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ISRAEL CABINET GETS SLUM-CLEARANCE PLAN; 70,000 FAMILIES TO BENEFIT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- A slum-clearance plan that would benefit more than 70,000 families in Israel's major cities, was presented to the Cabinet today by Housing Minister Joseph Almogi.

The plan, which the Cabinet decided to pass on for recommendations to the Ministerial Committee for Economic Affairs, was initiated in 1958 and in its present form envisages clearance and construction projects to be carried out by private enterprises. Under the plan, each family relocated would be given the choice of either renting or purchasing an apartment.

At the meeting today, the Cabinet also empowered Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir to finalize negotiations with the Soviet Government over the purchase by Israel of Russian holdings including the 15-acre Russian Compound on which the Supreme Court and other Israeli Government offices are located. The transaction does not include property belonging to the Russian Church.

The negotiations began in 1960 when the Soviet authorities submitted a list of properties which they claimed as heirs to the Czarist regime. This claim had never been recognized by the British Mandatory Government of Palestine. While no details have been officially disclosed, it is understood that the payment involves more than \$4,000,000 to be made partly in cash and partly in commodities, chiefly citrus.

SOVIET VOICES SUPPORT OF ARAB OPPOSITION TO ISRAEL'S IRRIGATION PLAN

LONDON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The Soviet Government yesterday declared that it will give "full support" to the Arab states in the opposition the latter have announced to Israel's plan to draw Jordan River waters through Lake Tiberias for irrigation of the upper reaches of the Negev Desert.

The affirmation of full USSR support to the Arab states on this issue, coupled with renewed charges that both the United States and Britain are using it as a "beach-head of imperialism," appeared in the USSR's Government organ, Izvestia.

Izvestia carried a lengthy article by its Middle East expert, V. Kudriavtzev, analyzing the results of the Arab League summit conference, held in Cairo this month under the auspices of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser. The article, hailing Mr. Nasser for calling that conference, declared:

"One can understand the position of the Arab countries which are facing a challenge from the Israeli extremists which are inspired by the imperialist powers. The imperialists don't want to surrender their oil-rich and strategic positions in the Arab Near East. Israel is now completing its project for diverting the Jordan waters to the Negev. The Arabs are bitter over that project because it will divert waters from the lower Jordan for irrigating the Negev and provide a place in that area for large numbers of immigrants."

Hailing the "unity" achieved at the Cairo summit conference, the article said: "The Arabs know now that, unless they solve their internal problems, they cannot unite on a common policy against Israel." The Izvestia writer also asserted that the recent statement of United States policy on the Middle East, made in Washington by U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary of State, "has encouraged Israel and has definitely placed the Washington Administration on the side of Israel."

U.S. Embassy in Beirut Reported 'Pacifying' the Arabs

LONDON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The address last week by U. Alexis Johnson, Deputy Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, in Washington was not directed against the Arab states, the U.S. Embassy in Beirut has stated, according to Beirut dispatches received here today.

In his address, Mr. Johnson had said that part of the American policy in the Middle East seeks to "insure the security and integrity of the individual states in the area--including Israel." The Arab press has reacted to this statement with anger, holding that Mr. Johnson's statement was an answer to the Arab summit conference held earlier this month at Cairo.

The U.S. Embassy at Beirut has issued a statement saying Mr. Johnson's remarks merely reiterated Washington's opposition to aggression, contain nothing new, and were not directed at any particular parties. "Opposition to aggression from any quarter," the Embassy declared, "is a continuing United States policy."

'AUSCHWITZ TRIAL' ENTERS SIXTH WEEK TODAY; DEFENDANT ADMITS USING GAS

FRANKFURT, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- "Auschwitz trial" in which 22 defendants are charged with participation in torturing and gassing millions of Jews and others in the notorious Nazi death camps in Auschwitz and Treblinka, is entering its sixth week tomorrow with some of the defendants still to be questioned prior to hearing testimonies from several hundred witnesses, including Jews from the United States and Israel, who were rescued from these camps by the Allied armies after the collapse of the Nazi regime.

