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U. S. CONGRESS OPENS TODAY; FACES ISSUES OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO JEWS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The opening of the first session of the 88th Congress tomorrow is expected to produce a number of issues of special interest to the American Jewish community. Among the issues are: Immigration policy, anti-filibuster measures, the Rules Committee controversy, civil rights, Soviet anti-Semitism, Arab discrimination affecting Americans, and American policy in the Near East.

An early campaign is anticipated for implementation of the Keating-Halpern amendment of the Mutual Security Act. This amendment opposes aid to nations, like Egypt, which use their own resources to purchase Soviet arms. Congressmen will seek to terminate aid to Egypt not only because of Nasser's diversion of Egyptian resources to buy more Soviet jets, but out of anger caused by the active participation of Egyptian forces in the imposition of a pro-Soviet regime in Yemen.

One Senator, declining to be identified, said today: "I don't see why we should pick up the tab for Nasser's expansionist aggression. It endangers the pro-American governments of Saudi Arabia and Jordan, while financing Nasser's acquisition of Russian jet bombers to menace democratic Israel." He said that he and others, who were previously lukewarm on the Keating-Halpern measure, had now "had enough of the State Department's appeasement of Nasser."

U. S. Aid to Egypt to Be Questioned; Revision of Immigration Law

A duel between the State Department and Congress on Egypt appears inevitable. The State Department is advancing plans to increase loans and grants to Nasser, who incurred a huge debt in his Yemeni adventure. Congress will challenge such aid every step of the way, now that Nasser has shown his hand in Yemen. Legislation will be sought to bar further aid to Egypt in a mandatory provision, unless the Executive Department implements the discretionary Keating-Halpern clause.

Jewish organizations will observe the anti-filibuster fight, aware that civil rights, immigration revision, and other legislation is contingent upon victory. If success is achieved by liberals, many measures previously bottled up by conservatives may be brought on the floor for action.

President Kennedy is expected to submit a request for liberalization of the Immigration Act of 1952 (McCarran-Walter Act) in the early days of the new session. He has the full support of Senator Philip Hart, Michigan Democrat, who heads the Senate Immigration Subcommittee. But Chairman Francis Walter, of the House Immigration Subcommittee, co-author of the controversial act, will try to block any really important changes in discriminatory aspects like the national origins quota system.

Issue of Federal Aid to Parochial Schools to be Avoided

The question of Federal aid to parochial schools is expected to be avoided, in order to get the education bill through Congress. The money would be given to the 50 states, and the church-state problem passed on with it for decision on a state level.

Growing discontent over the absence of effective moves to challenge rising Soviet anti-Semitism will be voiced in Congress. This difficult problem will be subject to cautious discussion between Jewish groups and Congressional leaders.

Since the Arabs and the State Department have equally ignored amendments to Mutual Security Acts deploring Arab discrimination, boycotts, and blockades, the new bill will bring a question of whether it is worth repeating an ignored amendment for yet another year. President Kennedy, however, is this year required to make a report directly to Congress on measures to implement the amendment. His report is awaited with interest.

Congress will hear reports from various Senators and Representatives who visited Israel and the Arab states during the Congressional recess. Their views will be reflected in forthcoming legislation.

The two most recent visitors were Senator Ernest Gruening of Alaska and Senator Jacob K. Javits of New York who also visited Jordan. Senator Javits said during his visit that a new appraisal of United States policy in the Middle East was needed because the balance of military power in the area was changing to Israel's disadvantage.

U.S. AND ISRAEL AGREE ON BASIC MIDDLE EAST ISSUES, GOLDA MEIR SAYS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, expressed the opinion today that the "gap" between the Israeli analysis of the Middle East situation and that of the United States had "somewhat narrowed but that does not mean that we are always agreed on the action that should follow."

She added, in a radio interview here, that "on basic issues, we are in full agreement." She listed these as the need for peace in the Middle East, real independence for all states in the area "and their right to freedom of fear of invasion or intervention."

In a review of the recent United Nations General Assembly debate on the future of the Arab refugees, she stressed that there had been no progress, "at least in the attitudes" of the leaders of the Arab states. She said that the Arab spokesmen "do not really discuss the refugee question at all but only Israel."

