet Ministers, the entire diplomatic corps and many guests from the United States and Britain attended the concert. Mayor Mordechai Namir of Tel Aviv greeted the orchestra on behalf of the municipality and Education Minister Abba Eban brought the greetings of the government and the nation;

In the years since the orchestra was founded by the late Bronislaw Huberman, it has become one of Israel's best ambassadors in tours to all parts of the world; The Tel Aviv Municipality announced that the square facing the Mann Auditorium, the home of the orchestra, will be named Orchestra Square;

The performance of the Ninth Symphony was preceded by some confusion as to the language to be used in the choral portions of the last movement; The orchestra's public board asked guest conductor Josef Krips, musical director of the Buffalo Symphony, not to perform in the original German of Schiller's "Ode to Joy," which is incorporated in the final movement; The board cited the mood of Israelis created by the lengthy trial of Gestapo Colonel Adolf Eichmann for brutalities and murders of European Jewry.

The board recommended Hebrew, to which the guest conductor consented; However, the Viennese soprano, Wilma Lipp, canceled her appearance as guest soloist because of that decision. It was then decided to perform the choral portion in English when it was found too difficult to find soloists who could sing in Hebrew; American and British singers were signed and gave a beautiful performance, according to the critics; The orchestra and the soloists received a standing ovation and ear-shattering applause at the close of the concert;

The concert marked the 25th anniversary of the first performance of the orchestra--assembled from refugee musicians from all parts of the world--when the late Arturo Toscanini raised his baton and the melodies of Schubert's Unfinished Symphony opened a new era of classical music in Jewish Palestine;

ISRAEL DENIES APPROVING INTRODUCTION OF EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION

JERUSALEM, Dec; 27; (JTA) -- A special advisory board studying the introduction of educational television in Israel has not yet approved a UNESCO survey recommending the proposal, the board announced today; The board made the announcement in denying a report that the UNESCO recommendation had been approved;

The Israel Broadcasting Service meanwhile announced it planned to extend commercial programs in the state radio, Kol Yisrael; Since a private firm was granted a concession for commercials on Kol Yisrael last April, monthly income of the station rose to 80,000 pounds (\$48,800) a month from 32,000 pounds (\$17,929) a month;

Israel's first course for training of TV technicians was in the meantime opened at the ORT Vocational Center in Tel Aviv; The first 37 students began their classroom and laboratory studies last week; Although Israel does not as yet have a general system of public television, some 1,000 sets in private homes receive programs from neighboring countries.

The electronics department of the ORT school at Tel Aviv has been the only place in the country where television equipment could be serviced; This has produced demands for repairs from every part of the country; The school's program for electronics instruction rates high and is generally regarded as one of the best in Israel; Admission to the course was limited to qualified electronics technicians;

DR. OTTO LOEWI, NOBEL PRIZE WINNER, DIES IN NEW YORK; HELD BY NAZIS

NEW YORK, Dec; 27; (JTA) -- Dr. Otto Loewi, who achieved a Nobel prize-winning status as a physiologist in Austria before he was driven out when Hitler took over that country in 1938, died in his home here at the age of 89. At his death he was research professor of pharmacology at the New York University School of Medicine;

He was co-winner of the Nobel Prize in 1936 for his discovery that nerves could transmit signals to muscles by the use of chemicals. He was the discoverer of acetylcholine, one of the substances secreted by the vagus nerve which stimulates heart action; He also discovered another enzyme, which destroys acetylcholine; That discovery made possible modern theories of nerve action;

When Hitler moved into Austria, Dr. Loewi lost the professorship of pharmacology he had held for 29 years and was arrested by the Nazis; He was released on condition he leave the country; He arrived in the United States in 1940 and became a professor at NYU;

Born in Frankfurt-Am-Main, he received his medical degree in 1896 from the University of Strasbourg and settled down at the University of Graz in 1909; Other research efforts by him covered the heart, kidney and other organs. In addition to the Nobel Prize, he received many other honors, medals, awards and degrees;