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ISRAEL GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES CONCESSIONS TO EASE DEVALUATION EFFECTS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 15; (JTA) -- A number of drastic monetary actions to end the chaotic price situation which followed devaluation of Israel's pound was decided on today after a series of meetings of Government fiscal authorities. Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and David Horowitz, governor of the State Bank of Israel, led the discussions.

Among the steps to be taken was the release into the market of dollar-linked bonds to squeeze prices down and prevent windfall profits from speculation in commodities. Another project was the injection of large amounts of dollars to check a booming black market in dollar transactions.

The fiscal officials also decided to boost the interest rate on foreign currency deposits from seven to nine or ten percent which would be tax exempt and payable in foreign currency. The latter move was intended to induce depositors to refrain from taking out deposits and thus limit the pressures of new additions of purchasing power, particularly in the area of real estate.

It was also decided to introduce further concessions on many industrial products in the area of customs and purchase taxes with the general goal of limiting rising prices of industrial products to a top of 10 percent. Treasury sources indicated a belief the series of measures would stabilize mounting prices in a few days and end the chain reaction of tumbling securities and real estate prices.

The price of kerosene, which was hiked last weekend immediately after announcement of pound devaluation was reduced to its former level. The price of diesel oil was cut to ease price pressures in sectors using the fuel, particularly the threat of a forced rise in bus fares.

The Industry Minister announced today that a proposed surtax on stocks of imported materials--which had been planned to absorb the difference in the exchange rate created by devaluation--would be waived if manufacturers using those materials could satisfy the Ministry they would hold the price line for at least six months.

Meanwhile, Abraham Dickstein, president of the American-Israel Corporation AMPAL, said today the investment firm plans to raise \$50,000,000 for additional investments in Israel. He made the announcement at the close of a two-week meeting of the AMPAL board. He said the funds would be raised by continuing sales of AMPAL debentures, preferred stock and common stock and through establishment of four new companies.

SEVEN JEWS KILLED IN FRENCH-MOSLEM CLASHES IN ALGERIA DURING WEEK

ALGIERS, Feb. 15; (JTA) -- Seven Jews were killed in the murderous French-Moslem fighting in Algeria this week, it was reported today. Three of the Jewish victims were killed in Algiers, three in Oran and one in Bone.

A Jew in Oran, Albert Levy, a cafe owner, was sentenced by French authorities to five years' imprisonment for selling grenades and guns to Moslem underground rebels. He said he had done so under threats by Moslem terrorists against him and his family.

Jewish communities in various Algerian towns urged rabbis to abandon their immigration plans because of the difficulties of replacing them.

JEWS FROM TUNISIA CONTINUE TO REACH FRANCE; RECEIVE AID IN PARIS

PARIS, Feb. 15; (JTA) -- The influx of Tunisian Jewish immigrants into France has increased further during the last few days, it was revealed here today. The refugees, most of them arriving at Marseilles, are brought here and taken in charge by the local Jewish Welfare Fund, the Fonds Social Juif Unifie, to which the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee grants considerable support.

The majority of the Jews arrive with only one dinar (\$2.00) in their possession--the maximum amount of money they are allowed to take with them. They are being aided with cash relief for their immediate food and housing needs, financial help to adolescents without families, scholarships for students, and the services of an information bureau

both here and at Marseilles. The Joint Distribution Committee has also set up, together with FSJU and the British Central Fund, a hundred-million-franc housing fund. This fund enables refugees to rent or buy apartments or homes in Metropolitan France.

PARIS COURT CONVICTS ENCYCLOPEDIA PUBLISHER FOR SLUR ON LEON BLUM

PARIS, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- A French civil court convicted today the publishers of the Larousse Encyclopedia on charges of slandering the memory of the late Leon Blum and ordered payment of damages of 1,000 French francs (\$200) to Robert Blum, son of the late French statesman.

Robert Blum had sued the Encyclopedie firm for publication of an article asserting that the one-time French Premier's real name was "Karfulkelstein." In the suit, it was claimed that during Leon Blum's lifetime, fascists and other anti-Semites had contended that this was his real name to "expose him as a foreign Jew."

The publishers had pleaded that the responsibility for the slanderous article rested on one of the contributors but the court rejected that defense, holding that the publishers had been guilty of failing to check material slated for publication.

The fact that more than 660,000 uncorrected encyclopedias were in circulation also was raised against the publishers. When the most recent edition appeared two years ago, Jewish and French liberal spokesmen strongly protested against the article on Blum and, at that time, the publishers pledged themselves to recall encyclopedias still on sale to correct the entry but did not do so.

EX-NAZI LEADER RECOMMENDED TO HIGH POST IN GERMAN GOVERNMENT

BCNN, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Gustav Sonnenhol, a well-known German economist--and a leader of the SS during the Hitler regime--was recommended by the Free Democratic Party today for the post of State Secretary in the newly created Development Ministry. Political circles here reported today that Chancellor Konrad Adenauer has approved Sonnenhol's appointment to the post.

