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ESHKOL INVITES ARABS TO START DIRECT TALKS; STRESSES COEXISTENCE

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol today made a public proposal to the Arab states which signed armistice agreements with Israel to start direct negotiations "with a view to converting these agreements into peace treaties." He spoke in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, which reconvened today for its summer session.

Mr. Eshkol recalled that, among the Arabs, voices have recently been heard rejecting the idea of war and openly calling for a peace settlement and coexistence. Without indulging in premature optimism, he said, Israel is entitled to assume that in the Arab world--and even in its political leadership--there are men who believe in their hearts in the necessity for Arab-Israel coexistence.

"The peace settlement must be based on Israel as she is," he stressed. "Hitherto, the states which have entered into the armistice agreements have evolved patterns of daily life and development projects within their existing borders. Slight mutual adjustments are conceivable at certain points where the population's daily life is disturbed. And this must be the rule: Peace is designed to alter the relations between states, not to change the states themselves."

Offers Overland Transport and Free Access to Israel's Ports

The Israel Prime Minister stressed some of the benefits which will be enjoyed by all concerned when peace between Israel and the Arab countries is assured. They included: regular overland transport by road and rail; free transit through airports; communications by radio, telephone and posts; free access to Israel's ports; facilitating oil trade; encouragement of tourism and free access to the Holy sites; joint research of production and marketing of raw materials as well as desalination of water and exploiting of new sources of energy.

Mr. Eshkol pointed out that a climate of negotiation would make possible joint action to restrain the armaments race, and to bring about disarmament in the region. The great resources which would be liberated would make it much easier to resettle the Arab refugees and absorb them in their natural, national environment, he pointed out. For such action, Israel would be prepared to aid financially to the best of her ability, with the assistance of the Great Powers, he said.

The Prime Minister declared that such a peace program is no figment of the imagination and that "the day will come when the Arab states will recognize that the true division is not between Israel and the Arabs, but between peace lovers and aggressors, and will draw the logical political conclusions." He emphasized that on the same basis of a "natural national environment" Israel has absorbed Jewish refugees from Arab lands numbering no less than the Arab refugees who left Israel.

(In Washington, the first reactions to the proposal for direct Israeli-Arab peace talks, made by Mr. Eshkol, were favorable. However, it was pointed out that formal comment on this proposal would have to await receipt there of the full text of Mr. Eshkol's address.)

MAPAI LEADERS SIDING WITH BEN-GURION ISSUE STATEMENT AGAINST ESHKOL

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA) -- Leaders of the Mapai Party who side with David Ben-Gurion, and who are in the minority in the leadership of the party, today charged Prime Minister Levi Eshkol with seeking to impose the majority's view on the entire party by calling for the resignation from the Cabinet of the Mapai ministers who agree with Ben-Gurion's stand.

In a statement, they said that the traditional view of the Mapai Party was that "the representatives of Mapai in the Cabinet and the Histadrut always reflected the various viewpoints existing in the party and in its national leadership, and this was the guiding principle ever since the establishment of the State." The statement emphasized that Mapai members must not resign from the Cabinet whenever they disagree with the Premier on issues under dispute on a party level, and must enjoy complete freedom to fight in the Cabinet for their opinions "even when they think that there should be another candidate for Premiership."

The signatories of the statement included Mayor Abba Khoushy of Haifa; Moshe Dayan; Mayor Mordechai Surkiss of Kfar Saba; Hillel Cohen, the general manager of Solel Bonch; and a number of others. Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres and Development Minister Yosef Almogi, who are known to be siding with Ben-Gurion, were not among those who signed the statement.

VATICAN SOURCES CLAIM NO 'MATERIAL' CHANGES MADE IN DOCUMENT ON JEWS

ROME, May 17. (JTA) -- "Qualified sources" at the Vatican today said that the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity, which met at the Vatican all of last week to finalize its attitude toward the Ecumenical Council's declaration on repudiating the charge of deicide as applying to the Jewish people, has made no "material" changes in that document, *Il Messaggero*, leading Italian newspaper reports.

The Secretariat, under the presidency of Augustin Cardinal Bea, consists of 30 bishops from around the world. They met to consider 242 amendments to the Declaration on Relations With Non-Christian Religions, adopted by the Ecumenical Council last November by the overwhelming vote of 1,992 to 99. While no word has come from the Bea Secretariat about the discussions of the 30 bishops, it was pointed out here that many of the amendments were of a minor nature, and that a number of the amendments concerned wording in the draft declaration affecting the Moslems, rather than the Jews.