Defendants who testified during the weekend insisted that when they worked on the staff of the annihilation camps they knew nothing about the poison gas killings of inmates there. However, one of them, Arthur Breitweiser, a 53-year-old clerk, admitted he was one of the first SS men to be instructed in the use of the Zyklon-B gas used in the killing of the victims. He denied charges that he took part in the initial experiments in the killing of Jews.

He testified that one day in 1941 "two civilians came from Hamburg and they showed us how to disinfect barracks and how to wear gasmasks which had a special fitting against Zyklon-B gas." He admitted that the gas was used to kill inmates "and worked frightfully quickly."

Dr. Willi Frank, 60, former chief dentist at the camp, admitted having known that gold teeth of victims were melted down in one of his dental stations, adding that "I also melted down gold plates." He also admitted he knew about the sterilization of women at the camp but rejected the charge that he selected inmates for gassing.

Another defendant, Dr. Willi Schatz, also a dentist, corroborated Dr. Frank's testimony that he and his professional associates did not participate in selecting prisoners for liquidation. Asserting that he had been at the camp about ten times, Dr. Schatz said he was "looking for dentists and for new prisoners who might have dental tools."

BONN MINISTER UNDER INVESTIGATION AS EX-NAZI MAY LOSE HIS POST

BONN, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Hans Kruger, who suspended himself from his post as Refugees Minister pending an investigation into charges of a past career as a Nazi judge, has almost no chance to get the post back, informed sources here asserted today.

Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, who chose Kruger for the post, ordered an investigation last week after Kruger admitted the accuracy of some of the charges raised against him by East German and Soviet sources. The charges were listed in documents published by East German officials after Kruger insistently denied them.

The documents indicated that Kruger was a judge of a "special court" in what is now Chojnice, Poland, during the occupation. The special courts were known for their severe treatment of the conquered peoples. Kruger said, after the documents were published in a West German weekly, that his service with the Nazi court had "completely slipped his memory."

ISRAEL RECOGNIZES THE NEW REVOLUTIONARY REGIME IN ZANZIBAR

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Israel formally recognized the new revolutionary regime in Zanzibar in a message sent by Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, to Zanzibar President Abeid Karume.

The message conveyed the Israel Government's "warmest felicitations" on the proclamation of the Zanzibar Republic and expressed the hope that the ties between the two countries would "increase in strength." The previous Zanzibar government was dominated by an Arab majority and showed no interest in ties with Israel. Israel was not invited to the Independence Proclamation celebrations though Mrs. Meir was in Nairobi at the time.

IRELAND GRANTS FULL RECOGNITION TO ISRAEL; MAY EXCHANGE DIPLOMATS

DUBLIN, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Ireland has granted full recognition to Israel, a Government spokesman here announced yesterday. The de jure recognition of Israel, it was pointed out, opens the way for an exchange of diplomatic missions between Dublin and Jerusalem. Until now, Ireland has recognized Israel only "de facto," meaning it had merely recognized the existence of Israel.

SUDANESE OFFICER SENTENCED TO PRISON FOR ALLEGEDLY SPYING FOR ISRAEL

LONDON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- A Sudanese military court has sentenced a former major, Abbas Gamal Eldin, to nine years in prison on charges of spying for Israel, it was reported here today from Khartoum. The defendant was found guilty of serving as a link between spy-rings in Cairo and Asmara Eritrea which gathered information about Egypt and passed it on to Israel.

KHRUSHCHEV ASKS RUSSELL TO COME TO MOSCOW FOR DISCUSSION ON JEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Soviet Premier Nikita S. Khrushchev has invited Lord Bertrand Russell, the famous British philosopher, to come to the Kremlin to discuss the situation of the Jews in the USSR, according to reports in the Yiddish press here today.

