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HOUSE COMMITTEE AMENDS FOREIGN AID BILL; AIMS TO CHECK EGYPT

WASHINGTON, July 17. (JTA) -- The House Foreign Affairs Committee today adopted an amendment introduced by Rep. Leonard Farbstein, New York Democrat, which would deny aid to nations like Egypt which prepare for military aggression against neighboring states.

The amendment, as finally accepted by the committee, was less specific than the proposed Keating-Halpern amendment, although its implementation is more strongly assured. The Keating-Halpern measure, as incorporated into last year's Foreign Assistance Act, referred to nations being denied aid if they divert their own resources to purchase of Soviet arms. The new measure, as approved, makes no mention of Soviet arms sources.

Rep. Farbstein pointed out that "although final determination must be made by the President, the guidelines of policy are set forth in the amendment. He said the amendment adopted today was actually the strongest expression of Congressional opinion yet on military activities by Egypt. He stressed that in his opinion Egypt was already engaged in aggressive military efforts outlawed by the amendment and should be denied aid forthwith. But he conceded that the State Department and the President may not interpret the situation that way.

Rep. Farbstein cited to the committee the latest Soviet-Egyptian arms deal and the rocket tests currently being conducted in Egypt. The vote on the amendment was reportedly 22 to 7. Other committee members commented that they did not regard the amendment as solely applicable to Egypt.

Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican who co-sponsored the Keating-Halpern amendment last year, today said that the new version of his amendment approved by the Foreign Affairs Committee was "too vague to be effective because the State Department has contended, in the face of all facts, that Egypt is pursuing a more peaceful policy toward Israel and therefore is unlikely to stop aid on grounds of aggressive preparations."

He announced that he would "move from the House floor at the right moment to strengthen this measure because I cannot in good conscience see the American public indirectly subsidizing Egypt's purchase of Soviet jet fighters, bombs, and maybe even poison gas for terroristic use against neighboring peoples."

The text of the amendment adopted today, reads:

"No assistance shall be provided under this or any other act, and no sales shall be made under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, to any country which the President determines is engaging in or preparing for aggressive military efforts directed against the United States (or) any country receiving assistance under this or any other act, (or) any country to which sales are made under the Agricultural Trade Development and Assistance Act of 1954, until the President determines that such military efforts or preparations have ceased and he reports to the Congress that he has received assurances satisfactory to him that such military efforts or preparations will not be renewed. This restriction may not be waived pursuant to any authority contained in this act."

U.S. GOVT. AND PEOPLE ARE ISRAEL'S GREATEST FRIENDS, GOLDA MEIR SAYS

TEL AVIV, July 17. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, today told the 1,000 delegates and guests attending the closing session of the annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America, here, that she was certain Israel does not have a greater and more sincere friend than the United States Government and people."

She made that statement in reply to questions from the floor after she and Prime Minister Levi Eshkol addressed the convention. At the same time she conceded that the State Department in Washington and Israel "agree that they disagree

on American policy in the Middle East," and she told the American Zionists that there are certain differences and problems between Israel and the U.S.A. "that should be ironed out between the two countries."

Israel's position in regard to increased arms given to Arabs through Russian aid, she said, would be decided in the future "not by what the Arabs do, but what the Jewish nation -- Israel first and the whole nation together -- do." Israel's policy, she added, is "not to let Nasser arrive at the day when he would think he is strong enough to defeat Israel."

She said that in spite of Israel's "keen desire," Russia does not want improvement of Israeli-USSR relations. She pointed out that there are no trade relations "whatsoever" between Israel and the USSR.

Mr. Eshkol told the convention that "if things continue as they have been, we may, by the end of the 60's reach the completion of the ingathering of those Jews from certain countries who cannot live freely as Jews -- and this does not include our brethren in Russia." By the end of the decade, he said, Israel's population will reach 3,000,000. The population increase will result from new immigration as well as from local births.

"The Zionist responsibility," he declared, "did not end with the State's establishment, nor will it end when we succeed in concentrating 3,000,000 Jews here. It is our joint responsibility to enlarge Israel's population and enrich our cultural and spiritual life by a strong stream of immigrants from Western countries. These are the people who can help us increase our numbers, build our economic life and lead to a better level in cultural, intellectual and spiritual life and society in our country."

Z.O.A. CONVENTION CONCLUDES WITH DECLARATION ON ZIONISM OF TODAY

TEL AVIV, July 17. (JTA) -- A six-point declaration spelling out its concepts of modern Zionism's philosophy and principles was adopted unanimously here today at the concluding session of the 66th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America. The convention also adopted a series of vital resolutions dealing with political, economic and administrative problems, Hebrew education and immigration to Israel. Rabbi Max Nussbaum was unanimously reelected for a second term as president of ZOA.

The declaration, setting down the policies and program of American Zionism which are to act as guidelines for the ZOA's activities, stated:

"1) Zionism rests on the fundamental thesis, enunciated by the immortal Theodor Herzl, that Jews constitute a people -- one people. It implies that Jews, whether living in the Diaspora as loyal citizens of their respective states, or in Israel, are bound together by historic religious and cultural ties. The Zionist movement is the embodiment of this idea and of the sentiment of the Jewish nation.

