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ISRAEL'S ARMY SEEN READY TO DEFEND LAND AGAINST ARABS ON JORDAN ISSUE

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- General Yitzhak Rabin, Israel's Chief of Staff, said today that the Israeli Army was ready for the test if the Arabs carried out their threats to oppose by force the Israeli Negev irrigation program which will indirectly tap the Jordan River.

He reiterated that it was Israeli Army preparedness which maintained the gap between the Arabs' desire to attack Israel and the possibility of carrying out such an attack.

Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres, meanwhile, emphasized the need for alertness and increased effort on the part of Israel to prevent war in the Middle East. In an address to the Tel Aviv Press Club, Mr. Peres stressed that Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser was determined to increase his country's military strength. He said that the only ways Israel could prevent war in the region were by maintaining a deterrent power, increasing its friendship with various countries, settlement of the Negev and Galilee, and intensifying its scientific and technical potential.

GOLDA MEIR LEAVES FOR EUROPEAN CAPITALS TOMORROW FOR CONFERENCES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Golda Meir will leave Tuesday for an 8-day visit to the Netherlands, Britain, Belgium and Luxembourg, it was announced here today following the weekly Cabinet meeting. In the Netherlands, she will be received by Queen Juliana, the Premier and the Foreign Minister, and will meet with members of the Dutch Parliament and leaders of the Jewish community.

In London, Mrs. Meir will meet with Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home, Foreign Secretary R. A. Butler, members of Parliament, political leaders and prominent Jewish communal and Zionist leadership. In Belgium and Luxembourg she will meet Government leaders as well as officials of the European Economic Community, which is currently negotiating with Israel over a trade agreement.

Israel Envoy Confers with French Foreign Ministry on Jordan Water Plan

PARIS, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The possible international implications of Israel's Jordan River irrigation project was understood to have been the subject discussed at an hour-long meeting this weekend between Walter Eytan, Israel's Ambassador to France, and Jean Sauto, director of the French Foreign Ministry's African and Middle Eastern Division.

France, in recent weeks, has repeatedly asserted that Israel's water projects were "a natural and legitimate" undertaking which should not cause any international complications. Maurice Couve de Murville, the French Foreign Minister, was understood to have spoken in this vein during two meetings earlier this month with Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister.

MAPAI BACKS ESHKOL ON BURYING LAVON AFFAIR; DEBATE IN KNESSET TOMAY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Mapai members of the Cabinet voted unanimously last night to support Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's decision not to revive the "Lavon Affair," after the turbulent events of the week on the long-smoldering issue.

The ouster of Pinhas Lavon, first as Defense Minister and later as secretary-general of the Histadrut, in one of Israel's most confused controversies, erupted into the news again when Moshe Dayan, Minister of Agriculture, made a statement on the matter in Parliament. The key event was an alleged security mishap in 1954 when Dayan was Chief of Staff and Lavon was Defense Minister.

Maariv, a leading newspaper here, said that Mr. Dayan had made statements about the Lavon affair differing totally from the known facts. Members of the opposition questioned him and asked why he had withheld vital facts. He replied at length, but his reply was expunged from the record "for security reasons." Maariv then reported the Dayan version in which the former Chief of Staff held that neither Lavon nor a senior officer, subsequently dismissed, but "a third factor" issued orders that led to the supposed mishap. Dayan did not identify the "third factor."

Mr. Dayan also reportedly said that he had tried to bring his information to officials, but he was not heard and had never been invited to give testimony to the various inquiry committees that investigated the complex controversy. Strong criticism was voiced at the meeting yesterday about press "leakage" of a "distorted version" of

Dayan's remarks at a closed gathering of Mapai ministers which led to the Knesset debate. The Liberals, Herut and the Communists filed non-confidence motions to be debated in the Knesset tomorrow. Premier Eshkol, in his reply then, is expected to stress that a Minister who is personally attacked has the right to defend himself.

