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ESHKOL OPENS TALKS WITH BRITISH PRIME MINISTER ON VARIETY OF SUBJECTS

LONDON, March 25. (JTA) -- Discussion on a wide variety of subjects concerning Israel was started here today by Israel's Premier Levi Eshkol in a talk with British Prime Minister Harold Wilson which lasted more than an hour. The talk continued later when the two Prime Ministers were joined by their aides.

It is understood that the topics covered during the talk--which was described as very frank and cordial--included the Israel-Arab Jordan River water diversion controversy, general security, the current Middle East situation with special reference to approaching West German-Israel diplomatic ties, and Anglo-Israel economic cooperation.

The participants in the second part of the talks were Israel Ambassador Arthur Lourie; Aviad Yafeh, the Premier's aide, Ehud Avriel and Dr. Yaacov Herzog, deputy directors-general of the Israel Foreign Minister; George Thomson, Secretary of State of the British Foreign Office and several other high British officials.

At a luncheon tendered by Prime Minister Wilson to the Israel Premier, the British Prime Minister stressed in his speech of welcome the friendship between Britain and Israel. He recalled his visit to Israel and welcomed the opportunity for a "basic exchange of views." In reply, Premier Eshkol said that Israel had absorbed much of the British legal and political system and had an abiding respect for British culture and thought, which was reflected in Israel's political institutions.

He added that his talks with Prime Minister Wilson had renewed and strengthened his respect and confidence in Britain's moral leadership in world affairs. He said that Anglo-Israel relations had had their "ups and downs" but the Israelis preferred to remember the kindness of early days such as those of the Balfour Declaration. They also recalled, he added, the sympathy and support which wide segments of the British people have always shown to Zionism and Israel. At the present time, he stated, those relations rested on the solid foundations built up over the years and it was his hope that these relations would be further strengthened by his current visit.

Says Israel's Central Problem Is Lack of Peace with Arab Lands

Premier Eshkol later lauded Mr. Wilson's friendship for Israel when he spoke at a dinner tonight given for him by Ambassador Lourie. Declaring he had been "deeply moved" by the warm reception he had received, Mr. Eshkol said that Mr. Wilson's friendship: for Israel had "been a source of deep satisfaction to our people and I have been happy to learn at first hand that, amidst his vast preoccupations, the hope for peace in the Middle East is always in his thoughts, his incisive mind ever searching for avenues for the relaxation of tensions in our area."

He declared that the lessons of the European tragedy were indelibly engraved on the memory of the Jewish people and the citizens of Israel. They were determined that never again would the Jewish people be helpless and homeless, he added. He noted that in less than 17 years, more than 1,200,000 immigrants had entered Israel, about half of them survivors of the Nazi death camps and the other half refugees from the Arab countries.

"Our central problem," he continued, "is the lack of peace with our neighbors. In defiance of the United Nations decision of 1947 and of the United Nations charter, our Arab neighbors continue to threaten our destruction and to reject our outstretched hand of peace. In these circumstances, we are compelled to divert much of our national resources to the task of defense, though our aim is not to win a war but to prevent it."

Prior to the meetings with Mr. Wilson, the visiting Israeli Premier met with George Brown, Deputy British Premier and Secretary of State for Economic Affairs. The two men had a 45-minute talk on a wide range of economic and financial issues.

Mr. Eshkol reportedly told Mr. Brown that, while Israel continues to be Britain's biggest customer in the Middle East trade, the trade balance between the two countries was adverse against Israel. He called this an unsatisfactory situation even among friends. The British leader said he understood the problem and promised to seek ways to improve the situation.

BUNDESTAG VOTES TO EXTEND STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS UNTIL 1970

BCNN, March 25. (JTA) -- The Bundestag, lower house of West Germany's Parliament, voted today to extend the period for the prosecution of Nazi war criminals for four and a half years. The present cut-off date for such prosecutions under the West German statute of limitations for prosecution of murder is May 8 this year. The Bundestag would extend the date to December 31, 1969. The vote was 344 to 96, with four abstentions.

The formula used in the measure was to provide that the statute base should be December 31, 1949, instead of May 8, 1945, the date of the capitulation of Nazi Germany to the Allies. Under that formula, the limitation remains at 20 years, but the 20-year period is moved forward.