Discussing her forthcoming visit to East Africa, she said she would go to Madagascar, Tanganyika, Uganda and Kenya. "Israel was most fortunate to have the friendship of so many of the emerging countries in Africa. If I can help to build this friendship by my visit, it will be well worthwhile."

SOVIET ORGAN ATTACKS ISRAEL'S AID TO UNDERDEVELOPED AFRICAN LANDS

LONDON, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The Moscow newspaper "Trud" came out today with a severe attack on Israel charging the Jewish state with "exploiting" African countries. The article is obviously an expression of Soviet displeasure with Israel's policy of friendship toward the new African states.

The Soviet newspaper assails "Israel's active penetration of the new states of Africa" and questions the motives behind Israel's economic, technical, agricultural and cultural ties with the emerging African countries. "Israel's penetration alarms the African public, which is disturbed by the true intentions of the Israeli ruling quarters," Trud writes.

"The question arises," said Trud, "where did Israel get the means for this and what is the reason for its 'kindhearted' concern about the development of newly independent African states? The answer can be found in a recent article published in the Nigerian Morning Post which said Israel is the champion of imperialism and serves neo-colonialism not only in the Middle East but also in Africa," the Soviet organ asserted.

ESHKOL FORESEES ECONOMIC STABILITY IN ISRAEL IN SECOND HALF OF 1963

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The increase in the cost-of-living allowances scheduled for next July "is most likely to be the last" such increase "in the foreseeable future," Finance Minister Levi Eshkol declared here today. He added that Israeli industry might be asked also to accept this rise in costs without raising prices.

He said a reasonable measure of economic stability would be achieved in the second half of 1963 as a result of the current price and wage freeze policy. He warned, however, that the public should not interpret this statement as meaning that there would be no isolated price increases.

ISRAEL PRESIDENT DONATES HALF OF HIS SALARY TO HISTORY FUND

JERUSALEM, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- President Izhak Ben-Zvi expressed today his concern about the "dizzying gallop" in Israel's living standards and termed it one of the "grave dangers" to Israel's economic independence.

The President made his views known in a letter to the Parliamentary finance committee in which he said he had decided to devote half of his 18,000 pound (\$6,000) tax-free annual salary to a special fund for the preparation of documents on the history of the Jews and Eretz Israel for research and publication.

BRITISH LABORITE OFFERS COMPROMISE PROPOSAL ON ARAB REFUGEES

TEL AVIV, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- A proposal for solution of the Arab refugee problem, by admitting into Israel one Arab refugee for every 10 Jewish immigrants entering this country, was made here today by Anthony Wedgwood Benn, a leader of the British Labor Party. Mr. Benn was one of the speakers at a meeting sponsored by "New Outlook," a periodical devoted to finding new paths to Arab-Israeli peace. Many foreigners who came as delegates to the world convention of the Liberal International held here, attended the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Zuaby of the predominantly Arab city of Nazareth, told the session that, though "the refugees are my brethren and I very much want them back," the proposal made by Mr. Benn was "unrealistic." Instead of such a plan, he said, "Israel should take the initiative on peace as the key to the solution of the refugee problem."

Another speaker at the meeting, Claude Estier, editor of the French newspaper France Observateur who had been in favor of Algerian independence, during the war between France and the former Algerian rebels, said that Algerian rebels had told him privately that they were prepared to act as mediators between Israel and the Arab states.

DEFENSE SEEKS ACQUITTAL OF NAZI CHARGED WITH KILLING 40,000 JEWS

FLENSBURG, West Germany, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- A plea for acquittal of Martin Fellenz, a former major in the SS, on charges of participation in the killing of 40,000 Jews in Nazi-held Poland, was urged today by his defense counsel on grounds that "in the Third Reich, Hitler's orders to exterminate the Jews was like a law."

In addition, Attorney Irmin Hofer contended that no evidence had been produced in the trial, which began last November 14, against Fellenz of either murder or manslaughter or of complicity in such crimes. The prosecution demanded last week at the close of testimony a sentence of life imprisonment at hard labor for the defendant.

