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ISRAELI CABINET VOTES OVERWHELMINGLY IN FAVOR OF GERMAN TIES

JERUSALEM, March 14: (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet voted at its regular weekly meeting here today to accept the proposal made by West Germany's Chancellor Ludwig Erhard for the establishment of full diplomatic relations between the Bonn Government and Israel.

All of the members of the Cabinet except the two Ministers representing Ahdut Avoda, which is a member of the Government coalition, voted in favor of accepting Dr. Erhard's offer. The two Ahdut Avoda members, Minister of Labor Yigal Allon and Israel Bar-Yehuda, Minister of Transport, said they would notify Prime Minister Levi Eshkol of their party's stand on the issue after the matter had been discussed by their party's central committee tomorrow.

Mr. Eshkol told the Cabinet he had grounds to assume that agreement will be reached between Israel and West Germany on all the controversial questions still at issue. He reported fully on his five days of conversations here with Dr. Kurt Birrenbach, Chancellor Erhard's special emissary. Mr. Eshkol is scheduled to make a statement on the entire German-Israeli issue before the Knesset, Parliament, on Tuesday. The Cabinet's decision is expected to be approved by the Knesset with a substantial majority.

(A London dispatch to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, today reported that Israel's Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres made an urgent flight yesterday to Paris, where he conferred with a representative of Germany's Chancellor Erhard, returning to Israel today in time for the Cabinet meeting. London also predicted that an agreement on diplomatic relations is expected to be announced Tuesday night simultaneously in Jerusalem and at Bonn.)

Reports on Request for Bonn Guarantee of Israel Borders Denied

The Cabinet's decision confirmed the general feeling held here the last few days, to the effect that reports from Bonn and elsewhere, about Israel's supposed pre-conditions prior to accepting the Erhard offer for full diplomatic relations, had emanated from "interested parties" wishing to build hurdles in the path of a German-Israel rapprochement. One report, declaring that Israel had asked West Germany for a guarantee of Israel's borders, was denied here emphatically.

Officials said that no such guarantee had been sought as a pre-condition to the establishment of diplomatic relations, through the Eshkol-Birrenbach talks did seek to achieve understanding on a number of issues of concern prior to the Erhard offer. Among these were Bonn's earlier agreement to supply military supplies to Israel, the question of the German scientists employed by Egypt for the development of weapons of mass destruction to be aimed at Israel, and the matter of West Germany's extension of the statute of limitations on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals beyond the present expiration date of May 8.

Meanwhile, Israel was watching with equanimity the deliberations of the Arab foreign ministers today, in Cairo, where Egypt's President Nasser had brought together the top foreign affairs officials of the 13 Arab states to act on his proposals for total Arab severance of diplomatic relations with Bonn, in reprisal for Dr. Erhard's willingness to cement full diplomatic relations with Israel.

Interpreters of the Arab scene here saw considerable disunity on that issue among the Arab states. It was believed that some of the Arab Governments, especially Tunisia, Morocco and Lebanon, would hesitate offending West Germany because they would fear Bonn might veto their relations with the European Economic Community, in which West Germany is a powerful member.

ESHKOL GOING TO LONDON NEXT WEEK, MRS. MEIR TO PARIS TODAY

LONDON, March 14: (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Levi Eshkol is scheduled to arrive here on March 24 for what is officially described as a private visit but one in which

he will meet with Prime Minister Harold Wilson, Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart and other members of the Government, it was reported here today.

Foreign Office circles here said today that there are no outstanding or urgent questions between the two countries to be solved during Mr. Eshkol's visit, and the talks are bound to cover a wide field including such issues as peace in the Middle East and the Jordan River water dispute, as well as arms supplies and economic and financial problems.

(Israeli Foreign Minister Golda Meir, meanwhile, is due to leave tomorrow for Paris, where she will meet with French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville. While the talks will be devoted to Israel's relations with the European Economic Community it is also assumed that the current Middle East developments may be taken up. Mrs. Meir will seek French support for Israel's objection to proposed protective treatment for North African citrus exports, which pose a serious threat to Israel's exports of the fruit. She is due to remain in Paris several days, and then return to Israel.)