For the last year, there has been an exchange of letters between Russell and Khrushchev, stemming from the British scholar's concern about frequently published accusations charging the Soviet Government with condoning persecutions against the 3,000,000 Jews in the USSR. In his replies, Khrushchev had denied that there is any anti-Semitism in his country.

In one of Russell's latest letters, he expressed particular criticism against the fact that a high percentage of so-called "economic criminals" convicted in Soviet courts, and given the death sentence, were Jews. Russell had also noted in his letters that the Soviet press, which is strictly controlled by the Communist Party, has consistently highlighted the names of Jews convicted, thereby fanning anti-Semitism.

(At the United Nations, circles close to the problem surrounding anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union expressed doubt today whether such an invitation had, indeed, been sent by Mr. Khrushchev. Last week, in reply to charges of Soviet anti-Semitism voiced in the UN Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, the Soviet representative on that subcommission, Boris S. Ivanov, read one of the Khrushchev letters to Russell, denying the existence of anti-Semitism in the USSR.)

SOVIET JEW ARRESTED ON CHARGES OF BEING 'AN UNDERGROUND MILLIONAIRE'

LONDON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- A Russian Jew, named Jacob Gleizer, has been arrested on charges of being "an underground millionaire," according to a Moscow dispatch received here today. Arrested with Gleizer was another man, identified as Vassily I. Novov.

Both men, according to the Moscow report, are being accused of having secreted large sums of gold and gold coins allegedly procured through currency speculation.

GEN. ISRAEL BESKIN, HIGHEST DECORATED SOVIET JEWISH GENERAL, DEAD

LONDON, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Lt. Gen. Israel Solomonovitch Beskin, one of the highest decorated Soviet army officers, and a Jew, died in the USSR this weekend, aged 68, according to a Moscow dispatch received here today. He retired from active service and has been ill several months, according to Moscow sources.

Gen. Beskin held highly responsible posts in the Red Army during World War II and, after the war, headed the Soviet Union's artillery corps. Among his decorations were three citations in the Order of Lenin and three awards of the Red Banner.

U.N. BODY TO START DEBATE TODAY ON ELIMINATION OF RELIGIOUS BIAS

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 26. (JTA) -- A revised draft Declaration for the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance was completed here and circulated today among the members of the Subcommission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which will open article-by-article debate on the document tomorrow.

The draft was revised by Arcot Krishnaswami of India, whose formulation of the instrument banning religious discriminations was approved by principle by Morris B. Abram, the United States member of the subcommission, who had withdrawn a draft of his own in favor of Mr. Krishnaswami's.

Two Communist representatives on the subcommission, representing the Soviet Union and Poland, have been trying to shunt aside the debate on religious bias. They have been backed by two Arab representatives on the body, one from the Sudan, the other from Egypt. According to Mr. Krishnaswami and Mr. Abram, an effort will be made to adopt the antireligious-bias draft before the subcommission ends its three-week session, next Friday.

JEWISH LEAGUE FOR ISRAEL HOLDS TWO-DAY CONFERENCE IN ATLANTIC CITY

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The American Jewish League for Israel, at a two-day conference here, reaffirmed its objective as the abolition in Zionist groups outside of Israel of partisan affiliations with the political structure of the State of Israel.

The conference, held under the chairmanship of Samuel H. Daroff, shaped plans for a program of conferences in various cities "intended to lead to a rational reorganization of the Diaspora Zionist structure." The program will be presented to the forthcoming World Zionist Congress which is scheduled to be held in December this year. Participants in the discussions included Judge Louis E. Levinthal, Dr. Simon Greenberg, Dr. Arthur Lelyveld, Eleazar Lipsky, Jacob M. Atkow, Louis A. Falk and Jerome J. Shestack.

