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ESHKOL SAYS HIS TALKS WITH BRITISH STATESMEN WERE 'MOST ENCOURAGING'

LONDON, March 30. (JTA) -- Levi Eshkol, Israel's Prime Minister, declared here today that his meetings with British Premier Harold Wilson, Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart and other ranking members of the Cabinet have been "most encouraging."

Climaxing his six-day series of official governmental conversation here, the Israeli Prime Minister reviewed the conferences he has held here since last Thursday, and called upon "world statesmanship" to play a "crucial role in the advancement of peace" in the Middle East. He spoke at a luncheon tendered in his home by the Anglo-Israeli Parliamentary group.

The international community, he said, "should insist that the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, to which all the states in our region have subscribed, should be applied in the Middle East. The international community cannot accept a situation in which Middle East member states alone openly declare their intention to destroy one of their neighbors."

Mr. Eshkol said Israel was "privileged to have so many friends in the British Parliament." He noted that the Government and people of Israel "will always remember the good will and sympathy of all kinds of British Parliamentarians and their interest in the ideals of Israel's restoration to the land of its fathers as expressed in the Balfour Declaration."

Sees No Danger for Immediate Conflict with the Arab Countries

"I do not say there is danger of immediate conflict in the Middle East," the Israeli Premier told the British Parliamentarians. "Nevertheless, heavy Arab arms build-ups, new Soviet arms deals with the Arabs, Arab implementation of the United Arab Command, and threats to divert the sources of the Jordan River--all these give grounds for concern. We must maintain an adequate deterrent capacity as the best guarantee against war. On the other hand, we must also strive and hope for peace."

"If, today, it is still difficult to point to tangible grounds for this hope, there are considerations pointing toward the future," he continued. "First, although the Arab governments pursue policies of hostility and incitement, we believe that, in the course of time, the Arabs will realize that war solves no problems. Second, the Arabs and the Israelis belong to the Middle East from time immemorial. In hostility, both sides suffer; in cooperation and peace, both sides will prosper."

"If a so-called Arab-Israeli dispute were the only source of tension in the area, this conflict might have already taken place. However, for the past decade and more, the Middle East has been the focal point of international tension in the cold war. Against this background, Arab-Israeli disputes have often been magnified beyond their natural proportions."

Mr. Eshkol stressed that Israel is not isolated from all the countries in its region. He pointed out that Israel has relations with non-Arab countries in its region, "many of them Moslems, whose populations equal if they do not exceed that of the Arab countries."

LEBANON DENIES STARTING WORK ON DIVERTING OF JORDAN RIVER WATERS

JERUSALEM, March 30. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Lebanese Government today denied in Beirut that Lebanon has started work on one of the Arab projects for the diversion of the Jordan River headwaters from Israel.

A report here stated that the Lebanese spokesman said his Government is awaiting instructions from the Unified Arab command before it starts work on the project. The Cairo press reported yesterday that bids for contracts for the work in Lebanon will be sought in the next week, but other reports held that Lebanon is holding back on implementing the water diversion project, fearing that Lebanon would be open to attacks by the Israelis.

Meanwhile, it was stated here today that Phillips Talbot, Assistant U.S. Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, may visit Israel soon. Mr. Talbot recently visited Lebanon and Jordan. It was assumed here that, if Mr. Talbot comes to Jerusalem, he would deal with the problem of Jordan River waters diversion plans and Israel's reaction to those projects in the wake of the recent visit here of W. Averell Harriman, President's Johnson's special emissary.

JOHNSON ASKS CONGRESS FOR DESALINATION FUNDS; MINDFUL OF WORK IN ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 30. (JTA) -- President Lyndon B. Johnson today indicated that he is mindful of American cooperative efforts with Israel to perfect nuclear desalination and asked Congress for a substantial increase in the government's programs to find economical means to desalt water.

