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U. S. OPPOSES PROPOSAL FOR U. N. CUSTODIAN OVER ARAB PROPERTY IN ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 11. (JTA) -- The United States Government today told the General Assembly's Special Political Committee that it is equally opposed to the Arab-Moslem resolution calling for a custodian over Arab property allegedly existing in Israel and to a resolution introduced yesterday calling for direct peace negotiations between the Arab States and Israel.

Addressing the 110-member committee which for more than two weeks has been debating the Arab refugee problem here, Carl T. Rowan, U. S. Deputy Assistant Secretary of State, told the United Nations that the Arab insistence on a custodian in Israel would be a clear infringement of Israel's sovereignty. As for the resolution calling for direct Arab-Israeli peace talks, Mr. Rowan said that such a step is not timely at this point because of the deep tensions on both sides.

On behalf of the United States Government, Mr. Rowan proposed that the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East be given a new mandate for one year, until June 30, 1964. UNRWA's current mandate expires June 30, 1963.

Mr. Rowan also told the Committee that the United States Government does not agree with everything stated in this year's annual report on UNRWA's operations by the American Commissioner General of that agency, Dr. John H. Davis. That report has been condemned by Israel as going beyond its legitimate points of reference through a pro-Arab attitude in its political sections.

Appeals to Arabs and Israel to Solve the Refugee Problem

Voicing a powerful plea to the Arabs as well as to Israel for steps to resolve the tragic Arab refugee situation, Mr. Rowan said: "We would stress that the primary responsibility for solving this problem rests squarely with the five states directly concerned--Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, the Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Republic. Let the Assembly face this reality. Conciliation efforts by third parties--however earnest, fair, ingenious and well intentioned--cannot succeed in the absence of a disposition on both sides of the armistice lines to resolve the problem, to demonstrate genuine concern for the refugees as human beings above all else. Such a disposition has been largely and disappointingly absent."

Deploping "the same rigid attitudes" which, he said both the Arab states and Israel have held for 15 years, the U. S. representative said: "So long as this dispute exists with all the passions that we have once again heard expressed, time is on the side of danger and despair. Again and again we are treated to new tactical variations on the same discordant themes.

"Some appear to feel that the chasm now dividing the parties can be simply and abruptly bridged if only they all were urged by this Assembly to sit down around a conference table. We have always been, and we remain in favor of direct talks between the parties at such time as this offers real prospect of helping the refugees, or of other constructive outcome. But regrettably, that time appears not to be now. In these circumstances, such proposals are unhelpful.

"On the other side, there is a proposition for appointment of a United Nations custodian of properties in Israel viewed by the refugees as theirs. This proposal too, we think, offers no realistic basis for adjustment or for helping the refugees. In fact, it would be a gesture of retrogression, for it is clearly designed to strike at the very foundations of Israel's sovereignty."

Says No Details of the Johnson Plan Would be Published

The official spokesman for the Washington Administration voiced high praise for the Palestine Conciliation Commission and for the PCC's special Mideast envoy, Dr. Joseph Johnson, who, for two years, has been trying to work out some easing of the refugee problem. Through that work, Mr. Rowan said, "the Commission has learned much about what will not work, at least in present circumstances, and about what might possibly work. The realities of the problem have been more sharply defined."

Mr. Rowan said that nothing would be published at this time about the details of Johnson's efforts. He urged the delegates "not to place credence in various published distortions of the work accomplished." His reference here was to the unpublished,

but very real, Johnson plan for an informal plebiscite among the refugees on their possible "return" to Israel or compensation by Israel. That plan was never given the State Department's official approval, was rejected by both the Arabs and the Israelis, and was found unacceptable by America's two partners on the PCC, France and Turkey.

Mr. Rowan voiced pro-forma endorsement of Dr. Davis' UNRWA report. He praised UNRWA's educational and medical work. But he made it clear: "My Government did not and does not associate itself with all the views espoused in the current UNRWA report."

He then told the Committee that the U. S. A. will support the extension of UNRWA's mandate for one year, until June 30, 1964. The Arabs here have been hoping that UNRWA's mandate would be extended at least until 1965 or possibly until 1966. Mr. Rowan, one of the most prominent journalists in the United States before he joined the State Department, is noted as one of the leading and most articulate liberals in the Negro community.