The measure approved by the Bundestag, which must now be approved also by the Senate and the President, differed substantially from earlier proposals. Chancellor Ludwig Erhard's Christian Democrats joined with the opposition Social Democrats at the first reading in the Bundestag on March 10, to abolish all termination dates for prosecution of Nazi war criminals. Another proposal was for the Bundestag Legal Committee to extend the cut-off date for 10 years. Both proposals were withdrawn before the vote today.

While no official reason was given for the withdrawal of the proposal to drop all bans to prosecution, members of the two parties expressed the view that it would have been impossible to muster a Bundestag majority for that proposal.

Immediately after the Bundestag voted to extend the statute of limitations, Minister of Justice Ewald Bucher submitted his resignation from the Cabinet. Mr. Bucher had insisted that the Cabinet reject extension of the statute, when the subject came up several months ago, and had afterward said he would resign if his stand were to be reversed by Parliament. He opposed prolongation of the cut-off date beyond May 8 of this year on "constitutional" grounds.

Jewish Congress Says Bundestag Decision Is 'Disappointing'

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- A national leader of the American Jewish Congress today assailed West Germany's extension by four and a half years of its statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes as "disappointing and wholly inadequate." Marcus Ginsburg, of Houston, Tex., chairman of the Commission of International Affairs of the Jewish Congress, termed the statute's extension from May 8 of this year through the end of 1969 "a scandalous affront to the millions of men, women and children destroyed by the Hitler regime."

"This minimal extension cannot be reconciled with the towering moral obligation of the German people to insure that all those who took part in the atrocities of the Nazi era are apprehended and brought to justice," he said. "The action today makes it tragically clear that there is still no proper recognition by the German people of their responsibilities. It represents merely a grudging and reluctant yielding to world opinion. The extension of the statute by over four years does not assure the prosecution of the many war criminals still in hiding."

GERMAN CHANCELLOR INFORMS CABINET ON STATUS OF TALKS WITH ISRAEL

BCNN, March 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Kurt Birrenbach, Chancellor Ludwig Erhard's special emissary, will go to Israel next week for a third and final round of talks with Israel Government leaders on the proposed establishment of diplomatic relations between the two countries. Karl Gunther von Hase, the official Government spokesman, told a press conference here today.

He said that Chancellor Erhard had informed the Cabinet of the report he had received from Dr. Birrenbach on the negotiations, and described the present status of the talks as good, adding that West Germany hopes that further negotiations will produce good results. Officials here believe that an agreement will be concluded next week. The agreement is expected to provide for presentation of credentials by the ambassadors of the two countries by May 1.

PRESIDENT OF TUNISIA SPEAKS AGAINST ISRAEL IN TURKISH PARLIAMENT

ANKARA, March 25. (JTA) -- An attack on Israel was made today by President Habib Bourguiba, of Tunisia, who previously had voiced a call for moderation in dealing with Israel. His new expressions were viewed here as a response to sharp Arab attacks against him for allegedly being "soft" on Israel.

Today Bourguiba told a joint session of the Turkish Parliament that the Arabs of Palestine were "victims of injustice" and that their plight "should not be dragged on any more." He said Israel threatens peace over the Jordan water diversion issue.

NEW DEPUTY HEALTH MINISTER NAMED IN ISRAEL BY RELIGIOUS PARTY

JERUSALEM, March 25. (JTA) -- Shlomo Ben Meir of the National Religious Party was named today Deputy Health Minister to replace Yitzhak Rafael who resigned this week. Mr. Ben Meir is also Deputy Interior Minister.

GERMAN PROSECUTOR STARTS PROCEEDINGS AGAINST ANTI-SEMITIC PAPER

MUNICH, March 25. (JTA) -- The Munich public prosecutor's office instituted proceedings today against the extremist right-wing newspaper, the National Zeitung Und Soldaten Zeitung, for incitement to race hatred against the Jewish people.

