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\$19,303,000 RAISED IN INITIAL GIFTS AT OPENING OF NATIONAL U. J. A. DRIVE

NEW YORK, Feb. 11; (JTA) -- The nationwide United Jewish Appeal officially launched its 1962 campaign today as 300 American Jewish leaders from all parts of the country meeting at the Waldorf Astoria contributed or reported initial gifts totaling \$19,303,000 one of the largest starting sums attained by the drive in a decade.

The contributions, which included gifts pledged in local campaigns, were made at UJA's National Inaugural Dinner, presided over by Edward M. M. Warburg, UJA honorary chairman and chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee; Joseph Meyerhoff, general chairman of this year's UJA, which seeks \$95,000,000, was unable to be present because of illness.

Announcing the \$19,000,000 plus starting sum, Mr. Warburg hailed the sharply increased giving to UJA's Special Fund; "This year's starting sum includes gifts to the Special Fund of over 55 percent more than the total given by the same contributors to UJA in 1961," he stated; "What was raised here should serve as an indication of how great the needs are and an inspiring example of the spirit in which they must be met."

The UJA Special Fund is a \$35,000,000 goal which is being sought this year "over and above" the contributions which donors make to the regular campaign goal of \$60,000,000. Its purpose is to finance the current increased immigration of Jews to Israel and other lands.

Sharett Stresses Responsibility of U.S. Jews to Immigrants

Moshe Sharett, former Prime Minister of Israel and chairman of the Jewish Agency, who was one of the principal speakers at the dinner, told the 300 Jewish leaders that the provision of help to today's immigrants is the responsibility of both the Israeli people and the Jews of the free world, particularly in the United States.

"Those of us who have visited the main centers of assembly of refugees now on their way to Israel witnessed a deeply stirring, powerfully dramatic spectacle," he said; "They saw their people on the march, no longer helpless and confused, knocking haphazardly at any door and finding most doors closed, but moving confidently towards a historic destination. The era of aimless drift in Jewish history has ended."

The Israel statesman stressed that the immigrants now going to Israel "realize they are in for a difficult phase of adaptation to new conditions, new ways of life, new social patterns, and that they will have to exert themselves to it." He added that the reward of those who help them, "will be recognition that thanks to their far-sighted generosity, the present chances of rescue were not missed."

Israel Is Witnessing an Immigration Explosion, Says Gen. Herzog

General Chaim Herzog, another principal speaker of the evening and former Chief of Intelligence of the Israel Defense Forces, told the gathering that Israel's people are today struggling to receive, house and absorb one of the largest immigrations since their country's first years; He declared Israel's citizens will welcome every immigrant who comes no matter what sacrifices this might entail, but that the help of American Jews and UJA in absorbing the newcomers is "crucial."

"Israel is witnessing an immigration explosion," General Herzog said; "If we had been offered the opportunity to save even one life during the Nazi disaster, we would have made any sacrifice. But then it was impossible. Today, Providence has given us a rare opportunity to help. And those on the move beg us not to forget those they left behind. The responsibility for them is both yours and ours in Israel."

General Lucius D. Clay, personal representative of President Kennedy in Berlin and former Commander-in-Chief of the U.S. Armed Forces in Europe, urged in a taped message that UJA supporters do all that is possible to speed the resettlement of today's immigrants to free lands; Gen. Clay was to have spoken at the dinner, but was kept in Berlin by the pressure of events there.

An award was presented to the General in absentia, honoring him for his "compassionate aid and understanding" to the 200,000 Jewish displaced persons in the U. S. zone of occupied Germany when he was military commander there, in 1947-49. It consisted of a copy of the first Jewish daily prayerbook printed in Germany in the post-Hitler years, and was contained in a walnut box mounted with a silver plaque.

ISRAELIS ACCEPT DEVALUATION CALMLY; COMMODITY PRICES REMAIN STABLE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 11: (JTA) -- Calm, marked the opening of Israel's business week today as the country faced the fact that, over the Sabbath weekend, the Israeli pound has been devalued.

