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U.S. BENT ON PREVENTING ARAB-ISRAELI WARFARE, DEFENSE SECRETARY SAYS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. (JTA)-- Secretary of Defense Robert McNamara, addressing the House Armed Services Committee, emphasized the interest of the United States "to keep the Arab-Israel feud from escalating into overt hostilities" and explained why the U.S. sold Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Israel.

His testimony before the Committee, given in connection with the defense budget for the year, was made public today by the Congressional body. "Although we do not share with other Near East countries membership in any formal military organizations, our interest in supporting peace and stability in the area has been well established and, we believe, is clearly understood by the countries involved," the Secretary of Defense, said.

Noting that Iraq and Syria are still rent by power struggles, Secretary McNamara remarked that "the only ostensible objective which all of these Arab nations appear to share in common is the destruction of Israel. And here, Israel's plan to divert the waters of the Jordan River presents a current problem," he told the Committee.

"The U.S. objective has long been to keep the Arab-Israeli feud from escalating into overt hostilities," he continued. "Realization of this objective has been made more difficult by the injection of substantial Soviet bloc aid--both economic and military--into the region, and particularly into Egypt, Syria, Iraq and Yemen. For this reason, the U.S. has, on a very selective basis, provided some assistance in the form of sales of military materiel to Israel and the smaller Arab states, including Saudi Arabia and Jordan. And it is in this context that the U.S. sold Hawk anti-aircraft missiles to Israel, to help provide an effective defense against modern fighters and bomber aircraft," the Secretary of Defense stated.

Mr. McNamara noted, in concluding his remarks on the Middle East, that the U.S.A. has engaged in military exercises with some of the friendly countries of the area, such as Iran and Saudi Arabia, "in order to demonstrate our capability and determination to lend support, when and if required."

EGYPT'S BOMBER FLEET SUPERIOR TO FRANCE'S, ISRAEL CHIEF OF STAFF SAYS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- General Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Chief of Staff, asserted here today that Egypt had a bomber fleet with a delivery potential superior to that of France or Italy, and that Egyptian tanks were as good as the best in Europe.

He said also that Israel's principal security problem was to maintain a deterrent superiority over Egypt, which he called the only Arab country capable of launching itself single-handedly against Israel. He added that there was a need in Israel for long-term regular army men who could master the increasingly sophisticated equipment of modern armament.

Syrian nervousness led to several incidents on Israel's northern border in the past 48 hours, the Army spokesman reported here today. The latest incident occurred this morning, when an Israeli armored car, patrolling well within Israeli territory, hit a Syrian-planted mine opposite Syrian positions. Three occupants of the vehicle were seriously injured.

Yesterday, Syrians tried to penetrate into Israeli territory, touching off an exchange of fire between an Israeli patrol and Syrian positions. Israel filed a complaint with the Mixed Armistice Commission over the attempted penetration which was made by three Syrians at the northern tip of the border. Two were armed. The Israel patrol spotted the infiltrators and fired warning shots. Syrian positions then directed heavy rifle and automatic fire against the patrol, and the fire was returned. There were no casualties among members of the patrol.

British Labor Party Chief Assures Security for Israel

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Britain could not be indifferent to any threat to Israel's peace, and a Labor Government here "could not and would not" be indifferent to such a threat, Harold Wilson, leader of the Labor Party, declared here tonight. Mr. Wilson was the principal speaker at a dinner conducted by Pioneer Women, the women's labor Zionist organization.

BRITAIN AND GERMANY RESUME TALKS TODAY ON PAYMENTS TO NAZI VICTIMS

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The lengthy negotiations between Great Britain and West Germany, about a possible, lump-sum payment by the Germans to cover illegal detention of British nationals in wartime concentration camps conducted by the Nazi regime, will be resumed tomorrow, it was announced by the Foreign Office.

The announcement came in reply to an inquiry by a Conservative member of the House of Commons, Aery Neave. He had asked not only about the status of the negotiations but also about the number of British nationals to be considered for German compensation.

A Foreign Office spokesman said that the talks, suspended last October, would get under way again tomorrow but that the British and Germans have not yet agreed on the categories of war sufferers to be included in the pending compensation pact. The German Government, he said, had made it clear that it would recognize claims by Britons persecuted for their political ideas or for reasons of race, faith or ideology. But other categories and the exact numbers have not yet been determined, the Foreign Office spokesman stated.

HUNGARIAN AND POLISH JEWS PROTEST RESTRICTIONS ON COMPENSATION

BONN, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Demonstrations in various western capitals against the West German Government for restitution and compensation to Hungarian and Polish Jews were predicted here yesterday by a spokesman for those Jewries.

Jack Winocour of London, a spokesman for the Association of Hungarian and Polish Jews, told an impromptu meeting with West German, British and American correspondents that meetings would be held with West German diplomats in New York, London and probably Paris next week to protest the restrictions in pending new West German legislation for Nazi victims.

He said that the objections were to pending legislation to set up a \$150,000,000 fund to meet indemnification claims of some 75,000 to 100,000 Jews who left Poland and Hungary after October 1953 when the deadline for filing claims became effective. The bills, which were passed on a first reading in the Bundestag, the lower house of the West German Parliament, on November 15, 1963, are under study by Parliamentary committees. Floor action on either measure is not expected before April.

