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JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE BACKS DR. GOLDMANN ON MEETING WITH STATE DEPT.

JERUSALEM, May 24. (JTA) -- The executive of the Jewish Agency today fully backed Dr. Nahum Goldmann, its president, on the issue raised against him by Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion requesting "clarification" on Dr. Goldmann's talks in Washington with Phillips Talbot, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, and in New York with Dr. Joseph Johnson, the special envoy of the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission who is now seeking to find a solution to the Arab refugee problem.

Following a meeting today which lasted four hours, the Jewish Agency executive expressed "general agreement with Dr. Goldmann's position regarding the developments surrounding his recent meeting in Washington." No details of the meeting were made public, but it is understood that all members of the executive expressed dismay at the Israel Cabinet decision last Sunday which resulted in the sending of a letter by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion to the Jewish Agency executive chairman Moshe Sharett requesting clarification of Dr. Goldmann's diplomatic activities.

The full endorsement of Dr. Goldmann's action today by the Jewish Agency executive followed a review given by Dr. Goldmann at the executive session of his recent talks with foreign diplomats, including the talk in Washington. Dr. Goldmann, who arrived in Israel last night also told the executive that he intends to hold a press conference in Jerusalem tomorrow at which he will make public his views on this subject.

Meeting Between Jewish Agency and Israel Govt. Planned

Today's session of the Jewish Agency executive also decided to meet with the Cabinet on the issue. The initiative for arranging the meeting was left to the government. It was indicated that there is the possibility of an earlier private meeting between Dr. Goldmann and Israel's Foreign Minister Golda Meir who reportedly expressed the wish to confer with the Jewish Agency president.

It was revealed today that the Cabinet decision that the Prime Minister should send a letter of inquiry to the Jewish Agency executive with regard to Dr. Goldmann's diplomatic talks in Washington and with Dr. Johnson was adopted by the votes of Mapai ministers only. The other Cabinet members proposed to refrain from sending any letter until Dr. Goldmann's arrival to Israel.

The view of the Israel Government is that Dr. Goldmann should account for his activities before the Jewish Agency executive which in turn should inform the government of its reaction. Jewish Agency chairman Moshe Sharett, after receiving the letter from Mr. Ben-Gurion, informed the government that Dr. Goldmann's talk in the U.S. State Department with Mr. Talbot took place after prior contact with the Israel Embassy in Washington.

ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS PROBLEMS OF ALGERIAN JEWS

JERUSALEM, May 24. (JTA) -- Consideration of the problems of Jewish refugees from Algeria, who are now pouring into France by the thousands with some seeking to proceed to Israel, will be a key item on the agenda of the annual meeting of the Zionist Actions Committee, which will open here Sunday, for eight days.

Key officials of the French Zionist Federation will take part in discussion of the Algerian Jewish situation. They will be among the 140 delegates -- 75 from Israel and 65 from 11 other countries -- attending the meeting. Thirty-four of the delegates will be Americans. The Zionist Actions Committee is the ruling body of the movement between World Zionist Congresses.

Yaacov Tzur, chairman of the Actions Committee presidium, today stressed the timing of the meeting during a period of increased immigration and the emergency situation of Jewish refugees in some countries. He said all sessions would be open except one on immigration and absorption. The opening session will be attended by President Ben-Zvi and other government leaders. The principle address will be given by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization.

Many Jewish Refugees from North Africa Seek to Remain in France

TEL AVIV, May 24. (JTA) -- Moshe Kol, head of Youth Aliyah, reported today on his return from France that some 120,000 North African Jews were now living in France and at most of them intended to stay there. He spoke at a World Jewish Child's Day rally at Ramat Gan.

U.S. TRADE MISSION BRIEFED ON ISRAEL BY DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

WASHINGTON, May 24. (JTA) -- Israel's economic growth was described today as a "remarkable development" in a warm speech of praise by Under Secretary of Commerce Edward Gudeman.

