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CONGRESS GETS RESOLUTION ADVOCATING DIRECT ARAB-ISRAEL PEACE TALKS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Democratic Congressman Leonard Farbstein of New York asked the House of Representatives today to support a call through the United Nations for direct peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab states.

"With the withdrawal by the African and Asian countries of the recent resolution requesting direct peace negotiations between Israel and the Arab states, there is no positive and forward-looking proceeding before the United Nations calling for peace in the area," the New York lawmaker, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, said in introducing his resolution.

Rep. Farbstein's appeal would put the House on record as "advising" the U.S. delegation to the United Nations that it favors the introduction of a similar resolution in the world organization.

BEN-GURION TERMS ISRAEL-FRENCH RELATIONS 'VERY BEST'; LAUDS DE GAULLE

PARIS, Feb. 5. (JTA) - Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion asserted today in an interview in the Paris daily, L'Aurore, that Israel had achieved substantial economic stability, full employment and expansion of productivity but still faced the task of integrating "year after year tens of thousands of immigrants and possibly in the near future hundreds of thousands."

The Prime Minister, who was interviewed by the mass circulation daily's editor, Robert Lazuric, said that one of the main tasks facing Israel was the narrowing of the "cultural gap" between European and Oriental immigrants. He described Israeli-French relations as "the very best," adding that he found friendship for Israel in political and military circles "and also on the part of President de Gaulle," whom he called "France's savior."

He expressed the belief that the western world and the Soviet Union were steadily drawing closer together. He said this was developing in response to the growing demand by Russia's masses for better standards of living and to the Chinese "danger," of which the Soviets were "fully aware."

Another reason, the Prime Minister added, was European unity. "I am for a United States of Europe and I am convinced that this will become a reality," he said. He also expressed the view that Britain would eventually be admitted to the European Economic Community which "will become one of the strongest elements" in world affairs.

ISRAEL CHARGES SYRIA WITH PRESENTING 'FALLACIOUS' PROPAGANDA AT U.N.

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Israel today straightened out the records of the United Nations anti-bias unit, which completed its yearly, three-week meeting last Friday, by labeling Arab papers previously presented here as "fallacious" and "tendentious" propaganda.

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which had received the Arab propaganda submitted by Salah el Dine Tarazi, the Syrian Ambassador here, had given Israel special permission to file its reply after the session had concluded. The body had ruled also that Syria, which had laid the anti-Israeli propaganda before the UN group, will not be entitled to reply "unless the Israel memorandum attacked Syria or another State."

The memorandum on Israel's behalf, filed today by Israel's permanent representative here, Michael S. Comay, bypassed mention of Syria but attacked the documents backed by Syria. One of those documents had emanated from the so-called "Palestine Arab Delegation," a group having no official consultative status here. That paper had dealt with "Jewish immigration to occupied Palestine and the right of Christian and Moslem Arabs of Palestine to return to their country." The second paper was a pamphlet issued in 1961 by the Arab Information Center of New York, which, Mr. Comay stressed, is registered with the U. S. State Department as a foreign agency.

In his memorandum, Mr. Comay noted that the manner in which the Subcommittee finally allowed Syria to present the two documents did not imply any recognition of either the "Palestine Arab Delegation" or of the Information Center as groups with consultative

status here. In regard to the "Palestine Delegation" paper, he said "its blatant purpose is to try to discredit the Israel Government and even to deny the existence of Israel." He labeled the statements made by the Arabs regarding Jewish immigration to Israel as "fallacious."

As for the Arab Information Center pamphlet, Mr. Comay pointed out he had himself answered in the past here allegations by Arabs who claim that Israel violated the human rights of Israeli Arabs. Far from oppressing the Arab minority in Israel, Mr. Comay pointed out, the Arabs in Israel "live as free men" and enjoy full political rights. "In general," he said, "the contents of the pamphlet give a distorted and tendentious picture, which is hardly surprising in an anti-Israeli propaganda leaflet printed and distributed by the Arab League."