SOVIET LOSSES FIRST ROUND ON RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE IN U. N. BODY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Advocates of worldwide religious freedoms won their first round in the United Nations Commission on Human Rights here today in a battle against anti-religious Communist forces who fear the Soviet Union might be indicted for its persecutions against Jewish religious practices and Jewish culture.

The dispute took place this morning as the Commission, which convened here yesterday for a session scheduled to last a month, received a motion from the French delegation proposing that work be started now toward a forthcoming debate on a draft United Nations Declaration for the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance.

Jean Marcel Bouquin, chief of the French delegation, moved that, while the Commission debates its first agenda item, dealing with racial discrimination, the 21-member body should establish a "working group" to prepare for later debate on the religious item.

Platon D. Morozov of the Soviet Union fought vigorously against a Bouquin motion, insisting that no such working group was necessary. He was supported in his opposition by the delegations representing two other East European members, Poland and the Ukraine.

After a lengthy squabble on the issue, the French motion carried by a vote of 14-3 with four abstentions--the negative votes being cast by Russia, Poland and the Ukraine. The United States delegation headed by Mrs. Marietta Tree, was among those supporting the French move. The working group--without any specific number indicated--will be named by the chairman of the Commission, Enrique Ponce Carbo of Ecuador.

ALGERIAN PREMIER ATTENDS RALLY LAUNCHING ANTI-ISRAEL PROPAGANDA WEEK

ALGIERS, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Premier Ahmed Ben Bella attended yesterday a mass meeting and an exhibition here to launch a week of anti-Israel propaganda throughout Algeria. Similar meetings were staged under Government sponsorship in all major centers.

The Government-controlled press and radio urged Algerians to support "the just cause of Arab Palestine." Although an office of Palestinian Arabs was set up in Algiers last year, the events yesterday marked the first time that the Government had put its propaganda machine into action in support of that cause.

QUEEN OF BELGIUM, OTHER NOTABLES APPEAL TO KHRUSHCHEV ON JEWS

LONDON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A joint appeal by world-famous personalities in many fields calling on the Soviet Government to allow Russia's Jews "full cultural lives, religious freedom and the rights of a national group," has been sent to Premier Nikita Khrushchev, it was reported here today.

The appeal, which was forwarded to the Soviet Premier last December, was signed by Queen Elizabeth of Belgium, British philosopher Bertrand Russell, nuclear physicist Max Born, Israeli philosopher Martin Buber, Francois Mauriac, Lord Boyd Orr, Professor Linus Pauling, Dr. Albert Schweitzer, Norman Thomas and Professor Giuseppe Ungaretti, Italian left-wing intellectual, and other leading personalities.

Stressing that "we speak as friends, but as friends whose friendship requires honesty," the appeal declared: "Although aware and appreciative of the improvement in the lives of Jews in the Soviet Union through the abolition of legal disabilities of the Czarist days, we are gravely concerned by the evident difficulties experienced by Jews as a Soviet nationality."

Pointing out that the Jews had been subjected to long and continuous persecution throughout the history of Europe, the appeal stated: "The culmination of this cruelty was the wholesale extermination of Jews during our lifetimes, one of the most barbaric crimes in all human history, and the tragic fragmentation of the families of survivors in the chaotic aftermath of this holocaust. If ever a people were deserving of understanding and sympathetic treatment after harsh suffering, it is the Jews of Europe."

"We greatly hope therefore," the appeal continued, "that the Jews will be permitted full cultural lives, religious freedom and the rights of a national group, in practice as well as in law; and that people separated for many years from their closest kin who have since become resettled in Israel and elsewhere will be permitted at last to reunite."

Pointing out that "many of us are lifelong non-believers in any religion," the appeal declared: "Nonetheless, we believe freedom to practice religious views should be allowed the Jews of the Soviet Union in the same manner that such freedom is granted people of other religious persuasion."

'Deeply Troubled' Over Anti-Jewish Articles in Soviet Press

The appeal expressed concern that "the process of restitution of Jewish cultural activities has been slow. Journals and theaters of much smaller groups are more plentiful, and the closure of synagogues and the shortage of religious facilities have impaired Jews in pursuit of their belief. We are deeply troubled that there should be articles in Soviet journals of many republics expressing hostility to the Jewish people as such and using such terms as 'vermin, bloodsuckers, parasites,' in combination with caricatures of Jews."

While professing an understanding of the objections expressed by Premier Khrushchev to economic offenses, the appeal declared: "We feel, however, that the death penalty upon citizens accused of these crimes harms the Soviet Union and allows those hostile to her to malign her. We consider the fact that 60 per cent of those executed are Jews to be gravely disturbing. We are troubled by prison sentences imposed for the preparation by individuals of unleavened bread."

The signatories stressed their friendship for the Soviet Union and expressed the hope that "no Soviet citizen will misunderstand when we speak frankly or conclude that we wish to harm the Soviet Union or cooperate with those who promote the Cold War." They stressed that the spirit in which the appeal was made "is one of concern and not of condemnation."