USSR Endorses Arab Policy; Denmark Calls Anti-Semitism 'Indecent'

The Soviet position on the Arab refugee issue was outlined here by Michael A. Menshikov, formerly Moscow's Ambassador to Washington, who is now Foreign Minister of the Russian Federated Soviet Republics, largest component of the USSR. In a brief address which followed the Arab line but evinced little or no enthusiasm for the entire subject, Mr. Menshikov endorsed the Arab claims that only "repatriation" of the refugees would solve the entire Arab-Israeli problem.

The Soviet delegate went out of his way to praise the "eloquence" of the Saudi Arabian representative, Ahmad Shukairy, who, until this year's refugee debate, had been the most bitter of anti-Israeli attackers. He was joined by others this year, most of them expounding an anti-Semitic series of attacks against all Jews, equating Israel with Nazism.

While, until now, not a single delegate had arisen to discuss this injection of outright anti-Semitism--except for Israel's permanent representative, Michael S. Comay--Denmark's representative on the committee, Hermond Lannung, finally broke that noticeable silence. He took the floor with an impassioned rejection of the anti-Semitic attacks by the Arabs.

"In the name of decency," Mr. Lannung said, he must speak out against the equating of Israel with Nazism, which had been espoused by many of the Arab delegates here in the last 10 days. He said he must do so "for the sake of decency." Those making such charges, he declared, did not know what Nazism was or were "rather indifferent to Nazism's true character, which is even more deplorable." He listed major points in the Nazi atrocities, recalling what the Nazis had tried to do in his own country by ordering all of its 7,000 Jews arrested.

He told proudly how Denmark saved nearly 6,500 of its doomed Jews because it was repelled by the Nazi "intolerance, racial hatred and contempt for human dignity." It is "unreasonable, even indecent," he continued, "for any delegate to equate Israel, so many of whose people suffered so much from the Nazis, with the Nazis who had inflicted all those sufferings and horrors upon them."

Such equation, he said, "is unreasonable, beneath reason. How can it be possible for anyone to make such an equation? Most earnestly, I appeal to all delegates--I appeal to all my fellow delegates, please refrain from any such statements. They are beneath us."

Mr. Lannung had spoken with such feeling that the Syrian delegate, Salah el Dine Tarazi, felt compelled to say that the Arabs do not condone the Nazi atrocities, but still insisted Israel was practicing Nazism. Mr. Comay thanked the Danish representative for his remarks, telling him how Israel "appreciates most profoundly" the attitude of Denmark toward its Jews during the war as well as Denmark's position since the war.

Comay Throws 'Lie' at Lebanese Speaker at U. N. Session

At the meeting of the Special Political Committee last night, the Lebanese delegate, Nadim Dimechkie, injected into the debate the assassination of the late Count Folke Bernadotte, the UN mediator, during the Palestine war, who had been assassinated in Jerusalem. The Lebanese also brought up the so-called "Lausanne Protocols" of 1949 to "prove" what he called another facet of "Israeli criminality." He claimed that the Security Council had, in 1949, twice condemned Israel for the Bernadotte murder.

Mr. Comay, exhibiting the anger he felt, went after these canards hammer and tongs. The Israeli permanent representative challenged Mr. Dimechkie to produce those alleged Security Council resolutions which presumably "condemned" Israel in the Bernadotte case. The Lebanese answered he would produce the documents "tomorrow morning." "Don't bother to wait until tomorrow," replied Mr. Comay. "I have them here."

Mr. Comay then proceeded to read the two Council resolutions of 1949 and challenged anyone to find the words of alleged "condemnation." There were no such words. There was jeering laughter not only in the galleries but also on the floor of the committee chamber.

BEN-GURION WARNS SYRIA AGAINST REPEATED ATTACKS ON ISRAELI SETTLEMENTS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion issued today a warning to the Syrians to discontinue attacks on Israeli settlements or the Israeli army would be forced to hit back.

The Prime Minister spoke at a special parade marking the end of three days of exercises by Israel's armored units somewhere in the Negev. He said an attack on a small settlement was regarded by Israel as similar to an attack on Tel Aviv or any other major city.