The entire record, including the anti-Israel attack and the Israeli answer, now goes with the Subcommittee's archives for further consideration by the Human Rights Commission, the parent body of the anti-bias unit. The Commission is scheduled to meet in Geneva in March.

ISRAEL'S PROGRESS IN IRRIGATION REPORTED AT U. N. PARLEY IN GENEVA

GENEVA, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Israel's success in harnessing limited water resources can be a source of encouragement to other arid countries, a United Nations-sponsored conference on science and technology was told here today by an Israeli water expert.

That appraisal was offered by Aaron Wiener, engineer of Israel's "master plan" for nationwide irrigation, at the UN Conference on the Application of Science and Technology for less developed areas. More than 1,830 technical papers have been submitted to delegates from 103 member nations who are meeting for two weeks to hammer out a pattern of aid to the underdeveloped countries.

Mr. Wiener, director-general of Israel's Water Authority, told the conference that by planning its waters resources policy, Israel had succeeded in creating during the past decade "a flourishing modern irrigated agriculture, supplying more than 70 percent of the food consumed" by the population "and contributing significantly to the exports of the country."

He said that Israel had made available and would continue to make available all the water needed for its mushrooming towns and industries. He added "that this can be done in an area of water scarcity can hold out some encouragement for other arid countries."

Expert Warns Against Optimism on Desalination of Sea Water

The Israeli water expert went on to warn against undue optimism about proposals for freshening salt water and making it work for man, adding that "arid countries labor under a natural handicap which in the present state of their knowledge cannot be overcome."

"Proclamations are made from time to time prophesying the end of water shortages in arid countries by desalination of sea water or other panaceas," he said. "Though these might hold some promise for the future, they have no significant large scale application within the usual time range of our planning."

Other Israeli speakers were I. H. Landau, of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovot, and Y. Admoni, head of the Israeli Agricultural and Home Economics Expansion Service. Mr. Landau emphasized that changes in agricultural production seldom occurred "unless the individual farmers respond to and accept innovations." He cited Israel's experience with settlement patterns. Mr. Admoni urged that the conference study a plan for short term courses for "local agricultural technicians." He said this "could be arranged

ISRAELI OPERA CONDUCTOR PLEADS NOT GUILTY TO CHARGES OF HELPING NAZIS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Hirsch Birenblatt, Israeli National Opera conductor, pleaded not guilty today to charges of wartime collaboration with the Nazis in Poland in persecution of Jews, and trial was set for March 11

Birenblatt, who was a police chief in Bedjin, Poland, in 1942, was indicted on 12 counts under the 1950 Israeli law for the punishment of Nazis and their collaborators. The charges included alleged extortion of money from Jewish prisoners, beating Jews, compelling them to work in Nazi forced labor camps and helping the Nazis to steal sewing machines and other property of the Jewish victims. He faces a maximum penalty of ten years in prison if convicted.

Birenblatt, who came to Israel in 1958, was arrested after a survivor from Bedjin said he recognized the musician when the latter appeared as a piano accompanist in a concert at a kibbutz.

EX-GESTAPO OFFICER SENTENCED TO HARD LABOR FOR KILLING JEWS

DOERMUND, Feb. 5. (JTA) - Alfred Krumbach, a former Gestapo inspector, was sentenced by a jury court here today to four and a half years' imprisonment at hard labor on conviction of complicity in 827 wartime murders of Jews and other victims in the Tilsit region near the Lithuanian border.

HADASSAH CONFERENCE ASKS U. S. SENATE TO RATIFY GENOCIDE CONVENTION

NEW YORK, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- The United States Senate was asked today "to take prompt action" in ratifying the Genocide Convention outlawing mass-annihilation of human beings as was the case with Hitler's mass-killing of Jews. The Convention was passed by the United Nations General Assembly in 1948. It has been ratified by 65 nations, but not as yet by the United States.

