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MAPAI PARTY LEADERS DECIDE TO BACK ESHKOL IN DISPUTE WITH BEN-GURION

TEL AVIV, May 16. (JTA) -- The Mapai Party Secretariat, after two days of deliberations, today decided to express full confidence in Prime Minister Eshkol and to back him in his dispute with former Premier David Ben-Gurion which came to a head last week, when Ben-Gurion called Mr. Eshkol "unfit" to lead the party and the country.

In a resolution adopted by the party Secretariat, the Mapai leaders pointed out that Mr. Eshkol had been elected unanimously by the Mapai Center for the post of Premier and as such enjoys the fullest confidence of the party. The resolution also expressed regret over Ben-Gurion's statement last week against Premier Eshkol.

The Secretariat also warned local party branches against dealing with the composition of the list of candidates for the forthcoming elections to the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, noting that such action was entirely in the hands of the Party Center and its Knesset faction. While superficially, Mapai seemed to be on the verge of a split, party leaders today expressed confidence that no split would develop.

Thus far, no Mapai member of the Cabinet has responded to Premier Eshkol's demand last week that those sharing Mr. Ben-Gurion's opinions of Premier Eshkol, should resign from the Government. In issuing the challenge last week, Mr. Eshkol declared: "If there are members of the Government who think about me the way 'that man' does, I suggest they free themselves from their posts." He added that despite the sharp attack on him, he intended to continue his policies until the end of the Government's term.

Housing and Development Minister Yosef Almogi was reported today ready to resign but was prevented by his friends--members of the pro-Ben-Gurion Mapai minority--who published a statement here declaring that Premier Eshkol had no right to demand the resignation of members of the Cabinet delegated to their ministerial posts by the party.

In addressing the Mapai Secretariat during the weekend, Premier Eshkol took up Ben-Gurion's charge that he had opposed a renewed investigation of the Lavon Affair on grounds it would open a "Pandora's Box" of issues involving Israel's security activities. Ben-Gurion had said that any individual afraid of Pandoras Boxes should not be Premier even if the party's center elected him. In a showdown over the Lavon issue, Premier Eshkol resigned last year and was re-named by his party and coalition partners. In reply to that charge, Mr. Eshkol told the Secretariat "one should respect party institutions." He added that Ben-Gurion's interpretations over the "Lavon Affair" were not correct.

Golda Meir Attacks Ben-Gurion; Deplores 'Merciless Slander'

Also attacking Mr. Ben-Gurion, Foreign Minister Golda Meir told the Secretariat that, while there were no actual differences between the majority and the minority on the issue, there was "merciless slander and libel and personal war directed at eliminating certain comrades."

She criticized the Tel Aviv branch of the party for going to Sde Boker and suggesting that Ben-Gurion head the election list and asking him to agree to the nomination for the Premiership. "What is the present Premier to do until elections, and will other countries want to deal with him meanwhile?" Mrs. Meir asked.

Education Minister Zalman Aranne deplored the "evil spirit" that was hovering over the party and charged that Ben-Gurion was treating Premier Eshkol the way he treated former Premier Moshe Sharett ten years ago. The Mapai Center, meanwhile, will convene soon to decide who will head the Mapai list and who will be the party's nominee for the Premiership.

According to an agreement on the designation of places on the combined election list to be shared by Mapai and Ahdut Avoda, the latter party will receive the third and tenth places with Mapai getting the remainder of the first ten places for the Knesset election.

The Mapai-Ahdut alignment agreement--to which Ben-Gurion is strongly opposed--will be signed officially on Wednesday at the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, the site where the Histadrut was founded in 1920.

HOUSE COMMITTEE LIMITS PRESIDENT'S AUTHORITY ON FOOD AID TO EGYPT

WASHINGTON, May 16. (JTA) -- A restriction limiting the Presidential authority to approve sales of American food surpluses to Egypt was adopted yesterday by the Foreign Affairs Committee of the House of Representatives.