Another defense attorney, Ludwig Gerber, disputed the authenticity of statements made by Jewish prosecution witnesses. The verdict will be announced Friday.

CALIFORNIA FEDERATION OF TEACHERS DEMANDS BAN ON PRAYER IN SCHOOLS

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- A resolution by the AFL-CIO California Federation of Teachers demanding the elimination of prayer recitations in public schools was lauded today by local Jewish community relations agencies.

The stand of the state's organized school teachers supported the position long maintained both here and nationally by the Jewish Community Relations Council and the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

Lawrence Goldberg, chairman of the church-state subcommittee of the local Community Relations Council, said the resolution represented a "growing public awareness" that the June 1962 decision of the United States Supreme Court banning public prayers in New York public schools "was in no manner an act of hostility toward religion." The Teachers Federation, in its resolution, endorsed that decision.

The teachers also called on public schools to plan Christmas programs emphasizing cultural themes and putting religion in a social and cultural context. The resolution added that Christmas programs and school assemblies "should not be used for the purpose of indoctrination for a particular sectarian belief." Use of religiously inspired material in public schools may be "in fundamental conflict with constitutional guarantees of religious freedom," the teachers added.

J.N.F. REPORTS \$20,000,000 POTENTIAL ACHIEVED IN U. S. IN BEQUESTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The Foundation for the Jewish National Fund has amassed a potential of \$20,000,000 in prospective legacies for the afforestation and reclamation of Israel's soil, Dr. Harris J. Levine, Foundation chairman, announced today.

He also told a meeting of the newly organized Foundation executive committee that the Foundation hoped to raise "within the next decade or so" the sum of \$100,000,000 in potential through bequests in wills and the assignment of insurance" to the Foundation. He added that the Foundation would set up local Foundation Councils throughout the United States in an effort to realize those potentials.

Dr. Levine stressed that the JNF was placing "special emphasis on the Foundation because there is a big job to be done in Israel. We must think, not in terms of from year to year, but in terms of decades. The JNF Foundation," he added, "is a long-term undertaking and the Jews of America must adopt a long-range point of view in coping with the problem of helping Israel to realize its full potential."

"We appreciate the life-giving work of the United Jewish Appeal in bringing Jewish immigrants from lands of oppression to the welcoming shores of Israel and in helping to settle them in the Jewish Homeland," he said. "We recognize the priority of the UJA campaign to mobilize the support of American Jewry for its vital objectives but beyond this urgent problem, there still remains a great task, one of gigantic proportions, the reclamation and development of the 60 per cent of Israel's territory that is now wasteland, a task that is the sole long-term responsibility of the Jewish National Fund.

American Histadrut Foundation Reports \$2,500,000 in Bequests

LOS ANGELES, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The American Histadrut Development Foundation in southern California has received gifts of \$100,000 from Arnold D. Skovron, and \$25,000 from Julius Fligelman, both active supporters of Israel's Labor Federation.

Mr. Skovron made his bequest to benefit Histadrut hospitals. Mr. Fligelman, West Coast president of the Histadrut campaign, gave his contribution for scholarships. Bernard B. Jacobson, West Coast director of the Israel Histadrut drive, said that the Foundation, established in 1960, has more than \$2,500,000 in bequests, assignment of insurance policies and other gifts that do not require immediate cash outlays by donors.

Histadrut Dinner in Toronto Raises \$102,000, for Museum in Israel

OTTAWA, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- The annual Histadrut dinner in Toronto last night raised \$102,000 towards a museum that will house documents and mementoes of the Jewish ghetto established by the Nazis. The museum will be built in Israel by Histadrut, Israel's Federation of Labor.

JEWISH TEENAGERS CONFERENCE IN CANADA DISCUSSES JUDAISM, EDUCATION, ISRAEL.

MONTREAL, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- A resolution calling upon Jewish community centers and YMHA's to make a "great effort to carry out their potential for Jewish programs" was adopted here at the conclusion of Canada's first teenage conference, called under the auspices of the Canadian Council of YMHA's and Jewish Community Centers. About 200 Jewish teenagers from Toronto, Ottawa as well as Montreal attended the parley.