He made his remarks at a luncheon honoring the five-member U.S. trade mission which will leave for a three-week visit to Israel early next month. Mission members are attending a week-long briefing session this week prior to their departure.

Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman also briefly addressed the group outlining some of Israel's industrial needs and hopes. A major purpose of the trade mission--the first of its kind--is to help stimulate a greater two-way flow of business between the U.S. and Israel.

ISRAEL GETS \$489,300 GRANT FROM UNITED NATIONS FUND FOR SPECIAL PROJECT

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., May 24. (JTA) -- Israel today received a United Nations Special Fund grant of \$489,300 to aid a \$2,173,000 project for investigation of problems of underground water storage. The Fund's Governing Council made the allocation here in open session, after it had been previously approved at a closed meeting on the recommendation of Paul G. Hoffman, managing director of the Fund.

Under the grant, the UN Food and Agriculture Organization will work with the Government of Israel during a three-year period to probe the feasibility of storing water deep underground in geological formations. Part of the project will include the establishment of a pilot plant in Israel to study techniques for utilizing the underground water, much of which is known to contain a heavy salt content.

Under the plans as worked out by experts for Israel and the FAO, Israel will spend \$1,684,000 for the entire project, more than three times the amount of the grant by the UN Special Fund. The Fund is, essentially, a "pump-priming" operation, intended to stimulate development projects by providing relatively modest amounts to help countries launch certain works through counterpart contributions.

1,714 JEWS LEFT U.S. FOR SETTLEMENT IN ISRAEL DURING LAST 16 MONTHS

NEW YORK, May 24. (JTA) -- Aliya of American Jews to Israel continues to show a gradual increase, according to figures released today by the Jewish Agency here. During the period from January 1, 1961 through April 30, 1962, 1,714 immigrants left the United States for Israel as compared with 1,334 immigrants in the comparable earlier period.

Among the 1,714 immigrants, 175 are halutzim of the Zionist youth movements; 360 professionals; 250 persons going to ulpanim; 60 middle class immigrants and 180 retired. It was pointed out that these migrants declared capital importation to Israel of \$2,650,000 and an annual income of social security and pension payments of \$480,000.

Louis Segal, chairman of the aliyah committee of the Jewish Agency, stated that these figures represent "a gradual upward swing" of aliyah from the United States--a trend which has been going on since 1959. The Jewish Agency, he said, is making special efforts to acquaint the American Jewish public with information on services available to prospective immigrants.

556 STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM HAIFA TECHNION; RECEIVE DEGREES AT CEREMONY

HAIFA, May 24. (JTA) -- A total of 556 graduates of the Haifa Technion were awarded degrees last night at the graduation ceremonies.

Doctorates were conferred on 15 persons and masters degrees for 79. Fifty-eight graduates received engineering degrees and 404 received bachelor of science degrees.

AMERICAN GENERAL HONORED BY U.J.A. FOR AIDING JEWISH DP'S IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, May 24. (JTA) -- Lieutenant General Clarence R. Huebner was honored today by the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York for aid to Jewish Displaced Persons in Europe while he was Acting Commander-in-Chief of the European Command after World War II. The ceremony was held in UJA headquarters here.

General Huebner was presented with a scale replica of Michelangelo's Moses as a testimonial of the occasion. The presentation was made by Mr. Solomon Litt, president of the National Jewish Welfare Board. Mr. Litt lauded General Huebner's compassion and understanding of the plight of Jewish post-war Displaced Persons after the war and his complete cooperation with the agencies and individuals trying to help them.

TURKISH JEWS HOLD ELECTIONS TO ISTANBUL JEWISH COMMUNAL COUNCILS

ISTANBUL, May 24. (JTA) -- Elections of members of the Jewish Communal Councils in various areas of Istanbul were held today. All Jewish males over the age of 21, who have paid the "Kizbah," the community tax, to the Grand Rabbinate, were eligible to vote. The results of the elections will be made known within a few days.

The Communal Councils deal with matters of synagogue administration, Jewish burial and cemeteries, social and charitable institutions, and communal assets in the form of land and buildings.