Levi Eshkol, Minister of Finance, announced the devaluation in a country-wide radio broadcast Friday afternoon, after all business had ceased for the Sabbath but just before sundown ushered in the official day of rest. Under the new economic policy announced by Mr. Eshkol, the Israeli currency was pegged to three pounds for a dollar. The old official rate was 1.8 Israeli pounds to the dollar. The step had been taken by the Government to boost trade, narrow the trade gap between imports and exports, meet the challenge of the European Common Market, and halt domestic inflation.

Today, throughout the country, business continued as usual, commodity prices as a whole remained stable, and there was no rush of buyers. Mr. Eshkol told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency this morning that the trend is "a welcome sign, testifying to the population's maturity." He expressed the hope that the trend will continue.

A brief survey of Sunday's markets, here and at Tel Aviv, revealed the public reaction as quiet. The Stock Exchange at Tel Aviv opened as usual, bank transactions were normal, and there were no special demands for withdrawal of deposits. However, a large variety of commodities were marked at higher prices, including gasoline, heavy oils, automobiles, coffee, tea, cocoa, hides and leather, chemicals, metals and imported books.

Smaller increases were marked on refrigerators and cotton. Tickets for sea and air transportation were up 20 percent. There were no increases on consumer staples like sugar, edible fats, bread, eggs, milk and other agricultural products. Cooking gas and electricity remained at pre-devaluation prices, as did postal services and tickets for domestic transportation services like buses and railroads.

Manufacturers Association Agrees to Voluntary Price Freeze

Today's regular, weekly meeting of the Cabinet here was devoted entirely to discussions of the new economic policy. The Cabinet authorized Mr. Eshkol to explain the new policy to the Knesset (Parliament) tomorrow. The Cabinet meeting was attended by David Horowitz, Governor of the State Bank, as well as by senior officials of the Treasury Department. The Cabinet decided to appoint a committee of senior officials of the various Ministries to coordinate the details of the Government's new economic policy.

Pinhas Sapir, Minister of Commerce and Industry, announced today that the Israel Manufacturers Association has agreed to call on all its members to implement a voluntary price freeze. He said he had obtained similar pledges from cooperatives, consumer societies and the Merchants' Association.

The director-general of Israel's Treasury declared that he expects prices to rise three or four percent "at most." Some articles popular among consumers will not increase in price at all, he said. Price increases, he stated, will be determined chiefly by the increased cost of the "import component." New import prices, he said, could increase local costs by not more than four percent. The price of luxury goods, imported at a high tax exchange, will increase by the difference in the exchange rate, the Treasury official said.

The general policy will be to cancel import duties on machinery, equipment and most raw materials, which ranged up to 45 percent. Among materials to be freed from import taxes are chemicals, unfinished metals, raw fibers and pigments.

In an address to Israeli newspaper editors today, Mr. Eshkol said the Government will not hesitate invoking price controls if there should develop any signs of profiteering. He said the Government still has the possibility of helping industries during a specified time, until it is proven that an enterprise is economically viable.

"If a foreign investor proposed something very exciting for a development area," he said, "he may get special conditions for a certain time." He hinted that special consideration might be given to "hardship cases" like industries that floated dollar-linked loans recently. The same, he said, might be applied to housing investors that took out dollar-linked mortgages.

STRIKE OF ENGINEERS IN ISRAEL ENDS; STRIKERS TO RESUME WORK TODAY

TEL AVIV, Feb. 11: (JTA) -- The month-old strike of 6,000 salaried engineers, chemists, architects and agronomists employed in Israeli public institutions was ended tonight, when the Engineers' Union secretariat adopted a resolution to accept a seven percent wage increase offered previously by the Government. The members of the union will return to work tomorrow morning.

The union had held out until now for its demand for a 16.5 percent salary increase. The Government's offer, given to the union by Labor Minister Yigal Allon, was accepted by a 14-13 vote of the union's ruling group.

