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JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE OPENS TWO-DAY MEETING TODAY IN GENEVA

GENEVA, July 28 (JTA) -- Representatives of 23 Jewish organizations from around the world, all of them members of the board of directors of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, will gather here tomorrow for a two-day session of the 12 year-old organization. Attending the meeting will be representatives of major Jewish organizations from North America, South America, Europe, Australia and South Africa.

The Conference, which uses chiefly monies from West Germany received on the basis of the Luxembourg Agreement, reached in 1952, between the Bonn Government, the State of Israel and the Conference, will have allocated to Jewish communities around the world, for relief, reconstruction and rehabilitation of surviving Jewish victims of Nazism, a total of more than \$111,000,000 by December 31, 1964.

Of the total amount, \$86,000,000, or over 77 per cent, will have gone to European Jewish communities. The largest single allocation to a Jewish community in any one country, amounting to \$22,100,000, went to the Jewish community of France.

Conference expenditures for relief and rehabilitation in Europe and Australia have been supervised by the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, which supplemented the Conference's aid with funds received from other sources.

\$100,000,000 DESALINATION PLANT PLANNED IN ISRAEL; PROJECT DISCUSSED

JERUSALEM, July 28 (JTA) -- Tentative plans for the erection in Israel of a pilot plant for the use of nuclear energy toward desalination of sea water, to cost approximately \$100,000,000, were discussed here today by the joint United States-Israel conference dealing with this subject. The conference opened yesterday in the office of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

The American and Israeli technologists and atomic experts participating in the conference are discussing overall plans involving the construction of two atomic plants for use in the desalination project. The first of the plants, to be considered as a pilot project for the rest of the world, would be built in Israel, at a site not as yet determined.

That plant would be ready by 1970. It would have a nuclear reactor of 800 thermal megawatt capacity, generating 200 megawatts of electric power, capable of distilling between 100,000,000 and 200,000,000 gallons of water daily. A plant of that size, the experts believe, would be enough to meet Israel's water and power needs in 1970. A megawatt is the equivalent of 1,000,000 watts.

On the basis of this pilot project, scientists and technologists believe they will, after studying the techniques and results, be able to plan larger plants. One such larger plant is envisaged as a reactor that could generate 1,000 to 1,500 megawatts of electric power, capable of distilling 500,000,000 to 800,000,000 gallons of water daily.

Costs to Be Borne by the United States and Israel Governments

While the pilot plant in Israel is expected to cost about \$100,000,000, the division of the costs as between the United States and Israel is not yet certain, and this will be one of the subjects to be discussed at the current meeting, it is believed.

The experts on both sides said that the costs of fresh water to be derived from the projected pilot plant here would be high but within the capability of Israel industry and of urban users. The cost would be "marginal" for branches of agriculture producing high-profit exports, such as citrus, but would be otherwise "prohibitive," they believe.

U.S. Ambassador Walworth Barbour, who, along with Mr. Eshkol, attended yesterday's opening meeting of the experts, said that the new project would not only aid Israel with water and electric power, but would also help provide needed knowledge for the rest of the world.

WEIZMANN INSTITUTE OFFERS SCIENTIFIC AID TO DESALINATION PROJECT

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA) -- An offer to place the scientific knowledge and facilities of the Weizmann Institute of Science, in Israel, at the disposal of the U.S. - Israel desalination project, was made today by Meyer W. Weisgal, chief executive of the Institute, here for a brief stay.

Mr. Weisgal pointed out that American cooperation with Israel for desalting sea water was announced publicly for the first time by President Johnson last February 6 at the annual Weizmann Dinner in New York. In the course of his address on that occasion, the President declared: "The Weizmann Institute is an international scientific institution in the fullest sense of the word. It has helped make Israel one of the foremost scientific resources of the world."

Mr. Weisgal said today that "if the desalination project calls for basic research, the field in which the Weizmann Institute specializes, we are prepared to supply scientific knowledge, manpower, laboratories and whatever may be required of us."

AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT INVESTIGATES ANTI-ISRAEL ACT BY AIRLINE

MELBOURNE, July 28 (JTA) -- The reason why Qantas, the Australian airline, cancelled the appointment of a sales representative to Israel is being "fully investigated," Sen. Denham Henty, Minister of Civil Aviation, informed the Australian Parliament today. He made that statement in a letter to W. Aston, Government whip in Parliament, who had asked for clarification of the issue. Mr. Henty stated that the matter "is receiving urgent consideration."

Qantas had appointed an Australian, Colin Atkinson, last May, as its sales representative in Israel, and Mr. Atkinson had left for his post in Israel after having been officially presented here to leaders of the Jewish community. Two weeks ago, it was discovered that he was back in Australia, but there was no official explanation from the airline for his return. It was indicated that his appointment had been cancelled, and there were reports that the cancellation was due to Arab pressures.

B. Newman, president of the New South Wales Jewish Board of Deputies, today requested of Qantas that its chief executive meet with a delegation of Jewish leaders to explain the reasons for the cancellation of Mr. Atkinson's appointment.

AUSTRIA SEEKS DATA ON NAZI CRIMES BY AUSTRIANS IN OCCUPIED POLAND

VIENNA, July 28 (JTA) -- The Austrian Department of Justice asked for and received assistance from the Polish Central Commission for the Investigation of Nazi Crimes in getting material on criminal activities of Austrian citizens in Nazi-occupied Poland, it was learned here today.

A representative of the Department visited Poland for that purpose and was given the opportunity to acquaint himself with relevant documents and papers about Austrian citizens who served the Nazis in Poland. In addition, the Polish Government gave the Austrian Government numerous documents on Nazi war crimes, including copies of the archives of the Maidanek death camp in occupied Poland.

JEWISH INVESTIGATOR WANTS NAZI DEATH RECORDS CHECKED FOR VERACITY

VIENNA, July 28 (JTA) -- Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Center for Nazi Crimes in Vienna, demanded today that the Governments of Austria and West Germany check on the veracity of documents recording the deaths of Nazi war criminals.

He said that there had been cases in which the courts, acting in good faith but on false evidence, recorded some of the criminals as dead when they were still alive somewhere abroad. He cited as an example the case of the Nazi police chief in Lublin, A. Globocznik.

Mr. Wiesenthal is generally credited with being the investigator who tracked down the late Adolf Eichmann. More recently, his work led to the arrest of the Nazi officer who had arrested Anne Frank.

MEXICAN ARCHBISHOP SAYS CATHOLIC CHURCH WILL ABSOLVE JEWS OF DEICIDE

MEXICO CITY, July 28 (JTA) -- The belief that the Catholic Church will soon issue a declaration absolving the Jewish people of the old charge of deicide, and stating that the Jews are not cursed because of the crucifixion of Jesus, was expressed here by Archbishop Sergio Mendez Arceo at a press conference he held at his diocesan headquarters at Cuernavaca. "Both the Pope and the majority of the Catholic bishops want such a declaration," he stated.

Dr. Mendez Arceo is known in Mexico as a friend of the Jewish people and of Israel. His statement on the Church's forthcoming declaration was featured widely in the leading Mexican newspapers.

ALLOCATION OF FUNDS BECOMES ISSUE BETWEEN TWO GENERAL ZIONIST GROUPS

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA) -- A statement disputing a report that the Jewish Agency executive had, at its recent plenary session in Jerusalem, settled the question of the allocation of special funds for use by General Zionists in their constructive programs in Israel, was issued here today by Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the head office of the World Union of General Zionists, which is headed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann.

