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ESHKOL CONFERS WITH U.S. AMBASSADOR ON ISRAEL'S WATER PUMPING PLAN

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol today held an hour-long talk with U.S. Ambassador Valworth Barbour during which Israel's plans to start pumping water from the Jordan River and Lake Tiberias to the Negev were discussed.

The United States is supporting Israel's water development plan within the framework of the regional water development project developed by the late Eric Johnston, special American envoy who presented the project to Israel and the Arab countries about ten years ago.

It was learned here that the U.S. and British embassies reminded the Arab rulers attending the summit conference in Cairo that the two Western Powers continue to stand by their previous positions on the regional use of the Jordan River waters by Israel and the involved Arab countries. The U.S. and British embassies in Cairo have also made inquiries about the Arab military plans decided upon today by the participants of the summit conference of the Arab rulers.

(In Cairo, an Arab spokesman revealed that the American and British embassies there reaffirmed Western views on the Arab-Israeli situation in an apparent warning to Egyptian President Nasser that the U.S. and Britain plan to stand by their pledge to prevent armed Arab-Israeli conflict.)

ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE AVOIDS MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL

LONDON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The Arab summit conference in Cairo moved toward adjournment today with what appeared to be an agreement to avoid military action against Israel in the dispute over Israel's Jordan River irrigation project.

The 13 Arab rulers agreed to set up a military command to strengthen the Arab position on problems related to Israel but there was no indication that this was a step toward military action. A spokesman said that the joint command would have a permanent headquarters and financial capabilities but such details appeared to have been left for subsequent action.

A general resolution received finishing touches today at the Cairo conference and it was assumed that this would include an Arab plan to divert Jordan River waters to prevent Israel from using them.

Foreign ministers of the Arab nations were to meet today to put the conference resolution in final form. The Arab League's military and financial committees also met today to discuss the new command. A final summit session to approve the resolution was expected tonight.

Moscow Incites Arabs Against Israel's Water Project

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The warning carried by the Moscow radio this week in Arabic urging the Arab rulers at the Cairo summit meeting "not to transform the state of war existing between Israel and the Arab countries into a bloody battle" simultaneously incited the Arabs against Israel's plan to carry water from the Jordan River and Lake Tiberias to the Negev, according to the text of the broadcast monitored here.

Describing as "criminal attitude Israel's decision to divert the Jordan waters to the Negev," Moscow radio told its Arab listeners that "if Israeli extremist succeed in completing this project, it will have serious consequences for thousands of Arab peasants," who the Moscow radio claimed "will be forced to abandon their villages in the Jordan Valley" and seek livelihood elsewhere.

The Moscow broadcasts repeated the usual Communist propaganda line that Israel is acting as a tool of American imperialism and claimed that the cause of the "present Israeli Arab conflict" is the unwillingness of Israel, the United States and NATO "to respect the rights and interests of the Arab countries."

The Moscow broadcasts also told the Arab listeners of reports that "the Tel Aviv rulers" have begun massing armed forces along the borders. However, none of the broadcasts monitored so far has come out with a promise of Soviet support for the Arabs in case of military action against Israel's water scheme.

SOVIET DISCRIMINATION AGAINST JEWISH RIGHTS ATTACKED AT U. N.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 16. (JTA) -- A three-pronged attack on Soviet discriminations against Jewish religious rights and practices was launched here today in the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

The discriminations against the Jews of the Soviet Union in the religious sphere were stressed today by: 1. The introduction of a new draft declaration for elimination of all religious bias presented by the Indian member of the Subcommission, Arcot Krishnaswami; 2. A statement made on the floor of the Subcommission by Morris B. Abram, U.S. member, implying that the Soviet Union discriminates against Jews as an ethnic group; 3. A statement filed with the Subcommission Secretariat by Label A. Katz, national president of B'nai B'rith, on behalf of B'nai B'rith and the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

The official debate in the Subcommission today was centered on a proposed United Nations Convention outlawing all forms of racial, as distinct from religious intolerance. Two members of the Subcommission, one representing the Soviet Union and the other from Poland, have maneuvered the debate in such a way as to condemn racism without touching on religious bias. In the context of that debate, Mr. Abram cautioned the Subcommission that the proposed treaty must outlaw discriminations against ethnic groups as well as bias linked with race or color.

"The Nazis," Mr. Abram pointed out, "made a speciality of ethnic discrimination. They prepared elaborate charts by which they graded ethnic groups into a system of values. At the top were the Aryans, lower came the Latins, still lower the Slavs, the Jews and the Gypsies. This vicious ladder of discrimination was undoubtedly one of the worst evils in the Nazi system and furnished the basis for the genocide campaign which destroyed millions of Jews, Poles, Russians and other Slavs."

Then, obviously pointing at the Soviet Union, Mr. Abram noted that there are "some states where laws forbid discrimination in the most forceful terms" but where policies are carried on which "may well have the effect of obliterating an ethnic group." Ethnic differences are absolutely dependent on language, schools, publications and other cultural institutions in order to survive. Cut an ethnic tradition off from these, and it will die, however nourished the body of the citizen is by food, clothing and shelter and however well treated he may otherwise be. "An ethnic group has the right to survive as a group as well as individuals."