"2) Zionism also rests on the premise that the survival and historic continuity of the Jewish people can only be assured by the existence and development of the State of Israel, not only as a refuge for the homeless and oppressed but as a secure ground for recreating the authentic Jewish civilization. Israel is the pivot of Jewish destiny.

"3) The State of Israel is more than a mere political entity. It is and, for the sake of its own survival must also remain, the national home of the whole Jewish people, as its spiritual center.

"4) The Zionist movement remains dedicated to its historic task of providing a homeland and helping the ingathering of homeless and oppressed Jews. But at the same time, it is recognized that large segments of the Jewish nation will continue to dwell in the foreseeable future outside Israel. Among the rights which these Jews should enjoy is the right to live as Jews in any free society, to make their contributions to contemporary civilization while fulfilling their responsibilities toward fellow Jews in Israel and throughout the world.

"5) We do not regard the Jewish people in the Diaspora and Israeli Jews as completely separate entities but as equal partners in the struggle for Jewish survival and historic continuity, sharing a common responsibility for the Jewish future.

"6) Grateful for the warm reception given us in Israel, and deriving intense joy over the progress achieved by Israel and deep satisfaction in our contribution toward that progress, we rededicate ourselves as Zionists fully conscious of new vistas for creative endeavor open to us in the future."

In one of its adopted resolutions, the convention called for "direct and open" Arab-Israeli peace talks conducted "in full recognition of the rights of both sides,"

TRIAL OF SOVIET JEWS CHARGED WITH SELLING MATZOTH OPENED IN MOSCOW

NEW YORK, July 17. (JTA) -- Four Jews, including a shochet and two women, went on trial before a People's Court in Moscow yesterday on charges of profiteering in the illegal sale of matzoth prior to last Passover, according to a dispatch in today's New York Herald Tribune, from the newspaper's correspondent in the Soviet capital. Moscow's Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levine called the trial the first of its kind since the existence of the Soviet Union.

The defendants are Emil Katz, 82, charged with being the "ring leader"; Golko Bogomolny, 49, a shochet; Mrs. Klavdiya Blyakhman, 52; and Mrs. Malka Brio, 59. The prosecution, conducted by the three-judge panel consisting of two men and a woman jurist, charged that the women had baked the matzoth, sold the unleavened bread to the two men at 6 cents a pound, while the latter tried to resell the matzoth at \$1.38 a pound. The prosecution presented photos of the stoves and cutting tables on which the matzoth were allegedly produced, and a list of 18 potential customers.

Two defense attorneys, Mikhail Lozinsky and Matvey Sokolovich, denounced the investigation of the case, which has been under way for four months. They told the court that they see "no crime committed", declaring the case should never have gone to court. "These people," said Mr. Sokolovich, "did it just for themselves. They are all believers."

The defense insisted that the women had tried to dispose only of the surplus matzoth they had baked, and had not engaged in "large scale" operations as charged. "All churches," said Mr. Sokolovich, "sell candles and wafers at high prices, and nobody holds them for criminal responsibility."

Three of the Accused Held Under Arrest Since April; Two Are Women

Mr. Sokolovich denied the accused sold matzoth for personal profit, insisting they did it "for their religious beliefs," and pointing out that they used no hired labor. "He pleaded for the release of Mrs. Blyakhman, who, he said, has already spent four months in jail "without committing any crime at all."

Mr. Lozinsky criticized the investigators who had built the case, saying they had taken "a dogmatic position." Mr. Katz had been accused in the indictment of selling 1,100 pounds of matzoth over a lengthy period. The attorney said Mr. Katz had admitted selling a third of that amount in eight days. All but Mr. Katz have been in jail since their arrest in April. Mr. Katz was permitted to remain at home because of his physical condition.

Rabbi Levine had been called as a prosecution witness, and Mr. Lozinsky recalled to the court that the Chief Rabbi had testified that he had had a conversation prior to Passover with a man named Andreev, an official of the State Committee on Religious Cults. The attorney told the court that Mr. Andreev had told Rabbi Levine: "Unfortunately, this state cannot provide you with matzoth at the moment because it has neither place nor equipment for it, but has nothing against the Jewish community doing it itself."

"We asked the court," said Mr. Lozinsky, "to summon Andreev, but it never did. If Andreev stated here what Katz himself said (about baking matzoth for oneself) it means all the defendants would have been not guilty. Now you think about the old and dilapidated invalid (Mr. Katz) and decide his future."

Among the witnesses called by the defense were a non-Jewish man and his wife. They told the court they had made their own peasant-style stove available to the Jewish women, declaring: "We realized what the matzoth meant to the Jews, so we allowed them to bake it at our place." The audience in court nodded with admiration hearing this testimony.

The accused face possible sentences of four years in prison, and the additional penalty of the confiscation of their property.