In recent weeks, the weekly, which has been denounced in the West German Bundestag as teeming with "poisonous anti-Semitism," carried lengthy articles by officials of the American Council for Judaism. The articles were written by Rabbi Elmer Berger, the organization's executive vice-president, and Bill Gottlieb, its public relations director. Both articles attacked American Zionist activities.

Munich Prosecutor Bernhard Bader said the proceedings stemmed from a number of suits filed against the weekly by private individuals. Since January, the weekly has been attacking West German officials who favored the extension of the statute of limitations for prosecution of Nazi war criminals. The publication has been using language strongly reminiscent of anti-Semitic Nazi publications in charging an alleged "plot of international Jewry to poison German relations with the Arab world."

THREE ISRAELI WITNESSES TESTIFY AT TRIAL OF NAZI CHIEF IN AUSTRIA

GRAZ, Austria, March 25. (JTA) -- Three Israeli witnesses, survivors of the Nazi period in the Tarnopol district in occupied Poland, testified today that former SS officer Friedrich Lex, Nazi chief for the district, personally killed many victims.

Abraham Ochs, 74, Tel Aviv, testified that Lex ordered in 1942 a march in a "Children and Aged Action" in which the Nazis assembled several hundred Jews who afterwards were shot in the nearby Janovska woods. He also gave a detailed description of how Lex personally shot three Jews.

Barbara Spinner, 41, also of Tel Aviv, testified that on August 31, 1942, her mother, grandmother and brother were shot by the Nazis. Pointing at Lex, she said "This is the hangman of my family." Dr. Bernhard Reichenbach, chief of the Naharia hospital, testified that Lex shot Marcus Bernhard, 20, on the street. To all charges, Lex replied that he had never shot a single person.

VIENNA UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR ADMITS HE WAS MEMBER OF NAZI ELITE

VIENNA, March 25. (JTA) -- A Vienna University professor, who admitted he had been a member of the SS, the Nazi elite units, but claimed he quit the Nazi party in 1943, told one of his classes today that he thought it was time that every former Nazi should admit his past. The 150 students applauded him.

Taras Borodajkewicz, Professor of International Trade, made the statement after press reports were published that he was still spreading Nazi ideas. Two months ago, the issue was raised in Parliament and Education Minister Piffl ordered a disciplinary investigation, the result of which was still pending.

JEWS IN RIGA AND ODESSA START BAKING MATZOH; FACE DIFFICULTIES

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- The Jewish community in Riga, Latvia, part of the Soviet Union, has started baking matzoh in an oven in the courtyard of the synagogue in that city, according to information received here today from the USSR. The quantities being baked at Riga, the report stated, are very limited because of technical difficulties and a delay in permission being granted by the authorities.

Many Jews in Riga, according to the report, will be without matzoh as a result of the delay. The report said that the delay was caused by repeated refusals of the local authorities, but the permission was finally granted after a forceful intervention from Moscow. The baking of matzoh in Odessa started on the eve of Purim, after many interventions of the local Jewish community with the authorities, the report also stated.

One of the main problems, even in the limited number of places where permission for matzoh baking has been given, the report noted, resulted from a false impression created by the authorities during the last month. The authorities had informed Jews in charge of synagogues in Moscow and in other cities that they were going to allocate large quantities of flour for the baking of matzoh. However, this promise has not been fulfilled, and only Jews who bring their own flour are able to get matzoh.

This procedure, it was reported, has imposed difficulties on Russian Jews, since they have to acquire their own flour at very high prices on the free market. The report emphasized that the granting of final permission for matzoh baking was due to pressures exerted upon Soviet Government authorities from sources outside the USSR.

Moscow Jews Seek Right to be Buried in a Jewish Cemetery

MONTREAL, March 25. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress today made public an appeal received from a Jew in Moscow asking Jews abroad to intervene with the Soviet authorities for the restoration of the Jewish cemetery in Moscow. The appeal pointed out that for the last two years Jewish dead in Moscow are being buried in the same cemetery as non-Jews and that all efforts by the rabbi of Moscow and members of the Synagogue Board there to change the situation have been to no avail.

U. N. COMMISSION HEARS JEWISH SUGGESTIONS ON SECURING FREEDOM OF RELIGION

GENEVA, March 25. (JTA) -- Suggestions to strengthen the United Nations draft declaration barring religious intolerance were offered today at the annual session here of the UN Human Rights Commission by representatives of two non-governmental Jewish organizations and one Catholic group.

