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PRESIDENT JOHNSON INVITES ISRAEL PREMIER TO COME TO WASHINGTON

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- President Johnson has invited Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol to visit him in Washington, it was revealed here today. Mr. Eshkol reported on the Johnson invitation to the Cabinet meeting yesterday. It was assumed that the Israeli leader will accept the invitation, but that the date will be fixed in the next few weeks.

The Johnson invitation, it was revealed, was contained in the letter from the U.S. President presented to Mr. Eshkol last week by Sargent Shriver, director of the United States Peace Corps. The letter did not touch on any specific political or security matters. Mr. Eshkol's reply to Mr. Johnson, it was said, would be couched in general terms.

It was understood here that a similar invitation to visit Washington was sent by President Johnson to Jordan's King Hussein, through Mr. Shriver.

ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE OPENS; U.S. ENVOY REPORTED EXPRESSING ANXIETY

LONDON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The "summit conference" of kings and presidents from 13 Arab states convoked by Egyptian President Nasser to take measures against Israel's water development project of pumping water from Jordan River and Lake Tiberias to the arid Negev, opened here today, with indications that the Arab rulers will wind up with a lot of talk but with little action, except intensified anti-Israel propaganda at the United Nations.

King Hussein of Jordan, who is one of the participants in the summit conference, today indicated his mood by stating that he is ready "to spearhead any Arab decision toward restoring Palestine, which must be discussed as a whole and not only about the Jordan waters." Jordan is already working on diverting waters from the Yarmuk River, a tributary that enters the Jordan south of Lake Tiberias.

Reports reaching here today from Cairo stated that the ambassadors of the United States and Britain in Egypt have indicated to President Nasser the anxieties of their governments over the measures which the summit conference may decide upon in attempting to counter Israel's water development plan. The reports said that the American envoy in Cairo has made it clear that the United States would intervene if Israel were to be attacked.

Washington Hopes Conference Will Not Decide to Resort to Arms

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- American officials abstained from any comment on the Cairo "summit conference" of Arab heads of state convened by Nasser to decide on joint action against Israel's plans to divert the waters of the Jordan.

Officials withheld comment until the decisions of the conference became known but it is understood that there is cautious hope in Washington that no decision to resort to arms will be taken.

It was pointed out, however, that Nasser's announcement that all the proceedings of the conference will be published might prompt those present to adopt more militant attitudes than they would otherwise. Still, it is believed that Egypt's earlier pronouncement that the Arabs should not go to war with Israel until they are strong, united and prepared militarily to assure a victory, may have considerable influence on the conference.

Observers believe that the Arabs will submit a complaint against Israel's water scheme to the United Nations Security Council, and will put strong pressure on the western powers to intervene against the project. Since, however, the amount of water Israel plans to withdraw from Lake Tiberias is within the limits determined by the so-called Johnston plan (which was accepted some years ago on a technical level, even by Arab experts), diplomatic circles in Washington feel that Israel has a very strong case and is assured of the support of the United States.

ISRAEL WATCHES ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE; IS 'FULL OF CONFIDENCE'

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Israel watched calmly today the news of the opening of the Arab summit conference in Cairo, in the conviction that the assembled Arab rulers will not be able to prevent the pumping of water from the Jordan River and Lake Tiberias to the Negev.

"We are full of confidence," a senior Israel Foreign Ministry official said. "We are strong enough to withstand any Arab attempt to use force." He pointed out that the Arabs have no legal basis for their opposition to bringing Jordan River waters to the Negev. Other officials stressed that the water development project is not a river diversion. They pointed out that, although water will be pumped away from the Jordan River and Lake Tiberias, the water there will continue to flow exactly in the same place.

The general feeling in Israel is that the Arab summit meeting was called by President Nasser of Egypt not so much to challenge Israel but to show to the Arab rulers Egypt's military superiority, and to impress them, that without accepting Egypt's leadership, they will never be able to undertake anything against Israel.

(Both of New York's major morning newspapers--the Times and the Herald Tribune--advised editorially today that the real solution of the Jordan River water disagreement between the Arab states and Israel lies in acceptance by all sides of the Eric Johnston regional water development plan, worked out by President Eisenhower's special emissary in 1955. "The real solution," stated the Times, "is the regional development worked out years ago under United Nations and United States auspices. Only Arab hostility prevents it from showering blessings on the entire region.")

ISRAEL FAVORS KHRUSHCHEV'S PROPOSAL ON SETTLING BORDER DISPUTES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet has decided that the Government would reply favorably to a proposal received recently from Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev, calling for an international agreement outlawing the use of force in settling border disputes, it was disclosed here today.

The letter received here from Mr. Khrushchev was one sent by the Soviet leader to heads of many governments, including Israel's Premier Levi Eshkol. Israel's draft reply was discussed and approved by the Cabinet at its weekly meeting here yesterday.