He called on the United Nations to do its utmost to preserve peace and quiet and said "we hope that the United Nations, which is charged with maintaining peace in the militarized zones" where the attacks have been taking place, "will succeed in this mission. If it fails, we shall not stand with arms folded and the Army as well as our armor will react."

U. S. ZIONISTS DIVIDED ON HOLDING ACTIONS COMMITTEE MEETING IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, said today at a press conference that he was "astonished and sorry" over the "excitement" in Israel over the decision to hold the next meeting of the Zionist Actions Committee in New York. He asserted that the Israeli press had "distorted" facts of the discussion in American Zionist groups on the proposal.

He said he had supported the idea of a New York meeting because it was "bound to be impressive to the highest possible degree and carry influence and be the beginning of great Zionist activity among American Jews." He emphasized that when he gave such support to the proposal on his visit to Israel last November, it was clear that "even then, he decided first of all to consult with the members of the Actions Committee from the United States and the Zionist organizations in the United States."

He declared that the Zionist Organization of America did not oppose such a meeting, adding that "there were differences between ZOA leaders" on the idea, he said that the ZOA had decided to leave the final decision "to the appropriate institutions, which means through the Zionist executive and the presidium of the Actions Committee."

He said that this was the stand taken also by Mizrahi, and the Labor Zionists, even though the majority of these organizations had supported the idea of a New York meeting. He said, however, that the ZOA, he declared, had decided to oppose the idea "but it has never stated it would not accept the decision of the majority."

"The problem of dual loyalty was never mentioned," he added, "and it would be dishonest to accuse the ZOA of allegedly demanding any kind of censorship over speeches at the proposed meeting." He said that the ZOA decided only that if the meeting did take place in New York, "an agenda and program would have to be thoroughly prepared."

Dr. Goldmann then added he felt that it would be better to postpone the proposed meeting in New York to a later date because the American Zionist Council was currently in a "stage of reorganization." At the same time he stressed that a meeting in New York would "increase the expenses very substantially."

"The Zionist executive in New York, at a meeting attended by the chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, Moshe Sharett, and its treasurer, Aryeh Pincus, both now on a visit to New York, decided unanimously to propose that the presidium of the Actions Committee postpone the final decision to December 24 at which date Mr. Sharett and Mr. Pincus will be back in Israel and a joint meeting of the Zionist executive and the presidium will be held," he said. "Any decision adopted at that meeting will be implemented."

Dr. Goldmann stated that "there never was and there is not among American Zionists any tendency not to fulfill with the fullest loyalty the decision about the place of the meeting of the Actions Committee. In case it is decided to hold it in New York, the Zionist executive, in cooperation with all Zionist organizations, will do all that is necessary to implement the decision and to assure the success of the meeting."

VIET JEWISH SCIENTIST PRESENTED WITH NOBEL PRIZE IN HOSPITAL BED

LONDON, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Professor Lev Davidovich Landau, the world-famous Russian Jewish scientist, was given his 1962 Nobel Prize for Physics in his hospital bed in Moscow. He has been hospitalized with severe injuries suffered last January in a near-fatal auto accident.

The scientist was presented by Swedish Ambassador Rolf Sohlman with a gold medal, diploma and a check worth \$50,043. He was the only winner of the 1962 prize in physics, which is generally awarded to two or more recipients. The envoy said that the presentation was the first during peacetime outside of Stockholm. The scientist, who has recovered his mental but not all of his bodily faculties, told the envoy he regretted his injuries compelled him to accept the award sitting down.

JUDGE ORDERS JEW TO REMOVE SKULL-CAP IN COURT; JEWS PROTEST

NEWARK, N. J., Dec. 11. (JTA) -- A protest was lodged today with Governor Richard B. Hughes, of New Jersey, against the action of a municipal court judge at Secaucus, N. J., who forced an Orthodox Jew to remove his skull-cap while before the bench, thus impairing the pious man's religious principles.

The protest was sent by Benjamin Epstein, president of the New Jersey region of the American Jewish Congress. According to Mr. Epstein, Secaucus Judge George W. King ordered Morris Steigman, of Brooklyn, who was appearing on a traffic charge, to remove his yarmekle. Mr. Steigman did so. The man, noted the letter to the Governor, "is an Orthodox Jew whose religious principles require him to keep his head covered at all times."