According to some Vatican sources, the Secretariat made an effort to bolster the acceptability of the Declaration by improving some of the terminology in such a way as to reduce Moslem opposition to the principal objective of keeping intact those portions of the document which affect the Jewish people. It was asserted that no dilution of those portions were considered by the assembled bishops.

The draft Declaration will be brought up again before the next session of the Ecumenical Council, to convene September 17. If approved by the Council finally next fall, it will then become official Catholic doctrine, after promulgation by Pope Paul VI.

Protestants Urge Vatican to 'Purge Itself' of 'Bigoted Stand' on Jews

CHICAGO, May 17. (JTA) -- A plea to the Catholic Church to adopt finally the Declaration approved by the last session of the Ecumenical Council, repudiating once and for all the charge of deicide concerning the Jewish people, was voiced here today by the *Christian Century*, one of the most influential Protestant journals in the United States.

In an editorial in the current issue, the weekly summarized the status of the Declaration on Relations With Non-Christian Religions, carried overwhelmingly at the last session of the Ecumenical Council, and pointed out that stiff opposition to the Declaration had developed in highest Vatican circles.

"Men of good will still hope that, at its fourth assembly, Vatican Council II will purge itself of hateful, bigoted, unbiblical, divisive and oppressive attitudes toward Jews," the *Christian Century* editorial said. "It is not the Jew who is now on trial for the crucifixion of Christ, but Christians who, in vicious bigotry, slay the spirit of Christ in their cruel hounding of innocent Jews. Let the church begin its fourth assembly in contrition and repentance."

Entitled "Who Kills Christ Now?" the editorial declared: "Few proposals coming before Vatican Council II spoke to the conscience of Christendom more directly or more pertinently than that one which promised to retract the spurious, cruel charge that the Jews of the first century and of all subsequent centuries were collectively guilty of the death of Jesus of Nazareth. Few proposals made by the convening bishops were more certain evidence of the earnestness and thoroughness of their quest for an updating and renewal of the Roman Catholic Church.

"It was clear from the beginning that most of the bishops gathered in Vatican City wanted a strong statement to cancel the shame which the church had brought upon itself by its ancient slander of the Jews. It was plain that they wanted to do what they could to prevent recurrent persecution of Jews. Toward this end they voted in overwhelming majorities. But as is now well known, the will of the majority in a Vatican Council assembly can be stifled by the church's wily administrators and, as happened last fall, by the Pope himself. The council proposes and the Curia disposes."

U. S. Catholics Warn Strongly on Changes in Declaration on Jews

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- Commonweal, a Catholic weekly edited here by laymen, declared editorially that the Catholic Church will stand "condemned" if it fails to adopt finally the Declaration passed at the last session of the Ecumenical Council, repudiating the charge of deicide made historically against the Jewish people.

"It is shameful enough that the Church has taken two thousand years to come to grips with its guilt," the *Commonweal* said. "This shame has been compounded by the long struggle with the Council to achieve a strong position... If the council fails, or if it equivocates, the Church will stand condemned. That judgment will be justly deserved."

TRIAL OF ISRAELI RESCUED FROM EGYPTIAN TRUNK STARTS IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA) -- Mordechai Louk, the Israeli who was released last November by Italian customs officials at a Rome airport from a trunk which Egyptian diplomats were attempting to ship to Cairo, went on trial in District Court here today on charges of crossing illegally into Egypt and handing over secrets to Israel's enemy. Following the prosecution statement, the courtroom was cleared and the hearing of witnesses begun. The trial is expected to last ten days.

LEADER OF SWEDISH NAZIS CHARGED BY PROSECUTOR WITH HIGH TREASON

STOCKHOLM, May 17. (JTA) -- Bjorn Lundahl, leader of the Swedish Nazis arrested last week after police discovered a cache of weapons at their headquarters and a list of Swedish Jewish leaders marked for assassination, was charged by Sweden's Chief Prosecutor today with high treason. The prosecutor requested that Lundahl and six other alleged Nazis arrested with him be held without bail pending a police search for further evidence against the men.