"We should be able to prohibit a state which makes provision for German-language schools for that ethnic group from denying Yiddish or Hebrew schools to its Jews," he declared. "A state which can permit national and regional organizations of some ethnic groups must permit the same for others. A state which permits recognized leaders of every other group to travel abroad to conferences and Holy Places should not be able to deny that right to others. A state that finds facilities to publish textual materials in the language and traditions of some groups, should not be able to deny this right to any."

EX-NAZI TELLS AT TRIAL HOW HE KILLED JEWS IN AUSCHWITZ CAMP

FRANKFURT, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Hans Stark, a 42-year-old farmer, became today the first defendant in the Auschwitz murder camp trial here to admit he killed inmates while serving on the staff of the camp in which between 3, 000 and 4, 000 victims--most of them Jews--were annihilated.

Stark, who served as an SS officer candidate at the camp intermittently from 1940 to 1943, said he had dropped cylinders of Zyklon-B poison gas into the camp's tightly sealed "old crematorium" and thus asphyxiated Jewish men and women.

Speaking calmly and with self-assurance, the defendant said "It was terrible. They screamed and gasped for 10 to 15 minutes. Then everything was still." After that, he and the SS men who helped drop the poison gas into the chamber entered it wearing gas masks.

Stark testified that the victims looked grotesque, saying shooting people is one thing but killing them with gas is inhuman. "He said he was forced to take part in such actions by Rudolf Hoess, then the camp commandant who, Stark said, "told me either I help or he could put me down there with them."

The executions took place in the fall of 1941 and included one of the earliest killings by gas at the camp. Stark petitioned the court that he be judged in accordance with juvenile laws because he was under 21 when stationed at Auschwitz. He admitted taking part in three executions by shooting at the camp, but insisted that he had killed prisoners only once during this time.

On one occasion, he said, he herded 20 to 30 Jewish women and children--the latter including some only five years old--into the crematorium for execution by shooting but he did not himself do any shooting then. "What did you think at the time?" Presiding Judge Hans Hofmeyer asked him. He replied: "I thought they had been convicted by a court or something. I thought it was all legal."

NATIONAL JEWISH CONFERENCE DEALS WITH BAN ON PRAYER IN SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Jan. 16, (JTA) -- Recent United States Supreme Court rulings barring Bible reading and prayer from public schools were seen as both a vindication and a challenge for Jewish communities at a three-day conference under the auspices of the Joint Advisory Committee of the Synagogue Council of America and the National Community Relations Advisory Council, that closed here today.

The conference was attended by representatives of some 30 national Jewish organizations and Jewish councils in 50 cities throughout the United States. It was held for purposes of exploration only; no attempts were made to express consensus and resolutions or votes were barred. A report of the proceedings is to be made available to all interested organizations for study.

The unconstitutionality of virtually all devotional religious exercises and observances in public schools having been established by those rulings, many problems were nevertheless foreseen at the parley. These include problems of obtaining full compliance with the Court's rulings; blocking efforts to amend the Constitution so as to allow Bible reading and prayer and thus overturn the Supreme Court decision; preventing the spread of "shared time" programs, whereby parochial school pupils are given instruction in certain "non-religious subjects" in public schools; and obtaining federal aid for public education only, without accompanying grants of public money to religiously controlled institutions.

Rabbi Morris Adler, of Detroit, and Leo Pfeffer, director of the Commission on Law and Social Action of the American Jewish Congress, told the conference that the latest Supreme Court rulings had ushered in an era of religious pluralism in America. They urged greater and more secure Jewish participation in the processes of making public policy on public education and other issues.

Speakers Warn Against Federal Aid for Religious Schools

In a discussion on federal aid to education speakers cautioned that tax support for religiously controlled schools also would tend toward a spread of such schools and fragmentation and attrition of the American public school system. Among Orthodox participants, there were some who took a position at variance with this predominant view.

Since the Supreme Court had not ruled out the use of religious writings as literature or the teaching about religion in the public schools, a session of the conference dealt with the place of religion in the public school curriculum in the light of the ruling. Dr. Mark Belth, associate professor of educational philosophy at New York's Queens College, said that the essential purpose of education, which is to cultivate the individual's powers of critical analysis, is inevitably in conflict with the absolutist character of nearly every religious faith.

Isaac Franck, executive director of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, suggested a number of ways in which study about religion might be introduced into the public school curriculum without overstepping the bar against religious teaching or indoctrination. The Jewish community was seen as facing the challenge of helping to develop curricular materials that would incorporate such teaching materials, in cooperation with Christian faith groups and with public school officials.

Experience with shared time in Detroit, Philadelphia and Chicago were reported by Dr. Norman Drachter, Detroit assistant superintendent of schools; Sydney C. Orlofsky, vice-president of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Philadelphia; and Rabbi Irving Rosenbaum, of the Chicago Loop Synagogue and former executive director of the Chicago Board of Rabbis. Reports from other cities were given by conference participants at a session at which Samuel L. Brennglass, vice-president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, was chairman.