HABIMAH LEAVES ISRAEL FOR U.S.; STARTS PLAYING IN NEW YORK NEXT WEEK

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Habimah, Israel's national theater group, left here this morning for a tour of the United States, beginning with nine weeks on Broadway under the joint sponsorship of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation and the management of the Little Theater in New York. The company will open in New York with "The Dybbuk" on February 3. The Israeli group will also participate in symposia and meetings with Hebrew groups and theatrical circles.

The greetings of Mayor Mordechai Namir of Tel Aviv were conveyed last night to the Habimah troupe at a farewell gathering attended by members of the press and public personalities. A spokesman for the group said "we are leaving with full knowledge of our responsibility to bring the Hebrew word and the Israeli theater to the United States and its Jewry."

Founded in Russia some 50 years ago, Habimah's aim was the establishment of a permanent theater that would demonstrate that the treasure of world drama could be revealed to the Jewish people through Hebrew. The company appeared for the first time on September 2, 1913 before the members of the World Zionist Congress meeting in Vienna. They performed in Hebrew translation a famous Yiddish play, Osip Dimov's "The Eternal Wanderer."

The original group disbanded and reassembled five years later in Moscow. In the 1920's, Habimah went on a world tour, performing "The Golem" and "The Dybbuk" in Europe and the United States. Subsequently, the majority of the actors migrated to Palestine and settled in Tel Aviv. Today, Habimah plays in two theaters in the center of this city, one with 2,000 seats and the other, for more intimate productions, with 500.

ISRAELI MEDICAL STUDENTS ABROAD REGISTER FOR TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- Some 50 Israeli students out of 300 currently studying in medical schools in Europe have applied for registration in the medical school being opened this year at Tel Aviv University, Dr. George Wise, president, reported today.

He said Israel needs 250 new doctors annually but the Hebrew University-Hadassah Medical school graduates only between 70 and 80 new physicians each year. The need for such a large number of new doctors is explained by the high average age of the present physicians, some of whom arrived recently from abroad.

The Tel Aviv area has 3,000 beds in hospitals, providing excellent facilities for medical students, Dr. Wise said, adding that the new medical school will provide adequate facilities for veteran doctors to make advanced studies. Another reason for the new medical school is the requests to Israel to provide medical personnel for new African countries. This, and the needs of the defense forces, requires larger numbers of young doctors, it was indicated.

THE DAY-JEWISH JOURNAL, YIDDISH DAILY, TO CELEBRATE 50TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The Day-Jewish Journal, Yiddish daily, will celebrate 50 years of its existence with the publication of a special edition of the paper, it was announced here today by Morris Weinberg, philosopher. The issue will appear on Feb. 28.

Mr. Weinberg, who last week observed his 88th birthday, received a congratulatory telegram from President Johnson, reading: "I know the habit of 50 years as publisher of the newspaper you founded is so strong you will continue in the active management of the paper. I hope the years ahead are healthy and satisfying ones for you. An 88th birthday marking so many years of devotion to community affairs is a noteworthy event."

ROCKWELL SEEKS TO ENTER PRIMARIES AS REPUBLICAN PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE

CONCORD, N.H., Jan. 26. (JTA) -- George Lincoln Rockwell, leader of the American Nazi Party, took steps here this weekend to enter the Republican Presidential primaries. He took out petitions to enter the primaries as a Republican presidential candidate.

REMAINS OF MARC BLITZSTEIN TO BE CREMATED TODAY IN NEW YORK

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 26. (JTA) -- The remains of Marc Blitzstein, famous Jewish-American composer, who died at Martinique this weekend, will be cremated here tomorrow without services, members of the Blitzstein family announced today. Mr. Blitzstein, 58, had been in the West Indies completing an opera commissioned by the Metropolitan Opera Company of New York. He was apparently beaten to death by robbers at Martinique.

Among Mr. Blitzstein's better known works are "The Cradle Will Rock," "No for an Answer," "Regina," and his adaptation of "The Threepenny Opera," which ran off-Broadway in New York for six years. His father, the late Samuel Blitzstein, was a banker here well known among many Jewish merchants.