In a letter to Congress requesting new spending authority, the President said "we must spare no effort" in learning how to turn salt water into pure water. One aspect of the research he initiated is the program now under way in Israel to build a nuclear desalting facility. To stimulate further international cooperation, he said, he will call together a symposium of interested nations in October to exchange information on desalting technology. Israel will be among the countries expected to participate.

STATE DEPARTMENT CHARGED WITH PREVENTION OF ACTION ON ARAB BOYCOTT

NEWYORK, March 30. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress charged today that State Department officials were seeking to prevent passage of a Senate bill designed to frustrate the Arab boycott of Israel. In a letter to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, the Jewish group said the State Department was "apparently not only unwilling to protect American business from Arab boycott demands but determined not to let anyone else do anything either."

The letter, signed by Will Maslow, executive director of the Congress, said the target of State Department efforts was a bill introduced by Senator Jacob K. Javits, Republican of New York, and Senator Harrison B. Williams, Democrat of New Jersey. The bill, which amends the Export Control Act of 1949, would make it unlawful for American businessmen to impart the kind of information customarily demanded in Arab boycott questionnaires circulated in the United States, including information about the identity and personalities of their officers, directors and customers.

Thirty-one Senators have joined in co-sponsoring the Senate bill while companion bills have been introduced in the House by 11 Representatives, it was stated. In its letter to Secretary Rusk, the American Jewish Congress charged that State Department officials had sought to apply "pressures" on Senate sponsors of the bill "to withdraw the measure or schedule no public hearings on it."

NAZI COMMANDER SENTENCED TO LIFE FOR DIRECTING MASS-KILLING OF JEWS

ESSEN, Germany, March 30. (JTA) -- Alfred Rapp, formerly a colonel in Hitler's SS, who has been on trial here for the murder of at least 10,000 Jews during World War II, was sentenced here today to 10 terms of life imprisonment. It was believed to be the most severe prison sentence short of death, ever meted out to a convicted Nazi criminal.

Rapp had been charged with supervision of 10 mass killings of Jews in 1942 at Klynzy, in the Soviet Union. He had told the court he would not plead innocent, declaring that "what happened was so terrible that I cannot and will not ask for mercy."

U.S. JUDGE TESTIFIES IN GERMANY AT TRIAL OF AUSCHWITZ CAMP GUARDS

FRANKFURT, March 30. (JTA) -- Pennsylvania Supreme Court Justice Michael A. Mussmano, who was one of the American prosecutors during the Nuremberg war crimes trials, told the court here, trying 22 Auschwitz concentration camp personnel, that members of Hitler's SS could have refused to participate in the mass murders of Jews if they really wanted to do so.

Judge Mussmano based his assertion on facts he had accumulated after World War II as a prosecutor and as an official who had interviewed at least 200 SS officers and other Nazis charged with mass murder. He testified that, in most instances, a Nazi refusing to take part in mass murder would be sent to the front but not punished in any other manner.

"The only reason so many others did not ask for duty at the front," he said, "was because, if they shot at the front, someone would shoot back; but when they shot down helpless men, women and children, the only response was the moaning of the dying."

DR. PRINZ MEETS WITH CHANCELLOR ERHARD; PRESENTS JEWISH VIEWS

BONN, March 30. (JTA) -- Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress, met with Chancellor Ludwig Erhard in Dusseldorf today, and discussed with him outstanding issues affecting relations between Germany and the Jewish people.

The meeting covered such issues as the extension of the German statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes, the presence of German rocket scientists in Egypt and the continuation of German economic and other aid to Israel.

Dr. Prinz is currently visiting Germany at the invitation of West Berlin Mayor Willy Brandt and as a guest of the Senate of West Berlin. He has met with German student and faculty groups, editors and religious leaders and spoken on German radio and television.

STATE DEPARTMENT SAYS U.S. SHOULD NOT INTERVENE ON SOVIET JEWRY

WASHINGTON, March 30. (JTA) -- The State Department does not believe that the United States Government should involve itself directly with Soviet authorities on the problem of Soviet Jewry, the Department has informed Sen. Hugh Scott, Pennsylvania Republican.

