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U.S. NAVY EXPERIMENTS WITH NEW ELECTRONIC TECHNIQUES OFF ISRAELI COAST

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol disclosed in Parliament today that the United States Navy was experimenting with long-range electronic navigation techniques off the Israeli coast.

He explained that the techniques were based on fixed stations which beam into space a signal which was then picked up and plotted on special maps, serving both civil and military transportation. He said that the United States Embassy had asked permission for naval craft to anchor near Israel to make the experiments. These, he declared, benefit not only the United States but also the Israeli merchant marine and El Al National Airlines.

The Prime Minister made the disclosure in denying reports that landing craft of the United States Sixth Fleet were engaged in maneuvers off the Israeli coast.

ITALIAN, VATICAN SECURITY PERSONNEL PREPARE FOR POPE'S VISIT TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Italian and Vatican security personnel were disclosed today to be in Israel to supervise preparations for the visit of Pope Paul VI to Israel on January 5.

The Interior Ministry meanwhile prepared a regulation recognizing Megiddo as the official frontier crossing point for the visit, thus eliminating any question as to where the Pope would enter Israel from Jordan.

ISRAEL SEEKS MAXIMUM WORLD ATTENTION TO SYRIAN PRISON CRUELITIES

JERUSALEM, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Premier Levi Eshkol said today that Israel would seek maximum world attention to the "cruelties" suffered by Israelis in Syrian prisons and that Israel would spare no effort to obtain the release of Israelis still held. He accused Syria of "barbarism" in the treatment of Israeli prisoners.

He told Israel's Parliament that joy over the return of 11 Israelis in a prisoner exchange last Saturday was "mixed with deep sorrow and shock." He added that eight of the returnees were "broken in body and spirit after years of cruel man-handling and indescribable sufferings." All of the 11 had to be hospitalized.

He noted that, for years the Syrians had denied holding any Israeli prisoners altogether, but that those returning had confirmed that more were still being held. Israel has renewed its energetic approach to the United Nations to effect their release, the Premier said.

He opened his statement with an expression of thanks on behalf of the Government and the families of the freed prisoners to the United Nations for the efforts made to obtain their release.

(Washington sources confirmed today that the U.S. Embassy in Israel has been informed of Israel's charges of barbarity against Israel. However, it was noted that Israel did not request any U.S. action on this issue.)

International Red Cross Asked to Intervene on Behalf of Jailed Israelis

GENEVA, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Israel approached the International Red Cross today with a new request that the Red Cross intervene with "the greatest urgency" on behalf of some 10 Israelis still detained in Syrian jails. Israel had approached the organization earlier this week with a request that Red Cross medical personnel examine the Israelis who returned to Israel from Syrian jails last Saturday in a prisoner exchange.

The second request, like the first, was submitted by Moshe Bartur, Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations office in Geneva. Today's request followed a reply yesterday by the international agency that it could not, under the Geneva convention and its own regulations, accede to such requests unless both parties would recognize the Red Cross as a "neutral and objective party."

Diplomatic sources here said it was "highly unlikely" that Syria would accept a neutral and impartial investigation which would expose to international public opinion the "inhuman practices" which Syria has used in the handling of prisoners.

NINE ARAB STATES READY TO JOIN NASSER IN 'SUMMIT' PLANS AGAINST ISRAEL

LONDON, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Nine of the Arab League's 13 member states have accepted a proposal by President Nasser of Egypt for a summit meeting in Cairo to discuss means of halting Israel's plans to tap the Jordan River for its Negev irrigation project, it was reported here today from Egypt.

Nasser issued the call for a meeting to consider the possibility of action to bar Israel from carrying out its multi-million dollar plan, scheduled to get underway this spring. Arab countries on the Jordan River have threatened for years that they would go to war if Israel initiated the program.