All have denied they had had any contacts with the Egyptian Embassy here, although tape recordings and documents found at their headquarters showed that Lundahl had held at least 30 conferences with the former first secretary of the Egyptian Embassy here. They had allegedly planned for anti-Israeli espionage and for help to be given by Swedish Nazis to an Egyptian attack against Israel. The prosecution also announced today it had uncovered a possible link between the Swedish Nazis and a plot to have a newspaper in Oslo, Norway, print pro-Nazi material.

GOVERNMENT ACTION AGAINST BRITISH ANTI-SEMITES URGED IN COMMONS

LONDON, May 17. (JTA) -- Reginald Freeson, a member of Parliament representing the Labor Party, formally asked the Government in the House of Commons today to report what steps are being taken against rightist organizations he accused of being linked to recent anti-Semitic manifestations in this country.

He listed a series of acts such as the daubing of synagogues with the swastika, desecration of Jewish cemeteries and the distribution of fascist and racist propaganda in London and in other parts of Britain. He named specifically the British Nazi Party, the British National Movement and the Nazi International, telling Parliament that police authorities have the names of members of these groups who have participated in anti-Semitic actions.

At the same time, Sir Frank Soskice, the Home Secretary, was asked in Parliament today whether he is taking any action against a new book shop opened in London by John Tyndall, former aide to Colin Jordan, leader of the British Nazi Party. The shop specializes in anti-Semitic literature. Sir Frank replied that the anti-racism bill now pending in the House is intended to make such activities illegal.

CANADIAN PREMIER ASSURES HOUSE ON CHECKING ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA

OTTAWA, May 17. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson has assured the House of Commons that the Government will look carefully into the use of the Canadian mails for the dissemination of anti-Semitic materials by David Stanley, an ultra-rightist propagandist who recently set up new headquarters in Vancouver. He had moved his base of operations from Toronto.

The Premier's assurance came in reply to a question asked in the House by Harold F. Winch, a New Democratic Party member from Vancouver. Mr. Winch told the Government that Stanley's Vancouver headquarters is using "Her Majesty's mails to send out most vicious racial propaganda against Canadians, ethnically Jewish." He asked whether the Post Office would take action to halt the use of the mails for dissemination of hate literature. Mr. Pearson answered for the Government in the absence of the Postmaster General. "The matter will be looked into and studied carefully," he said.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO REQUEST HIGHER BONDS FOR ARRESTED NAZIS

WASHINGTON, May 17. (JTA) -- The Board of Judges of the District of Columbia Court of General Sessions has amended the list of bonds and collaterals to make possible the imposition of higher bonds and increased collateral in instances of arrest of members of the American Nazi Party.

This was made known in a letter from President Walter N. Tobriner of the Board of Commissioners of the District of Columbia to Rep. Charles S. Joelson, New Jersey Democrat. Rep. Joelson had complained that Nazis were getting off in the district for mere forfeiture of \$10 collateral despite extreme abuses against law and order. Mr. Tobriner wrote Rep. Joelson that he considered the amended rule to be an improvement. "But," he added, "I do hope that if repeating offenders elect to forfeit the higher collateral they will, nevertheless, be ordered arrested and tried."

PITTSBURGH JEWISH FEDERATION CONCLUDES 1955 DRIVE; \$1,700,875 RAISED

PITTSBURGH, May 17. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Federation of Pittsburgh concluded its 1955 campaign with record contributions totaling \$1,700,875, a "breakthrough" figure that exceeded last year's drive by 10 percent.

According to Alvin Rogal, newly elected president of the Federation, and William Stark, campaign chairman, this year's total was the largest amount ever raised during a regular, non-emergency campaign since the inception of the Federation as the community's central planning and fund-raising organization in 1955. Last year's drive had brought in \$1,541,040.

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY TO STUDY JEWISH LIFE IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

BOSTON, May 17. (JTA) -- An Institute of East European Jewish Affairs devoted to the study of Jewish life in Communist-dominated countries will be inaugurated at Brandeis University in September, it was announced today by the university. Directing the Institute, which will have a staff of research fellows preparing bulletins, monographs and books, will be Prof. Erich Goldhagen, formerly a fellow of Harvard's Russian Research Center and now a member of Hunter College's Political Science Department.