Senator Scott responded with a charge that "our government is shirking its responsibility in this area." He criticized the State Department for opposing the Ribicoff amendment which would have condemned Soviet anti-Semitism.

The White House asked the State Department to respond to Sen. Scott on the request of Philadelphia area citizens that the Government take more overt action to help Soviet Jewry. Douglas MacArthur, 2nd, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, wrote Sen. Scott about the government's latest assessment of the situation of Russian Jews. This assessment concluded that no U.S. Government action was indicated.

"As stated in this assessment," Mr. MacArthur said, "the Department does not believe that formal, government-to-government protests over the situation of the Soviet Jewish community are in the best interests of Soviet Jews." He pointed out that "in the past, Soviet officials have reacted unfavorably to criticism by foreign government organs or official representations on matters which the Soviet Government considers to be Soviet internal affairs."

Urges Private Organizations to Appeal for Jews in Russia

The Assistant Secretary of State told Senator Scott that the State Department "has found on the basis of repeated experience that the most serious official representations which officials of our government have made in the past at a government-to-government level had been rejected by Soviet leaders as interference in Soviet internal affairs."

A recommendation was made by the State Department that private individuals and organizations displeased by Soviet policies affecting Jews continue to voice their views in appeals to world public opinion. "We hope that world public opinion can lead the Soviet Government to calculate that its interest can best be served by moderating its campaign against Judaism," Mr. MacArthur stated.

The State Department official assessment of the facts pertaining to Soviet anti-Semitism said: "While all observers agree that Soviet Jews are being placed under increasing restrictions with regard to religious worship, the United States Government has no information indicating that Soviet Jews fear physical persecution of the type and magnitude which was directed against them during Czarist times or during the immediate post-war period under Stalin."

Also, said the State Department, "there is no evidence that the authorities intend to incite the public to acts of anti-Jewish violence. Rather, they seem to be using popular anti-Semitic sentiments for their own purposes." The Department added that "Judaism is one of the 11 recognized religious sects in the USSR and fares better than non-recognized groups, especially those such as Jehovah's witnesses which espouses pacifism."

Senator Scott said he disagreed "emphatically" with the government's decision to refrain from action. He said that "for the past two years, U.S. Government officials have expressed their concern about this situation, but only before Jewish groups in the United States, never to the Soviet Union and--with one exception--not even before the United Nations." The Senator charged that the government "puts its head in the sand on the issue of human rights."

STATE DEPT. TO CEASE QUESTIONS ON RELIGION IN TESTS FOR APPLICANTS

WASHINGTON, March 30. (JTA) -- The State Department has promised to cease requirement of "psychological" tests that compel employees to answer "true" or "false" to such assertions as "Christ performed miracles." Questions on the divinity of Christ and theological concepts pertaining to Christianity were posed in deciding suitability of personnel for overseas assignment.

Responding to protests from Congress, the State Department today wrote Rep. Cornelius Gallagher, New Jersey Democrat, that "effective immediately, we have discontinued this policy." Rep. Gallagher, chairman of a Government Operations Subcommittee had warned the Department he planned a special investigation into its "insidious and illegal search of the human mind."

Today he faulted the State Department's decision but noted that some other Federal agencies are now using similar tests for selecting personnel. Among the agencies, he said, are the Departments of Defense and Labor, the Export-Import Bank, and the Peace Corps. In Rep. Gallagher's view, probing questions on religion are not appropriate for a government agency to impose upon personnel. Civil service requirements forbid direct inquiry into the religious faith of applicants. But the tests elicit considerable information on the individual's personal religious views.