The statement to which Mr. Torczyner took exception was made last week by Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency and co-chairman of the World Confederation of General Zionists, following her return from Jerusalem, where she attended the Jewish Agency executive meeting. Mr. Torczyner's statement read:

"We find it necessary to correct a report contained in a recent statement made by Mrs. Rose Halprin relating to the plenary session of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem. According to that report, the Agency executive 'had settled the question of the allocation of special funds for use by General Zionists in their constructive programs in Israel.' It is also asserted that 'the funds will be divided equally between the World Confederation of General Zionists, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Halprin and Dr. Israel Goldstein, and the World Union of General Zionists, headed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann.' Both of these statements are inaccurate. The Jewish Agency in Jerusalem has already dissociated itself from the above-mentioned report by terming it 'unauthorized.'"

"The question was not 'settled' and there was no decision regarding allocation. The matter was referred to a subcommittee of the Jewish Agency which is expected to submit its recommendations for an interim solution for the period between now and the World Zionist Congress, due to convene at the end of this year. The recommendations of this subcommittee will be considered in due course by the Jewish Agency executive as a whole."

NEW YORK, July 28 (JTA) -- Mrs. Rose Halprin, replying to Mr. Torczyner's statement, said: "Since I was present at the meeting of the Jewish Agency executive at which the decision was made, and Mr. Torczyner was not, let me give you the following facts which were confirmed by cable from Jerusalem upon my inquiry, when I learned of Mr. Torczyner's misleading denial.

"At a meeting of the full executive of the Jewish Agency, held on July 8 -- the minutes of which I have before me -- the executive decided to divide the Fund equally between the World Union of General Zionists (Neumann) and the World Confederation of General Zionists (Goldstein-Halprin). The latter indicated its readiness to make allocations to what was termed 'living activities,' that is, children's villages, agricultural settlements, etc. The exact amount that it would allocate was to be discussed by a subcommittee set up by the Agency. That subcommittee has met; it reaffirmed the fifty-fifty division. The Halprin-Goldstein Confederation made allocation of such sums as it and the subcommittee deemed proper to avoid hardship of 'living activities.'"

ARAB LEADER INJECTS HIMSELF IN U. S. ELECTIONS; THREATENS SEN. KEATING

WASHINGTON, July 28 (JTA) -- Dr. Mohammed T. Mehdi, secretary-general of the so-called "Action Committee on American-Arab Relations," an Iraqi citizen, today drew a sharp rebuff when he sought to intervene in the American election campaign in an attempt to pressure Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, New York Republican, into adopting a pro-Arab stand.

Dr. Mehdi had threatened to picket the Senator's offices and "expose" him as "a captive instrument in the hands of Zionist pressure groups." He also threatened to bring the Senator's "political defeat" in the November elections.

"Despite your objection to the extremism of Goldwater and lofty reference to your conscience, in your continuous attack on the Arabs in favor of Israel, you show both extremism, as well as disrespect for the feelings of 80 per cent of your constituency," Dr. Mehdi stated in a telegram to Sen. Keating. "If there were two million Arabs in New York, instead of two million Zionist Jews, you would be blasting Israel and praising the Arabs. Your present activities on behalf of Israel, which is for the purpose of receiving the Jewish vote, reflect your disrespect for the feelings and position of the overwhelming majority of the people of New York," the telegram of the Iraqi said.

Sen. Keating replied: "Since you are not an American citizen yourself, I question your qualifications to speak for the citizens of New York or of any other state on this issue. Furthermore, it would seem inappropriate for you, as an Iraqi citizen, to take any part whatsoever in a United States election. As to picketing of me by your committee, I am not familiar with its activities and would appreciate having a report from you on its membership and finances, and an indication as to whether it is appropriately registered under the terms of the Foreign Agents Registration Act."

LOS ANGELES JEWS SEEK JOHNSON'S ACTION ON GERMAN EXPERTS IN EGYPT

LOS ANGELES, July 28 (JTA) -- The continuing use of German scientists by the Egyptian Government was sharply criticized by the organized Jewish community of Los Angeles today in a letter addressed to President Johnson by Dr. Max W. Bay, president of the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles, on behalf of more than 500 affiliated organizations representing nearly half a million American Jews.

