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J.T.A. DIRECTORS' FOUNDATION TO ASSUME FULL OWNERSHIP OF AGENCY

NEW YORK, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- Agreement on transfer of ownership of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from the Jewish Agency to the membership of the JTA Board of Directors was announced jointly today by the JTA and the Jewish Agency.

Eleazar Lipsky, president of JTA, said the actual transfer of ownership would be made when the legal formalities were completed. He said that the members of the JTA Board had organized the American Jewish News Foundation, Inc., a non-profit membership corporation under the laws of the State of New York, in which ownership of JTA will be vested. The trustees of the Foundation will be the JTA Board members.

He expressed the belief that the new arrangement would provide a wider basis of communal support for JTA and facilitate extension of its services in the community interest. He said that a panel of distinguished personalities in the newspaper field would undertake a survey of JTA operations in 1964 and make recommendations to the Board on their future scope and direction.

Mr. Lipsky said that a satisfactory arrangement had been worked out largely through the sympathetic and understanding attitude of the Jewish Agency which had provided substantial investments in JTA over the past decade and had now generously agreed to forego its claims in order to facilitate the JTA reorganization.

Jewish Agency to Relinquish Financial Responsibility

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency Executive, declared that the increased support given to JTA by the federations and welfare funds and the indications that this support would continue to grow had finally made it possible for the Jewish Agency to relinquish the responsibility it had borne for more than 10 years.

"The Jewish Agency is proud of the fact that it has been so greatly instrumental in maintaining, during a difficult period, this news service, whose existence is of vital importance to the Jewish people," Dr. Neumann said. "We are happy that the American Jewish communities, through the federations and welfare funds, have shown mounting interest in JTA and a desire to help JTA to grow and develop so that it may make a maximum contribution to the general welfare."

Transfer of the JTA ownership will complete a process begun in 1960 when JTA, in agreement with the Jewish Agency and the Large City Budgeting Conference of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, agreed to reorganize JTA on an independent basis, with the American federations and welfare funds assuming responsibilities that would enable the Jewish Agency to reduce and eventually terminate its financial participation.

The LCBC advised the communities in 1961 that "the LCBC regards a Jewish news service of high quality as indispensable and considers JTA as potentially of even greater value than it is today to Jewish communal life."

SPY RING CAUGHT IN ISRAEL; THREE SYRIANS AND ISRAELI ARABS ARRESTED

TEL AVIV, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- Israeli officials announced today that three Syrian agents and a number of Israeli Arabs had been arrested in an espionage roundup. They will go on trial in Haifa district court next week.

The Syrian agents, one of them known to be active for many years in the Syrian intelligence service, were caught two weeks ago in the upper Galilee several hours after they crossed the Lebanese border. They were found hiding in an orange grove by border police. They were heavily armed, the police said, listing their equipment as including submachine guns, pistols, hand grenades and knives.

The number of Israeli Arabs arrested was not disclosed. Police said they were residents in western Galilee villages and that they had been in contact with the Syrian agents. One of the arrested spies is a native of Palestine and speaks fluent Hebrew, police said. He had been in Israeli prisons several times on minor charges and was once exiled from his village to a remote place but escaped to Syria where he joined the intelligence service, police stated.

KNECSET APPROVES ESHKOL'S POLICY STATEMENT BY 51 TO 34 VOTE

JERUSALEM, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- Israel's Parliament approved today by a vote of 51 to 34 Premier Levi Eshkol's first policy statement since he took office. The Premier had called on the major powers to safeguard peace in the Middle East, announced the abolition of major military rule restrictions on Arabs in some parts of Israel and pledged continued efforts against aid by West German scientists to the Egyptian weapons development program.

Discussing questions raised during the debate which followed his presentation on Monday, the Premier said that Israel was following a dual policy regarding the possibility of alliances or guarantees to preserve Mideast peace. He said "we are acting and will continue to act as though there is no hope of an alliance or guarantees, relying on our own strength but we shall endeavor in every possible way to achieve wider international understanding and we shall act as though alliances or guarantees are possible."