MAPAM VEToes PLAN TO JOIN COALITION; LISTS DEMANDS UNMET BY MAPAI

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Mapam Council decided tonight against joining the Government coalition, claiming that the results of the recent negotiations with Mapai and Ahdut Avodah did not provide a basis for Mapam to join.

The decision, which was adopted by the party's Council by a vote of 301 to 16, followed a report by Meir Yaroni, Mapam general secretary, and member of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, who said that Mapam might reconsider its decision if Mapai would agree to certain demands. He listed these as including abolition of military government in Arab areas, minimizing social gaps and hastening solutions for slum conditions, and increased budgets for Arab village development. He charged that Mapai was not prepared to make concessions that Mapam considered essential.

SECRET MASS GRAVE WITH THOUSANDS OF JEWS DISCOVERED IN AUSTRIA

VIENNA, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- A hitherto unknown mass grave of thousands of Nazi victims, mostly Jews, has been discovered in the Tyrol mountains, not far from the site of the recent winter Olympic competitions, it was disclosed here today.

The victims had been employed by the Nazis in building fortresses in the mountains to hold back the Allied armies advancing from the south. The Vienna Jewish community has taken over the care of the grave and has put up a temporary monument.

At a press conference here this weekend, Dr. Simon Wiesenthal, director of the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna, disclosed that the Nazis trained selected SS men in mass murder techniques at four "murder schools" in Austria and Germany. He said the "graduates" applied their training at three Nazi camps in Poland--Treblinka, Sobibor and Belzec--where 1,500,000 Jews were murdered between 1942 and 1944. One of the "schools" was in Hartheim in upper Austria, and the others at Hadamar, Grafenegg and Sonnenberg, he said.

He said he had turned over to Austrian Justice Minister Christian Broda a large dossier containing results of his research on the murder school at Hartheim, plus documentary evidence against 14 Austrians who were trained there who are still alive and free. Austrian authorities have started investigations.

He estimated that some 30,000 persons were killed at Hartheim during the war. Describing the training of the "professional murderers," he said they had to live near a crematorium to get used to the smell, and that their first victims were Austrians or Germans. Alcohol and women were offered to the "students" as rewards, he added.

JEWSH GROUP ASKS U.N. TO EXTEND ANTI-RACIST TREATY TO JEWS IN USSR

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 23. (JTA) -- A proposal that a draft United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, being debated here now by the Commission on Human Rights, expand its protections to include ethnic groups that are denied equal rights was presented to the Commission today by Label A. Katz, international president of B'nai B'rith. Mr. Katz made the proposal on behalf of the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, which represents both B'nai B'rith and the Board of Deputies of British Jews, and has consultative status before the Commission.

The CBJO proposal indicated clearly that its aim is to extend the draft convention's rights to Soviet Jewry, but did not name the USSR. It noted that the draft now under discussion failed to refer "to the right of ethnic groups to conduct educational activities, including the maintenance of schools and the teaching of their own language," thus pointing directly to the suppression of Yiddish and Hebrew cultural activities in the Soviet Union. The document, referring to the Soviet Union obliquely, pointed out "the need to guard against sad experiences in the contemporary world where an ethnic group in a multi-national society is deprived of means of cultural expression, including the use of its own educational institutions and language."

Another proposal made by the CBJO requested that the draft convention's articles of implementation give the right of filing complaints not only to member-governments of the United Nations but also to individuals, groups or non-governmental organizations that have UN consultative status. The draft against racism is expected to be adopted by the Commission within the next 10 days. The next item on the agenda is one banning religious discrimination.

Several non-governmental Jewish organizations are expected to present memoranda and ask for the floor when the religious item comes up for debate. Israel, represented by Dr. Meir Rosenne, as an observer, may also intervene in the debate.