Ban on Prayer and Bible Reading Disregarded in the South

Reporting on a preliminary survey of public school practices in the period immediately following the Supreme Court rulings on Bible reading and prayer, David Cook, president of the Indiana Jewish Community Relations Council, noted that compliance with the ruling had been general in the eastern and northern section of the country, but that there was widespread disregard of it in many parts of the South.

Marvin Braiterman, of Baltimore, consultant on church-state relations to the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, who was chairman of the session at which Mr. Cook reported, stressed that the ruling had made most public school administrators more sensitive to the problem of religious practices and that the time was ripe for approaches to them and to boards of education in efforts to bring about correction of objectionable practices.

Participating in the conference were individuals associated with national Jewish cultural and educational organizations, as well as the congregational, rabbinic, civic and community relations agencies comprising the Synagogue Council of America and the NCRA.

AMERICAN ORT CONVENTION OPENS TOMORROW ; WILL ADOPT BUDGET FOR 1964

NEW YORK, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The American ORT Federation will sharply accelerate its vocational training and other assistance services during 1964 for an estimated 200,000 Algerian and other North African Jewish refugees in France, Dr. William Haber, president, said today.

He said ORT will build new vocational schools in Marseilles, Toulouse and in the Paris region this year to take many thousands of refugee youth off the streets, give them an education and a start toward integrating in their new communities. He announced also the organization of an expanded program of emergency courses for adult refugees in France.

Dr. Haber disclosed the 1964 plans in a report prepared for the ORT federation national conference this weekend in New York. More than 500 delegates, representing 100,000 members throughout the United States, are expected to attend.

Franklin H. Williams, African regional director for the Peace Corps, will accept an award for Sargeant Shriver, Peace Corps director, for achievement in human development and training. The delegates will hear talks by Herbert J. Waters, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State, Israeli Ambassador Katriel Katz, New York Consul General, and Irving Kane, former president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. The conference will adopt a budget for 1964 for 600 training projects in 21 countries.

HADASSAH-WIZO CONVENTION IN CANADA HEARS REPORT ON FUNDS RAISED

MONTREAL, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- The Hadassah-Wizo Organization of Canada raised more than \$4 million for education and social welfare in Israel over the last four years, Mrs. Henry Cohen, national president, of Sydney, N.S., told 1,000 delegates at the 20th biennial Hadassah-Wizo Convention here.

Mrs. Cohen said the \$4,746,500 raised during her four-year term as president had been "the largest income raised by Hadassah-Wizo to date." She will retire as national executive at the close of the four-day convention.

Among the projects initiated and supported by Canadian Hadassah-Wizo, Mrs. Cohen's report listed: the completion of an amphitheatre for the performing arts; a carpentry shop, two new dormitories for 120 students; the expansion of 1-bed Canadian Hadassah-Wizo Hospital in Eilat to a 42-bed medical center with operating theaters and outpatient department; the completion of a first aid station at Kfar Saba; the establishment of a \$100,000 scholarship fund and a \$150,000 Cancer Research Foundation, the completion of the Vincent Massey Hall of the Jewish National University and a \$3,000 playground in Neve Hadassah.

U.S. GRANTS \$100,000 TO HEBREW UNIVERSITY SCIENTISTS FOR RESEARCH

JERUSALEM, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Two research grants totaling more than \$100,000 were made today by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to Hebrew University scientists in coordination with the Israel Research Council. One grant was in zoology and the other in organic chemistry research.

Other research grants allocated recently to Hebrew University total nearly \$50,000. They were made by the United States Educational Foundation for teaching American literature, the United States National Institutes of Health, the United States Air Force and by the American Society for the Testing of Materials. The Air Force grant was for comparative studies of modernization affecting military planning.

ARON ZISLING, MEMBER OF JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE, DIES IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Government officials, members of the Jewish Agency and hundreds of labor leaders were among those attending funeral services this afternoon for Aron Zisling, head of the Jewish Agency absorption department and member of the Agency executive, who died this morning at his kibbutz, Ein Harod at the age of 62. He was Israel's first minister of agriculture in the Provisional Government in 1948-49 and a member of the first and second Knessets.

Born in Baranovici, Russia; Mr. Zisling settled in Palestine in 1914 and joined Ein Harod settlement in 1923. He was a member of the central committee of Ahdut Avoda and had served on the Secretariat of the Histadrut, the Israel Labor Federation. He was on the Haganah general staff during the Israel War of Independence. Mr. Zisling was eulogized by Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive in funeral services at the graveside in Ein Harod.

RABBI MILTON MILLER DIES IN ELIZABETH, N.J., WHILE SHOVELING SNOW; WAS 40.

ELIZABETH, N.J., Jan. 16. (JTA) -- Rabbi Milton G. Miller, spiritual leader of Temple Beth El here, died of a heart attack yesterday while shoveling snow. He was 40. He had written several textbooks on Jewish subjects. He was born in New York City and had served in the Army in World War II. He was ordained by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in New York after his war service.