In reporting out the 1965-66 Foreign Aid Bill, the committee retained the earlier prohibition under which no sales of surpluses can be made to Egypt "unless the President determines that such sale is essential to the national interest of the United States." But the committee added a further restriction, should the President make such a determination. Even in such a case, "no such sale shall be based on the requirements of the United Arab Republic for more than one fiscal year," the committee ruled. Until now Egypt has received American food surpluses under a three-year agreement which is expiring this year.

The bill, as approved by the House committee, further stated that "the President shall keep the Foreign Relations Committee and the Appropriation Committee of the Senate, and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, fully and currently informed with respect to sales made to the United Arab Republic."

(Apparently fearing the possibility of restrictions on further U. S. aid to Egypt, President Nasser has written a personal letter to President Johnson, dealing with this issue, according to press dispatches from Cairo. Egypt's Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad handed the letter yesterday in Cairo to United States Ambassador Lucius D. Battle.)

INDIA'S UNFRIENDLY ATTITUDE TOWARD ISRAEL SCRUTINIZED IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, May 16. (JTA) -- India's attitude toward Israel was subjected to close scrutiny in diplomatic circles here this weekend as a result of a sharp pro-Arab speech delivered in Cairo recently by India's former Defense Minister and United Nations representative, V. K. Krishna Menon. The Hindu leader told the Arabs that only "force" would bring them their desired "liberation of Palestine." He spoke as the official representative of the Indian Government.

Linked with the Krishna Menon diatribe against Israel was a report from India that the Indian Friends of Israel Society had called off a farewell party for Israel's departing Bombay consul, Peretz Gordon. The party was scheduled for tonight. Mr. Gordon had informed the society, composed of leading Indian intellectuals, that he would not be able to attend the party. However, there were indications that Mr. Gordon had bowed out of that party because Israel felt the Indian Government opposed the event out of fear of offending the Arab states.

In his violent speech against Israel, the text of which reached Washington this weekend from Cairo, Mr. Krishna Menon said: "It is said that justice has great strength, but I would say that in most cases the voice of force is louder than the voice of justice. Force and Arab unity are the real solution to the problem of Palestine. And finally, I would request you not to say always that you will throw Israel into the sea, because by that you would pollute the sea itself."

GERMAN SCIENTISTS REPORTED LEAVING CAIRO; WORKED ON ROCKETS

LONDON, May 16. (JTA) -- At least 80 German scientists and experts who had worked in Egypt on Nasser's rocket and jet programs have returned to West Germany in the last five months, according to reports from Cairo received here today. Other Germans are scheduled to go home on vacation in the next few months, the reports declared, and there is doubt whether the "vacationers" will return to Egypt.

Among the reasons for the return of the Germans, Cairo reported, were a decline in their morale, due to the recent disagreements between Cairo and Bonn about the latter government's decision to exchange diplomatic relations with Israel; a lack of hard currency in Egypt for meeting the salaries of the Germans; and financial inducements by the German Government and German industry, luring the scientists and technologists back to Germany.

BRITISH JEWRY PROTESTS MOSCOW'S DISCRIMINATIONS AGAINST SOVIET JEWS

LONDON, May 16. (JTA) -- A resolution protesting sternly against the denial of equal religious, cultural and certain civic rights to Soviet Jews, and calling upon the British Government to "make appropriate representations" on the issue to the USSR Government, was adopted unanimously at a special meeting here today, at which virtually every major Jewish organization in Great Britain was represented.

The meeting, convened by the Board of Deputies of British Jews, included two delegates each from the Board as well as from the Anglo-Jewish Association, the Association of Jewish Ex-Service Men and Women, B'nai B'rith, League of Jewish Women, Mizrahi, the British section of the World Jewish Congress, World Sephardi Federation, World Union for Progressive Judaism and the British Zionist Federation.

SENATE ADOPTS RESOLUTION CONDEMNING SOVIET POLICY ON JEWS

WASHINGTON, May 16, (JTA) -- The Senate, with a unanimous vote of 68 to 0 adopted this weekend a resolution condemning the religious and cultural persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union.