\$23, 650, 000 SALES LAUNCH ISRAEL BOND DRIVE; SAPIR FOCUSES ON MAJOR AIMS

MIAMI, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The sale of \$23, 650, 000 in Israel Bonds in the opening weeks of the 1964 campaign was announced here today to the more than 2, 000 delegates from the United States and Canada at the international inaugural conference for Israel bonds by Samuel Rothberg, national campaign chairman, who presided over the conference. This amount, he said, constitutes the largest sum ever sold for the inauguration of any drive in the history of the Israel Bond organization which, since 1951, has raised more than \$660, 000, 000 for Israel's economic development.

Baron Edmond de Rothschild, of France, who is president of the Israel bond drive for Europe, and an outstanding participant in Israel's economic development, was the guest of honor at the 1964 conference here this weekend. The conference launched a drive to sell \$85, 000, 000 in Israel bonds this year, and also inaugurated the new \$400, 000, 000 third development issue of Israel bonds, whose sale begins March 1.

A cabled message from Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol outlined Israel's major objectives for the near future, including economic development; absorption of more immigrants; carrying "life-bringing water into the barren and thirsty South" of the country; exploitation of atomic energy for the good of Israel, the entire Middle East region and the world; tightening security; continuation of the drive for peace with the Arab world; and intensification and enrichment of the Jewish culture and heritage.

In an address to the gathering, Pinhas Sapir, Israel's Minister of Finance, discussed Israel's current, five-year economic plan. He highlighted Israel's immediate aims as follows:

Sees Population Rising to 4, 000, 000, G. N. P. Totaling \$5, 000, 000, 000

"1. Absorption of a population increase to 3, 000, 000 by 1970, and preparation for the fourth million, which is expected to be reached some time during the 1970's. During the past three years, Israel has taken in some 170, 000 immigrants.

"2. Continuation of the growth of the gross national product at a rate of 10 per cent per year. Israel's plans call for a G. N. P. of 15, 000, 000, 000 Israel pounds (\$5, 000, 000, 000) by 1970; it is believed this will assure full employment for the country's labor force.

"3. Reducing the gap between exports and imports by \$160, 000, 000 before 1970. Exports by that time are expected to be close to \$1, 700, 000, 000, as compared with \$600, 000, 000 in 1963.

"4. Achieving a substantial improvement in the level of general and vocational education in Israel."

Referring to Israel's current negotiations with the European Common Market, Mr. Sapir indicated that the outlook for these negotiations is promising. He added: "There are hopes for a agreement that will safeguard this most important outlet for Israel's agricultural and industrial production.

Feinberg Hails LBJ's Cooperation with Israel; Boyar, Rothberg Report to Parley

Abraham Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization, hailed the recent announcement by President Johnson of American cooperation with Israel in the use of nuclear energy for the desalination of sea water. He said it represented "the key to the solution of many of the world's problems."

"The cooperative effort by the greatest nation in the world and one of the smallest and youngest countries, Israel, not only testifies to the close bond between the two countries, but plays the spotlight of world attention on the advanced status of Israel's scientific development," Mr. Feinberg said. "It is gratifying to reaffirm the fact that Israel, like the United States, is preparing to share its scientific knowledge with the rest of the world and with its Arab neighbors for the welfare and peaceful development of the Middle East."

Louis H. Boyar, national chairman for trustees of the Israel Bond Organization, emphasized the fact that confidence in Israel bonds has been spurred by the beginning, on May 1, 1963, of the redemption of the first Israel bonds. During 1963 alone, he said, more than \$24, 000, 000 was paid out in principal and interest on matured bonds by the State of Israel at the rate of 150 cents on the dollar. More than \$41, 000, 000 is due to be paid out in 1964, he said.

"One of the most significant indications of increased confidence in Israel's economy is the fact that more and more financial institutions are now investing in Israel bonds. More than 300 banks have purchased Israel bonds in addition to more than 500 international and local unions and joint union councils which have made substantial purchases. Israel bonds have also been bought by numerous insurance companies, pension and welfare funds, building funds and the like," Mr. Boyar noted.

Mr. Rothberg pointed out that this year's goal of \$85, 000, 000 was in keeping with the commitment of the Israel Bond Organization to provide a minimum of one-third of the

country's development budget. He reported that, for the current year, this budget amounts to \$270,198,000.