THREE RUSSIANS SENTENCED TO DEATH FOR AIDING NAZIS; KILLED 800 JEWS

LONDON, July 17. (JTA) -- Three Russians were sentenced to death and a fourth to 15 years at hard labor after being convicted of murdering 1,000 persons, including 800 Jews, during World War II, according to a dispatch received here today from the Soviet Union.

The men had committed their crimes in the town of Drissa, now renamed Werchne-Dwinsk, in the Vitebsk district of Byelorussia. During the German occupation of the town in 1942, they herded all of the town's 800 Jews, plus 200 others they deemed as "progressive," into an outdoor ghetto. Only a few of the persons in the ghetto had shelter, the remainder being left in the open during the cold winter. Finally, one morning all 1,000 were gathered in the town's cemetery and murdered en masse.

RABBINICAL ALLIANCE FAVORS NON-DENOMINATIONAL PRAYERS IN SCHOOLS

FERNDAL, N. Y., July 17. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Alliance of America, an Orthodox group, went on record today as opposing Bible reading in the public schools. This was announced here by Rabbi Meyer Greenberg, president of the group, at the organization's annual convention. He stressed, however, that "under no circumstances, are we against non-denominational prayers" in the public schools.

The convention delegates adopted a resolution today calling on Jewish welfare federations throughout the United States to increase their support of Hebrew day schools in their communities, and to raise their allocations for religious education.

U. S. CHRISTIAN CLERGYMEN AND EDUCATORS LEAVE FOR STUDY OF ISRAEL

NEW YORK, July 17. (JTA) -- A group of 55 Christian clergymen and college faculty members left tonight for a 29-day study tour of Israel in a program arranged by the Inter-University Committee on Israel. This is the second annual tour of Israel sponsored by the committee.

The group was composed of prominent Protestant and Catholic leaders and educators from all parts of the country, and included two college presidents, deans and professors, as well as prominent clergymen of all faiths. Dr. Judah Nadich, rabbi of the Park Avenue synagogue in New York, is the tour leader.

Members of the group will meet with their counterparts in Israel at seminars and conferences, and with governmental leaders in an effort to gain insights into Israel's problems. Participants will visit holy places, important archaeological sites, major academic institutions, and explore the cultural and religious life of the country.

ISRAEL'S THIRD ANNUAL MUSIC AND DRAMA FESTIVAL OPENED IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, July 17. (JTA) -- With President Zalman Shazar and other Israeli, as well as foreign, notables in attendance, Israel's third Music and Drama Festival -- an annual event that has grown in attendance as well as in artistic stature since it was inaugurated in 1961 -- opened in Convention Hall here last night.

The feature of the opening concert was the world premiere of "Midnight Prayers," an oratorio by Mordecai Seter, one of Israel's leading composers. Based on the "Tikun Hatzot," written in the 16th century by Rabbi Isaac Luria, the work was performed by the Israel Philharmonic Orchestra and three choirs, with Jacob Barkin, a Pittsburgh cantor, as soloist. Another feature of the program was the Brahms Concerto No. 1 for piano and orchestra, with Geza Anda as soloist.

This year's festival, to include a wide variety of drama, dance, symphonic and chamber music, choir singing, Jewish liturgy and opera, will conduct performances in this city, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Beersheba, Ein Hod, Ein Hashofet, Rehovot and the Sachne National Park in the North. Featured artists will include Isaac Stern, William Steinberg, Sir William Walton, Rosalyn Tureck, Eugene Istomin, Leonard Rose, Jennie Tourel, Jan Peerce, Paul Ukena, Hilda Zadek, Agnes Moorehead, Maurice Ganchoff, Moshe Koussevitsky, the New York Pro Musica and the Indian Shanto Rao dancers.

ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF J. N. F. PRESIDENT GRANOTT OBSERVED IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 17. (JTA) -- Services commemorating the first anniversary of the death of Dr. Abraham Granott, late president of the Jewish National Fund, were held here tonight at the Jewish Agency auditorium.

Eulogies and tributes to Dr. Granott's memory were delivered by Moshe Sharrett, chairman of the Agency executive; Yaacov Tsur, chairman of the JNF board; and Pinhas Rosen, a member of Parliament. Among those attending the rites were members of Israel's Cabinet and members of the Supreme Court. Earlier, the widow, Mrs. Miriam Granott, cut the ribbon dedicating a new road, bearing Dr. Granott's name.

S. SAPIRA, CHIEF RABBI OF ANTWERP, DEAD; GOVERNOR ATTENDS FUNERAL

ANTWERP, July 17. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for the late Dr. S. Sapira, chief rabbi of Antwerp, who died at the age of 72. The Mayor of Antwerp and the Governor of the province embracing that city were among the prominent mourners at the services.

Born in Rumania, and the holder of a doctorate in philosophy and theology from the University of Berlin, Dr. Sapira has lived in Belgium since 1935, except for the war years, which he spent in Cuba. He was chief chaplain of the Province of Antwerp, and a professor at the Royal Lyceum. Among his scholarly achievements was the mastery of a total of 16 languages.