Sonnenhol joined the Nazi Party in 1930, three years before Hitler came to power as the head of the Reich. Later, he rose to leadership in the SS, Hitler's super-elite corps which, during World War II, was used extensively for the annihilation of European Jewry. Adolf Eichmann, now under death sentence in Israel for directing the program for the mass murder of Jews, was a colonel in the SS. The International Military Tribunal at Nuremberg declared the SS a "criminal organization."

Some political circles here expressed the belief today that, if Sonnenhol gets the job of State Secretary, another "Oberlander Case" may develop. Dr. Theodor Oberlander, formerly a member of the Adenauer Cabinet as Minister for Expellees, resigned from the Cabinet under fire of having been active in Nazi mass-murder activities. However, Dr. Hans Globke, State Secretary in Dr. Adenauer's own Chancellery, is still in that post despite many accusations that he had helped draft the Nuremberg racist laws under the Hitler regime. Globke has consistently denied these charges.

ISRAEL'S EXPORTS REACHED \$240,000,000 LAST YEAR; INCREASED BY 12 PERCENT

NEW YORK, Feb. 15. (JTA) -- The office of Israel's trade commissioner in the United States today reported that Israel's export reached \$240,000,000 in 1961, \$26,000,000 more than in the prior year of 1960. Industrial exports amounted to \$110,000,000 as compared with \$91,000,000 in 1960. Israel's exports since 1956 rose by \$128,000,000--an increase of 114 percent.

Diamonds cut and polished in Israel are first on the export list, amounting to \$70,000,000. Israel's diamond industry specializes in the production of meleees, and it is estimated that it now produces almost the total world production of meleees.

Exports of textiles and clothing amounted to \$25,000,000 in 1961. Exports included regular and synthetic yarns, fabrics, fashionable knitwear, raincoats, bathing suits, underwear, hose and gloves. The textile industry occupies first place in Israel in terms of value of output and number of workers.

Exports of citrus fruit, long known as Israel's traditional export item, exceeded \$40,000,000 in 1961. Exports of the food industry totaled \$17,000,000. Principal export foods were citrus products, wines, sweets and chocolates and dehydrated soups. The food supply in Israel has for a few years outdistanced the local demand, with the result that the efforts of the producers are increasingly bent on exports. The U.S. bought goods worth \$31,000,00 as compared with \$28,000,000 in 1960.

SHARETT VISITS ACTING SECRETARY OF UNITED NATIONS; HOLD FRIENDLY TALK

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 15. (JTA) -- Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency who is now visiting New York, today paid a call on United Nations Acting Secretary General U Thant at his office here. The two had a friendly talk which involved no political issues.

SO. AFRICAN UNIVERSITY DROPS ATTEMPT TO LIMIT FACULTY TO PROTESTANTS

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 15; (JTA) -- The University of the Orange Free State, at Bloemfontein, today reversed a stand previously criticized by Jews and Roman Catholics announcing it has decided to retain the so-called "conscience clause" in its charter. Under that clause, Jews and Catholics are entitled to faculty appointments, along with members of the Protestant profession, since all religious qualifications for faculty appointments are barred.

Last year, the university had a bill introduced into the South African legislature, amending the "conscience clause." University officials justified their stand on the grounds that the institution's "basic character" is "Protestant Christian." Among those who objected to the amendment were not only Jews and Catholics but also many other South Africans, including members of the Government, who called abolition of the "conscience clause" contrary to South Africa's pattern of freedom of religion.

The University Council today instructed those who introduced the controversial amendment to drop it, requesting instead some other amendments of a non-controversial nature. Many of the South African newspapers promptly congratulated the university for altering its stand.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE OPENS OFFICE IN ISRAEL; ANNOUNCES PROGRAM

NEW YORK, Feb. 15; (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee, a non-Zionist organization, is initiating a special educational and cultural exchange program in Israel and is opening an office in Tel Aviv to develop the program. Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president of the organization announced today.

Maximo Yagupsky, director of the Committee's Latin American offices for 16 years, has been named to head the new Israel office. The chief purpose of the Committee program in Israel will be to foster mutual understanding between Israelis and Jews in the United States and other free countries throughout the world. Of special concern will be the youth and young adults of Israel, particularly in terms of advancing their knowledge and understanding of Jewish life in the United States. Mr. Yagupsky will also help interpret to the Committee current Israeli concerns and problems which are of special interest to Jews in this country.

One of the important aspects of the program will be the publication of an independent magazine in Hebrew. It will be similar in character to "Commentary," a monthly which is published by the Committee in the United States. Another objective will be to help clarify the relationship between Israel and Jews in the U.S. and in other lands. In this connection, Mr. Yagupsky will undertake with the help of Israeli sociologists to direct a survey of Israeli youth on their attitude toward world Jewries. The Committee program will be developed by Mr. Yagupsky in close cooperation with leading civic, religious and educational institutions in Israel.

ORTHODOX GROUPS DISTURBED OVER HUMANE SLAUGHTER BILL IN N.Y. STATE

NEW YORK, Feb. 15; (JTA) -- The Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, the central agency for Orthodox congregations, and the Rabbinical Council of America, the Orthodox rabbinical association, declared today that passage of the Conklin humane slaughter bill by the New York State legislature would be "a serious threat to the free practice of shechita."