BRAZIL HOPES TO REPATRIATE 800 FROM USSR; MOST OF GROUP ARE JEWS

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Hopes for the repatriation of 800 Brazilian nationals now in the Soviet Union, most of them Jews, were expressed in the House of Representatives at Brasilia today by the Foreign Ministry. The Ministry informed Parliament that negotiations for the return of the 800 are being continued with Soviet authorities, and that beds, food and other facilities have been provided in the Brazilian Embassy in Moscow to accommodate those former Brazilians who want to return home.

Most of the 800, the Ministry stated, are Brazilians who had been born in Ukraine, Bessarabia or Bukovina, lived here for a time, adopted to Communism, went voluntarily to the USSR, found themselves disillusioned with Communism, and now want to come back. The Soviet authorities, however, claim that those who were born on Soviet soil are Soviet citizens. The Foreign Ministry stated that it supports the claims of the 800 the right to come back to this country. Previously, 105 former Brazilian nationals who had gone to the USSR had been permitted to return to this country.

ISRAEL FILES S.E.C. CERTIFICATE FOR SALE OF \$400,000,000 IN BONDS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Securities and Exchange Commission announced yesterday that the Government of Israel had filed a registration certificate for the sale of a \$400,000,000 Israel development bond issue in the United States.

Under the registration, two kinds of securities will be offered -- 4 per cent dollar coupon bonds, which will mature in 15 years; and 12-year capital appreciation bonds on which interest will accrue. The offering will be made, as with previous Israel Bond issues, through the Development Corporation for Israel in New York, known as the Israel Bond organization.

P.E.C. ISRAEL ECONOMIC CORP. DECLARES 5% STOCK DIVIDEND FOR 1963

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Directors of PEC Israel Economic Corporation, have declared a five per cent dividend for the year 1963, payable on Feb. 28, 1964 to stockholders of record as of January 2, 1964, it was announced today. A similar dividend was paid for 1962. PEC had 733,774 shares of common stock outstanding on Dec. 1, 1963, held by about 12,000 stockholders throughout the United States.

Col. John Furman, president of the 38-year-old company, said that indicated earnings for 1963 were approximately 10 per cent in excess of last year. PEC is the oldest and largest American investment company exclusively using its funds for private investment in Israel ventures. New investments made by PEC in 1963 in industry, tourist trade, urban development and other areas totaled approximately \$2,500,000. Funds earmarked for investment in 1964 amount to \$2,000,000 at this time, and may actually reach \$3,000,000 by the end of the year, Col. Furman said.

HADASSAH CONTRIBUTIONS REMAIN TAX DEDUCTIBLE UNDER U.S. RU ES

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Gifts to Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Inc., Hadassah Medical Relief Association, Inc., and all Hadassah chapters remain tax deductible under the recently issued Internal Revenue Service regulation concerning the deductibility of charitable contributions to American philanthropic organizations with overseas programs, Mrs. Siegfried Kramarsky, national president of Hadassah, announced today.

"The tax exemption status of Hadassah," she said, "is not changed in any way by the publication of this ruling, and, accordingly, contributions made to Hadassah by individuals, corporations, foundations, or any other body or bodies, continue to be tax deductible as heretofore. Hadassah has always been, and continues to be, in control of its activities in Israel and is, in every respect, operating within the requirements of the Internal Revenue Service."

ISTANBUL JEWISH COMMUNITY DEDICATES NEW TWO-STORY HOME FOR AGED

ISTANBUL, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- A new Jewish Home for the Aged was inaugurated here today. Chief Rabbi David Asseo presided over the opening ceremonies. The two-story building, located in Haskoy, an old section of the city, contains accommodations for 55 residents. Thirty-five needy old people were moved immediately into the Home, which will be financially supported by the Jewish community. Other charitable institutions supported by the local community include a hospital, an orphanage, a youth camp, and two student aid societies.

KEATING, ADDRESSING FARBAND, CALLS ON U.S.A. TO BLOCK AID TO NASSER

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Senator Kenneth B. Keating, New York Republican, praised today the role of Israel in keeping the peace in the Middle East, and said the U.S. must block aid to aggressor nations, like Nasser's Egypt, that would threaten Israel's existence and thus the peace of the world.