The representatives were Chief Rabbi Alexander Saffran of Geneva, speaking for Agudat Israel, Dr. Gustav Warburg, of B'nai B'rith, speaking for the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, and A. Szmikowski, of the Pax Romana. The Coordinating Board includes the Board of Deputies of British Jews, in addition to B'nai B'rith.

Rabbi Saffran asked that the draft convention should ensure the right of all persons to cultivate and express their religious beliefs and to obtain the means to carry out the traditions of their faith. He also proposed that the convention should ensure the right of any religious community to organize on both a local and national basis and to follow its religion in cultural and education frameworks. He suggested that the convention should stimulate also the right of religious communities of any nation to cooperate with religious federations in other countries for religious purposes.

Dr. Warburg and the Pax Romana spokesman commented mainly on the paragraphs about religious freedom. Dr. Warburg stressed the importance of the paragraph to allow the right of religious teaching, asserting that this was important for all religions, particularly Judaism. He said the right to teach and study sacred languages, to obtain facilities to follow dietary rules and to get dietary needs, such as matzoh, to form national organizations and to maintain contact with co-religionists abroad was an absolute necessity. Without mentioning the Soviet Union by name, it was clear that he meant that country.

Soviet and later Iraqi delegates charged Israel with intolerance and with discrimination against Arabs and other religions. Israeli Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohen replied to the charges with a brief ironic rejoinder.

CATHOLIC TEXTBOOKS UNDERGO EXAMINATION IN ITALY TO CHECK BIAS

ROME, March 25. (JTA) -- Pioneer pilot studies on how Catholic religious teaching presents Judaism, Protestantism and other non-Catholic religions are already well under way in Italy and soon will be initiated in other European lands as well, a mission of 50 American Jewish Committee leaders from 20 cities in the United States was informed here today. The members of the mission were received yesterday by Pope Paul VI.

Carrying out the pilot studies is the Leonard M. Sperry Center for Intergroup Cooperation, established in Rome last year with the personal benediction and approval of Pope Paul VI. The joint Catholic-Jewish Sperry Center, at the International University for Social Studies "Pro Deo" in Rome, was set up to analyze and combat prejudice in religious teaching.

Sociologists and qualified religious advisers currently are examining some 200 texts widely used in Italian state schools at every level from elementary classes to teacher-training courses, in private Catholic institutions, and by the branches of Catholic Action in their seminars, the American Jewish Committee mission was told at the Center. Attitudes expressed toward various ethnic groups are being studied concurrently with the views set out about non-Catholic religions.

Following text investigation, Center researchers will be doing field work to learn how the texts actually are used in teaching and to see how teachers interpret them to students in class-room situations, Center officials said. Researchers are examining the Italian texts not only to see whether they incorporate negative religious and ethnic stereotypes about non-Catholic religions--like the charge that Jews are an "accursed" or a "decide" people--but also to what extent they strive to inculcate positive inter-faith and inter-group attitudes, they declared.

U. S. CLERGYMEN URGED TO BE MORE ACTIVE IN COMBATting ANTI-SEMITISM

CHICAGO, March 25. (JTA) --The director of a survey which found that a majority of Christian respondents held Jews "most responsible" for the crucifixion of Jesus urged Catholic and Protestant clergymen yesterday to take a more active role in the fight against anti-Semitism.

Dr. Charles Y. Glock, director of the Survey Research Center of the University of California, made the report and offered his proposal at a meeting of 38 clergymen and educators at Loyola University, a Catholic school. The survey was a study of the views of 3,100 church-going Christians in the San Francisco Bay area. Dr. Glock reported that 58 percent identified the Jews as a group with the greatest responsibility for the crucifixion.

He told the participants that the findings suggested that "Christian leadership, Protestant and Catholic, must more actively undertake the mission of rectifying the centuries-old injustice of anti-Semitism" stemming from the decide charge against the Jewish people. He said that this "notion" was "still distressingly alive and a critical factor in perpetuating anti-Semitic prejudice."

