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ISRAEL CABINET DISCUSSES ARAB STEPS TO DIVERT JORDAN RIVER WATERS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet today reviewed in detail the various developments surrounding steps taken or planned by the Arab states for diversion of the headwaters of the Jordan River. The reports from the Arab countries were analyzed, and a decision was taken to review the issue again at a later meeting, to be attended by Mrs. Golda Meir, the Foreign Minister. Mrs. Meir was absent from the Cabinet session, having entered a hospital for a check-up.

Israel's attitude toward the Arab plans for encroachment upon the Jordan River headwaters had been made clear by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, who had warned that such measures to deny Israel its water rights would be considered by Israel as a threat against its "life blood." While further details are awaited about the Arab plans, drawn last week at a conference of 13 Arab League Prime Ministers in Cairo, it was felt by leading Israelis that the Arabs must have no doubt about Israel's determination to safeguard her water resources.

Information has been received here from Lebanon, indicating that Lebanon's Parliament will be asked by the Lebanese Government for authorization to invite foreign Arab troops to help guard a water diversion project planned to start soon at Wazzani springs. That site is in Lebanese territory but is only two miles from the Israeli border, separated by a strip of land under the jurisdiction of Syria. Since Lebanon is a signatory to one of the armistice agreements made by Israel in 1949 with four Arab states, the possible entry of non-Lebanese Arab troops into Lebanon could be construed as altering the nature of the Lebanese-Israeli armistice pact.

Israel Views with Gravity the Incidents on Jordanian Border

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Israel viewed with utmost gravity today the recurrent shooting incidents on the Jordanian border, in which four Israeli border policemen have been injured in less than a month. One member of an Israeli patrol was seriously wounded while touring the Israeli enclave atop Mount Scopus last night; Jordanians fired at a Mount Zion patrol, without injuring anyone, on Friday; and three Israeli patrolmen were wounded in a clash on Mount Scopus nearly a month ago. In two of the incidents Israel returned the Jordanian fire.

After a conference last night with Mordechai Kidron, head of the armistice affairs division of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, announced today he will go to Jordan's capital of Amman tomorrow. It is understood that, in Amman, Gen. Bull will confer, among others, with the Jordanian Minister of Defense.

Meanwhile, it was understood here that the Security and Foreign Affairs Committee of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, may convene a special session to review what officials here see as a "radical change in Jordan's border policy."

Prime Minister Levi Eshkol conferred here last night after the latest incident, with Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, chief of staff of Israel's defense forces. Two hours later, United States Ambassador Walworth Barbour came to Mr. Eshkol's office. Unless Jordanian authorities realize the gravity of the situation and take steps to halt the shootings, it was pointed out here, a serious deterioration of the border situation between Jordan and Israel may result.

STATE DEPT. MAY DROP OPPOSITION TO SENATE RESOLUTION ON SOVIET JEWS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Sen. Clifford P. Case, New Jersey Republican, said today that he believed the State Department will drop its opposition to a senate resolution against Soviet anti-Semitism and that he is joining with two senators of Jewish faith to reintroduce such a resolution.

Sen. Case said he has notified Senators Abraham Ribicoff, Connecticut Democrat, and Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, that he would join them in sponsoring a resolution "re-emphasizing the United States Senate's condemnation of such persecution."

"In the past," Sen. Case stated, "the State Department has indicated its opposition to such a resolution, but I do not believe that the continued reports coming out from behind

the Iron Curtain relate such extreme punishment of Soviet Jewry that the State Department will alter its views." Sen. Case voiced hope that "the Javits-Ribicoff-Case resolution will serve as a spur to the Johnson Administration to take a strong and firm stand in every forum at every opportunity in behalf of free exercise of religion by Jews and all others within the Soviet borders."

ISRAEL CABINET URGED TO CREATE SUPERVISORY BODY FOR HIGHER EDUCATION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- A proposal for the creation of a Government supervisory body for planning, directing and coordinating higher education in Israel was laid before the Cabinet yesterday by Zalman Aranne, Minister of Education and Culture. Such an organ, he assured the Cabinet, would in no way prejudice the present autonomy of the institutions of higher learning.

Mr. Aranne reported that, in the last five years, enrollment in Israel's institutions of higher learning has increased by 80 percent, reaching a total of 20,000 students. In the next half decade, he said, the student enrollment is expected to double, necessitating the addition of 1,250 more faculty members.

The Hebrew University here will hold commencement exercises this week, and will confer degrees on nearly 1,000 students. Of that total, 350 of the degrees will be for studies in the humanities, 135 in the social sciences, the remainder in mathematics, physics, chemistry, biology and agriculture.

ISRAEL HIGHER COURT DOUBLES SENTENCE OF AGENT FOR FOREIGN COUNTRY

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Israel's Supreme Court today doubled a prison sentence meted out by a lower court several months ago against an unnamed Jew, described as an immigrant from an unidentified, non-Arab country, convicted of having been recruited by his land of origin to act as "an agent" in Israel.

