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## SYRIAN AND IRAQI OFFICIALS AGREE TO INTENSIFY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL

LONDON, March 12. (JTA) -- The Syrian and Iraqi delegations which concluded talks in Damascus yesterday on behalf of the new pro-Nasser regimes in their countries agreed to intensify action against Israel, the Daily Telegraph reported today in a dispatch from the Syrian capital.

The Daily Express reported from Cairo that President Nasser of Egypt was planning a five-nation Arab military pact aimed at formation of an Arab army equipped with Soviet submarines and jet fighters. The Express said that the plans call for Nasser to be the Supreme Commander of all Middle East Arab military forces with the goal of crushing Jordan and Saudi Arabia first and finally Israel.

(In Washington, the Department of State today made known that the United States has decided to grant diplomatic recognition to the new regime in Syria.)

### Syrians Fire on Israeli Farmers; Israel Complains to U.N. Body

TEL AVIV, March 12. (JTA) -- Syrian gunners opened fire yesterday on three tractors working in the demilitarized zone between Ein Gev and Tel Katzir in the Lake Tiberias area in the first border incident since the latest coup in Syria.

The shooting against the tractors, which were preparing fields for summer crops, lasted about 10 minutes. Then when the tractor drivers were preparing to leave the area, the Syrians again started shooting. The firing was not returned and the tractors were finally removed from the danger area. It was the first gunfire in the sector for almost six months.

Israel entered a complaint with the Mixed Armistice Commission but United Nations observers did not conduct an investigation because "this was not requested by Israel." Israeli sources indicated a belief that the only reason for the attack might have been a desire of Syrian commanders to let their troops "have some fun" or a possible desire of Syria's new regime to have a record of having made an attack on Israel to benefit its standing with other Arab countries.

## ISRAEL REPORTS DISCOVERY OF HUGE RESERVES OF PHOSPHATES IN NEGEV

JERUSALEM, March 12. (JTA) -- Government officials reported today the discovery of an ore stratum with proven reserves of 15,000,000 tons of phosphates, one of Israel's most valuable exports.

Professor Jacob Bentzur, director of the Government's Geological Institute, said the stratum had been found south of Arad in southern Israel in a survey which was started in December 1961. He added that the find indicated the possible existence of another 105,000,000 tons of phosphate in the area.

Laboratory tests indicated that the first extractions were rich in phosphorus. Professor Bentzur said that nowhere in the new find was the phosphate more than seven inches under the surface of the earth. The experts have recommended setting up seven mining fields along the route of the stratum, which is a few miles north of the Beersheba-Sodom road.

## SOVIET DISCRIMINATIONS AGAINST JEWS CONDEMNED IN U. S. CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, March 12. (JTA) -- Rep. Cornelius E. Gallagher, New Jersey Democrat, a member of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, today told the House that "present-day Soviet anti-Semitism is a stern warning to the believer of all faiths as to what they might expect from Communist dictatorship."

In a statement on the House floor, he said that Soviet anti-Semitic actions "perinit no other interpretations." He said "the world--and especially the new nations of Asia and Africa--will pass stern judgment on Soviet racism as the sordid facts are brought to light."

### SEVEN MORE JEWS EXECUTED IN SOVIET RUSSIA FOR 'ECONOMIC CRIMES'

NEW YORK, March 12. (JTA) -- Another Russian Jew has been sentenced to death for alleged economic crimes and six others had their appeal for clemency rejected and were then executed, according to reports in a Soviet newspaper received here today.

According to the February 6 issue of Radiaska, Bukovina, published in Czernowitz, seven officials of the Education Department in Vashkovitz, a town in Bukovina, were charged with embezzling 25,000 rubles. The chief accountant's name was given as Brelinsky, a common Jewish name in the Soviet Union. He was sentenced to death. The six others, whose names were not given, were sentenced to varying terms of imprisonment.

The February 10 issue of the Soviet paper reported that the Supreme Soviet of the Ukrainian Republic rejected the appeal for clemency of a group of "economic criminals" sentenced to death in Czernowitz in October 1962. The newspaper reported that the sentences were then carried out.