DAYAN URGES ISRAEL 'INITIATIVE' TO FRUSTRATE ARAB WATER MOVES

TEL AVIV, March 14. (JTA) -- Moshe Dayan, former Minister of Agriculture and Chief of Staff of the Israeli armed forces during the Sinai campaign, warned here today that Israel would have to take the "initiative" to prevent Arab diversion of the headwaters of the Jordan River.

Israel, he said, "cannot and should not expect foreign powers like the United States Britain or France to intervene in Israel's favor" in the Jordan River water dispute, since "their actual influence in the region is negligible." "If diversion is to be prevented, he declared, "it will come about as a result of our force."

BUNDES RAT VOTES TO EXTEND STATUTE, RETIRE NAZI COURT JUDGES

BONN, March 14. (JTA) -- The West German Parliamentary upper house, the Bundesrat, voted this weekend to extend the deadline for prosecution of Nazi war criminal beyond May 8.

In so doing, the Bundesrat did not act on new legislation. The members simply decided that two draft laws pending before the lower house, the Bundestag, which were approved in principle last week, would assure the continued prosecution of Nazi war criminals, and that this met the wish of the Bundesrat. The Bundestag, in endorsing the principle of extending the effective date of the statute of limitations for prosecution for murder, sent the matter to its legal committee to work out the details, and report back in about 20 days.

The Bundesrat also voted 29 to 12, for a law providing for the compulsory retirement of any judge or state prosecutor who took part in Nazi terror judgments. The law provides for an amendment to the West German constitution to that effect.

The target of the measure, which will be sent to the Bundestag, for approval will be individuals who took part before 1945 in death sentences "if another judgment might have been possible." Bundesrat members said the new law was made necessary by the discovery of new documents in Poland and other countries on activities of German jurists during the Nazi period.

CLAIMS CONFERENCE HEADS URGE GERMANS TO AID MORE NAZI VICTIMS

BONN, March 14. (JTA) -- The conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany urged the German government and parliament last night to reopen the filing period for registration of indemnification claims by Nazi victims who left Eastern Europe in recent years. The claims conference also called for a satisfactory solution of the major demands advanced on behalf of aged, widowed, ill, and incapacitated victims of Nazi persecution.

A delegation of the claims conference met here this weekend with Chancellor Erhard, Vice Chancellor Mende, Foreign Minister Schroeder and Finance Minister Dohlig. The delegation also conferred with the Chairman of the Bundestag Indemnification Committee, Dr. Hirsch, and his vice-chairman, Prof. Boehm. The delegation also called on the leaders of the political parties in the Bundestag; Dr. Konrad Adenauer, and leaders of the Christian Democratic and Social Democratic parties.

Delegation consisted of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, conference president; Jacob Blaustein senior vice-president; Moses Leavitt, treasurer; Dr. Ernst Katzenstein, Permanent representative in Germany; and Saul Kagan, special consultant.

During the meetings with the German Governmental and Parliamentary leaders, the Claims Conference spokesmen stressed that the pending indemnification law must be "worthy of the spirit in which this historic program was conceived more than a decade ago."

KATZ REPORTS KIEV JEWS HAVE NO MATZOH; RAPS MOSCOW RESTRICTIONS

NEW YCRK, March 14. (JTA) -- The synagogue of Kiev, capital of the Ukraine, has been refused permission by the Soviet authorities in that city to bake matzoh for this year's Passover, Label Katz, chairman of the steering committee of the American Conference on Soviet Jewry announced here today. The conference represents 24 major national Jewish civic, religious and Zionist organizations. In a report sent to the conference, Mr. Katz, who is also president of B'nai B'rith, said that these developments are "alarming and once again offer concern for the entire Jewish community."

