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U.N. ASSEMBLY APPROVES RESOLUTION ON ARAB REFUGEE AID; ISRAEL ABSTAINS

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 20. (JTA) -- A plenary session of the entire General Assembly today approved by 100 votes in favor with none against and two abstentions, the Arab refugee resolution proposed by the United States, and passed two days ago by the Special Political Committee, extending until June 30, 1965 the expiring mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East which provides aid to Arab refugees.

Israel was one of the two abstainers in the final vote on the resolution as a whole after casting a negative vote against one part of a paragraph dealing with "repatriation" of the refugees under the terms of a 1948 resolution. The other abstainer was Portugal.

In explaining that negative vote, Michael S. Comay, Israel's permanent representative here, told the Assembly his Government found "unacceptable" that particular section of the resolution since it is based on a portion of the 1948 draft. "We have consistently opposed the view," he said, "that the Palestine Conciliation Commission's efforts should be based on a single controversial paragraph torn out of the context of a resolution adopted 14 years ago. That course has not resulted in progress and in our judgment hampers endeavors to come to grips with the substance of the problem in the light of temporary realities in the area."

Obviously countering misinterpretations which indicated that Israel was displeased with the work of the PCC as a whole, referred to in the second half of that paragraph of the very resolution adopted today, Mr. Comay said: "We voted for the second part which requests the Commission to continue its endeavors with the member states directly concerned. We have always cooperated with the Conciliation Commission in its efforts bringing the parties to agreement."

Israel's View on Relief to Arab Refugees Outlined

He stated that his delegation's negative vote against the first part of the paragraph should not be interpreted as lack of appreciation for the efforts the Commission has made in this field; and we shall continue in the future to cooperate with endeavors which may be made by the Commission to promote agreement between the parties."

The Israeli diplomat also told the Assembly: "Whatever the solution of their problem may be, it is clear that international assistance for the Palestine refugees will be needed for some time to come. My Government has always unreservedly supported such United Nations assistance, both in taking care of the essential needs of the refugees, and in promoting their self support and ultimate integration into productive life.

"We particularly commend the efforts being made by UNRWA to teach refugee youth professional and vocational skills. My delegation therefore had no hesitation in supporting the paragraphs in the United States proposal which deal with the extension of UNRWA's mandate, and with its financial requirements."

Mr. Comay concluded his explanation of his delegation's voting with a reference to the 21-member resolution calling for direct Arab-Israeli peace talks which was withdrawn from the Committee two days ago. That resolution, he told the Assembly, was withdrawn in the spirit of conciliation and goodwill."

"We were gratified and encouraged," he said, "by the renewal of this approach at the present session with a sponsorship which had grown from 16 to 21 delegations since our previous session. We accept unreservedly the attitude of the sponsors that their proposal is neither for nor against Israel, neither for nor against the Arab states, but for the cessation of war and the settlement of conflicts by peaceful negotiation. In other words, we are for fundamental principles enshrined in the United Nations Charter.

The revival of this approach to the painful Israel-Arab conflict and more especially the humanitarian problem of the Arab refugees may not yield immediate practical results but it could never be regarded as untimely in the wider sense," Mr. Comay added. His reference to the alleged "untimeliness" of the peace talks draft, pointed to the reason given by the United States delegation here for opposing that measure.

UNITED NATIONS TO SPEND \$34,000,000 ON ARAB REFUGEES IN 1963

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Twenty-five members of the United Nations today pledged a total of \$32,400,000 for next year's budget of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, the arm that provides aid to the refugees. Payments for operation of UNRWA are made on a voluntary basis. The United States has consistently paid 70 per cent of UNRWA's total costs. Next year's UNRWA budget had been set at a total of \$34,000,000.

In announcing that it will continue to support UNRWA, the United States gave notice that it felt that the operations of the agency should be reviewed from year to year, and asked the "host" governments of the countries where the refugees live--meaning Egypt, Jordan, Syria and Lebanon--to give more aid to UNRWA and to help "rectify" the relief rolls. UNRWA had admitted that there are at least 100,000 dead on the relief rolls.

In another action, the Assembly's Administrative and Budgetary Committee voted an average monthly allocation of \$1,580,000 up to next June 30, to the United Nations Emergency Force. UNEF is the peace-keeping body on duty in the Gaza Strip, on Israel's border, and at Sharm el-Sheikh, overlooking the Gulf of Akaba.

Israel was today again elected to membership on the Peace Observation Committee, on which she has held membership for years. Israel's delegation chairman, Michael S. Comay, represents his government on that vital "watchdog" committee. Mrs. Zena Harman, of Israel, wife of Avraham Harman, Ambassador to Washington, was re-elected by acclamation by the United Nations Children's Fund to the post of program committee chairman. In the Economic and Social Council, Israel was elected for the first time to membership on ECOSOC's Housing Committee.

DR. BEER, SENTENCED FOR ESPIONAGE, LOSES ANOTHER APPEAL IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Beer, who is serving a 15-year prison term for espionage, lost a bid today in the Israel Supreme Court to have the specific charges against him made public by the Attorney General.

