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ISRAELIS TO BE PERMITTED TO DEAL IN FOREIGN SECURITIES, ESHKOL SAYS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, winding up debate in Parliament on the Government's new economic policy, said last night that some commodities would be entirely exempted from import licenses.

He also reported that a free market in foreign securities would be maintained not only for Israelis receiving restitution payments from West Germany but also for Israeli residents generally. He said, however, that Israelis will not be allowed to transfer such securities from the country. He also said that henceforth blocked accounts of non-residents will be abolished and holders may sell their accounts in the free foreign security market.

Replying to critics who charged that the three Israeli pounds to the dollar rate was too low, the Finance Minister said that a higher rate of exchange would have involved the danger of a too rapid influx of conversions of foreign currency into the Israel economy. This, he asserted, would have forced a general price rise.

He predicted that the Israeli standard of living would not be lowered by the devaluation. He also expressed the hope that the devaluation would slow down the upward trend in prices which for the past five or six years had averaged a five to six percent increase annually. He admitted the Government had made a "psychological error" in raising the price of fuel but added this was rectified by restoration of the pre-devaluation price.

STRIKE OF POST OFFICE WORKERS CRIPPLES MAIL DELIVERY IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- A postmen's strike spread throughout most of Israel on its third day today, crippling service and forcing Israelis to pick up their mail at special stations.

The mail piled up at main offices, affecting normal operations and halting deliveries. Postal authorities announced yesterday that mail would be distributed at designated stations. Israelis had to brave severe rain and hail to pick up their mail today.

Postal officials said they were trying to find temporary substitute means for delivering the mail and suggested the possible use of soldiers for that purpose.

HEAVY SNOWFALL, RARE IN ISRAEL, DISRUPTS TRAFFIC; HAIL DAMAGES CROPS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- Heavy snowfall -- rare in Israel -- blanketed the Jerusalem area today while heavy rains and hail caused considerable damage to field crops, vegetables and orange groves throughout the country. The snowfall disrupted traffic, cut off the Jerusalem-Tel Aviv highway, halted railways and crippled bus and auto traffic in the capital. Most schools and the Hebrew University were closed because of the snowfall.

Several Parliamentary Deputies were cut off from Jerusalem, to which they had been hurrying for a scheduled debate on easing or abolition of military government in Arab-populated areas. Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, was one of those cut off from Jerusalem by the storm. Plans were made to fly the deputies to Jerusalem if no other way could be found.

Tel Aviv suffered greatly from the hail, as did the Galilee hilly region and the Safed area. The damage to the orange groves threatened the citrus crop. The Castel road to Jerusalem was cut off by the snowfall and long lines of cars waited for the snows to melt. Evening newspapers were brought to the Castel road by vehicle and then taken afoot for several miles to a point where they were put on cars coming from Jerusalem.

SOVIET WILL RECOGNIZE NO APPEAL BY JEWS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN VILNA

LONDON, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- The four Jews sentenced to death in Vilna earlier this month on charges of alleged currency violations will have no right to appeal the sentence handed down by the Soviet tribunal, it was reported in Komsomolskaya Pravda, official organ of the Soviet Communist youth movement received here today.

The four sentenced to death were Aaron Reznitsky and his wife, Bassya, Mikhail Rabinovich and F. Kaminer. Bassya Reznitsky was the first woman to be sentenced to death by a Soviet court since the death of Stalin.

ISRAEL'S SUPREME COURT TO START HEARINGS ON EICHMANN APPEAL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20; (JTA)--- The Supreme Court announced yesterday it would begin hearings on March 22 on the appeal by former Nazi Colonel Adolf Eichmann from his sentence of death by hanging. The Nazi was convicted of a key role in the Nazi war-time slaughter of 6,000,000 European Jewish men, women and children;

The appeal hearings are expected to last five days. The appeals court justices have been named by Supreme Court president Justice Olshan and details on its membership are expected to be published about two weeks before the hearings begin.

AMERICAN EXPRESS COMPANY MAY SOON REOPEN ITS OFFICES IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- The American Express Company, which had closed its branch in Israel apparently under Arab boycott pressure, may reopen it soon. This was indicated today by P. W. Erickson, vice-president of the company and head of the American Travel Agents Association, who is currently touring Israel in a survey of tour possibilities.

The company has never admitted the Arab boycott pressures, asserting that it closed its Israel office because of unsatisfactory business. This contention apparently was refuted by Mr. Erickson on his current visit when he agreed that Israel was becoming an important tourist country, with both ancient and new tourist attractions.

CENTRAL JEWISH BODY IN GERMANY WARNS ON RISE OF NEO-NAZI PROPAGANDA

MUNICH, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- The Central Council of Jews in Germany issued a warning today against "an alarming increase" recently in the number of neo-Nazi periodicals being circulated in West Germany. This is the second warning issued by the Council within the last two weeks.