Israel observers feel that Mr. Khrushchev's proposal is particularly relevant to the Middle East situation--if the Soviet Government is prepared to apply the principles espoused in the Khrushchev letter to this area.

Syrians and Israelis Exchange Fire at Border; No Casualties

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Syrian gun posts located across Israel's border today opened fire against an Israeli tractor team at work near the settlement of Notera, on the northern section of the Israeli-Syrian frontier. The fire came from Syrian positions at Darbashiyy.

An Israeli border patrol returned the fire. After an exchange of shots, the Israeli tractor team returned to its work. There were no casualties on the Israeli side. The exchange was the first on the Syrian border after several weeks of relative calm. The Syrian attack took place at the very time the 13-nation Arab summit meeting was being held in Cairo, with Syria's president of the National Revolutionary Council, Maj. Gen. Amin El-Hafez, among the participants.

NAZI DEFENDANT AT AUSCHWITZ TRIAL 'EXPLAINS' WHY JEWS WERE KILLED

FRANKFURT, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- One reason the Nazis at Auschwitz shot Jews was to eliminate "crowding" of the concentration camp by too many Jews, one of the defendants at the trial here of 22 former Auschwitz-Birkenau officials and medical personnel testified today.

The witness was Klaus Dylewski, 47, who denied he had done any killing but admitted to the court that, at times, he ordered prisoners into solitary confinement and, at other times, he read out orders publicly for the execution of some of the inmates.

Dylewski is one of the defendants charged with murder and complicity in the torture and murder of between 2,500,000 and 4,000,000 Auschwitz inmates, most of them Jews. The trial, now in its sixth day, is the biggest German court proceeding against Nazi war criminals since the Nuremberg War Crimes trials of 1946. The trial is expected to last several months.

Dylewski told the court he saw inmates being led to the execution wall and shot. They were killed, he said, because "room had to be made for new prisoners." When the court asked him how he felt about the occurrences at Auschwitz, he replied "it was cruel. But I knew German airmen were being treated badly in Russia. War is cruel."

PRESIDENT JOHNSON DISCUSSES EASING OF IMMIGRATION AT WHITE HOUSE TALK

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The hope that the majority of the members of Congress would support the bill to amend the present immigration laws was expressed today by President Johnson in a meeting attended by members of the Congressional committees dealing with the bill and by representatives of 36 American organizations interested in immigration problems.

The bill would gradually abolish the present national-origins quota system, and replace it by objective criteria concerning the qualifications of the immigrant, his relationship to persons in the United States, etc. President Johnson, addressing the meeting, described these new criteria as "full of common sense, common decency, which operate for the common good."

The President pointed out that his predecessors, Presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Kennedy, have all asked for a revision of the present statutes. President Truman said that the idea behind the present law was that "citizens of English or Irish origin were better Americans than those with Italian, Greek or Polish names." Such a concept "is utterly unworthy of our traditions and ideals," President Johnson declared.

Pointing at the enormous discrepancies between the supply and demand of immigrant visas under the present law - Britain has a quota of 65,000 and uses less than half of that; while Greece, for example has a quota of 309 and a current backlog of over 100,000 applications - the President urged members of the Congressional committees to act on the new bill under the Golden Rule to "do unto others as we would have them do unto us." The President stressed that the new bill, when enacted, would serve the national interest.

Major Jewish Organizations Represented at White House Party

Among the organizations attending the White House conference were: The Joint Distribution Committee, represented by Edward M. M. Warburg and Moses A. Leavitt; United Hias Service, represented by Murray I. Gurfein, president, James P. Rice, executive director, and Ann S. Petluck, director of U.S. operations; the American Jewish Committee, represented by A. M. Sonnabend, president and Irving Engel, honorary president; the Jewish War Veterans and the National Community Relations Advisory Council, represented by Albert Ahrentz; and the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, represented by Dore Schary, president and Herman Edelsberg, Washington representative.

The President was flanked by Senators James O. Eastland of Mississippi; Philip A. Hart of Michigan and Kenneth B. Keating of New York; and Congressmen Michael A. Feighan of Ohio, Peter W. Rodino of New Jersey, and Arch A. Moore of West Virginia, members of the Joint Committee on Immigration and Nationality Policy. Present at the meeting were also Myer Feldman, White House assistant; Abba Schwartz, administrator of the Bureau of Consular Affairs of the Department of State; Senator Edward Kennedy, brother of the late President; and Commissioner Ray Farrell, of the Immigration and Naturalization Service.

Congressman Feighan, chairman of the Subcommittee on Immigration in the House of Representatives, in his brief remarks, declared that indeed there should be a revision and a "very extensive look and see at the immigration policy." He declared that priority should be given to hearings on this bill, and promised as expeditious action as possible. Sen. Eastland, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, however, was somewhat more reserved, promising to look into the matter "carefully and very expeditiously."