The hearing, like his trial and his appeal hearing, was held behind closed doors before Presiding Justice Yitzhak Olshan and Justice Moshe Landau. Dr. Beer, who holds a commission as Lieutenant Colonel in Israel's Army reserve, told reporters that there were four "versions" on the case and that he wanted the public to know the correct one.

He said he would continue his efforts for a hearing from the Supreme Court with a different representation of justices. In announcing the rejection, Justice Landau noted that it was not the Attorney General but the courts which decided on whether hearings are to be held behind closed doors.

KNECSET REJECTS MOTION TO DEBATE RESIGNATION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Israel's Parliament rejected today a motion to debate the resignation of Attorney General Gideon Hausner by a vote of 46 to 19 with 18 abstentions.

By so doing the House sustained the contention of Justice Minister Dov Joseph that Hausner's resignation was personal and voluntary and did not warrant any intervention by the House. The motion was offered by Dr. Pinhas Rosen, Liberal party member, who argued that the resignation was more than a personal issue.

Dr. Rosen asserted that the resignation reportedly stemmed from the alleged refusal of the Justice Minister to cooperate with Mr. Hausner on key matters.

ISRAEL PARLIAMENT REJECTS REQUEST FOR DEBATE ON 'RELIGIOUS COERCION'

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The Parliament today rejected a motion for a full-dress debate on "religious coercion in Israel." The motion was introduced by Victor Shemtov, a deputy of the leftist Mapam, who cited the failure of secular elements to obtain non-kosher kitchens at public occupations and the extension of rabbinical supervision over sea and air travel. He also cited the demand of the Israeli rabbinate for rabbinical supervision on El Al planes in transit and the refusal to permit a non-kosher kitchen on the SS Chalom which is now under construction in a French shipyard.

Dr. Zorah Warhaftig, the Minister for Religious Affairs, categorically denied any intention to appoint kashrut supervisors on national airlines. He said the current controversy involved only a request to permit one rabbinical supervisor, at the expense of the rabbinate, to inspect overseas catering and dishwashing arrangements at foreign airports.

MORE OIL REPORTED STRUCK IN SECTION OF HELETZ OILFIELDS IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- More oil has been struck at the Kochav 3 well north of the present oilfields at Heletz, the Lapidot Oil Prospectors Company reported today. The company said two oil-bearing layers were found in the well.

CHANUKAH STARTS TONIGHT; JEWS OPPOSE OBSERVANCES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The observance of Chanukah begins tomorrow night in Jewish homes throughout the United States against the background of warnings by Jewish community relations agencies opposing any observance of Chanukah and Christmas in public schools.

Another warning to Jewish parents was the call to avoid individual representations to public school officials and boards of education in protest against Christian sectarian programs. Many of the community relations agencies coupled their statements with a reference to the United States Supreme Court decision of last June banning a Regents prayer in New York state public schools. They suggested that the problem had been made more delicate by the impact of that decision on inter-faith relations in the United States.

A typical statement was that of the Boston Jewish Community Council which emphasized opposition to both Chanukah and Christmas observances in public schools and added that where Christian holiday observances were held in public schools, "Jewish children have a right to refrain from participation."

Jewish Concern Over Religious Programs in Schools Stressed

In Newark, Philip E. Hoffman, chairman of the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Community Council of Essex County, declared that the problem was of "continuing concern" to the Jewish community. He added that public school principals and teachers frequently failed to understand the impact of religious programs upon minority group pupils or the implications of such programs for religious freedom.

In Rochester, N.Y., the Jewish Community Council stressed to Jewish parents the urgency of not undertaking "any individual action regarding religious holiday observances in the public schools, as did the Community Relations Council of the Federation of Jewish Charities of Atlantic City.

All of the community relations councils cited the Statement of Principles on Religious Holiday Observances in the Public Schools, issued by the Joint Advisory Committee of the Synagogue Council of America and the National Community Relations Advisory Council. This statement reaffirms opposition to any and all religious practices, both during holidays and throughout the rest of the school year as a violation of the constitutional principle of church-state separation.

The statement emphasizes that joint observances in schools, such as Christmas-Chanukah and Passover-Easter, are equally a breach of that principle, and that where religious holiday ceremonies are held in public schools, Jewish children have a right to refrain from participation.

Sharon Bans Display of Christmas Tree in Schools

A unique phase of the annual argument over such observances developed in Sharon, Massachusetts, a town of 2,800 persons with few Jews and no Jewish organizational representation. There a citizens' committee clashed with the city's School Committee over an order instructing the principals of the town's two elementary and one high school to decide on whether there should be a display of Christmas trees in the schools.

In response, Christmas trees and assemblies to sing Yule carols were banned at the high school but carols were permitted at both the elementary schools. A traditional Christmas program was scheduled in addition at one of the primary schools. The principals who ordered the ban on Christmas trees said they did so because they felt such a display might be in conflict with the church-state separation principle.