"I have just learned," he said "that the local authorities of Kiev have rejected the request of the synagogue in that city for permission to bake matzoh. " "The ban on the baking of matzoh extends to the entire Ukraine, where some 37 percent of all Soviet Jews live."

Mr. Katz said that the reported provisions for the baking of matzoh in Moscow and Leningrad, which was granted by the Soviet authorities to the Jewish communities there, "appears to be for fairly adequate quantities -- through it is still too early to be certain of the latter." He said that the American Jewish Conference "welcomed this relaxation of the virtually total ban of recent years. We consider this action the result of our consistent protests against this discrimination and our systematic efforts to reveal the true state of affairs."

Mr. Katz, on the other hand, expressed alarm at what he termed the "confusing picture" on the baking of matzoh with which the Jewish community throughout the world is confronted. "Approximately one month before the holiday," he said, "we learn that restrictions in some parts of the country have once again been imposed by the Soviet authorities. This gives us little time and opportunity to provide direct supplies of matzoh and other Passover provisions to our fellow Jews for a holiday which begins April 16." He said also that he was "deeply disturbed at the techniques used in granting permission for the baking of matzoh in Moscow and Leningrad." He added that both of the cities are the centers for foreign correspondents and visitors.

To obtain matzohs in those cities, he said, "an individual must bring his own flour to the synagogue, stand in line, register his name for the order and then is informed when he may return to pick up the finished product." He criticized the method of registering the names of individuals who desire to have matzoh baked as "subjecting them to the official observation of the authorities and the Soviet police."

USSR Seen Reneging on Promises; Specific Soviet Steps Suggested

"According to our sources," Mr. Katz said, "matzoh in Moscow cost between 75 cents and 85 cents, compared to between 35 cents and 45 cents in New York City. This in itself is, in the Soviet context, an inhibiting factor in the purchase of matzoh, since incomes and standards of living are far lower than those in our own country. Were the authorities to supply the flour and produce and sell the matzoh, the ultimate cost to the potential consumer would be much lower than it actually is." He reminded the members of the American Conference on Soviet Jewry that the Soviet authorities "have not fulfilled earlier promises made to set aside sufficient quantities of flour for the baking of matzoh."

Mr. Katz stated that he hoped it was not too late for the American Jewish Conference to "appeal to the Soviet authorities to rectify the situation as far as possible." He said that the Soviet government should:

- "1. Authorize every Jewish community throughout the country, especially in such a city as Kiev with substantial Jewish population, to bake matzoh freely;
- "2. Make flour available directly to the synagogues and the bakeries, rather than to require each individual Jew to bring his own flour.
- "3. Eliminate the practice of forcing individuals to list their names.
- "4. Arrange for the production and sale of matzoh outside the framework of the synagogues, as was done prior to 1962 -- so that unaffiliated Jews who desire to observe the historic festival of Passover which symbolizes religious freedom, may do so without hindrance."

Mr. Katz concluded that "if, at this late date," the Soviet Government cannot provide matzoh for the 3,000,000 Jews in sufficient quantities, then it should communicate with the Jewish leaders in various parts of the world so that "we may have an ample opportunity to send emergency plane loads of Passover provisions."

Johnson Called on to Discuss Soviet Anti-Semitism With USSR Leaders

NEW YORK, March 14. (JTA) -- President Johnson was urged tonight to include in his reported planned summit meeting with Soviet leaders, a discussion of the plight of the 3,000,000 Jews living in the Soviet Union, with the view of bringing to an end anti-Semitic attacks designed to destroy the Jewish religion and cultural development. The call was issued by Abraham M. Lindenbaum, president of the Brooklyn Jewish Community Council.

ZOA CALLS ON JOHNSON TO ACT ON NEW ARAB THREATS AGAINST ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 14. (JTA) -- Dr. Max Nussbaum, president of the Zionist Organization of America, called on President Johnson today "to take a personal hand" toward preventing a conflagration in the Middle East, by persuading the Arab states to drop their plans "to choke off the headwaters of the Jordan River." He charged that the plan to cut off Israel's water supply is "a demonical plan" by Egypt's President Nasser "to manouver Israel into making the first military move in defense of its very lifeline."