The Senate acted promptly on the measure, which was proposed earlier by Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff, after its Foreign Affairs Committee reported favorably Friday on the resolution, which urged the Soviet Union, "in the name of decency and humanity," to cease executing persons "for alleged economic offenses and to permit fully the free exercise of religion and the pursuit of culture by Jews and all others within its borders."

The only substantive change introduced in the original resolution was that the Foreign Relations Committee added, in the first part referring to the persecution of Jews, also a reference to Christian and Moslem citizens of the Soviet Union. But it left intact the point that Jews were singled out "for extreme punishment" by the Soviet authorities.

The resolution, as adopted by the Senate, reads as follows:

"Whereas the Congress of the United States deeply believes in freedom of religion for all people and is opposed to infringement of this freedom anywhere in the world; and

"Whereas abundant evidence has made clear that the Government of the Soviet Union is persecuting, in varying degrees of intensity, elements of its Christian, Jewish and Moslem citizens, and

"Whereas there is also abundant evidence that Jewish citizens have been singled out for extreme punishment for alleged economic offense by confiscating synagogues, by closing Jewish cemeteries, by arresting rabbis and lay religious leader, by curtailing religious observances, by discriminating against Jews in cultural activities and access to higher education, by imposing restrictions that prevent the reuniting of Jews with their families in other lands, and by other acts that oppress Jews in the free exercise of their faith; and

"Whereas the Soviet Union has a clear opportunity to match the words of its constitutional guarantees of freedom of religion with specific actions, so that the world may know whether there is a genuine hope for a new day of better understanding among all people; now therefore, be it

"Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), that it is the sense of the Congress that persecution of any persons because of their religion by the Soviet Union be condemned, and that the Soviet Union in the name of decency and humanity be urged to cease executing persons for alleged economic offenses and to permit fully the free exercise of religion and the pursuit of culture by Jews and all others within its borders."

JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN SWEDEN EXPRESS ALARM OVER NAZI PLOT ON JEWS

STOCKHOLM, May 16, (JTA) -- The Central Council of Swedish Jewish Communities today expressed its alarm over the discovery of a ring of active Nazis rounded up by police last week. The Council appealed to the Government to increase its vigilance against Nazism. The Nazi gang rounded up last week, resulting in six arrests, was found to have had a cache of weapons and a list of leading Swedish Jews scheduled for assassination.

Swedish newspapers today published documents captured at the Nazi headquarters and transcripts of tape recordings showing that Bjorn Lundahl, the arrested leader of the Swedish Nazi party, had held at least 30 meetings with Kamel Hamed, former first secretary of the Egyptian Embassy here. During one of those meetings, it was disclosed, Hamed had requested that the Swedish Nazis send an anti-Zionist, Swedish student to Israel, where the student would join a kibbutz as a cover for espionage operations through which he would spy on Israel's defense forces.

The tape recordings also indicated that, at one meeting with Hamed, Lundahl told the Egyptian that 200 armed men could seize Stockholm. Another document was a signed pledge by Lundahl, apparently in reply to a question from the Egyptians, in which the Nazi promised to "help Egypt with a Swedish army of 5,000 infantry, completely equipped, against Israel."

"After seizing power in Sweden," Lundahl had said, "we will confiscate Jewish property, arrest all enemies of the Egyptians, prohibit Jewish emigration to Israel and solve the Jewish problem with Egyptian assistance."

A number of members of Parliament asked the Minister of the Interior this weekend whether the Government would act with dispatch to trace and halt further anti-democratic activities in this country. The Swedish press, as a whole, pointed out that Swedish young people were shockingly lacking in knowledge and understanding of the meaning of Nazism as a threat not only to Jews but to democracy in general.