WORLD JEWISH YOUTH LEADERS TOLD OF NEED TO REVITALIZE JEWISH LIFE

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- Leaders of Jewish youth movements throughout the world now assembled at a four-day conference here, were told at a Jewish Agency welcome dinner last night of the need to revitalize Jewish life. Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency executive, addressing the 35 world Jewish leaders who represented 219 Jewish youth organizations in 42 countries, said:

"The fact that we are here, representing many trends in Jewish life, coming from many countries, proves that there is a common and potent ingredient. We want to preserve our Judaism, assure our continuity as a people, cultivate a knowledge of our past, adumbrate a plan for our future. Were this common purpose lacking, this conference could have no meaning. If, however, we fail to recognize and respect the differences that exist, the purpose of coordinated action and program could not be achieved.

"We all speak of Jewish education," she continued, "oft-times not going beyond its use as a cliché. But such a goal would necessitate a radical change in Jewish life. Jewish education, if it is seriously conceived, must start in the home. It means that parents will have to make sacrifices, introduce some measure of traditional observance which is presently lacking. In the task of revitalization of Jewish life, we will necessarily have to receive a great deal of sustenance from Israel."

The dinner was followed by a reception attended by leading representatives of many American Jewish organizations. Speakers at the reception, in addition to Mrs. Halprin, were Eliahu Dobkin of Jerusalem, member of the Jewish Agency executive; Charles Bick, chairman of the American Zionist Youth Foundation; Ambassador Katriel Katz, Consul General of Israel in New York; Avraham Schenker, deputy member of the Jewish Agency executive, who presided; and Luis Aron, a member of the Israeli delegation, a representative of the Israel Maccabi, who responded for the delegates.

HILLER NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF JEWISH CHARITIES IN BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE, March 30. (JTA) -- Robert I. Hiller, executive director of the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh for the past nine years, has been named executive director of the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund of Baltimore, it was announced here today. Mr. Hiller will assume his post September 1, 1965, succeeding Harry Greenstein, who will become executive vice-chairman of the Associated Jewish Charities' Legacy and Endowment Fund.

Mr. Hiller served as director of the Detroit Community Chest's Commercial and Professional Unit in 1948, and associate campaign director of the United Foundation of Detroit in 1949. He became associate director of the Jewish Community Federation of Cleveland, Ohio, in 1950, and executive director of the United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh in 1956.

In a joint statement announcing the appointment of Mr. Hiller, Louis J. Fox, president of the Associated Jewish Charities, and Abraham Mahr, president of the Jewish Welfare Fund, said: "We are extremely pleased and gratified that the Baltimore Jewish community has been able to obtain the services of such an outstandingly capable person as Robert I. Hiller. His career to date has been one of brilliant accomplishment, and we are confident that in him we have found a worthy successor to our own Harry Greenstein, who will continue as executive director until September 1."

(In Pittsburgh, United Jewish Federation president Alvin Rogal, expressing regret over Mr. Hiller's decision to leave his post with the Federation, said: "Mr. Hiller has served the Pittsburgh Jewish community in an incomparable manner since the formation of the Federation almost ten years ago. We will be truly sorry to see him leave but wish him well in his new position. We know that Baltimore will benefit by his presence there.")

COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN REPORTS ON FELLOWSHIPS GRANTED TO ISRAELIS

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- The National Council of Jewish Women reported today that it has granted 207 fellowships to educators and social workers from Israel, and to others from Jewish communities outside Israel, since the NCJW established its overseas fellowship program in 1946. The report was given today at a luncheon featuring the NCJW's, four-day convention, being held here this week.

During the current biennial period, 1963 to 1965, 30 fellowships were granted, the report showed. These were given mainly to educators and researchers working toward the advancement of equal opportunities for culturally disadvantaged children.

The Council's contributions to the U.S. Job Corps were lauded at the convention by Sargent Shriver, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity, and Dr. Bennetta Washington, director of the women's training centers of the U.S. Job Corps. Both praised the NCJW for having joined Women in Community Services in recruiting and screening girls for the Job Corps. Other organizations joined with the NCJW in the Women in Community Services are the National Council of Catholic Women, United Church Women and the National Council of Negro Women.