"By requiring Mr. Steigman to uncover his head," Mr. Epstein informed the Governor, "the judge used his official position to compel conduct that violated Mr. Steigman's religious principles. This is a direct impairment of religious freedom. It was a gross departure from the traditions of this state, which has yielded to none in its attachment to the democratic principles underlying our system of government."

Mr. Epstein expressed the hope that the Governor would see to it that the courts of the state avoid "such abuses" in the future "and, in particular, that they are instructed that Orthodox Jews are permitted to keep their heads covered in the court room."

HARRY ROGOFF, DEAN OF THE JEWISH PRESS, HONORED ON 80TH BIRTHDAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Harry Rogoff, dean of the Jewish press in the United States who has been editor-in-chief of the Jewish Daily Forward for many years, was the recipient here today of congratulations from numerous organizations and personalities on the occasion of his 80th birthday. Israeli diplomats attended a birthday party tendered to him last night by friends and admirers.

Mr. Rogoff, who retired from the top editorial post in the Jewish Daily Forward several months ago, has been with the Forward 55 years. He is the author of several books in Yiddish and in English, including a five-volume History of the United States. He now writes a weekly political column for the Forward and is also contributing articles on literary subjects. He has received an invitation from the Israel Government to visit Israel and intends to do it within several weeks.

Mr. Rogoff was brought to the United States by his parents at the age of eight. He studied at the Issac Elchanan Yeshiva, which is now Yeshiva University and at the College of the City of New York where he received his B.S. degree in 1906. He joined the Jewish Daily Forward and became managing editor in 1919, deputizing for the editor Abraham Gahan whom he succeeded as editor-in-chief after the latter's death. His long association with the Jewish labor movement, which he helped to build, made him one of its most popular leaders. He has been a staunch supporter of the Histadrut -- Israel's Federation of Labor -- long before the Jewish State was established and had visited Israel before and after the establishment of the state.

WORLD PREMIERE OF ISRAEL-INTERNATIONAL FASHION SHOW OPENED IN N. Y.

NEW YORK, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- Members of the diplomatic and consular corps, prominent personalities in the world of fashion and civic and Jewish communal leaders attended the world premiere showing today of the Israel-International Fashion Show at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel here. The show, under the auspices of the Israel Bond Organization, features designs, fabrics and furs from 20 nations and includes models created by leading couturiers of France, Italy, Israel, the United States, England, Ireland and Chile.

Members of the United Nations diplomatic corps who attended the premiere included Ambassadors Michael Comay of Israel, Frederick H. Boland of Ireland, Agda Rossel of Sweden, C. W. A. Schurmann of The Netherlands, and Jacinto Castel Borja of the Philippines. Other Israeli diplomats attending the showing included Aryeh Manor, Economic Minister, and Miss Hava Hareli of the Israel UN delegation. Also attending were French Consul General Raymond Laporte, Consul General Masahide Kanayama of Japan, Consul General Hannikainen of Finland and Mrs. Judith Beilin, Consul of Israel in New York.

During 1963, the fashion show will be staged in Los Angeles, Miami, Chicago, Montreal, New York, Rochester, Pittsburgh, Newark, Cincinnati, Boston, Detroit, Paterson, San Francisco, Buffalo, Philadelphia, St. Louis and other U.S. and Canadian communities.

ANNUAL AWARD FOR BEST BOOK IN HEBREW ESTABLISHED AT N. Y. UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, Dec. 11. (JTA) -- A \$1,000 annual award for the best book written in Hebrew dealing with Hebrew language, literature or culture has been established at New York University's Institute of Hebrew Studies, it was announced here today by Dr. J. LaRue, dean of the Graduate School of Arts and Science. Any scholar in the United States or Israel will be eligible for the award which will be administered by the Institute of Hebrew Culture.

To be known as the Irving and Bertha Neuman Prize, the award was established by the Neuman Foundation. A prominent Jewish communal leader, Irving Neuman is a past president of Hadoar Associates, which publishes the only Hebrew weekly outside of Israel. He is also active in the Histadrut Ivrit, the B'nai B'rith and the Zionist Organization of America.