Speaking at the 50th Jubilee Celebration of the Farband Labor Zionist Order at the Waldorf Astoria, the Senator told the more than 2,000 delegates that Arab nationalism and international Communism "are up to no good" in the Middle East. The U.S. and the free world must be doubly alert, he said, in the defense of a stable Israel and its principles of peace and freedom. He warned against the prospect of new turmoil in the Middle East as a result of the recent visit to Cairo by Chou En-Lai, Prime Minister of Communist China.

Other speakers at today's session were I. L. Kenen, executive director of the American-Israel Public Affairs Committee; Louis Segal, general secretary of Farband, who is a member of the Jewish Agency Executive; and Samuel Bonchek, vice-president. Among those delivering addresses of greetings were Leon Kronitz, chairman of the Labor Zionist movement of Canada; William Wolpert, Secretary of the United Hebrew Trades; and Alex Rose, President of the Hat, Cap and Millinery Workers Union, a vice-president of the Liberal Party.

Senator Keating stressed the need for a wise and cautious American foreign aid program stating, "I don't believe that economic aid should be given as an unconditional gift to all nations. He added that "we must make it absolutely clear, so that there cannot be the slightest chance of a mistake by those who would attack Israel, that such an attack would bring us to the aid of Israel. I have in particular backed the amendment which Congress annually writes in the bill making clear Congress' disapproval of aid for countries which discriminate against American citizens on the grounds of race and religion."

"What America does," he continued, "how we direct our policies in the coming year, how intelligent our State Department is in its approaches, will in great measure decide whether Israel will be able to continue in its course of building a healthy, strong and peaceful life. The contribution that Israel is making to our society, to peace and freedom, is far greater than the size of the nation which is doing so much to bring stability to the whole Middle East. The instability of so many Arab states and the machinations of some of their leaders who are bent on the destruction of Israel are a hazard to world peace.

"Premier Chou En-lai has just completed his conference with Nasser in Cairo. As the Chinese Communist leader goes on to visit the African states we can only steel ourselves to turmoil for the combination of Nasser and those Arab leaders who follow him, together with Chou En-lai, spell serious trouble.

Segal Reports Raising \$6,360,000 for Israel Funds, Education in America

A total of \$6,360,000 was raised during the current fiscal year ending with the opening of the convention by members and branches of Farband in behalf of Israel funds and educational institutions maintained by the organization in this country, Mr. Segal reported at today's session on behalf of the National Executive Committee. Of the total raised for Israel funds during the year, he said, \$2,250,000 was raised for the United Jewish Appeal; \$750,000 for the National Committee for Labor Israel (Histadrut campaign); \$300,000 for the Jewish National Fund; and \$2,500,000 for Israel Bond sales.

For cultural activities on the American scene, he reported, \$400,000 was raised for Farband's day schools, Jewish Teachers Seminary and People's University and for various cultural and other institutions; and \$160,000 for Farband's Jubilee Fund. Approximately similar totals were raised by Farband annually for the past 10 years, he stated. He reported that, since the launching of the Israel Bond campaign in 1951, the Farband members sold over \$20,000,000 in bonds.

Reporting an annually progressive increase in the membership of Farband, Mr. Segal said that Farband's insurance in force now totals \$18,900,000. He also asserted that Farband was the first to establish full day schools in the United States adding that Farband now maintains more than 50 school units in communities in the United States and Canada including nursery schools, kindergartens, afternoon schools and high schools.

Mr. Kenen told the convention that "the Kennedy Administration took positive action, clearly demonstrating its interest and concern for the development and defense of the peoples of both Israel and the Arab states."

"Unfortunately," he stated, "little progress has been made to attain an Arab-Israeli peace. It is to be hoped that President Johnson will continue the constructive elements in past policy. At the same time, we hope that he will reconsider those aspects of U.S. policy which have led Arabs to believe that the U.S. can be neutral as between aggression and defense."

SHARETT NOTES LAG BETWEEN UJA FUNDS, INCREASED IMMIGRATION TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, said here today that, while the rate of immigration to Israel had tripled in the last four years, the share of the United Jewish Appeal in financing immigration to Israel has remained stationary, with a tendency to a slight decrease."