Dr. Nussbaum made that statement in addressing the national executive council of the ZOA, which held an all-day meeting here today. The council is the ZOA's governing body between annual conventions. He also called on West Germany to meet all of that country's obligations to the Jewish people, including not only the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel but also the recall of German scientists at work in Egypt. This issue has been in contention between the two countries. The scientists are working on weapons of mass destruction aimed ultimately against Israel. Also cited were continued military aid to Israel and the extension of the statute of limitations, so that Nazi war criminals may be subjected to arrest and prosecution after the present cut-off date of next May 8.

Referring to United States Ambassador Averell Harriman's recent mission to Israel, he cited "reliable sources" which indicated that Mr. Harriman's visit was primarily aimed at "pressuring Israel to refrain from making any move against the diversion of the water sources by the Arabs." Dr. Nussbaum said that such a policy on the part of our State Department calls for a very strong protest, adding that "this is a policy of dubious morality."

World Congress Developments Reported; ZOA Foundation Funds Increased

The meeting was presided over by Jacques Torczyner, chairman of the national executive council, who led a discussion on developments within the Zionist Movement following the recent 26th World Zionist Congress held in Jerusalem, as well as on the forthcoming elections to the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) scheduled to be held in November.

Other speakers included Avraham Avidar, Israel Consul; Carol Pickel, national finance chairman; Gideon Patt, leader of the Young Zionists - Massada - of the ZOA; and Leon Lutovich, acting executive director, who presented a report on the activities of the organization during the past six months. Mr. Torczyner, who is chairman of the head office of the World Union of General Zionists, headed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, led a discussion on developments in the Zionist movement after the recent World Zionist Congress.

Mr. Lutovich announced that \$1,250,000 has been contributed by the ZOA Foundation since its establishment six months ago in wills, bequests and other types of gifts, with ZOA educational activities in this country and its projects in Israel as beneficiaries. At a morning session, Dr. Nussbaum paid tribute to Isaac M. Oberman, president of Bronx Zionist Region, in whose honor an additional \$150,000 was pledged to the ZOA Foundation.

HIAS URGES CONGRESS TO ENACT LAWS REFORMING IMMIGRATION POLICY

NEW YORK, March 14. (JTA) -- The United Hias Service urged Congress today to enact pending bills on changes in the nation's immigration laws which would eliminate the national origins quota system. In a resolution adopted unanimously at the 81st annual meeting of United Hias, Congress was called upon to enact the bills on changes in the immigration procedures "to infuse our immigration and nationality laws with the cherished humanitarian and democratic principles of our nation."

Support for President Johnson's immigration proposals was voiced at the session by U. S. Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, New York Democrat, and Abba P. Schwartz, administrator of the Bureau of Security and Consular Affairs of the State Department. In another address, Murray I. Gurfein, United Hias president, stressed the accelerating demand for the services of the agency and noted that the 10,600 Jewish men, women and children who are resettled in the United States, Canada, Brazil, Australia and other free countries last year was more than double the number assisted the previous year. He estimated that 11,700 persons would be resettled by United Hias in 1965 at a cost to the agency of more than \$2,500,000.

BENJAMIN PELED, ISRAEL CONSUL-GENERAL IN LONDON, DEAD AT 53

LONDON, March 14. (JTA) -- Benjamin Peled, Israel's Consul-General here, and former Consul in New York, died here suddenly of a heart attack yesterday. He was 53. His body was taken to the Embassy where members of the Jewish community, embassy staff and others paid their respects. Tomorrow, the remains will be flown to Israel for burial.

Born in Rumania, Mr. Peled came to Palestine in 1935 at the age of 23. First serving in the Haganah, he subsequently became an officer in the Israel Army during the War for Independence. After working for a time as a journalist, he joined the Israel Foreign Office and served in New York, Jerusalem and London.