Tributes Paid to Rothschild; 1964 Drive Leaders Chosen

Warmest tributes were paid to Baron de Rothschild by all the leaders of the bond organization as well as by another of the principal speakers, U. S. Senator Abraham A. Ribicoff, of Connecticut. It was noted that, of the total of more than \$69,000,000 in Israel bonds sold last year, close to \$5,000,000 were sold in Western Europe under the Baron's leadership.

Baron de Rothschild expressed his gratitude to Israel bonds for giving him "the opportunity to be identified with Israel, not as a tourist or spectator but as an active participant in its growth and development." He described his experiences in selling Israel bonds in Europe as follows: "It is rewarding, in the course of my campaign work, to know that Israel bonds are a symbol of the return of the depleted Jewish communities of Europe to a status of equal partners with you in building the Jewish homeland."

The French baron, who addressed the conference dinner last night, further told the audience: "Christian friends have joined in this program for Israel's development not only because they admire Israel and are impressed with its programs; they buy because they understand that they must stand in for the Jews who never returned from the concentration camps."

The 1964 campaign of the National Women's Division of the Israel Bond Organization was also launched at a luncheon this weekend, attended by more than 1,000 women leaders from communities in the United States and Canada. Mrs. Jan Peerce, national chairman of the division, presided at the luncheon, which featured the international premiere of the St. Laurent-Israel Fashion Collection.

At the closing session of the conference today, Mr. Boyar was named chairman of the organization's board of governors, succeeding to the post held by the late Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver. Morris W. Berinstein, of Albany, N. Y., was elected national chairman for trustees. Other leaders to head the 1964 campaign were named as follows:

Mr. Feinberg, president; Ira Guilden, national chairman; Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president; Jack D. Weiler, secretary-treasurer; Mr. Rothberg, national campaign chairman; Lawrence G. Laskey, chairman of the executive committee; Eddie Cantor, national chairman of builders; Max Bressler, national chairman of guardians; Mrs. Peerce, national chairman of the women's division; and Julian B. Venezky, national chairman for regions.

HISTADRUT CAMPAIGN LAUNCHES 1964 DRIVE WITH CONTRIBUTIONS OF \$1,000,000

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- A total of more than \$1,000,000 toward the 1964 goal of the Israel Histadrut campaign was presented by the 1,500 delegates and guests attending a conference here today, marking the 40th anniversary of the founding of the campaign.

In an address to the conference, Dr. Joseph Burstin, chairman of the board of education of the City of Tel Aviv, stressed the need for secondary education in Israel which, he said, constitutes a "bottleneck" in the educational process. He noted that "many capable youngsters with Middle Eastern and North African backgrounds are deprived of an opportunity to go beyond the elementary school level because of financial limitations and the high rate of illiteracy among their parents, which is not conducive to further effort on behalf of the education of their young."

Crville Freeman, U. S. Secretary of Agriculture, sent a message to the conference, praising American-Israeli relations which, he said, had mutual advantages for both countries. Referring to America's Food-For-Race Program, in which Israel participates, Mr. Freeman stated:

"Investments financed through Israel-counterpart funds helped increase Israel's productive capacity and created additional employment on an average of 7,800 persons per year. In turn, American farmers have a better market for their products, being paid in American dollars which were spent for American products."

HAROLD E. BECKMAN DIES AT 73; ACTIVE IN TECHNION, OTHER CAUSES

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for the late Harold E. Beckman, national treasurer of the American Technion Society, who died here this weekend. He was 73.

Mr. Beckman was born in Cincinnati, studied mining and metallurgy, and earned a degree in that field from Yale University. Elected to the American Technion Society's board of directors in 1953, he became national treasurer in 1961. Last June he was named to the International Board of Governors of the Technion, after having served as a deputy member since 1960. He was also a director of the Palestine Economic Corporation, and a member of the Israel Committee and the Foreign Affairs Committee of the American Jewish Committee.