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ESHKOL CALLS ON MAJOR POWERS TO SAFEGUARD PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST

JERUSALEM, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- A call to the major world powers to safeguard peace in the Middle East was issued here today by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol in his "state of the nation" address at the opening meeting of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, which reconvened for the winter session.

It was the first major speech delivered by Mr. Eshkol before the Parliament since he became Premier. He stressed both Israel's desire for peace and its readiness for defense. He also announced the abolition for Arabs in Israel of major restrictions of military rule in certain areas of the country.

There are many indications, he said, that Israel's "genuine desire for peace" and its striving to achieve peace are "making a growing impression upon the world's consciousness." At the same time, however, he warned of Israel's determination to strengthen its military deterrent "in the face of persisting Arab threats."

"While developing our defensive preparedness," he stated, "we shall not exempt from their international responsibilities other peace-loving states that are in a position to join various ways toward safeguarding peace in our area." The responsibility of the major powers, he said, "is particularly heavy, since it is they who could best wield a deterrent influence."

Emphasizing the fact that Egypt was being supplied by destructive armaments, the Israeli leader said: "The obstacle would be removed from the highway to peace, if the German and other scientists will cease strengthening the juggernaut of aggression being built in Egypt. Our Government," he asserted, "will continue to act against aid given by German scientists and technicians to Egyptian plans for destroying Israel. We also expect the Federal Government of Germany to submit to the Bundestag (West Germany's lower house of Parliament) a law to prevent such activity."

"The easing of world tensions as a result of the tripower nuclear test ban pact," said Mr. Eshkol, "has raised hope. The more world tensions are relaxed the more difficult will our enemies find it to keep the general thaw from penetrating to the Middle East. But it is precisely in our region that the glaring contrast between hopes for peace and the reality of hostility is most apparent, as the Arab governments persist in threatening Israel's very existence."

Announces Abolition of Military Restrictions for Arabs in Israel

The Prime Minister informed the Knesset of wide measures being undertaken to improve relations with the Arab and Druse minorities in Israel. He announced a long list of such measures, including village development projects in the Arab-populated areas, further improvements in educational facilities, and establishment of a special fund for higher Arab education.

He then announced the abolition of major, military government restrictions in certain areas, except for a small number of Arab villages lying on the very borders of neighboring Arab states. In all other areas, he said, Arabs will no longer have to obtain personal travel permits. He voiced his regret that "incitement and hostility by the Arab countries compel us to keep a close watch on areas that are particularly sensitive from the viewpoint of security."

Mr. Eshkol outlined the Government's plan for expansion of educational opportunities for all Israelis, telling Parliament that equality of educational opportunity is "the high road to true integration of our communities and toward the elimination of inequalities between citizens of various origins."

Turning to economic affairs, Mr. Eshkol expressed disappointment over the results achieved thus far in Israel's negotiations for a link with the European Common Market. Israel, he said, has been looking forward "with growing and justified anticipation toward speedy progress in meeting our demands" on the European Economic Community. The Euromart, he said, "bears a great moral responsibility toward Israel."

On the domestic, economic front, he reported, the last year has been one of the most stable periods in Israel's history. While prices remained stable, he noted, production increased rapidly, a high level of economic activity and employment has been maintained,

and an improvement has taken place in the balance of payments which will probably result in reducing the trade deficit by \$80,000,000.

Foresees Large Immigration This Year; Appeals to World Jewry

The Premier discussed the project for expanding development in the Galilee area, and referred to the current immigration to Israel. He said there was an increased influx of Jewish immigrants from the free world, especially from South America. "There is reason to believe that the rate of immigration from many countries will continue and will be considerable during the coming year," he stressed.

Voicing appreciation for world Jewry's moral and material support of immigration and absorption, he said, however, that "to our regret, its contribution in the last years has not matched the enormous needs." He appealed to world Jewry overseas to recognize the "urgency" of the immigration and absorption problem, and "to take appropriate action."

Without mentioning the Soviet Union by name, Mr. Eshkol told the Knesset that Israel will speak up at the United Nations on the status of the Jews in the USSR. "The Israeli delegation at the United Nations," he declared, "will have the opportunity of expressing its views, the aspirations of Israeli citizens and of the entire Jewish people regarding the situation of Jews in certain countries where they are deprived of the right to express their adherence to Jewish values and to enjoy contact with Jews in the rest of the world."

Finally, Mr. Eshkol came to one issue that has disturbed Israel recently--the demonstrations by Sabbath observers and their opponents. He criticized sharply "the use of violence that leads to violence," declaring that both secularists and the ultra-zealous "are wrong." In matters of conscience and religion, he said, Israeli society "is founded on a pact of mutual tolerance which found expression in our Proclamation of Independence, which guaranteed that every man shall live according to his conscience in his own house, in his homeland. The public realm," he asserted, "will be protected by the Government."

SENATE COMMITTEE DROPS CLAUSE AIMED AGAINST EGYPTIAN AGGRESSION

WASHINGTON, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee has eliminated from the Foreign Assistance Bill a clause designed to curtail Egyptian aggression, it was learned today.