SOVIET GOVERNMENT CRITICIZED AT U.N. PARLEY FOR BAN ON MATZO BAKING

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., May 24. (JTA) -- Representatives of two Jewish organizations, the World Jewish Congress and the B'nai B'rith International Council, openly put Russia on the spot here today for forbidding Soviet state bakeries to provide matzos for Russia's Jews during the last Passover season. The man who had to take the brunt of the criticism is the Lebanese Ambassador Georges Hakim, who is currently the chairman of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights.

The incident occurred during the annual, two-day conference of non-governmental organizations accredited to the UN. About 400 representatives of 150 organizations attended the conference. One session was devoted to human rights, and Mr. Hakim explained the work of his commission. An American Jewish Congress representative, Ralph Zacklin, was the rapporteur for the group discussing human rights.

Henry Grossman of the World Jewish Congress, and Dr. William Korey, representing the B'nai B'rith International Council, asked Mr. Hakim about the prospects of eventual implementation of a proposed UN convention, declaration or recommendation, dealing with the principle that human rights also involve freedom of religious rights and practices. Neither named the Soviet Union. Mr. Grossman, however, referred to "events that occurred during the recent celebrations of Passover and Easter." Dr. Korey mentioned that "one country" had not heeded a principle in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights which requires governments to provide to their citizens articles needed for the practice of their religion, including "dietary articles," and mentioned the word "matzos" in that context.

Mr. Hakim assured both Jewish representatives that, sooner or later, public opinion throughout the world will support implementation of the rights which they mentioned. He held out little hope for adoption of a proposed formal UN Declaration on the Principles of Religious Freedom before at least another four or five years.

RABBIS ASK U. S. JEWISH GROUPS FOR UNIFIED ACTION ON JEWS IN RUSSIA

KIAMESHA LAKE, N. Y., May 24. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Assembly, central body of the Conservative rabbinate, called upon the American Jewish community today to confer and agree upon unified action to meet "the threat to Jewish life in the Soviet Union."

The resolution was one of a number adopted here today at the conclusion of the Assembly's 62nd annual convention, which opened last Sunday. The measure dealing with the situation of Russia's 3,000,000 Jews proposed unified American-Jewish action on the following three points:

"1. A program that will constantly seek to impress the anguished concern of American Jewry over the fate of their co-religionists in the USSR.

"2. A clearly formulated demand that the same rights and facilities and prerogatives afforded to other religious communities in the Soviet Union be extended to Russian Jewry.

"3. A comprehensive program that will keep the fate of Russian Jewry on the top priority of the agenda of American Jewry."

The Assembly endorsed a recommendation from its committee on Jewish laws and standards for a conference between "representatives of Jewish community centers and rabbinical bodies, for the purpose of discussing the goals and programs of these centers. Rabbi Theodore Friedman, spiritual leader of Congregation Beth El, of Maplewood, N. J., was elected president of the Assembly for next year.

PUBLISHERS OF ENGLISH-JEWISH NEWSPAPERS OPEN TWO-DAY PARLEY IN N. Y.

NEW YORK, May 24. (JTA) -- Publishers of the leading English-Jewish weeklies of the United States began today an all-day business session at the Overseas Press Club as the first event of the two-day annual convention of the American Jewish Press Association. Joseph G. Weisberg, editor of the Boston Jewish Advocate and president of the association, presided.

Later today, the 30 publishers were guests of the board of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at a reception at the JTA international headquarters here. They were received by Abraham Goodman of New York, communal leader and treasurer of the JTA.

Business sessions will be resumed tomorrow morning at the Overseas Press Club, which will be followed by a luncheon honoring the JTA. The luncheon also will mark the official launching of the first annual observance of American Jewish Press week. The week-long observance will mark the 20th anniversary of the founding of the press association.

A symposium on the role and future of the American Jewish press will be held at the luncheon for the 30 newspaper executives. Election of officers for the coming year will take place at the final business session tomorrow.