Today's statement, issued after a meeting of the Council's executive in Munich, asserted that the periodicals "belittled Nazi crimes," minimized Jewish suffering during the Nazi era "and discredited in the most shameless way the West German Jewish community." The Council said that West German youth were being "influenced negatively" by the upsurge of neo-Nazi propaganda.

TWO NAZI CAMP PHYSICIANS SENTENCED TO JAIL, BUT IMMEDIATELY FREED

MUNSTER, W. Germany, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- Two former Nazi camp doctors were sentenced to eight and three years, respectively, today and then notified the sentences would be regarded as served. They were immediately freed.

The defendants were Dr. Heinz Baumkotter, 50, a doctor at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp from 1942 to 1945, was sentenced to eight years for aiding in two cases of murder of camp inmates and 14 cases of manslaughter. He also was accused of participating in the murder of at least 77 other inmates.

Dr. Alois Gabeler, 54, was given three years. The court said that the two sentenced men acted like "real doctors wherever they could" and that one had served ten years in a Russian jail and the other had been interned for three years.

AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR ISRAEL ANNOUNCES STAND ON GENERAL ZIONIST MERGER

NEW YORK, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- Samuel H. Daroff, president of the American Jewish League for Israel, today made public the position of his organization with regard to the proposed merger of the two competing Confederations of General Zionists. The League is affiliated with the World Zionist Organization. Mr. Daroff said that the executive of the League has adopted the following stand:

1. The American Jewish League for Israel reaffirms its traditional position on non-affiliation and non-identification with any political parties in Israel;
2. The League would look with favor upon a merger of the two Confederations only if the Neumann Confederation would make public genuine pronouncement in favor of non-affiliation and non-identification;
3. The League would be opposed to any merger which would include the Liberal Party (Israel) or any other political party within the merged Confederation;
4. The League would look with favor upon the creation in Israel of a genuine new General Zionist Council or Society, clearly separate and apart from, and with no ties to the Liberal Party (Israel) or any other Israeli political party, with a view to future evaluation of the genuineness of its structure and operation as a pre-requisite for admission to and inclusion in a merged Confederation.

REORGANIZATION OF J. W. B. STRUCTURE, OPERATIONS, SERVICES RECOMMENDED

NEW YORK, Feb; 20; (JTA) -- Recommendations for a major reorganization of the National Jewish Welfare Board's national and regional lay and professional structure, operations and service programs were made public today following adoption by the JWB executive committee. The recommendations are an outgrowth of a year-long intensive study by a committee of 51 national leaders. They will be submitted for consideration and action to the national biennial convention of the JWB which will take place in April in Miami Beach.

The first recommendation calls for the "evolution of JWB as a unified agency to the extent feasible," in place of the present operation of JWB's Jewish Community Center and Armed Forces services as distinct local, regional and national entities. A second recommendation provides that "wherever possible the same national and regional staff units of JWB shall be used to serve both the Armed Services and veterans and Jewish Community Center fields." This proposal is designed to bring JWB services and staff resources into line with new conditions and new types of relationships.

Merging of the present separate regional Jewish Community Center units known as sections and the separate regional Armed Services units "into unified JWB regional bodies" is a third recommendation. This proposal suggests that "all regional bodies move toward appropriate unification in such manner and at such pace as are appropriate to their respective situations." An experimental period of relationships between the regional units is recommended but consolidation is to occur "only as, if and when those involved concur in the step." Provision is made for a review of this proposal two years from the date of adoption.

Recommendation IV provides for the assumption of "maximum local responsibility for services to the Armed Forces and hospitalized veterans, with Jewish Community Centers playing an enlarged role in this program." The recommendation further calls for the creation of "a single local JWB unit" to provide service to the Armed Forces and hospitalized veterans in each community where such service is required.

Modification of J. W. B. Services to Community Centers Urged

Modification of JWB's services to Jewish Community Centers by "expansion of highly skilled specialized services and functions and reduced emphasis on generalized counseling," is provided for in the fifth recommendation. Underlying this recommendation is the fact that while JWB's program of services to Centers evolved during the period when the Center was making a place for itself in the American Jewish community, the Centers have now attained such a high level of professional competence that many of them can provide from their own staffs some of the resources and skills for which they had previously turned to JWB.

The Centers are now looking to JWB for specialized services and programing guidance in the Jewish cultural area and in heightening the quality of service and programs. The recommendation envisages the development of a basic corps of JWB staff members, each equipped to function both as general and field consultant to regional groupings of Centers and as a specialist in a particular field of programing or administration.

The final recommendation calls for a complete overhaul and reorganization of the national lay structure of JWB whose complexity and elaboration "have impaired its workability, burdened staff unnecessarily, diverted professional resources from use in serving Centers and the Armed Forces and Veterans and caused needless duplicating demands upon lay leadership."

The proposed changes called for in this recommendation would abolish the present national council of JWB and replace it with a national convention as the organization's supreme governing body; provide a system of rotating national officers and members of the board of directors; reduce the size of the present board to provide for more efficient functioning and create a National JWB Advisory Council on Services to the Armed Services. The latter would consist of representatives of national Jewish organizations and would meet annually to receive pertinent communications and reports.