Chairman J. W. Fulbright persuaded the Committee that the wording, inserted into the House version of the bill by Rep. Leonard Farbstein, New York Democrat, was undesirable. The wording was similar to last year's "Keating-Halpern amendment, to restrict the flow of aid to nations using their own funds to buy Soviet arms.

The Committee reported out a bill which completely eliminated the stand taken by the House which would give no aid to the United Arab Republic or any other country the President determines is "engaging in or preparing for aggressive military efforts" against the United States or other recipients of American assistance.

A bi-partisan effort led by Senators Ernest Gruening, Alaska Democrat, and Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, will be made on the Senate floor to restore the eliminated measure. The bill is expected before the Senate within a week.

Objections had been made by the State Department against the wording which might hamper continued American assistance to the Nasser regime. Sen. Fulbright and other foreign relations committee members carried the Committee's decision by arguing that the definition of "aggressive military efforts" was too vague. They said the language was so general it might be applied in the current Morocco-Algerian dispute, causing problems for American diplomacy.

Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, who co-sponsored the measure passed last year, said that if the Senate's scrapping of this year's anti-Nasser clause is final, he would seek similar legislation inserted into the forthcoming foreign aid appropriations bill. The present bill pertains to the authorization and the funds must be transmitted by subsequent legislation.

HASSIDIC REBBE LEAVES ISRAEL 'PERMANENTLY' BECAUSE OF SABBATH CLASHES

NATANYA, Israel, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- Rabbi Yekutiel Halberstam, the Rebbe of Klausenberg, who settled in Israel four years ago with a group of his followers, announced today that he was leaving Israel "permanently" to return to the United States because of the continuing strife over Sabbath violations in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Halberstam, who made known his decision before a stunned crowd of Hassidim in their religious quarter in Kiryat Tzanz near here, said that the news of what was going on in Jerusalem each Sabbath was undermining his health. The Rebbe, one of the few Hassidic leaders to survive the Nazi persecution, promised to give full details of his decision to return to the United States tomorrow evening in the synagogue of the quarter. His announcement, made from the balcony of his home, was received in silence except for the sound of women crying.

'PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE' REQUESTED TO ACT ON JEWS IN U.S.S.R.

NEW YORK, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations was requested today by the American Zionist Council to convene a special meeting to discuss action on the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union. A communication to this effect was released today by Rabbi Jerome Unger, executive director of the AZC. The communication, addressed to Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, reads:

"The executive committee of the American Zionist Council at its meeting on October 17, 1963, unanimously adopted a resolution requesting the Conference of Presidents, as the representative body of the major American Jewish organizations, to convene a special meeting without delay to deal with the urgent problem of Russian Jewry. At such a meeting, the American Zionist Council is prepared to make recommendations with regard to this most immediate and serious problem."

BRITISH JEWS TO INTERVENE FOR RUSSIAN JEWRY WITH SOVIET ENVOY

LONDON, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews will seek an interview with the Ambassador from the Soviet Union to discuss the current position of Jews in the USSR, according to an announcement today by Sir Barnett Janner, president of the Board.

"It is with great regret that we have to report that, in spite of indications of some lessening of Soviet-West tensions, there has been no sign of an improvement in the position of Soviet Jewry," Sir Barnett reported at a meeting of the Board of Deputies. "We have frequently had to refer to restrictions on facilities for the practice of Judaism in the USSR; the inability of organizing Jewish life within the Soviet Union or of maintaining contact with Jews outside Russia; the plight of families torn asunder by the Nazis but not allowed to be reunited with relatives abroad; and the harsh penalties for alleged economic offenses for which an exceptionally high proportion of those sentenced have been Jews."

"Unfortunately, recent reports and statements, not only from Jewish but also from non-Jewish sources and leading personalities, reveal that this trend was not only continuing but even, in some aspects, being intensified."

Emphasizing that the Board has issued many appeals on this subject to the Soviet authorities, Sir Barnett said: "In the better international atmosphere, the USSR should accord its Jewish minority the same possibilities accorded to other religious and national minorities, and take such humane steps as to permit members of Jewish families who wish to do so to be reunited with their relatives abroad. In the hope of furthering such improvement, which would be welcomed by world public opinion, we are proposing to ask the Soviet Ambassador to receive a delegation from the Board of Deputies of British Jews."

APPEAL OF U.S. INTELLECTUALS TO MOSCOW ON JEWS BROADCAST TO RUSSIA

NEW YORK, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The "appeal of conscience" adopted here a week ago by 100 American intellectuals who heard reports on official anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union and directed their plea to Soviet Prime Minister Nikita S. Khrushchev, is being transmitted this week to radio listeners in the Soviet Union, according to an announcement today by Radio Liberty.

Fifteen powerful transmitters, located in West Germany and Spain, are penetrating the Iron Curtain with the appeal and with a summary of the reports about Soviet anti-Semitism heard by last week's conference, Radio Liberty stated.

In addition, the non-governmental agency reported, a special program will be broadcast, featuring a statement made at the conference by Arthur Miller, noted American playwright. In his statement, Mr. Miller told how a Soviet cultural attache tried unsuccessfully to convince him that he should disassociate himself from the conference.

CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN RABBIS DISCUSSES POSITION OF SOVIET JEWRY

PARIS, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The deterioration of the position of Soviet Jewry and the activities of Christian missionaries in Israel were among the subjects discussed at a two-day conference of the Standing Committee of European Rabbis which concluded here today. The conference, which was under the chairmanship of British Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie, was attended by the chief rabbis of France, Ireland, the Netherlands, Switzerland and Italy.

The Committee reviewed the work of the last conference held in Basle, Switzerland, earlier this year and discussed the implementation of a number of resolutions. Grand Rabbi Jacob Kaplan of France outlined efforts being made to provide adequate religious education facilities for Jews who arrived in France from Algeria and other parts of North Africa. It was decided to hold the next conference in London in the spring of 1964.

MAPAI CONVENTION APPEALS TO MOSCOW ON TREATMENT OF JEWS IN RUSSIA

TEL AVIV, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- A unanimous appeal to Soviet authorities to open the gates for Jews wishing to emigrate to Israel marked the close of the Ninth Mapai convention here. The convention also appealed to Moscow to grant Jews full religious, national and cultural rights and to abolish all restrictions on their observance of Jewish tradition.

DR. KAPLAN CALLS FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF RESEARCH INSTITUTE ON JUDAISM

NEW YORK, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- Addressing the annual conference of the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation, Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan, distinguished Jewish scholar and founder of the Reconstructionist movement, called yesterday for the establishment of an Institute of Applied Research for Contemporary Judaism.

"It is not enough," he said, "for Jews to possess the know-how of Jewish existence. They must know and be convinced of the know-why. Those of us who are committed to Reconstructionism should realize our moral responsibility for launching the kind of Institute where the various proposals for the why and the how of Jewish existence would be carefully studied, and where their effectiveness or lack of it would be objectively demonstrated."

The Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation, organized in 1940, is dedicated to "the advancement of Judaism as an evolving religious civilization, the role of Israel as the spiritual center of the Jewish people, and the moral obligation of all people to further universal justice, freedom and peace."

FARBAND-LABOR ZIONIST ORDER TO CELEBRATE FIFTY YEARS OF EXISTENCE

NEW YORK, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- The 50th Jubilee anniversary of the Farband, Labor Zionist Order, an organization numbering 40,000 families throughout the country, will be ushered in with a series of nationwide celebrations for a period of 50 days beginning early November and culminating with a five-day Jubilee Convention to be held in New York at the end of December, according to an announcement today by Meyer L. Brown, a founder and president of the organization.

A five-day convention, which will be held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in December, will discuss and map plans for a widely expanded program of activities in all spheres of Farband's endeavors on the American scene and in Israel as it enters the second half century of its existence. Some of the foremost leaders in all walks of American life as well as outstanding guests from Israel will address the 2,000 delegates expected to attend the Jubilee Convention.

Making public details of its Jubilee celebration, Louis Segal, general secretary of the Farband who also serves as a member of the Jewish Agency for Israel, pointed out that "the membership of Farband now comprises three generations with the majority still consisting of the pioneers who helped establish the organization 50 years ago." He added that "about 25 per cent of the present membership was born and raised in the United States and that most of these have already assumed important key posts in the organization. The Farband membership also includes about 8,000 women."

NEW YORK RADIO STATION WEVD STARTS BROADCAST OF WORLD JEWISH NEWS

NEW YORK, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- Radio Station WEVD inaugurated today a new broadcast of world Jewish News based on the wire service of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The new program is the station's first Jewish news broadcast in English and represents the first stage in a program of broadening the station's English-language news activities.

The new program will be heard daily from Monday through Friday at 3:30 P. M. on 1330 kc. Ben Basenko, chief WEVD announcer, who has been presenting Israeli news programs over the station for many years, will be the commentator.

The JTA service, to be piped to the station over JTA teleprinter circuits, will include world, national and domestic news developments, including the JTA's extensive coverage of the Israel scene. The WEVD-JTA news cast will be sponsored by Farband, the Labor Zionist Order. It is believed to be the only daily Jewish news program in English in the metropolitan area.

ELIAS TOBENKIN, NOTED AUTHOR, DEAD; WAS J. T. A. CORRESPONDENT IN MOSCOW

NEW YORK, Oct. 21. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for the late Elias Tobenkin, author, journalist and one-time Moscow correspondent for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, who died at his home, aged 81.

Born in Russia, Mr. Tobenkin was brought by his family to the United States as a boy. He studied at the University of Wisconsin, receiving bachelor's and master's degrees there, and began his newspaper career on the Milwaukee Free Press in 1906. The following year, he joined the Chicago Tribune's Sunday staff as a feature writer. In 1912, he became an editorial writer for that newspaper. Later, he joined the staff of the New York Herald Tribune. In the early thirties, he covered the Soviet Union for the JTA for a year.

Mr. Tobenkin was the author of many books, both fiction and nonfiction. They included "Witte Arrives," "The House of Conrad," "The Road," "God of Might," "In the Dark," "Stalin's Ladder," "City of Friends," and "The Peoples Want Peace." Shortly before his death he had completed work on a new novel, "The Son."