U. S. AGENCY GRANTS \$575,000 LOAN TO FINANCE HOUSING FOR JEWISH AGED

NEW YORK, May 24. (JTA) -- Two housing developments for the aged, one of them financed by a \$575,000 loan from the United States Housing and Home Finance Agency, will be erected in different parts of New York City, it was announced here today.

The \$575,000 loan went to the Educational Alliance, a noted East Side institution founded 73 years ago. The project will include a 10-story building, the upper eight floors of which will provide a 40-apartment residence for persons over 62. The lower two floors will house Educational Alliance facilities, including special geriatric services. Residents at the project will be selected from the East Side, and will represent a cross-section of the area's ethnic, cultural and income groups.

The second project, in suburban Queens, will have facilities for 225 residents, over the age of 60. Helping finance this project will be the Fellowship Fund, an organization in charge of "masterless" funds which once belonged to victims of Nazism. The Flushing YMHA, located in the area, will provide special program facilities for the aged at this project.

DETROIT JEWISH CENTER LEADERS TAKE ISSUE WITH CONSERVATIVE RABBIS

DETROIT, May 24. (JTA) -- Three Detroit Jewish Center leaders rejected today criticisms of the Jewish center movement by Conservative rabbis, terming the charges as based on "either lack of knowledge" or on "a need to distort the facts."

The criticisms were made at a symposium, the results of which were reported in "Conservative Judaism," a publication of that movement. The reply was made in a letter to the Jewish News of Detroit by Charles H. Gershenson, president of the Detroit Jewish Community Center, and Samuel Frankel and Jacob L. Keidan, both former presidents.

The three Center leaders said that the repeated reference in the symposium to the fact that Jewish Centers receive Jewish communal funds "suggests the motivation" for the criticisms. To this, the three leaders replied that "the Center is subsidized by central Jewish community funds because it has a Jewish orientation which is much more encompassing than any of the denominational synagogue groups, because it serves many needs of a wide segment of the Jewish community, and because it is both responsible and responsive to that community."

They also declared that the focus of the Jewish Center movement is to give special emphasis "to informal educational, cultural and other group activities which have special Jewish group survival values." They added that the Jewish Center believes that "the general personality development activities and the more specifically Jewish activities "are both integral parts of valid programming."

AMERICAN NATIONAL JEWISH GROUPS FORM COUNCIL FOR HEBREW CULTURE

NEW YORK, May 24. (JTA) -- A national Council for Hebrew Culture was formed today at a meeting of national Jewish organizations called by the Histadruth Ivrit of America. A temporary committee was named to work out plans for future action.

The delegates approved a resolution hailing the Third World Hebrew Congress which will meet in Jerusalem next August 7. The resolution appealed to national Jewish groups, institutions of higher learning and similar organizations to send delegates to the Jerusalem gathering.

25 AMERICAN ORTHODOX RABBIS LEAVE FOR THREE YEARS STUDY IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 24. (JTA) -- A group of 25 young American rabbis, all Orthodox, left here for Israel last night for three years of advanced studies at the Israel Torah Research Institute, at Jerusalem.

They were awarded special scholarships under a program conducted by the Institute and the immigration department of the Jewish Agency. The scholarship winners were all between the ages of 19 and 25.

MRS. MAX ROSENBERG ELECTED PRESIDENT OF WOMEN'S AMERICAN ORT

NEW YORK, May 24. (JTA) -- Mrs. Max M. Rosenberg, of Short Hills, N. J., has been elected president of Women's American ORT, according to an announcement here today by the ORT national office. She succeeds the late Mrs. Joseph C. Gayl, who died recently.

Women's American ORT is the largest component of the World ORT Union, which operates more than 600 vocational training installations for Jews in 20 countries.

RABBI I. M. LEVI, FOUNDER OF OTZAR HATORAH IN PERSIA, DIES IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, May 24. (JTA) -- Rabbi I. M. Levi, founder and director of Otzar Hatorah in Iran, died here last night after suffering a heart attack.