While the Soviet newspaper did not give any details about the trial, records showed that the only trial in Czernowitz for "economic crimes" at that time involved six Jews tried, convicted and sentenced for currency speculation. The defendants then were named as Alter Bronstein, Yeffin L. Margoshes, Mosiey-Meyer Zayata, Struel I. Zimilevich, Isaak B. Ronis and Feliks Ya. Mester.

### TRIAL OF ISRAEL OPERA CONDUCTOR STARTS; CHARGED WITH AIDING NAZIS

TEL AVIV, March 12. (JTA) -- Hirsh Birenblat, former conductor of the Israel Opera, went on trial here today on charges of having helped to roundup Jews for extermination by the Nazis as a Jewish policeman in Nazi-held Poland during World War II.

In presenting the case, prosecutor David Libai said the case was the first in which an Israeli court had been called on to determine whether service by a Jew as a policeman under the Nazis made him a member of a "hostile organization" under the Israeli law for the punishment of Nazis and their collaborators. This is the law under which Adolf Eichmann was tried, convicted and hanged.

Birenblat was a member of the Jewish police in Bendin, a force established by the Nazi-appointed Judenrat for that ghetto. The charge sheet against him listed accusations that he handed over Jews to the Nazis, attacked Jews in enclosed camps, assembled Jews for "selection" for extermination, helped the Nazis herd 5,000 Jews of Bendin into death trains and rounding up Jewish children from a local orphanage and bringing them to trains which transported them to death camps.

He was also accused of divulging the hiding places of 100 Jews who fled to Bendin from other areas and with handing them over to the Nazis and with taking hostages from families whose members did not report to the Nazis for forced labor.

#### Prosecutor Says He Also Helped to Save Jewish Lives

After the charges were listed, the prosecutor said that despite the charges, it was Birenblat who removed one or two Jews from every transport and thus saved their lives. He added: "It is for this court to decide whether, in order to save his own life and the lives of a few others, the accused had the right to perform his other deeds despite compelling conditions." The prosecutor added that the underground made an effort to save Birenblat.

After the defendant pleaded not guilty, the first witness, Isaac Neuman, now an Israeli, was called. Neuman was a member of the Jewish underground in Czenstochowa who was sent to Bendin. He testified that he had been sent to Bendin to organize an underground there but was captured and brought before Birenblat.

Neuman testified that despite appeals to Birenblat, he was kept for several days in a cell in Birenblat's office. When he and a group of other Jews were taken to German trucks by Jewish police under Gestapo supervision, he testified further, his name was suddenly called out by Birenblat who set him free while Gestapo officials looked on. The hearing was then adjourned until next month.

### U. N. HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OPENS SESSION; WILL DISCUSS DISCRIMINATION

GENEVA, March 12. (JTA) -- The Commission on Human Rights of the United Nations opened its annual session here today during which it will consider religious discrimination and racial intolerance.

Both items were reviewed at a lengthy meeting of the Subcommittee for the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. The situation of Soviet and other Iron Curtain Country Jewries was discussed at length at the subcommittee meeting. Correspondingly, it was expected that the Human Rights Commission would deal particularly with the position of those European Jewries.

Meir Rosen, Israel Consul in New York, and Moshe Bartur, Ambassador and Permanent Delegate of Israel to the United Nations in Geneva, will be Israeli Government observers at the meeting.

### CANADIAN PARTY REBUKES ITS CANDIDATE FOR ANTI-JEWISH UTTERANCES

TORONTO, March 12, (JTA) -- The Social Credit Party today rebuked a candidate who had been accused of making anti-Semitic utterances in a campaign speech but permitted him to continue as the party's nominee in St. Paul's riding.

Norman Coult, vice-president of the Social Credit Party in Ontario, said that Neil Carmichael, who had accused the Rothschild family of trying to get control of all Canadian mines through concealed agents, would be permitted to continue his campaign but would not be encouraged to seek election again. Carmichael has contested the seat unsuccessfully in five elections.