Originally, the man had been sentenced to a prison term of three and one-half years. The higher court fixed his prison term at seven years. According to the high tribunal, the man had been "prepared in his country of origin for service in Israel." "Though he was under heavy pressure," the court ruled, "he might have contacted Israeli security services, but did not do so, therefore there can be no leniency."

BONN MINISTER OF JUSTICE SAYS GERMANY MAY EXTEND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

BONN, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Justice Minister Ewald Bucher today told the American Jewish Committee president, Morris B. Abram, that his office will examine the possibilities of an extension of the May 8, 1965 cutoff date of the Statute of Limitations for war criminals. He said that such a reconsideration might be based on the fact that "under German law, one might reasonably consider some later date than May 8, 1945 for the Statute of Limitations to begin."

During his meeting with the Justice Minister, Mr. Abram said that both German and international law provide ample basis for moving the Statute of Limitations cutoff date to 1975. "Because of the patent inability of the German Government fully to prosecute war criminals until its sovereignty was truly established in 1955," he pointed out, "it can and should consider 1955 as the starting date for the 20-year limitation period."

Failure of the West German Government to extend the Statute of Limitations, Mr. Abram told the Bonn Minister of Justice, "would be legally indefensible and morally unjustifiable." Mr. Abram came here from Geneva where he attended the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities as the United States member.

Mr. Abram, who is a prominent constitutional lawyer and served on the prosecution staff of the Nuremberg trials, conferred with the West German Minister of Justice three days after the latter reiterated his opposition to extending the deadline for prosecution of Nazi war criminals after next May 8. Only this weekend the minister criticized harshly Jewish demonstrations in the United States and in Israel in behalf of postponing the effective date of the statute of limitations for prosecution for murder in West Germany.

Declaring that the issue was solely a matter for the Federal Government to decide and that it had to make the decision without yielding to pressure from Tel Aviv or anywhere else, the Minister of Justice said last Friday that no one could reproach the West German Government for not doing enough to bring Nazi criminals to trial. The only justifiable reproach was that the Federal Republic was not sufficiently concerned in time with the material from Communist bloc countries which is now turning up, he had claimed.

(The legal commission of the 17-nation Council of Europe voted unanimously in Paris today against the application of any statute of limitations to war crimes. The commission invited member governments to propose a resolution in the United Nations General Assembly stating that a 1948 convention against genocide ruled out such a limitation on the prosecution of war criminals.)

70 MAJOR AMERICAN FIRMS REPORTED IGNORING ARAB BOYCOTT THREATS

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Arab economic boycott against Israel has dwindled into little more than a publicity campaign so ineffectual that its threats are being ignored by leading American and European companies, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith reported today.

Arnold Forster, general counsel of the ADL, made public a selective list of 70 major American business firms currently operating in Israel despite the threat of Arab economic reprisals. Among them are 15 of the top corporations in the United States, including Westinghouse, IBM, RCA, Monsanto, International Paper, Republic Steel, General Tire, National Cash Register, and Inland Steel.

The list supplemented a special ADL report which examines the efforts and results--from 1946 to the present--of Arab League threats to blacklist all business organizations unwilling to terminate commercial dealings with Israel. The survey was undertaken by ADL in the belief that the "facts about the Arab boycott may dispel illusions for an effective efficient boycott machine."

The report points out that the Arab Boycott Committee often makes threats even when it knows such sanctions cannot be realized, for the benefit merely of the resulting publicity and propaganda. It lists instances of boycott failure to illustrate its assertion.

The Anti-Defamation League study summarizes formal and unofficial protests by European governments--including those of The Netherlands, Belgium, Italy, Switzerland and France--which have denounced the boycott. It stresses that since 1956, the United States Congress and both political parties have expressed their disapproval of the Arab boycott threats. The ADL report also quotes from a letter by Assistant Secretary of State Frederick G. Dutton in which he said his department "will not recognize or condone the boycott."

The ADL report calls for stronger U. S. Government resistance to the Arab Boycott Committee and sees hope in the recent proposal by Sen. Harrison A. Williams of New Jersey to amend the Export Control Act. The proposed amendment would prohibit "the furnishing of any information or the signing of agreements by domestic concerns engaged in export... which have the effect of furthering restrictive trade practices... by any foreign country against another country friendly to the United States."

J. D. C. TO SPEND \$5,000,000 IN WESTERN EUROPE, POLAND AND YUGOSLAVIA

PARIS, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee is earmarking about \$5,000,000 for relief work during 1965 in Western Europe, Poland and Yugoslavia, despite an overall reduction in expenditures, M. Bryn, the JDC director of budget and finance, reported at a press conference here today. He said the overall JDC budget for 1965 would be \$28,800,000.

He reported that the JDC would contribute nearly \$2,500,000 for rehabilitation, welfare and operation of communal institutions in France and said that local Jewish communities will increasingly have to provide for their own needs. "With every year that passes, we shall more and more have to concentrate our efforts in hardship areas," he declared.