U. S. ZIONISTS DECIDE TO BECOME ACTIVE IN JEWISH COMMUNAL AFFAIRS

NEW YORK, May 16. (JTA) -- For the first time in its history, the American Zionist movement today adopted a program of unified action which placed the main emphasis on work to ensure the future of the American Jewish community. The program was adopted at an all-day conference of the American Zionist Council, coordinating body of all Zionist groups in this country. It marks an important departure from the traditional Zionist programs which related primarily to the Israeli scene.

While reaffirming the "Zionist responsibility toward the security and welfare of Israel," the resolutions adopted by the 300 delegates from the nine constituent Zionist organizations affiliated with the American Zionist Council, encompassed participation in Jewish communal affairs, the furtherance of Jewish and Hebrew education, youth activities and encouragement of all types of immigration to Israel. Zionists of all persuasions were urged in one of the resolutions to "involve themselves in all communal endeavors which affect the Jewish community."

"Zionist philosophy of Jewish living in areas ranging from education to philanthropy," the resolution said, "must now be brought to the forefront in all of our Jewish communal enterprises so that the positive values in Jewish life will be properly safeguarded and advanced, thus insuring the survival and growth of a vibrant and creative Jewish life."

The import of the reorientation in the program of American Zionism was stressed in the keynote address by Dr. Max Nussbaum, chairman of the American Zionist Council, who pointed to the fact that the Conference was convened to implement the decisions of the last 26th World Zionist Congress, held in Jerusalem in January 1965, which was devoted to the theme "with the Face Toward the Jewish People in the Diaspora." Dr. Nussbaum asserted that with one-half of the Jewish people today residing in the United States, the implementation of the second unfinished task of the Zionist program for the building of the Jewish people must begin in this country.

Nathaniel S. Rothenberg, chairman of the Administrative Committee of the American Zionist Council, at the morning Plenary session, laid special emphasis on the importance of "rearing a new generation dedicated to the preservation of the historic continuity of the Jewish people." He added that "this is essential for the building of a strong American Jewry which would also serve as a hinterland for an economically strong Israel." Mr. Rothenberg also outlined the tasks facing the Zionist movement today in imbuing American Jewish youth with a sense of spiritual identity with the Jewish people and a loyalty to its heritage.

Urge U. S. to Act on Jordan Waters; Hit Soviet Policy on Jews

In a series of resolutions dealing with international affairs the Conference called upon the United States Government to reaffirm in unmistakable terms America's commitment to the security and independence of all Middle East nations and its determination to prevent aggression be it military or economic. At the same time the resolution took note of the Administration's desire to maintain friendly relations with the Arab countries, but urged that there be no appeasement at the expense of Israel.

In another resolution adopted, the Conference took note of attempts by Arab states to cut off the Jordan headwaters flowing into Israel, thus aiming to deprive Israel of its lifeblood. It urged the United States Government "to use the full weight of its influence to deter the Arab states from a course which is bound to reach a major crisis in the Middle East."

In a resolution on Soviet Jewry, the Conference of the American Zionist Council appealed to the Soviet Government to eliminate all discrimination against Jews and to accord the Jewish community in Soviet Russia the right and the opportunity for full national, religious and cultural expression. The resolution called upon its constituent organizations and their members "to take the lead on the international and local levels in the campaign of public protest demonstrations and in their expression which will keep the plight of our Jewish brethren in Soviet Russia before American and world public opinion."

AMERICAN JEWISH PRESS WEEK PROCLAIMED BY ENGLISH-JEWISH NEWSPAPERS

NEW YORK, May 16. (JTA) -- An American Jewish Press Week, sponsored by the American Jewish Press Association will start tomorrow throughout the country to be followed by the annual convention of the publishers of English-Jewish weeklies which will open in Atlanta on May 20.

In a proclamation issued today by Philip Slomovitz, chairman of the Press Week, it was emphasized that the Jewish community in the United States needs proper communication. "Without it, many communities that are without newspapers, and communities which do not utilize the services offered to them by the Jewish press, will live in a vacuum," the proclamation stated. It pointed out that the English-Jewish press "is the only effective Jewish press in the world today, outside of Israel, where the language is primarily Hebrew."