Z. O. A. LEADERS DIFFER ON WHETHER ANTI-SEMITISM IN RUSSIA IS GOVERNMENTAL

NEW YORK, Feb. 11; (JTA) -- Differences of opinion on whether anti-Semitism now prevailing in the Soviet Union is part and parcel of an official policy of the Soviet Government developed today among leaders of the Zionist Organization of America at the two-day meeting of the ZOA National Executive Council being held here;

While Max Bressler, ZOA president, said that he does not subscribe to the contention that "underlying the anti-Jewish discrimination in Russia is governmental anti-Semitism," Dr. Max Nussbaum, chairman of the National Executive Council asserted at today's session that the imprisonment of lay leaders and rabbis in the Soviet Union represents "an open policy of anti-Semitism embarked upon by the Moscow government;"

Both Zionist leaders equally expressed concern over the discriminations which are being practiced now against Jews in the Soviet Union and especially over the arrests of Jewish communal and religious leaders; However, Mr. Bressler expressed the belief that these discriminations stem most probably from a misconception of what constitutes Jewish nationality or Judaism combined with a political aversion to Israel; "To my mind," he said, "both these sources can yield to change with patient and proper handling;"

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, member of the Jewish Agency executive, addressing the session, criticized the present multiplicity of competing groups in the American Zionist movement and called for a closer union among American Zionist organizations through an "earnest reappraisal and realignment" of Zionist forces in this country; He voiced the belief that "this can be effected without the total loss of identity" on the part of the various Zionist groups, or the suppression of their internal autonomy;

Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency, speaking at today's session, said that the present position of Jews in some countries constitutes a challenge to Zionists and non-Zionists alike; "It is up to the non-Zionists to acknowledge that without the inspiration and drive supplied by the Zionist movement there would have been no independent Israel today," he said; "It is up to the Zionists to realize that far from being able to rest on their laurels, they are called upon to close their ranks and redouble their efforts so as to make of the Zionist message the central theme of contemporary Jewish life;"

JEWISH SCIENTISTS IN RUSSIA ARE UNDER SURVEILLANCE, OFFICIAL REVEALS

NEW YORK, Feb. 11; (JTA) -- Jewish scientists in the Soviet Union are constantly being watched by Russian "security organs," lest they pass on secret information which ultimately reaches "American agents" through Israel diplomats in the USSR, it was revealed here by Vadim Bogoslovsky, a Soviet official serving in the United Nations; In an interview with a correspondent of the Jewish Day-Morning Journal, Mr. Bogoslovsky "explained" why Jews in the Soviet Union constitute a "special security problem" for the authorities; He said:

"Jews have a greater possibility of being seduced by foreign agents; Jews have a natural interest in and are not indifferent to Israeli diplomats; The Israeli diplomats often go into the synagogues in Russia; They talk to the worshippers and make friends with them; They talk; They tell each other things; It happens that a Jew has a son who has an important post in a scientific research institute that is concerned with research in secret developments; The diplomat learns details and hands them over to his American friends; This is espionage;"

"As a result of these circumstances," Mr. Bogoslovsky continued, "Jewish scientists are under special surveillance by our security organs because there were many incidents which would force us to undertake actions to prevent any kind of what, for us, would be unpleasant situations;" The situation, said the Soviet official, is "uncomfortable" both for the Jews in Russia and for the Soviet regime, "but the circumstances and the strained world situation have created it;"

\$1,115,000 RAISED AT HISTADRUT NATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 11; (JTA) -- Cash contributions of \$1,115,000 were received today at the Midwinter Conference of the National Committee for Labor Israel held at the Hotel Commodore, which was attended by 800 delegates from all parts of the United States and Canada;

Dr. Sol Stein, executive director of the National Committee for Labor Israel announced in his progress report that the contributions from trade unions, business groups, Jewish welfare funds and Labor Zionist organizations would be used to aid pioneers and new immigrants in Israel through provision of medical care, vocational training, economic rehabilitation and cultural services; The 1962 goal of the Israel Histadrut Campaign is \$5,000,000;

Dr. Stein announced that the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America have undertaken a joint project with Histadrut to establish the Sidney Hillman Memorial Clinic in Tel Aviv at a cost of \$500,000; Morris Lieberman, of Detroit, announced that the American Histadrut Development Foundation had passed the \$2,000,000 mark in long-term commitments for the support of Histadrut Educational and Welfare Agencies in Israel;

N. Y. ATTORNEY GENERAL ACTS AGAINST HOUSING COOPERATIVE BAN ON JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 11; (JTA) -- Acting on affidavits submitted by the Anti-Defamations League of B'nai B'rith on behalf of two individuals, Attorney General Louis Lefkowitz filed a complaint with the State Commission Against Discrimination, against Northgate Apartments, Inc., a housing cooperative in Bronxville, N. Y., charging violation of the State's anti-discrimination housing law.