In France, the JDC works with the Fonds Sociale Juif Unifie, the central Jewish welfare agency, which is receiving JDC assistance for the JDC-FSJU "pool" which runs general communal services and which will receive 3,000,000 francs (about \$800,000). Last year, 55,000 persons, most of them heads of families, received JDC help in France. M. Bryn said that while local communities were increasingly ready to shoulder their own responsibilities, "more must be done in this direction."

DISPLAY OF JEWISH RELIGIOUS ITEMS HIDDEN FROM NAZIS OPENS IN VIENNA

VIENNA, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Religious items used in synagogues in Austria, which were concealed and thus saved from destruction during the Nazi period, were put today on display in the Vienna Jewish Community building.

Some of the items were returned to the Community after 1945 by the Vienna Museum of Ethnology. The present exhibit is a temporary arrangement until larger rooms are available for a permanent museum in a projected new building. Plans also are being made to organize an exhibit in Vienna of Austrian Jewish historical materials, similar to the "Monumenta Judaica Germanica," which is attracting substantial audiences in various West German cities currently.

ISRAELI SCIENTIST INVITED TO SYMPOSIUM OF ATOMIC PHYSICISTS IN MOSCOW

TEL AVIV, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Professor Amos de Shalit of the Weizmann Institute of Science, one of the world's leading atomic scientists, has accepted an invitation to participate in a symposium of atomic physicists to be held in Moscow by the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

JEWISH RELIGIOUS LEADERS ENDORSE JOHNSON'S EDUCATION AID PROGRAMS

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- President Johnson's new educational program which includes shared time and other forms of Federal aid to religious schools, was today hailed by the Agudath Israel of America as "a step forward in meeting the educational needs of our nation."

Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, declared in a statement that since Jewish education was one of the cardinal precepts of the Jewish faith, the question of Federal aid to parochial schools "should rest in the hands of the Halachically competent Jewish clergy and certainly not in the hands of Jewish laymen or organizations."

SCHOOL BOARD FIGHTING BIBLE READING ACCEPTS NONDENOMINATIONAL PRAYER

HAWTHORNE, N. J., Jan. 18. (JTA) -- The Hawthorne public school board, which is still fighting a state Supreme Court decision to comply with the U. S. Supreme Court ban on required prayer and Bible reading in school classrooms, indicated today it would accept 3,000 book covers with a nondenominational prayer for pupils.

The book covers will be distributed by an American Legion post for use of Hawthorne's school children. The Rev. Jerry Van Der Veen, a Methodist minister who is president of the Board of Education, said that there was no legal barrier to the children reading the prayer to themselves at the start of classes.

Legion Post 190 officials said they would start distribution of the book covers this week and that they hoped to circulate the book covers to other parts of New Jersey later. The covers will be given to members of the Parent-Teachers Association to take home to their children.

Z. O. A. LEADERS REPORT ON ZIONIST CONGRESS DELIBERATIONS IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Two leaders of American Zionism who recently returned from the sessions of the 26th World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem emphasized that the outcome of the Congress confirmed that the future of world Zionism, and the cultural survival of the Jewish people as a whole is dependent on a strong American Zionist movement. They addressed a special Congress report rally held last night at the Statler Hilton Hotel sponsored by the Zionist Organization of America and attended by Zionist representatives and key workers from the entire metropolitan area.

The speakers were Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the National Executive Council of the ZOA and a member of the presidium of the World Zionist Actions Committee, and Rabbi Irving Miller, former president of the ZOA. The ZOA was represented at the Congress by 65 delegates and deputy delegates.

In his address Mr. Torczyner defended the Congress against the charge of "multiplicity of speeches," declaring that "the World Zionist Congress which meets once in four years is the only forum where Jews from throughout the world can air their problems." He stressed that "the years ahead will determine the future of the Zionist movement and that only a united and strong American Zionist movement can insure a viable future for world Zionism."

Rabbi Miller in his address, said: "World Jewry, for its own sake, must not expect Israel to stand alone just as Israel must not expect to survive alone. It should be amply clear by now that without the moral and material support of the Jewish people Israel's future will still be precarious. While all Jews, Zionists and non-Zionists alike, support Israel it is the role of the experienced and dedicated Zionists to be the vanguard to set the pace and provide the initiative."

HALPRIN, GOLDSTEIN RE-ELECTED CO-CHAIRMEN OF ZIONIST CONFEDERATION

JERUSALEM, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- Mrs. Rose Halprin, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, and Dr. Israel Goldstein, were re-elected co-chairmen of the World Confederation of General Zionists at the concluding session of the organization's world conference here.

Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson and Ezra Shapiro were named vice-chairmen and Kalman Sultanik was named executive vice-chairman. The conference delegates adopted a resolution listing as one of the organization's principal tasks the strengthening of Sephardi communities outside of Israel.

CATHOLICS NAME 'FIDDLER ON THE ROOF' AS BEST RELIGIOUS PLAY OF 1964

NEW YORK, Jan. 18. (JTA) -- "Fiddler on the Roof," the musical based on Sholem Aleichem's tales of East European Jewish life, has been named the best religious drama of 1964 by the National Catholic Theater Conference. Harold Prince, producer, will receive the group's award with other awardees at the closing dinner of the conference on August 26 here.