A committee of 18, composed of Social Credit candidates in Ontario, prospective candidates and party organizers, took the decision on Mr. Carmichael after conferring here with Robert Thompson, the national party chief, who flew into Toronto to investigate the development. The committee was sharply divided on whether or not to call for Mr. Carmichael's resignation as a candidate. A majority of the committee held that the candidate had been careless and indiscreet, but not anti-Semitic.

Mr. Coult, in commenting on the case, said that "fortunately, there is little of this sort of thing left. He (Mr. Carmichael) is a leftover from an era we would sooner forget about."

As other Social Credit candidates hastened to dissociate themselves from Mr. Carmichael's views, the executive director of the Social Credit Association of Canada issued a statement disavowing Mr. Carmichael's remarks. The statement said that the party could not "legally" demand Mr. Carmichael's resignation as a candidate, "but we will accept it if offered." The statement said that the party "has no sympathy with any people who are anti-Semitic in their outlook or anti any other nationality."

Mr. Carmichael told newspapermen that his references to the Rothschilds were not intended to be anti-Semitic but were used to support his argument that the family had some control of chartered bank policy in Canada, the same as "other international banking firms like the non-Jewish Rockefellers." He said he had many Jewish friends and customers in his stamp and coins business.

A former Jewish member of Parliament, David Lewis, deputy leader of the New Democratic Party, charged that Social Credit assurances were no guarantee against further anti-Semitic outbreaks by that party's members. He said the Social Credit movement had anti-Semitic inclinations since its earliest days and had always attracted "undemocratic elements." The Canadian Jewish Congress was said today to have been in contact with leaders of the Social Credit Party on the Carmichael incident.

### N. Y. STATE LEGISLATORS DECIDE TO MAKE NO CHANGE IN SUNDAY CLOSING LAW

ALBANY, N. Y., March 12. (JTA) -- New York State Government leaders were reported today to have decided against any action in the current legislative session in the field of changing the state's Sunday-closing laws.

Jewish leaders in the state had been optimistic that the Legislature this year would act to allow Orthodox Jews, Seventh-Day Adventists and others who do not engage in business activities on Saturday to keep their shops open on Sunday.

The last time the legislators acted on the controversial issue was in 1958 when the Assembly voted down a bill to permit Sunday store hours in New York City. This year, Jewish organizations, such as the American Jewish Congress, were hopeful of passage of a measure permitting municipalities to each decide how to handle the issue in their areas. The measure was backed by Assembly Speaker Joseph F. Carlino.

Background of the legislative reluctance is a sharp conflict between sponsors of such legislation and church groups, particularly Roman Catholics. Gov. Rockefeller referred to this clash when he said at a news conference that his support would depend on the settlement of the issue by religious leaders.

### Missouri Sunday Closing Law Ruled Invalid; Was in Effect for 138 Years

JEFFERSON CITY, Mo., March 12, (JTA) -- The Missouri Supreme Court held yesterday that the state's Sunday closing laws, which have been in effect for 138 years, were invalid.

The court ruled unanimously that the Sunday laws were "incapable of rational enforcement," as well as vague and indefinite. The ruling cited a phrase in one of the laws which exempted "articles of immediate necessity" from the ban on Sunday sales. The court held that the wording made it impossible to determine which sales were permitted and which prohibited.

### DR. DREYFUSS APPOINTED CHIEF RABBI OF BELGIUM; FILLS LONG VACANT POST

BRUSSELS, March 12, (JTA) -- Dr. Robert Dreyfuss, Chief Rabbi of the Department of Moselle, France, has been appointed Chief Rabbi of Belgium, the Belgian Central Jewish Consistory announced here today. Born in France, Dr. Dreyfuss served as rabbi in Brussels from 1948 to 1955. The Belgian Jewish community has been without a Chief Rabbi for many years.

## JEWISH FEDERATIONS ASK CONGRESS FOR MORE EQUITABLE IMMIGRATION LAWS

NEW YORK, March 12. (JTA) -- The Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds today called upon the 88th Congress to remove "the discriminatory national origins quota system" from our national immigration policy and to enact legislation which is equitable and non-discriminatory.