FULL INTEGRATION OF NO. AFRICAN JEWISH REFUGEES IN FRANCE PLANNED

PARIS, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Sixty representatives of the estimated 180,000 North African Jews who migrated to France this year reached an agreement today with the Fonds Social Juif Unifié, the major French Jewish welfare agency, aimed at achieving full integration with the French Jewish community.

The North African Jewish leaders met with the board of the FSJU at the home of Elie Rothschild, who told his guests that "nothing can justify a separation between two communities which fate has chosen to unite on the same land and within the same assembly."

Representatives of the three North African Jewish communities--Algeria, Tunisia and Morocco--will participate in FSJU deliberations at all levels and take an active part in Jewish organizational programs in France, particularly those dealing with aid to the North African refugees, whose influx has made the French Jewish community the fourth largest in the world.

ARCHAEOLOGISTS UNCOVER ISRAELI TOWN 2800 YEARS OLD NEAR BEERSHEBA

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- An Israelite town dating back to the eighth century BCE was uncovered today near Beersheba. Archaeologists said that the diggers found fragments of an art figure, sherds, cooking and eating utensils, a fireplace and an oven in the site. They said the finds confirmed the town's crucial importance in the area in the time of King Uziah.

JEWISH WOMEN IN U.S. ARE MORE OPPOSED TO INTERMARRIAGE THAN NON-JEWISH

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Jewish women in the United States are much more strongly opposed to mixed marriages than are Protestant and Catholic Women, the Saturday Evening Post reported today in its current issue.

The report was based on a sampling study by Dr. George Gallup, head of the Gallup Poll, and Evan Hill, of 2,300 women, 1,800 wives and 500 single women. One of the questions put to the respondents is: "Would it make much difference to you if a daughter of yours wished to marry a man of a different religion?"

The answers indicated that 74 per cent of the Jewish women said they opposed such marriages, compared with 54 per cent of Catholic women and 45 per cent of Protestant women. The report added that few of the women protested such marriages on grounds of religious conviction. "More than half of those who disapproved are quite pragmatic in their reasons," the report noted, adding that they believed that such marriages "often do not work."

TWO YOUTHS ATTACK ARAB IN BETHESDA, MISTAKING HIM FOR A JEW

BETHESDA, Md., Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Two educated young men from "respected families" were convicted in Montgomery County Court today of taking part in offenses that included the assaulting and injury of three Negroes and an anti-Semitic attack on a terrified motorist, suspected of being Jewish, who was chased four miles through the heart of Bethesda.

The motorist, Lester M. Haddad, testified that the youths, "apparently assuming I was of the Jewish faith, cursed me on the subject of religion, using terrible profanity." Mr. Haddad happens to be president of the Arab-American Club of Greater Washington and is a Roman Catholic. Threatening to viciously beat Mr. Haddad and calling him a "Jew," the youths smashed beer bottles against his car and pursued him at high speed up to the front door of his home. He called police and four young men were arrested.

The judge found two youths guilty of assault and postponed sentencing until January 8 pending a probation officer's report. At the request of the State Attorney's office, charges against two other young men were dropped. One, granted immunity, because he served as a prosecution witness, readily conceded he had thrown bottles. The case provoked wide interest in Montgomery County, a wealthy suburb of nearby Washington, D. C., because the families of the accused were well-to-do and respected people.

AMERICAN RABBIS PROTEST DESECRATION OF WAILING WALL BY JORDAN

BELLE HARBOR, N. Y., Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Delegates to the annual convention of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada protested vigorously today against the reported desecration of the Wailing Wall in Jordan-held old Jerusalem.

Rabbi Pinchas Teitz of Elizabeth, N. J., a member of the organization's presidium, told the delegates how he learned from a group of West German clergymen that Jordan was tearing stones off the famous wall and giving them away as "souvenirs."

KING OF BURUNDI ARRIVES IN ISRAEL; FIRST MONARCH TO VISIT COUNTRY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- The first monarch to visit Israel, King Mwambusta IV of Burundi, was greeted last night by Mayor Mordecai Ish-Shalom of Jerusalem with the traditional Jewish bread and salt on a silver plate.

President Ben-Zvi accompanied the King from Lydda Airport to the flag-decked capital whose streets were lined with onlookers who greeted the visitor. Municipal children's bands struck up a fanfare as the Burundi motorcade drew up.

The King met with President Ben-Zvi today and will receive a call from Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. The President is giving a state banquet for the king tonight. The monarch, who is accompanied by a ten-member entourage will stay in Tel Aviv tomorrow and Saturday.

DR. SCHWARTZ LEAVES FOR ISRAEL TO DISCUSS PLANS FOR 1963 BOND DRIVE

NEW YORK, Dec. 20. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, left for Israel today for discussions with government leaders of plans for next year's Israel bond campaign. During a ten-day visit to Israel, Dr. Schwartz will meet with Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and other key personalities in government, finance and business.

On his return, Dr. Schwartz will report on his trip at a special 1963 planning conference of the board of governors of the Israel Bond Organization. The meeting will be held on Saturday evening, January 12 and Sunday, January 13 at the Savoy-Hilton Hotel in New York, with the participation of the outstanding Jewish leaders of the United States and Canada.