Attached to the university's Philip W. Lown Graduate Center for Contemporary Jewish Studies, the new institute will be the first such research program of its kind in the United States under academic auspices. "In creating the Institute, Brandeis seeks to remedy a long standing shortage of basic information on the circumstances of some 3,000,000 Jews living in East Europe," a statement issued by the university said. Accordingly, the new Institute has been conceived as a center for objective study, free from partisan or organizational pressures, and as a source of information for academic and governmental agencies as well as Jewish communal organizations."

DR. HERZOG, TOP ISRAELI DIPLOMAT, CHOSEN FOR CHIEF RABBI IN ENGLAND

LONDON, May 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Jacob Herzog, deputy director of the Israel Foreign Ministry and Israel's former Ambassador to Canada, was unanimously nominated last night by the Special Committee of the Chief Rabbis Conference to the post of Chief Rabbi of the United Hebrew Congregations of the British Commonwealth.

The nomination by the Special Committee headed by Sir Isaac Wolfson and including 35 other members is only a recommendation which will come before the full Chief Rabbinate Conference only if Dr. Herzog accepts the nomination. A British-Jewish delegation is expected to meet with Dr. Herzog in Israel shortly to discuss the offer.

Dr. Herzog, who was born in Dublin, is the son of the late Rabbi Isaac Halevi Herzog, former Chief Rabbi of the Holy Land and before that, Chief Rabbi of Ireland. In addition to serving in Israeli diplomatic posts in Ottawa, Warsaw and Washington, the younger Dr. Herzog was director of the Israel Foreign Ministry's United States division.

If Dr. Herzog accepts the nomination, the choice of the Special Committee is certain to be endorsed by the full Chief Rabbinate Conference which is due to convene in about two weeks. Dr. Israel Brodie, who has served as British Chief Rabbi since 1948, is scheduled to retire later this month.

JEWISH VICTIM OF NAZI CAMP TESTIFIES IN GERMAN CONSULATE IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL, May 17. (JTA) -- A closed hearing was held at the West German Consulate here yesterday to secure testimony from a survivor of the Nazi concentration camp at Treblinka. Sigmund Straczynsky was the only witness heard by a commission of inquiry set up in the trial of 10 former Treblinka officers and guards. The trial is taking place in Dusseldorf, West Germany.

Mr. Straczynsky, a Polish Jew, is a former prisoner in the Treblinka camp where an estimated 700,000 Jews were massacred during the Second World War. The visiting commission includes Dr. Hubert Bach, chairman of the Dusseldorf tribunal; Hans Gnienwitz, an attorney, and seven defense lawyers representing the accused. A representative of the West German Government is accompanying the commission.

SIR ISAAC WOLFSON ELECTED DIRECTOR OF ISRAEL ECONOMIC CORPORATION

NEW YORK, May 17. (JTA) -- The election of Sir Isaac Wolfson, prominent British businessman and philanthropist, as a director of PEC Israel Economic Corporation, was announced here today by Joseph Meyerhoff, chairman of the corporation.

QUEEN JULIANA VISITS FORMER HOME OF ANNE FRANK IN AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM, May 17. (JTA) -- Queen Juliana of the Netherlands today visited the former home of Anne Frank, the Jewish girl whose diary of experiences while hiding from the Nazis has become world famous. The Queen was accompanied by Lea Steinwasser, the memorial exhibition artist.

JEWS IN IRELAND. TO ESTABLISH EAMONN DE VALERA FOREST IN ISRAEL

DUBLIN, May 17. (JTA) -- Plans were announced here today for the establishment of a forest of 10,000 trees in Israel by the Jewish community of Ireland in tribute to President Eamonn de Valera. To be known as the Eamonn de Valera Forest at Kfar Hanna near Nazareth, the project is the latest in a series of similar forests named to honor the late President John F. Kennedy, Jan Christian Smuts and Franklin Delano Roosevelt.

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF DR. BODENHEIMER OBSERVED IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, May 17. (JTA) -- The first saplings of a 10,000-tree forest in memory of Dr. Max Bodenheimer, president of the Jewish National Fund from 1907 to 1914 were planted here today in ceremonies marking the 100th anniversary of Bodenheimer's birth. Dr. Bodenheimer's daughter and other members of his family attended the ceremony which was presided over by Yaacov Tsur, world chairman of the JNF.