SENATE BODY STARTS HEARING ON CHANGES IN EXISTING IMMIGRATION LAWS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- The first Senate hearing on immigration in 12 years opened today when the Senate Subcommittee on Immigration and Naturalization began to hear testimony on the need to revamp the existing American immigration laws by abolishing the national-origins quota system in issuing immigration visas.

Sen. Abraham Ribicoff, Connecticut Democrat, who was the first to testify, made a strong attack on the national origins quota system which has been in use since 1924. He called the system "the most repugnant feature of the present process," and said that "it has perpetuated a pattern of discrimination that tarnishes our image across the globe."

In pointing to contributions made to American society by immigrants, he stated: "We deprive ourselves of these contributions by restricting their admission by out-dated, irrational reasoning." He urged that old laws be discarded in favor of a system which expedites the admission of persons with special skills needed for the continued growth of the American economy; which enable immigrant families to be "reunited in the warmth of democracy"; and which eases the admission of refugees seeking to shed the bonds of tyranny.

ISRAELI SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS GET U.S. GRANTS FOR RESEARCH

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Scientific institutions in Israel have been awarded two grants by the United States Department of Agriculture for studies of irrigation sprinklers and cereal grain starches.

Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, Haifa, was awarded a three-year grant equal to \$67,166 in Israel pounds. This grant will finance investigations on the performance of different kinds of irrigation sprinklers, and the development of basic designs for new and improved sprinkler systems.

A four-year grant, equal to \$83,956 in Israel pounds, was awarded to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. This grant will afford study of the chemical reactions of cereal grain starches, and, by new methods, will seem to tailor the starches to meet particular industrial needs. Sample information and materials developed in the study will be sent to the U.S. research laboratory in Peoria, Ill., where scientists are working to find new uses for cereal grains and other agricultural products.

SURVEY ON YIDDISH CONDUCTED AMONG NATIVE-BORN JEWISH CHILDREN IN RIO

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Only 21 per cent of native-born Jewish children here speak Yiddish, a survey conducted by the education department of the United Zionist Organization revealed today. The survey was taken among 1,736 Jewish boys and girls in the local public schools on the elementary and high school levels.

The data showed that 79 per cent of the Jewish children said their knowledge of Yiddish was "small," or "weak" or non-existent. Of the total, 81 per cent of the children stem from Ashkenazic families, the remainder from Sephardic or Oriental Jewish homes.

The figures also showed that only 52 per cent of the children's grandparents speak Yiddish to their grandchildren. Among the remainder, two per cent speak Hebrew to the grandchildren, while 46 per cent use Portuguese in home conversations.

B'NAI B'RITH ESTABLISHES HILLEL FOUNDATIONS ON THREE MORE CAMPUSES

WASHINGTON, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation programs have been established in three more campuses bringing to 250 the number of Hillel installations at colleges and universities in the United States and abroad, B'nai B'rith announced here over the weekend.

The new programs of Hillel's religious and cultural activities and personal counseling to Jewish students were inaugurated at Vanderbilt University and George College, both in Nashville, and at Plattsburgh College, a unit of the New York State University.

PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL AWARDED TEL AVIV MUNICIPALITY PRIZE FOR BOOK

TEL AVIV, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- President Zalman Shazar was last night awarded the Bialik Prize of the Municipality of Tel Aviv for his book, "Or Ishim," (Light of Personalities) during festive ceremonies here. The prize, which Mr. Shazar said would be put at the disposal of the Writers Association Publishing House, was presented by Mayor Mordechai Namir in the presence of the widow of the late Hebrew poet, Chaim Nachman Bialik.

Other recipients of the prize were Dr. Baruch Kurtzveil for his book, "A Study of Bialik and Tchernichovsky" and to the late Professor Yehoshua Guttman who received posthumously the prize for his book "Jewish Wisdom." Prof. Guttman's book is being published in the United States this month, in an English translation.

INTERNATIONAL KENNEDY MEMORIAL NEAR JERUSALEM PLANNED BY AMERICANS

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- Former Governor George M. Leader, announced plans today for an international memorial near Jerusalem for the late President Kennedy.

The former Governor, who accepted the general chairmanship of a Pennsylvania committee which will seek funds for the memorial, said committees also were being organized in the other 49 states and in some countries overseas.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS NAME MIAMI POST AFTER COLONEL DAVID MARCUS

MIAMI BEACH, Jan. 13. (JTA) -- North Dade Post No. 746 of the Jewish War Veterans was rededicated as Colonel David Marcus Post last night at impressive ceremonies in which Israel Consul General Zeev Z. Dover who heads Israel's consulate in Atlanta, Daniel N. Heller of Miami Beach, JWV national commander, and Mrs. Marcus, the widow of the late colonel who flew in from New York for the ceremony.

Cot. Marcus was killed in action in Israel six hours prior to the first Israel-Arab cease fire and led Israel's central army in lifting the siege of Jerusalem.