"We fervently hope," the appeal declared, "that nothing will take place which obliges us to believe Jews are receiving unjust treatment in contradiction to law and that those who break Soviet laws concerning economic offenses will be treated without undue severity instead of being put to death. We cannot too strongly appeal for understanding of the difficulty experienced by those in the West who are working dedicatedly to ease tension, promote peaceful coexistence, and to end the Cold War. These objects are harmed by events which those who desire the Cold War can exploit and which trouble us who wish peace and good relations."

NEW YORK GOVERNOR URGED TO BAR CHRISTMAS CELEBRATIONS IN SCHOOLS

ALBANY, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A delegation of the Metropolitan Council of the American Jewish Congress asked Gov. Nelson Rockefeller and state legislators today to act to bar Christmas celebrations in public schools in New York state in accordance with United States Supreme Court rulings against such sectarian activities.

The 200 delegates, making their annual legislative day visit to Albany, also asserted that public school officials were ignoring the constitutional guarantee of separation of church and state and "are including prayers, Christmas carols and other religious observances in the classroom."

ISRAEL RABBINATE REFUSES TO RECOGNIZE DIVORCE ISSUED BY U.S. RABBIS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Golda Meir today demanded a Cabinet ruling over the issue of non-recognition by Israeli rabbinical courts of divorces granted by American Conservative rabbis. The Cabinet empowered Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, Minister for Religious Affairs, to work out an acceptable arrangement on the issue. It is understood that only two cases have occurred in which the Rabbinical courts have failed to recognize such divorces and one of the cases is still pending.

N. Y. WOMEN OPEN 1964 DRIVE FOR U. J. A.; \$1,100,000 IS RAISED AT RALLY

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The 1964 campaign of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York was formally inaugurated by 4,000 volunteer workers from every section of the metropolitan area at an opening rally held today in the Grand Ballroom of the New York Hilton Hotel.

Contributions of more than \$1,100,000 to the 1964 campaign were announced following the rally, at a luncheon for 250 leaders of the drive. The Women's Division's annual Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Award was presented posthumously to Herbert H. Lehman at the rally. The plaque, which symbolizes the award, was inscribed to a "courageous statesman and selfless humanitarian, for notable achievement in enhancing the dignity of man, in keeping with the ideals of Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt."

Presentation of the Award was made by Philip M. Klutznick, former American Ambassador to the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations. In speaking of the late Senator, Ambassador Klutznick said "it was not institutions or organizations that drew on his affection and concentrated service--it was people and their dignity that evoked his profound attention and his ceaseless effort."

GROWTH OF JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS IN SO. AFRICA REPORTED AT CONFERENCE

JOHANNESBURG, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- There are now 11 all-day Jewish schools in South Africa with nearly 5,000 pupils plus an estimated 10,000 children attending Talmud Torahs and Hebrew nursery schools, the 13th National Conference of the South African Board of Jewish Education has been informed.

Sol Yellin, the outgoing chairman, described the growth of the day school movement as the most significant development since the prior conference. He said that the percentage of children attending Jewish schools was better in the 116,000-member South African Jewish community than in many larger communities.

The delegates invited Prof. Zvi Adar of the Hebrew University to investigate the structure of Jewish education in South Africa and to offer recommendations for future development. The conference reaffirmed the board's policy of a "national traditional" education and rejected requests for more Jewish ritual and stricter observance in the Jewish schools.

JOHNSON NAMES BLAUSTEIN A TRUSTEE OF ELEANOR ROOSEVELT FOUNDATION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The White House announced today that President Johnson has appointed Jacob Blaustein as a member of the Board of Trustees of the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Foundation. Ambassador Adlai Stevenson is chairman of the Foundation and Philip M. Klutznick is national campaign chairman. Mr. Blaustein returns today from Stockholm meetings of the International Board of the Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation of which he is one of the 14 trustees appointed by the King of Sweden.

KING AND QUEEN OF BELGIUM PARTICIPATE IN PLANTING FOREST IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- King Baudouin and Queen Fabiola of Belgium left Lydda Airport for Brussels last night after completing a two-day visit to Israel in which they toured the country's Christian Holy Places and were received by President Zalman Shazar. In the morning, the Royal couple participated in a planting ceremony of King Baudouin Forest near Nazareth. Yaakov Tsur, world chairman of the Jewish National Fund, presided at the ceremony.

CALIFORNIA JEW PRESENTS BIALIK MANUSCRIPTS TO STATE OF ISRAEL

WILMINGTON, Cal., Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Hitherto unpublished manuscripts of Hayim Nachman Bialik, the greatest of the modern Hebrew poets, were presented to the State of Israel today by Shimon Burishkin, a Wilmington resident who, as a boy, worked in Bialik's print shop in Russia and later in Palestine.

Israel's Consul General in Los Angeles, Mordechai Shalev, accepted the manuscripts on behalf of his government. The unpublished manuscripts, which were in Mr. Burishkin's possession for 40 years, will be placed in the Beth Bialik Museum in Tel Aviv.