In reply to critics who asked for more details on Israel plans for peace with the Arab countries, the Premier recalled the six-point plan presented to the United Nations General Assembly earlier this month by Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, in which she reiterated Israel's readiness to discuss unresolved issues with the Arab countries. He added that at the first serious hint of a desire for peace by the Arabs, "we will have something to say and we are prepared to sit down at a peace table."

He counseled patience over demands for complete abolition of military government over the Israeli Arabs. He noted that with the newly instituted relaxations permitting free movement for most Israeli Arabs without the formerly required travel permits, only the "framework" of military rule was being maintained and that it was the fervent hope of the Government that it would not need to be used. He added that the complicated situation of Israel's security had not been created by Israeli or Arab citizens but by Israel's neighbors. The Government, he said, was looking forward to complete elimination of military rule.

The Premier also dealt with criticism of Israel's reaction to anti-Jewish discrimination in the Soviet Union made by Communist deputy Shmuel Mikunis. The Premier stated that "there is no hostility to the Soviet Union--there are aching hearts." He added that the House could not conceal its concern and its belief in the right to contact the Jews of the USSR nor, he said, could the House ignore the evidence given by many individuals and from press reports on the situation of the Soviet Jews.

He also condemned the Kibbutz members who, he said, came to Jerusalem on a recent Sabbath armed with sticks. He called on the entire House, including Mapam members, to join in his condemnation.

U.S. URGES U.N. TO ADOPT DECLARATION ON RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 23. (JTA) -- The United States Government called on the United Nations today to adopt a declaration on the elimination of all forms of religious discrimination, but indicated that such an international instrument may not come up for General Assembly consideration before 1964.

The U. S. A., at the same time, implied endorsement of a Subcommission study made public a year ago establishing the right of any person to leave his own country or return thereto. Both points were interpreted by observers here as aimed at least in part against the Soviet Union's denial of religious rights and the rights of emigration to Jews in the USSR. However, the Soviet Government was not mentioned by name.

The statements were made in a lengthy address on general human rights and social welfare aspects of the work of the Economic and Social Council by Mrs. Jane Warner Dick, U. S. representative on the UN Social Commission. She spoke in the General Assembly's Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee. That Committee has on its agenda this year an item calling for a UN declaration on the elimination of religious discrimination, but has not yet reached that point for specific debate.

Pointing out that the U. S. delegation favored priority in this Committee for a declaration on racial discrimination, Mrs. Dick said: "We believe there should be no further delay on the elimination of religious intolerance. The right to worship in accordance with conscience is a basic and fundamental right. It should be accorded everyone, in every country, without question and without limitation."

Mrs. Dick noted that the Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities is expected to give priority to the drafting of a declaration on religious intolerance at its next session here in January. "The draft prepared by the Subcommission should, therefore, come to us next fall. The United States welcomes this arrangement, and favors placing the draft declaration on religious intolerance high on the 1964 agenda of this Committee," she said.

Mrs. Dick referred to the study in respect to emigration and immigration issued by the same Subcommittee last winter. "This study," she said, "clearly indicates the folly of imprisoning populations; and confining intellectuals behind political boundaries." When that study was issued last winter, it was fought vigorously here by Soviet representatives who saw the document as a criticism of the USSR's policy of denying emigration rights to Russian Jewry.

EXPERTS OF 17 ARAB LANDS END TALKS ON BLOCKING ISRAEL'S ECONOMY

LONDON, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- Two weeks of talks by experts from 17 Arab countries, centered on plans to intensify the economic war against Israel, ended yesterday, it was reported here from Damascus.

Mohammed Mahjoub, commissioner general of the Arab League Boycott of Israel movement, who presided, told newsmen after the closing session that the conference adopted "a series of recommendations designed to face Israel's renewed activities for greater economic ties with Europe including her bid to associate herself with the European Common Market."