The appeal to the Senate was made in a resolution adopted today at the four-day Hadasah conference attended by 200 delegates from all parts of the country. The resolution emphasized that "the failure of the United States to ratify the Genocide Convention is inconsistent with the U. S. position of leadership in the Free World."

At an earlier session the conference was addressed by Ambassador Michael Comay, permanent representative of Israel to the United Nations. He told the delegates: "Israel still lives in a situation where our borders do not touch one inch of friendly soil -- a kind of twilight zone, not peace or war. There are more Hushin bombers 10 minutes away from Israel than there ever were in Cuba. There is an Egyptian Army of 20,000 outside of its own borders -- in Yemen. This Egyptian force in Yemen is larger than the whole United Nations force in the Congo. No one is excited by this action by a leader the United States has befriended."

The Israel Ambassador declared that the Arab representatives no longer talk about the Arab refugees as a refugee problem. "It is presented to persuade outside opinion, particularly African opinion, that this is a Palestine people in exile, demanding its return," he said. "The solution of the refugee problem must be consistent with our sovereignty and our security. Israel must be strong enough not only to meet any attack but to deter any attack," he stressed, adding that he believes this principle motivated the United States to make available the Hawk missile to Israel.

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS OPENS ITS 1963 FUND-RAISING CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress opened its 1963 campaign tonight with an address by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. stressing the unity of Negro and Jewish efforts to attain equality. Robert Wechsler, campaign chairman, said the theme of this year's annual drive was "to strengthen Jewish life and advance the frontiers of freedom for every American."

The Congress conducts an independent fund-raising drive in the New York metropolitan area. Outside of New York it is supported by grants from 300 local Jewish welfare funds and federations. No goal for 1963 was announced by the Congress.

In his address, Dr. King underscored the "centuries-long common struggle of Negroes and Jews, not only to rid ourselves of bondage but to make oppression of any people by others an impossibility." He praised the American Jewish Congress as an organization "whose understanding of the major social problem of our age has been boldly expressed and resolutely supported by deeds and action."

Other speakers at the opening dinner included Dr. Joachim Prinz, AJC president; Shad Polier, Governing Council chairman; and Sidney Hollander of Baltimore, a national vice-president of the Congress and former president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

LAST MINUTE NEWS

VISCOUNT HERBERT SAMUEL DEAD; WAS FIRST PALESTINE HIGH COMMISSIONER

LONDON, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Viscount Herbert Louis Samuel, Britain's first High Commissioner for Palestine under the League of Nations mandate, member of the Privy Council, former leader of the Liberal Party, former Home Secretary, and a devoted Orthodox Jew, died here today. He was 92.

Born at Liverpool in November 1870, Lord Samuel was educated at Oxford and held also degrees from Cambridge University, the University of Liverpool and the University of Leeds. A member of Parliament from 1902 to 1918, he was Parliamentary Undersecretary in the Home Department from 1905 to 1909; Postmaster General from 1910 to 1916; Secretary of State for Home Affairs for two terms, 1916 and 1931-32; and Britain's Special Commissioner to Belgium before assuming the High Commissionership in Palestine in 1920.

Formerly president of the Royal Institute of Philosophy, Lord Samuel was the recipient of many high British and foreign decorations and was known as a man of great learning and the author of many books and scholarly treatises. He was elevated to the title of Viscount in 1937. Among Israelis and Zionists throughout the world, he was lauded for many years for his contributions to the growth of Palestine as a Jewish homeland, in spite of some major disagreements with his policies during his term as High Commissioner. He was a member of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University at Jerusalem, and president of the British Friends of the Hebrew University.

12,000 JEWS IN CANADA, VICTIMS OF NAZISM, COMPENSATED BY GERMANY

MONTREAL, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- During 1962, Jewish claimants in Canada were awarded a total of \$4,711,300 by West German courts and administrative authorities as a result of efforts of the United Restitution Organization, the Canadian Jewish Congress reported.