In similar messages, Louis Stern, president of the Council, transmitted to the members of the Judiciary Committee of the Senate and House of Representatives and the Committee on Immigration of the House a resolution to this effect adopted by the General Assembly of the CJFWF.

The resolution calls upon Congress: 1. To enact an equitable, non-discriminatory formula for the admission of those seeking to enter the United States as immigrants; 2. To assure that deportation shall not be the punishment for crimes committed by an alien after lawful entry to this country; 3. To provide that, except in case of fraud committed at the time of entry or naturalization, there shall be no distinction between naturalized and native-born citizens.

Mr. Stern commended as "an important forward step" the enactment by Congress in 1962 of P.L. 87-510 which, for the first time, permitted admission of certain categories of refugees outside of quota restrictions. However, he expressed his regret that the country's fundamental immigration policy continues to retain "the discriminatory national origins quota system, with its implications that some nations and races are superior to others."

"Aside from its essential unfairness, the principle of immigration based upon national quotas has proven unworkable and Congress has repeatedly felt compelled to enact special short-term immigration and refugee legislation," Mr. Stern stated. He said, too, that the current immigration policy presents an "unfortunate picture" of this country to the world in that it "contrasts sharply with our ideal of equal opportunity for all." We look to the President and the leadership of the 88th Congress to take effective action to secure an immigration program that is appropriate to the needs, our democratic philosophy and our leading position in the world," the CJFWF leader stressed.

## U.S. LIFE INSURANCE COMPANIES TO FINANCE IMMIGRANT HOUSING IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 12. (JTA) -- Four major American Life Insurance Companies have signed an agreement with the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., which will facilitate the construction of homes for over 8,000 immigrants expected to arrive in Israel in 1963, it was reported here today. The four participating companies are: The Penn Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Philadelphia, The Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Springfield, Mass., The State Mutual Life Assurance Co. of America, Worcester, Mass., and the Phoenix Mutual Life Insurance Co. of Hartford, Conn.

On the strength of this agreement, United Associates, Inc., -- a new corporation formed by Jack D. Weiler and Benjamin H. Swig, two leading New York and San Francisco realtors -- will finance the construction of over 2,000 immigrant housing units throughout Israel ranging from Safad in the North to Ashdot in the South. United Associates will invest \$10,000,000 in the financing of these units, including \$1,000,000 of its own capital, \$4,500,000 in proceeds of 15-year notes at six and one-half percent interest subscribed by the four insurance companies, and \$4,500,000 million in subordinated capital participation subscribed to by Chail, the Israel Economic Development Corporation.

The financing, construction and distribution of the units to be built by United Associates follows a pattern established last year by American Associates, The Massachusetts Life Insurance Co., and The New England Life Insurance Co., which made it possible for the first time for American insurance firms to provide loans for Israel's extensive immigrant housing program through American-based Corporations.

The Massachusetts Mutual Life Insurance Co. as lenders as well as Jack D. Weiler and Benjamin H. Swig as investors are 'repeaters' having participated in the American Associates as well as the United Associates transactions. Negotiations for the formation of both companies were conducted by Gottlieb Hammer, executive vice-chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., and Maurice M. Boukstein, the Agency's attorney and counsel.

### Weiler Lauds Insurance Companies for Their Investments to Aid Newcomers

The units to be financed by United Associates will be purchased from the Israel Housing Authority and leased to the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., a philanthropic organization which is the major beneficiary of the nationwide United Jewish Appeal. The Agency, which will distribute the units to new immigrants as part of its over-all immigrant rehabilitation program in Israel, will pay a fixed annual rental to United Associates to cover repayment of the initial investment and interest charges. This fixed annual rental to be covered out of the Agency's share in the United Jewish Appeal will serve to guarantee the loans received by United Associates.

Mr. Weiler expressed his appreciation for the cooperation of the insurance companies. "I know they have entered into this agreement with us as hard-headed businessmen, but I think that they will also derive satisfaction from the fact that their investments will help to put a roof over people who have come a long way to find a new life of freedom and dignity in a young, dynamic country," he said.