BEN-GURION TELLS U. J. A. MISSION OF PLANS TO BROADEN EDUCATION

JERUSALEM, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- Israel is seeking to raise the age level for compulsory education of children from 14 to 16, thus extending free education to include two years of high school or vocational training, former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion told members of the 120-member United Jewish Appeal Study Mission today.

Next to security, he told members of the mission visiting him at his vacation retreat at Sde Boker, the broadening of educational opportunities represented Israel's most pressing problem. He said Israel's "greatest resource is trained brains" and that science, education and manpower would eventually result in the conquest of the Negev. He expressed the hope that many persons imbued with the spirit of pioneering would come to Israel to live in and develop the Negev.

The UJA mission continued its tour of the southern region today, paying a visit to the immigrant township of Sderot where the mission members met the newcomers and studied their problems. They also inspected the Sdom Chemical Works and heard Gen. Mordechai Makleff, director of the Dead Sea Works, report on the firm's development plans. The group also visited the development town of Arad.

TRIAL OF 104 ZEALOTS IN JERUSALEM BUSY WITH DEBATING FORMALITIES

JERUSALEM, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- Technicalities regarding identities of defendants and formalities of the charges against the defendants have occupied prosecution and defense for the past three days in the trial of 104 Yeshiva students facing charges of criminal trespass in the September 10 demonstrations against Christian missions in Israel.

The mass trial is continuing in a hospital dining room improvised for a court. All the defendants have pleaded not guilty.

\$2,560,000 RAISED AT NEW YORK DINNER STARTING ISRAEL BOND DRIVE

NEW YORK, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- More than \$2,560,000 for the economic development of Israel was provided tonight at a dinner here inaugurating the 1963 fall campaign of the Greater New York Committee for State of Israel Bonds. Dr. Dov Joseph, Justice Minister of Israel, was the principal speaker. The dinner launched the year-end phase of a drive in the metropolitan area to mobilize \$15,000,000 in Israel bond investment funds in 1963.

Dr. Joseph defined Israel's three principal tasks as "defense, economic development and immigrant absorption." He stressed the need for increased response to the Israel bond campaign for the development of unpopulated regions such as the Negev desert in the south and the Galilee in the north "to ensure that Israel will continue to expand its economy and serve as a guide to many of the newly established nations of the world."

"Before a new immigrant can play his full role in the country's economic life," Dr. Joseph pointed out, "the Government must give him a home, teach him the Hebrew language, and train him for work which is needed in Israel. At the same time, factories and other enterprises must be established to give the newcomer employment and public funds must finance roads, water supply and other essential services. All of this imposes a tremendous drain on the national budget," Dr. Joseph said. "It can be alleviated only through income derived from Israel Bonds, our chief source of foreign investment capital."

Abraham Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization, who presided at the dinner, hailed the beginning of the redemption of the first Israel bonds last May, pointing out that 12-year Israel Independence Savings Bonds purchased in 1951 are now being repaid at the rate of 150 cents on the dollar. William Goldfine, president of the Royal National Bank, was formally installed at the dinner as the 1963-1964 campaign chairman of the Israel Bond drive in Greater New York.

VOLKSWAGEN FOUNDATION GRANTS \$560,000 FOR RESEARCH IN ISRAEL

HANNOVER, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- An official of the Volkswagen Foundation announced yesterday a grant of 2,200,000 marks (\$560,000) to finance a research and exchange program between West Germany and Israel. The official said most of the grant would go to the Weizmann Institute at Rehovot to help finance basic research in physics and biosciences.

The Foundation was set up by the Volkswagen company, producer of the Volkswagen automobile, one of the most successful of West Germany's exports.

EUROPEAN CONFERENCE PLEDGES TO RAISE EXTRA \$1,000,000 FOR J.N.F.

BRUSSELS, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- The European conference of the Jewish National Fund here pledged today to raise \$1,000,000 in addition to its regular JNF contributions for "Operation Galilee," the new development program for the central Galilee in Israel, which will cost the JNF an aggregate \$11,000,000.