Speaking at a press conference at the office of the American Section of the Jewish Agency, here, he said that the growing lag, added to the shortages of previous years, "has resulted in a most acutely tragic backlog of vital requirements unmet, expectations unfulfilled, the process of absorption retarded, chances of better education and higher productivity unutilized, and the burden of indebtedness of the Jewish Agency steadily increasing."

The former Prime Minister and Foreign Minister came to the United States three weeks ago primarily at the invitation of the UJA to take part, on behalf of the Agency executive, in the annual UJA conference. He also addressed local meetings in New York, Boston and Detroit.

Discusses Future of American Zionist Council, Tasks of U.S. Zionism

Mr. Sharett also reported at the press conference on his participation in consultations among American Zionist leaders on the future of the American Zionist Council. He said it was his understanding that "the component parts of the Zionist movement in this country are firmly resolved to reactivate the Council as the central Zionist body, uniting them all for a common endeavor." He said he found the leaders of the Zionist organizations "in substantial agreement" on the Council's "future program of action."

"According to this consensus," he said, "the American Zionist Council, operating with an assured budget which is to be provided by its constituent organizations, is to concern itself with the general problems of American Jewish life, formulate a common Zionist policy on the issues arising from time to time, and collectively assert the Zionist viewpoint within the counsels of United States Jewry."

He said the task of Zionism in the United States was "to assert itself and to exercise influence in Jewish life in all fields -- fund-raising and distribution of the funds, education, the synagogue." Such efforts should be pursued by Zionists as a collective program. He said, in response to a question, that he understood that the Zionist Council was about to elect a new president and a new chairman of its executive committee.

Views 'Distortions' of Religious Life in Israel, Attacks Ultra-Zealous

In reply to another question, Mr. Sharett called efforts to link the recent outbreaks by ultra-Orthodox zealots in Jerusalem and in New York with the problem of religious life in Israel "a distortion." Jewish religious observance, he said, "has never yet been faced with the task of full compatibility with the needs of a modern state." If Israel were to heed fully the requirements of the Sabbath day of rest, for example, it would have been impossible, he held, to apply the fruits of modern technology to Israel's development. There are essential functions which must continue seven days a week, 52 weeks a year, in a modern society, including Israel, he said. However, he added, he believed that many of the related problems had been solved and that the rest could be solved.

He described as "quite another matter" the activities of some 1,000 members of the Neturei Karta, "the enemies of the State of Israel," who do not pay taxes and who disseminate "venomous propaganda against the State of Israel, feeding mendacious accounts to the press of the world which completely distort the facts." He called the zealots "riff-raff," who push their followers to "frenzies of fanaticism to perpetuate any violence," and who then spread "atrocious stories" about "police brutality."

TWO SUBURBAN N. Y. SCHOOL BOARDS SPLIT ON DISPLAY OF 'NATIVITY' SCENE

NEW HYDE PARK, N. Y., Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Board of Education of School District No. 5 here today voted approval of the display of Nativity scenes in public schools within its jurisdiction. The resolution was passed by a 3-2 margin after another Hyde Park school board, District 2, voted to approve the removal of a Nativity scene from a high school in its area.

Denying that the Nativity scene is a religious symbol, Stephen P. Smolenski, counsel for the District 5 Board, said that the scene "depicts the greatest historical event in the last 2,000 years and is a legal holiday by government proclamation."

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS SEEKS LEGAL CURBS AGAINST RACIAL INCITEMENTS

OTTAWA, Dec. 26. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress today urged the Government to introduce legal curbs that would prevent racial hatred with incitement to violence. The request was presented during a meeting here between a four-member CJC delegation and Justice Minister Lionel Chevrier and Postmaster General Azaluz Denis. Citing the recent spate of anti-Jewish incitement in Toronto and central Ontario during the past few months, the delegation called for changes in the Criminal Code that would halt the dissemination of hate literature.