The protest letter asked that President Johnson use his personal prestige and the high office of the President of the United States to influence the Federal Republic of Germany "to use all legal means to prevent her citizens from contributing to the war machine of the United Arab Republic."

"The effort to create a more powerful war machine in the Middle East can only mean the increase of tension and the continuance of an arms race which may lead to war, a prospect that the world cannot countenance," the letter said. Evidence that some of the Germans employed by the United Arab Republic are pro-Nazi and have expressed strong anti-democratic and anti-Semitic feelings are clearly indicated, the protest stated.

"The United Arab Republic has made warfare and aggression the foundation of its foreign policy and has publicly proclaimed, in violation of international agreements, its intention to destroy the State of Israel whose population includes many of the survivors of the Nazi holocaust," the letter emphasized.

PROMINENT JEWS PROPOSED FOR MEMBERSHIP IN CANADIAN 'NO-JEWS' CLUB

TORONTO, July 28 (JTA) -- The long-established practice of barring Jews from membership in the exclusive Rideau Club in Ottawa will be tested shortly when applications from several prominent Ottawa Jews are considered.

Three of the applicants are: Louis Rasminsky, Bank of Canada governor; David Golden, former deputy minister of the Industry Department; and Lawrence Freiman, head of a large department store in Ottawa and former president of the Zionist Organization of Canada. Mr. Rasminsky's proposer is Blair Fraser, Ottawa editor of Maclean's magazine. Sponsoring Mr. Golden is A. Davidson Dunton, president of Carleton University. Mr. Freiman has been proposed by Royal Canadian Navy Commander F. J. D. Pemberton.

The former method of voting on applications for membership in the historic club -- the black ball system -- has been discarded. A special committee now passes or rejects applications. For this reason, club members believe that the old practice of barring Jews will be ended. Recently, Canadian Prime Minister Pearson, speaking to an audience in the USA deplored the discriminatory policy of a club in his city, naming the Rideau Club. This speech by the Prime Minister, no doubt, provoked this action by the organization.

TORONTO COURT FINES PAINTER FOR DAUBING SWASTIKAS ON BUILDING

TORONTO, July 28 (JTA) -- A painter was fined \$50 or 15 days for wilful damage for daubing swastikas on a wall of a suburban Toronto apartment building.

Ernest Paul Kaiss, 20, was employed by a contractor decorating the building. His employer testified that he doodles a lot but had no Nazi or anti-Semitic feelings. There was an epidemic of swastika paintings on synagogues in Toronto a year ago and sporadic daubings since then, but this has been the first penalty imposed on anyone in Toronto for this offense.

CANADIAN GROUP REPORTS INCREASE OF IMPORTS FROM ISRAEL TO CANADA

MONTREAL, July 28 (JTA) -- Canpal Israel Trading Company, Ltd., increased the volume of its imports from Israel in 1963 for the ninth consecutive year; it was announced here at the firm's annual meeting by Barney Aaron, president of the company. Since its formation, he reported, Canpal has granted loans and credits to Israel totaling \$13,247,396.

According to S. S. Albert, secretary-treasurer of Canpal, last year's volume of imports from Israel exceeded \$1,000,000. For the first time in Canpal's history, he said, the major portion of Canpal's income, during 1963, "was derived from the sale of Israel merchandise on the Canadian market." Up to the end of 1963, he reported, Canpal has paid 26 dividends, amounting to 56 per cent of the par value of the early preferred shares.

The report by the officers showed that Canpal's purchases on behalf of Israel had come from every part of Canada. These purchases included salmon from the Far West; meat and grains from the Midwest; tractors and milk powder from Ontario; aluminum and asbestos from Quebec; and lumber, fishmeal and potato seeds from the Maritime Provinces.