The pledge was made at the conclusion of the two-day conference. Of the total of the extra \$1,000,000, Great Britain and Ireland will furnish \$500,000; France, \$100,000; \$50,000 each by the JNF in West Germany, Italy, Switzerland and Belgium; and the remainder by JNF sections in other European countries.

The delegates to the conference were guests last night at a dinner tendered for them at Antwerp by P. N. Ferstenberg, president of the JNF in Belgium. Earlier, they were officially received at the Antwerp Town Hall by the Mayor.

9,200 STUDENTS TO ATTEND HEBREW UNIVERSITY; NEW SEMESTER STARTS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- A record total of 9,200 students will enroll at Hebrew University for the new session beginning Sunday, representing a 12 per cent increase over the number attending last year, it was reported here today. Some 550 research students will be among the young men and women attending the main campus in Jerusalem and the University's branches in Tel Aviv and Rehovot.

The number of foreign students this year will increase to 600 from 450 last year, including 100 from Asia and Africa, most of them in the medical school.

University president Eliahu Elath noted today that the School of Education now produces some 300 teachers annually or about 95 per cent of all the newly qualified teachers in Israel. These, however, were only half of the number required. He said that about 70 per cent of the secondary school teachers were now without academic qualifications.

Professor Yoel Racah, University rector, reported that overseas research contracts, mainly from U.S. Government agencies, would rise this year to about 5,000,000 pounds (\$1,667,000). He stressed that the continued rise in enrollment would inevitably create a shortage of buildings and instructors.

Referring to limitations in enrollments in the sciences, Academic secretary E. Poznanski said that only 60 of the 300 who applied to medical school were accepted and that a similar situation prevailed in the other science faculties.

ACADEMIC YEAR OPENS AT HAIFA TECHNION WITH 804 NEW STUDENTS

HAIFA, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- The new academic year of the Haifa Institute of Technology opened today with a record enrollment of 804 first year students.

They include 50 girls, 60 foreign students of whom 30 are taking special courses in agricultural engineering for students from developing countries and 30 who are soldiers from Oriental settlement backgrounds. They passed special preparatory courses organized by Technion and the Army. The Institute now has 2,500 students.

SCIENTISTS FROM 15 COUNTRIES ADDED TO STAFF OF WEIZMANN INSTITUTE

REHOVOT, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- The 1963-64 academic year has been declared "International Year" at the Weizmann Institute and scientists from 15 countries are augmenting the Institute's scientific staff and graduate school enrollment.

Officials of the Institute reported today that 54 of the Institute's research personnel and 27 of its graduate students are scientists from overseas countries. The graduate school enrollment also includes a record number of Israelis this year. The principal study choice of the visiting scientists is nuclear physics. Students from abroad will be housed in a newly built International House contributed by British magnate Charles Clore.

Meanwhile, it was announced today that a three-year grant of \$100,000 to study how viruses induce cancer has been awarded by the National Institutes of Health to Professor Leo Sachs, head of the genetics section of the Weizmann Institute. The genetics section under Dr. Sachs is investigating the mechanisms involved in the conversion of normal to cancer cells by certain viruses and chemicals.

20 TONS OF RELIGIOUS BOOKS INTERRED IN CHICAGO IN GENIZA CEREMONY

CHICAGO, Oct. 23. (JTA) -- About 20 tons of unusable religious books and other materials were interred today at Shalom Memorial Park in Palestine in a city-wide Geniza ceremony sponsored by the Chicago Rabbinical Council and in which more than 50 synagogues in this area participated.

The custom of Geniza, in which worn-out religious books and other items are interred, dates back to antiquity and has been a great boon to archeologists and Biblical scholars who have unearthed valuable parchments buried centuries ago. Two famous discoveries along these lines were the Dead Sea Scrolls in 1947 and the parchments in the Ezra Synagogue in Cairo, Egypt at the turn of the century.