The two Orthodox organizations declared that enactment of the measure would mean that "countless numbers of Jewish citizens in the state of New York would be deprived of the privilege of observing Jewish dietary laws. That this could occur in the great State of New York is simply unthinkable."

The statement said that this was not realized by "a number of groups" which had endorsed the measure, introduced in the State Senate by Sen. William Conklin. That comment apparently referred to a statement by the New York region of the American Council for Judaism, endorsing the measure.

MORE THAN 100 PERSONS CONVERTED TO JUDAISM IN CHICAGO LAST YEAR

CHICAGO, Feb. 15; (JTA) -- More than 100 persons converted to Judaism in the Chicago area last year, according to a survey conducted by the Sentinel, a Chicago Anglo-Jewish weekly. The rabbis polled by the paper agreed that the main reason for the conversions was intermarriage.

Most of the converts were women, the survey showed. While marriage with Jewish partners was the motive in the majority of cases, some of the converts were college students looking for a new faith.

NEW YORK RABBIS VOICE OPPOSITION TO STATE AID FOR PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Feb. 15; (JTA) -- The New York Board of Rabbis tonight voiced opposition to the use of public funds, on all levels, for private and parochial school education. Such support, the board declared in a resolution adopted at its 81st annual meeting, would be both a violation of the principle of church-state separation and a "threat to the religious institutions which depend on outside aid to further their programs."

Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz was elected president of the rabbinical organization which represents Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis. The meeting also adopted a resolution demanding that public schools should be free of religious teachings. It also denounced the New York state Sunday closing laws as penalizing Sabbath-observing Jewish merchants and urged the New York State Legislature "to enact a fair Sabbath law which will no longer discriminate against those who honor the seventh day."

In another resolution, the rabbis urged "a thoroughgoing study by Jewish and other agencies of the problem of Jewry in the Soviet Union, with a view to taking steps which will ameliorate the lamentable situation of our people there;"

The board asserted that "the curtailment of religious and cultural rights for Jewry behind the Iron Curtain, and the trials and convictions of Jewish leaders on the charge of 'contact with foreign powers,' appear to be a serious indication of Soviet intention to separate Russian Jewry from the rest of world Jewry and to impose severe limitations on their spiritual and cultural development;"

The board scored the Arab countries for their refusal to recognize Israel and to seek peace. It urged in a resolution that the United States Government "insist that nothing less than clear-cut demands for direct peace negotiations between the Arabs and Israelis be carried out;"

BROTHERHOOD WEEK STARTS ON SUNDAY; TO BE OBSERVED BY CHRISTIANS, JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 15; (JTA) -- Thousands of synagogues, churches and other religious and secular organizations will take part in a variety of activities planned during annual Brotherhood Week which opens Sunday.

The program is under the sponsorship of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, which has selected President Kennedy as recipient of its Brotherhood Award for 1962. Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, president, and a group of other officials will present the award at a White House ceremony Monday to the President who is honorary national chairman of Brotherhood Week.

The concept of a special week in recognition of the kinship of man was endorsed today in statements by Vice-President Lyndon B. Johnson, Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, Rabbi Julius Mark, president of the Synagogue Council of America, and Bishop John Wesley Lord, Bishop of the Methodist Church of the Washington area, and first vice-president of the National Council of Churches.

Mayor Robert Wagner of New York today designated the week of February 19 as Brotherhood Week in New York City and presented the proclamation to Col. Emanuel Targum, general chairman of the Brotherhood Conference.

JEWS IN BOSTON TESTIFY ON SUNDAY LAW; SEEK EXCEPTION FOR SABBATH OBSERVERS

BOSTON, Feb. 15; (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Jewish Community Council of Boston urged at a public hearing today adoption of a measure to ease the Massachusetts Sunday closing law by permitting Jewish Sabbath-observing merchants who close their places of business on that day to remain open on Sundays.

The measure, H-2508, was introduced in the Legislature by State Rep. Sumner Z. Kaplan. It was drafted by the American Jewish Congress and the Jewish Community Council after extensive study of the present state Lord's Day Law.

Herman Snyder, a vice-president of the JCC, told the public hearing of the Committee on Mercantile Affairs, that H-2805 "represents the absolute minimum which the Supreme Court could give to the protection of minority rights." Other speakers at the hearing were Rep. Kaplan, Robert E. Segal, JCC executive director, and Edward Harshak, American Jewish Congress counsel.

DR. GORDON, ISRAELI OFFICER IN U.N. SECRETARIAT, DIES; WAS 57

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 15; (JTA) -- Dr. Ezekiel Gordon, an Israeli senior officer in the Division of Human Rights of the United Nations Secretariat, died in a hospital here today at the age of 57.

Born in Russia, he received a doctorate in law from Paris University in 1931. He taught at the university and later was on the faculties of two law schools in Egypt. He served in the French Army in World War I and settled in Palestine after the war, becoming a member of the Palestine bar. He joined the UN Secretariat in 1947, and served there until his death except for a two-year period, 1949 to 1951, when he was director of the International Organizations Division of the Israeli Ministry for Foreign Affairs.