The Congress, which represents the URO in Canada, also reported that as of December 31, 1962, the total of funds awarded to Canadian Jewish claimants was \$23,784,800 and that some 12,000 Jews benefitted from the work of the URO in Canada.

The claimants are mostly former refugees and displaced persons from Poland, the largest single group, Rumania and Hungary, who spent years in Nazi concentration and forced labor camps. In addition to their claims for compensation for incarceration, they may be eligible for pension payments because of permanent damage to their health, the Congress said.

The CJC also reported that the remaining single most important problem was that a very large number of victims of Nazism are not considered eligible, under West German compensation laws, for any payments because they were unable to leave Iron Curtain countries by October 1, 1953, a cut-off date in the West German laws. The Congress noted that negotiations were continuing on an intensive basis by Jewish representatives with West German Cabinet officials to obtain needed amendments to the law.

The CJC revealed that, at the request of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, it made detailed representations to the West German Ambassador in Ottawa on the kind of changes needed and that "assurances were received that our representations were relayed, with favorable comment, to the appropriate ministries in Bonn."

CANADIAN JEWISH LEADERS TO DISCUSS IMMIGRATION WITH GOVERNMENT

MONTREAL, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- A number of pending immigration issues affecting prospective Jewish immigrants from various countries to Canada will be discussed at a meeting between a joint delegation of the Canadian Jewish Congress and the Jewish Immigrant Aid Service and Richard Bell, Minister of Citizenship and Immigration. The meeting will be held in Ottawa on February 15.

In preparation for the meeting, officials of the two Jewish organizations met in Ottawa with G. Beasley, acting director of the Canadian Department of Immigration, and other immigration officers. The areas being explored in the talks include immigration from Morocco and Algeria, recognition of refugee status for some categories of immigrants, extension of admissible groups, the reunion of Polish and Rumanian Jewish families and related problems.

PHOENIX JEWISH NEWS WINS ARIZONA NEWSPAPER ASSOCIATION'S AWARD

TUCSON, Ariz., Feb. 5. (JTA) -- The Phoenix Jewish News was given today the Arizona Newspaper Association's first-place award in the special publication category of the organization's Better Newspaper contest for 1962. The plaque given the Jewish weekly of Phoenix cited the publication for "general excellence." The association made the award at the conclusion of its 23rd annual convention here.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA STARTS COURSE IN TRANSLATED YIDDISH LITERATURE

LCS ANGELES, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- The University of California in Los Angeles will offer, starting tomorrow, a university extension course in Yiddish literature in English translation.

The course, which will be given for 12 successive Wednesdays, will be taught by Eli Katz, assistant professor of foreign languages at Los Angeles State College. He has joined the UCLA evening faculty to give the Yiddish literature course. Students will receive university credit.

BALTIMORE REFORM CONGREGATION TO HAVE ITS OWN TEMPLE; USED CHURCH

BALTIMORE, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Temple Beth Shalom, a suburban Reform congregation which has been holding services at the Pasadena Methodist Church here since its establishment two years ago, has purchased a six-acre site with a two-story residence to be used as interim quarters until construction can begin on a new building.

Officials of the congregation have set a target date of next June for completion of modifications in the existing building for use as a sanctuary and religious school.

NEW YORK PHILANTHROPIST HONORED AT 'BOYS TOWN JERUSALEM' DINNER

NEW YORK, Feb. 5. (JTA) -- Herman S. Seigenfeld, leading supporter of Zionist causes, was guest of honor at the eighth annual dinner here tonight of Boys Town Jerusalem, a vocational training institution serving 400 Israeli young immigrants.

Mr. Seigenfeld was a principal participant in the founding of the Kfar Galim Agricultural School in Israel and is active in the work of the United Jewish Appeal and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.