J. W. B. Official Reports on Projected Y. M. H. A. Building in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, Feb; 20; (JTA) -- More than a third of a million dollars for the Jerusalem YMHA is already in hand and construction of the project will begin shortly, Sanford Solender, executive vice-president of the National Jewish Welfare Board of New York, told the press here today.

The JWB official said that the building would be finished before the end of 1962. Before the press conference, newsmen viewed the site of the project and Mayor Mordechai Ish Shalom expressed the thanks of the municipality and of the youth of the city. He said the project would be invaluable in integrating Israeli youth from various backgrounds and a great contribution to the sports and athletic facilities of Israel's capital city.

3,000 POSITIONS IN RABBINATE AND COMMUNITY WORK ARE REPORTED UNFILLED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- The B'nai B'rith Vocational Service reported today that there were at least 3,000 unfilled positions currently in the American rabbinate and Jewish community work.

Dr. S. N. Feingold, director, stressed that many of the positions pay \$10,000 a year and more. He said that the expanding number of community centers and synagogues has created a growing shortage of trained personnel.

JEWISH AGENCIES IN 10 CITIES TO PARTICIPATE IN FORD FOUNDATION PROJECT

NEW YORK, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- Ten Jewish family service agencies are among 40 such organizations selected to participate in a specialized Ford Foundation-supported project to improve and expand services for older people and their families.

The 40 agencies were chosen from among the 300 member agencies of the Family Service Association of America. The project is being financed by a Ford Foundation-supported project to improve and expand services for older people and their families.

The 40 agencies were chosen from among the 300-member agencies of the Family Service Association of America. The project is being financed by a Ford Foundation grant of \$300,000.

The 40 agencies will conduct demonstrations in 31 local communities for a three-year period to improve counseling, homemaker service, foster care, visiting and other services to the aged. Training of family social workers in new approaches for helping older people will be a major aspect of the project.

Each of the participating agencies is designing its own plan for increasing services under the supervision of a national project staff. At the end of the three-year period, the Family Service Association will evaluate the results and make recommendations based on the work of the 40 agencies.

The Jewish participant agencies are those of Buffalo, N.Y.; New York City; Washington, D.C.; Chicago; Columbus, Ohio; Detroit; St. Louis, Mo.; Bay Area, California; Los Angeles, and Seattle.

JEWS IN ALBANY OPPOSE HUMANE SLAUGHTER BILL IN N.Y. STATE LEGISLATURE

ALBANY, N.Y., Feb. 20; (JTA) -- A bill before the New York State Legislature for humane slaughter was opposed yesterday by the Jewish Community Council of Albany as a "serious threat to religious liberty."

Ed Philips, executive director, said the measure, which exempts shechita, Jewish ritual slaughter, would make such slaughter impossible. He referred to a section of the bill, introduced by Sen. William T. Conklin of Brooklyn and Assemblyman Anthony P. Savarese Jr. of Queens, both Republicans, which forbids shackling and hoisting of food animals before slaughter.

CANADIAN FRIENDS OF MIDDLE EAST LAUNCH VICIOUS ANTI-JEWISH DRIVE

TORONTO, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- A group calling itself "The Canadian Friends of the Middle East," with headquarters in London, Ontario, has launched a vicious campaign against Israel and against Jews.

The first pamphlet issued by the group makes a mockery of the Nazi wartime slaughter of 6,000,000 European Jewish men, women and children and even questions the number of Jewish victims, declaring that "the whole story of the 6,000,000 dead Jews is a pure fiction."

The aim of the pamphlet appeared to be to support the Arab claim to Israel. Experts identified claims in the pamphlet as copied from propaganda material being disseminated from Cairo by the anti-Jewish bureau headed by the former Nazi Johannes von Leers.

CHURCHES IN NORWALK OFFER AID FOR REBUILDING DESTROYED SYNAGOGUE

NORWALK, Conn., Feb. 20; (JTA) -- Officials of the Norwalk Jewish Center, which was almost totally destroyed last week in a raging fire, said today that many offers of help had been received from churches and other organizations in the Norwalk area.

They also said there was no reason to suspect that the fire was the work of any anti-Semites. They added that as far as they knew, there was no record of any threats having been made against the \$150,000 building. The only item saved in the disastrous blaze was the Torah Scroll of Temple Sholem which has used the center as a synagogue since the congregation was formed.

SALTZMAN FOUNDATION GIVES \$50,000 TO WESTERN RESERVE UNIVERSITY

CLEVELAND, Feb. 20; (JTA) -- Western Reserve University announced today receipt of a gift of \$50,000 from the Saltzman Foundation, Maurice Saltzman and Shirley Saltzman. The grant will be used to establish a Shirley and Maurice Saltzman Distinguished Faculty Fund to help attract and keep distinguished faculty members. Mr. Saltzman is vice-president of the Cleveland Jewish Community Federation.