JOHNSON APPOINTS ABRAM TO U. S. REPRESENTATIVE POST AT UNITED NATIONS

WASHINGTON, March 25. (JTA) -- President Johnson announced today the appointment of Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, to serve as the United States representative on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. He succeeds Mrs. Marietta Tree for the balance of her term which expires December 31, 1965. Mrs. Tree was recently appointed the U. S. Ambassador on the UN Trusteeship Council. Mr. Abram has served for three years as U. S. Expert on the UN Subcommission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

In making the appointment, President Johnson praised Mr. Abram's public service, calling particular attention to his forceful presentation in the Subcommission of draft instruments condemning racial discrimination and religious intolerance. Mr. Abram was on the American prosecution staff at the Nuremberg military tribunal. He helped organize the Peace Corps and served as its first general counsel.

ISRAEL RE-ELECTED TO MEMBERSHIP IN U. N. COMMISSION; TO SERVE THREE YEARS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 25. (JTA) -- The 18-member Economic and Social Council--one of the major organs of the United Nations--yesterday re-elected Israel for three years to its important Social Commission, but defeated Israel's bid for a second three-year term on another subsidiary body, the Committee on Housing, Building and Planning.

Israel has been a member of both the Social Commission and the group dealing, among other matters, with housing and planning, an area in which Israel is considered to have much special expertise. In both instances, the ECOSOC had to elect members to fill fresh terms beginning January 1, 1966. Israel received 12 of the 18 votes for re-election on the Social Commission.

EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT URGES ASSOCIATED EUROMART MEMBERSHIP FOR ISRAEL

STRASBOURG, March 25. (JTA) -- A recommendation urging the European Economic Community to extend associate membership to Israel in the Euromart was adopted here today by the European Parliament, the 142-member group which has advisory status before the six-nation EEC. The recommendation has been forwarded to EEC, advising also that the current Euromart-Israel agreement, signed at Brussels last June, be revised.

A plenary session of the European Parliament adopted its resolution after hearing a report on the issue from G. L. Moro, a member of the Italian Christian Democratic Party, who stated categorically that "only if Israel becomes associated with the European Economic Community will it be possible to overcome the problems that arise." He advocated that all possible steps be taken by the EEC to promote this solution gradually.

LOUIS PINCUS, JEWISH AGENCY TREASURER, COMPLETES INTENSIVE U. J. A. TOUR

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- Louis A. Pincus, treasurer of the Jewish Agency, departed today for Jerusalem after an intensive one-month tour of major communities in the United States on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal. Before his departure, he released a statement expressing "deep satisfaction" at the heart-warming response" he found in many cities where he helped launch the 1965 UJA campaign.

He arrived in this country on February 24 and addressed opening meetings of the community campaigns in Chicago, Detroit, Baltimore, Kansas City, Louisville, Washington, D. C., and other cities. He also was a key speaker at a dinner which launched the New York United Jewish Appeal campaign. In his addresses, Mr. Pincus stressed the rising costs of the Agency's programs and the constant pressure of immigration. He spoke of the dangerous social conditions which could arise unless the economic and educational gap between Oriental newcomers and Ashkenazi old-timers is bridged.

"The end of German reparations payments," Mr. Pincus said, "makes our burden that much heavier and the Israelis, who through taxation provide two-thirds of the costs of absorption, cannot be burdened further." During his visit, he met with the American Section of the Jewish Agency executive and with the board of directors of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. He also conferred with the board of directors of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and visited Montreal where he met with the executive of the Zionist Organization of Canada.

ISRAEL TO TRAIN 9,000 TEACHERS DURING THREE YEARS, MINISTER REPORTS

JERUSALEM, March 25. (JTA) -- Education Minister Zalman Aranne told Parliament today that 9,000 teachers will be trained in the next three years to meet the teacher shortage in Israel.

He also announced that educational television would begin in 1966 and reported that one-third of the 100,000 children attending secondary schools were exempt from tuition payments. He said that in the next three years the percentage was expected to reach 50.

TECHNION GETS \$200,000 GRANT FROM U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

HAIFA, March 25. (JTA) -- The Technion-Israel Institute of Technology has been awarded a grant of 600,000 pounds (\$200,000) from the United States Department of Agriculture for a research project on phosphate fertilizers. The grant will be administered by the Research and Development Foundation of the Technion.