The Anti-Defamation League and the American Jewish Committee have, through a joint committee, long sought elimination of Bronxville discriminatory practices. In testimony before the U. S. Commission on Civil Rights at a hearing in the city in February 1959, the American Jewish Committee asserted that "brokers and agents participate in a conspiracy of complete exclusion of would-be Jewish purchasers of homes in Bronxville." The AJC added that this "has been the established policy in this community for at least the past four decades."

Thirty-nine civil rights, religious, labor and civic organizations in New York State sent a joint appeal today to Governor Rockefeller, seeking his support for pending legislation which would strengthen the state's present law banning racial and religious discrimination in certain commercial and housing sales or rentals. The new measure now pending in the Legislature would ban racial and religious discriminations in all private housing accommodations in the State, except in the rental of an owner-occupied two-family house and the rental of rooms in an owner-occupied apartment.

NEW YORK MAYOR RESIGNS FROM ATHLETIC CLUB CHARGED WITH DISCRIMINATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 11; (JTA) Mayor Robert F. Wagner disclosed today he had resigned from the New York Athletic Club because he had heard allegations that the club discriminated against Jews and Negroes in admission policies.

John Condon, public relations director of the club, denied however that there was any discrimination. He said there were some Jews among its 9,500 members. He also said he did not know of any Negro members. Last month, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith listed the New York club as being biased in its membership policies.

HEBREW DAY SCHOOL LEADERS URGED TO BECOME ACTIVE IN JEWISH FEDERATIONS

ROCKAWAY PARK, N. Y., Feb. 11; (JTA) -- Delegates to the 14th annual national convention of the National Association of Hebrew Day School Parent Teacher Associations were urged today to strive in their home communities for maximum participation in the programs of local Jewish federations and welfare funds and of local bureaus of Jewish education.

That course was proposed by Irving I. Stone, president of the Hebrew Academy of Cleveland, as the most certain way to obtain Jewish communal fund support for Hebrew day schools. He addressed the 400 delegates meeting here at the Park Inn Hotel, from 200 Hebrew day schools in more than 75 cities throughout the United States.

SAMUEL LEMBERG NAMED GENERAL CHAIRMAN OF N. Y. UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

NEW YORK, Feb. 11; (JTA) -- The appointment of Samuel Lemberg, real estate investor and philanthropist, as a general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York was announced last night by its president Monroe Goldwater. The other New York Appeal chairmen, who were reappointed, are Charles Bassine, Attorney General Louis J. Lefkowitz of New York and A. Louis Oresman.

Mr. Lemberg is a vice-president and trustee of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, and a trustee of Brandeis University. He is also actively associated with a number of other humanitarian, educational and philanthropic groups.

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY NAMES WINNERS OF 1962 CREATIVE ARTS AWARDS

WALTHAM, Mass., Feb. 11; (JTA) -- Brandeis University today announced the names of eight winners of its 1962 Creative Arts medals and citations in the fields of music, poetry, sculpture and theatre. The awards, each accompanied by a grant of \$1,500, will be presented to the winners at a reception on March 18 in New York City.

The medals, awarded for a lifetime of outstanding artistic achievement, will be presented to S. N. Behrman, playwright; Louise Bogan, poet; Alexander Calder, sculptor; and Edgar Varese, composer. The citations, given in recognition of promise, will be awarded to J. P. Donleavy, playwright; Ben Belitt, poet; David Slivka, sculptor; and Ralph Shapey, composer.

QUEEN OF NETHERLANDS DECORATES VETERAN DUTCH ZIONIST LEADER

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 11; (JTA) -- Queen Juliana yesterday conferred the Order of the Dutch Lion on Dr. Mauritz Fraenken, vice-president of the Amsterdam High Court and a veteran Dutch Zionist leader. Chief Rabbi Aron Schuster was present at the ceremonies when knighthood was conferred upon the 70-year-old jurist who was an inmate of the Theresienstadt concentration camp during the Second World War. For many years, Dr. Fraenken was a member of the board of the Dutch Zionist Federation.