The resolution urged that Center and Y programs "be extended to include many other things besides Jewish holiday celebrations," and called upon teen councils to plan for year-round activities "to give teenagers the opportunities to learn a great deal more about their Jewish heritage." Another resolution urged the delegates to continue discussions along the lines of the first draft after they return to their homes. The conference also voted to hold another, similar meeting next year, in Toronto.

The main theme of the conference was "How can Jewish teenagers live as Jews in a Christian world and avoid living in a ghetto?" Questions considered in relation to the theme were: "How does the Jewish community center help us to live as Jews," "What does Israel mean in the day-to-day lives of Jewish teenagers in Canada?" and "How can Jewish education help?"

There were two panel discussions presented by groups of teenage delegates. Youngsters from the Toronto YMHA presented a report on a survey of fellow teenagers on the question "What Israel means to us?" The young people surveyed expressed, for the most part, a feeling of pride that Israel has become an established State, and voiced the opinion that it adds something to the security of the Jewish people throughout the world. They felt, however, that it does not really impinge very much on their own lives and that they don't think about it a great deal in their day-to-day activities.

In a general discussion that followed this panel report, the delegates expressed the need for more up-to-date information about Israel and for greater clarity on the role of the Jewish state. The conference keynote addresses were delivered by Harvey Golden, executive director of the YM-YWHA in Montreal; and by Emanuel Weiner, executive director of Neighbourhood House.

A Montreal group presented a "fighting words" panel discussion on Jewish education. The young people agreed that Jewish education was important and necessary, but they felt that there was too much emphasis on routine matters and not enough relevance to their lives today. They felt that perhaps improved techniques in Jewish schools would help to give them a better understanding of their Jewishness, and they also expressed the desire for more informal courses and conferences. It was agreed that the young people of today would, in their adult lives, have to take a greater interest in community organization, school board activities, etc., in order to help bring about improved conditions in Jewish education.

CANADIAN COURT INVALIDATES RABBINICAL DIVORCE RECOGNIZED IN ISRAEL

TORONTO, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- A Jewish rabbinical divorce obtained overseas and recognized in Israel was declared invalid here today by Chief Justice J. C. McRuer of the Ontario Supreme Court. As a result, the court ordered the annulment of the marriage of a Toronto Jewish couple, Mr. and Mrs. Abram Schwebel.

The petition for annulment had been brought by Mr. Schwebel. His wife, born Hava Ungor, in Budapest, had married a Joseph Waktor there in 1945 and later received a Jewish rabbinical divorce from the man while in a refugee camp, in Italy. Both Waktors went subsequently to Israel, where their Jewish divorce was recognized. In 1957, while on a visit here, the woman married Abram Schwebel. They consulted a rabbi here before the wedding.

The Supreme Court here ruled, however, that the dissolution of the Waktors' marriage was "invalid by the law of Hungary or the law of Italy." Justice McRuer held that both Mrs. Schwebel and her second husband had acted in good faith. The couple have a child.

SAN FRANCISCO JEWISH HOSPITAL TO BREAK GROUND FOR \$1,500,000 BUILDING

SAN FRANCISCO, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Mayor George Christopher and other prominent civic leaders will participate here in ground-breaking ceremonies this Thursday for a new outpatient building to be constructed by Mount Zion Hospital and Medical Center. The building, costing \$1,500,000, is expected to be completed by the end of this year, and will culminate a \$2,700,000 building program.

The old outpatient building, now being renovated, will become a research center. Additionally, there will be many other changes in the entire complex of buildings which are part of the institution. The building program was made possible by the capital funds campaign conducted by the Jewish Welfare Federation here.

DR. EDMUND FRANKEL, ZIONIST-REVISIONIST LEADER, DIES IN ENGLAND

CARDIFF, Wales, Jan. 8. (JTA) -- Dr. Edmund Frankel, a leader of the United Revisionist party in Britain, died here today at the age of 60. Born in Galicia, Dr. Frankel settled in England where he often represented Glasgow and Cardiff at the annual conference of the Zionist Federation and of the British Section of the World Jewish Congress.