DEFENSE DEPARTMENT URGED TO ACT ON ARMY OFFICERS RACIST 'PRANK'

WASHINGTON, March 25. (JTA) -- The Jewish War Veterans of the U. S. A. today made known that it has asked the Defense Department to amend army regulations to cover such infractions as recently took place in West Germany in which U. S. Army officers wore Ku Klux Klan uniforms and displayed Klan symbols.

National Commander Ralph Plofsky said action beyond a "mere reprimand" was required. The perpetrators claimed it was a harmless prank but Mr. Plofsky said Germany "all too recently had enough racist symbols to be now spared importation of American hate paraphernalia. He said that the officers who displayed themselves in Klan robes "must have been a disconcerting spectacle to American military personnel of the Negro race and the Jewish and Catholic faiths."

RABBIS TESTIFY ON HOUSING DISCRIMINATION AT HEARING IN KANSAS

TOPEKA, Kansas, March 25. (JTA) -- Anti-Jewish housing discrimination is being practiced in this state and, especially, in a section of Johnson County, according to various witnesses who testified here in favor of a state fair housing law at a hearing conducted by the state's Senate Committee on Federal and State Affairs.

Under the chairmanship of Mrs. Nathan Shechter, of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League, Jewish leaders, including several rabbis, testified about housing discrimination affecting Jews. Property owners in Johnson County, said the witnesses, refuse to sell to prospective purchasers who are Jewish, some mortgage companies will not hold mortgages on homes owned by Jews, and, in some neighborhoods, the property owner and his neighbors must agree before a house is sold to a Jew.

Mrs. Shechter, who is also a member of the Kansas Advisory Commission on Human Rights, pleaded with the committee to approve a Fair Housing bill. She was supported by realtors from several Kansas cities. The measure is opposed by Johnson County Board of Realtors.

NEW JERSEY COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION CHARGED WITH ANTI-JEWISH BIAS

HACKENSACK, N. J., March 25. (JTA) -- Two couples who are members of the Packanack Lake Country Club and Community Association, charging that the organization bars Jews and all other persons except "northern European Christians" from membership, have filed suit in a New Jersey Court against the alleged practices.

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Conover and Mr. and Mrs. John J. Mooney, residents of Packanack, a rural community, filed the suit in the Chancery Division of the New Jersey Superior Court. They asked the court to declare the alleged membership restrictions null and void and to enjoin the club and association from "further discrimination."

The suit charged that the alleged restrictions prevented them from selling their homes and were in violation of public policy against discrimination. Officials of the club declined comment on the charges. The suit charged that more than 1,300 families were prevented from selling, renting or leasing their property or permitting it to be used by persons who were not members of the club or not approved for membership.

PRESIDENT OF ITALY ATTENDS CEREMONIES HONORING MEMORY OF NAZI VICTIMS

ROME, March 25. (JTA) -- President Giuseppe Saragat, other high Italian Government figures and Jewish communal leaders, were among those who took part in ceremonies today marking the 21st anniversary of the Ardeatine Caves massacre in which 332 Jews and non-Jews were murdered by the Nazis. The killings were carried out in caves in reprisal for a bombing in Rome by Italian guerrillas in which 32 German soldiers were killed.

The ceremonies, which were held in front of the mausoleum erected over the tombs of the victims, included prayers recited by Rabbi Elie Toaff, Chief Rabbi of Rome. In an address to the gathering, Home Minister Taviani stressed that the public observance of the anniversary had the significance of a public religious and most solemn homage by the living to those who gave their lives for freedom.

ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER TENDERS FAREWELL DINNER TO ISRAEL ENVOY

BUENOS AIRES, March 25. (JTA) -- Argentina's traditional friendship with Israel was reiterated here last night by Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Zabala Ortiz, when the Government's highest foreign affairs official tendered a farewell dinner to Gen. Joseph Avidar, Israel's Ambassador to Argentina. Gen. Avidar is relinquishing his post here and is returning to Israel after holding the ambassadorship for four years.