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ISRAEL REITERATES READINESS FOR DIRECT TALKS WITH ARABS ON REFUGEE ISSUE

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 16: (JTA) -- Israel today reiterated its readiness to negotiate directly with the Arab states in regard to solution of the Arab refugees problem. At the same time, Israel rejected firmly any proposals that would impose upon its government a United Nations custodian for property which the Arabs claim to have abandoned in Israel;

Both points were made in the General Assembly's Special Political Committee by Ambassador Michael S. Comay, chairman of Israel's delegation to the United Nations. The committee, which this afternoon started its second month of debate on the refugee question, has now held 23 meetings on this one issue, having begun to talk about it on October 15. In spite of the repeated insistence of the group's chairman, Carlet R. Auguste, of Haiti, that the body terminate its overlong discussions and vote on a resolution that would end this year's talking, the committee adjourned again until tomorrow without any positive action.

Ambassador Comay's move toward authorization by the Assembly of direct Arab-Israel talks on the refugee issue came in the form of an amendment which he introduced, altering a resolution presented by the United States. The U.S. draft would, among other things, refer to a 1948 Assembly resolution dealing with "repatriation" of the refugees to Israel and compensation by Israel. Mr. Comay's amendment would strike out that reference, substituting an appeal to the Arab governments and to Israel to "undertake direct negotiations" on the refugee issue and pledging the U.N.'s assistance to the "finding of an agreed solution."

Comay Explains Rejection of U.N. Custodian Over Arab Property

The Israeli Ambassador's statement rejecting the idea of a U.N. custodian referred to a separate resolution introduced by three Moslem states -- Afghanistan, Malaysia and Somalia. In that draft, the Moslems, as a front for the Arab states, called for the naming of a U.N. custodian "to protect and administer Arab property, assets and property rights in Israel and to receive income derived therefrom on behalf of the rightful owners."

As he had stated in the committee earlier, Mr. Comay today again affirmed that the United Nations has no jurisdiction whatever over any properties inside Israel. Such properties, he insisted, are subject only to Israeli domestic law, and a U.N. custodianship would violate Israel's sovereignty.

Moslems also introduced their own amendment to the U.S. draft, seeking to strengthen the reference to the 1948 resolution by urging Israel "not to obstruct any further implementation" and "deploring Israel's continued refusal" to implement the provisions voted in 1948. Israel and other members have objected to that formulation. It was pointed out here by Israel that the 1948 document was only "permissive" in character, and did not obligate Israel either to repatriation or compensation.

United States sources said here today that the Washington delegation would reject both the Israeli and the Moslem amendments. They pointed out that the main aim of the U.S. draft was merely to vote continuance of the mandate of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine refugees for a three-year term beyond the agency's present mandate, which is to expire in June, 1966, and to assure that UNRWA can continue to aid the Arab refugees. The U.S. draft would also direct UNRWA to rectify its relief rolls, calling that issue "a problem which has been and continues to be of major concern to the General Assembly."

ISRAEL EXPRESSES REGRET TO BRITISH EMBASSY FOR HOSTILE DEMONSTRATION

JERUSALEM, Nov. 16: (JTA) -- The building of the British Embassy in Tel Aviv remained today heavily guarded by Israeli police, following yesterday's demonstration by African students in Israel in protest against British refusal to take military action against the unilateral declaration of independence by Rhodesia. Nearly all window panes in the four-story Embassy building were broken by stones thrown by the demonstrators. Two Israeli policemen were injured in a clash with the students.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman expressed regrets today concerning the demonstration and the resulting damage. He warned the students that no breach of law would be condoned by the Israel Government, noting that Israel had already formally condemned the action by the British colony officials in Rhodesia.

CONVENTION OF REFORM JEWS ASKS U. S. CONGRESS TO ACT ON SOVIET JEWRY

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 16: (JTA) -- The Union of American Hebrew Congregations called today upon the Congress to adopt a resolution "urging the Soviet Union to cease discrimination of any kind against its 3,000,000 Jews."

At the same time, the plenary session of the 48th biennial assembly asked its 664 member congregations to "pledge their energies to an intensified educational campaign, in concert with all other Jewish organizations associated in the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry to inform and mobilize public opinion in our country and throughout the world;"

Irwin Fane, chairman of the UAHG board of trustees, expressed "dismay" at the "empty promises" made by the Soviet authorities in recent months in which they indicated that conditions of the Jews in their country were improving. He charged that "instead of improvements, we have witnessed the shocking performance of the Soviet delegation to the United Nations which last month flung an outrageous insult at the Jewish people by linking Zionism with Nazism under the rubric of hatred and inhumanity. Even Communists in various parts of the Western world have labeled this as monstrous."

"The Soviet Government must be put on notice," he continued, "that it cannot hope to misguide the world Jewish community of public opinion generally with empty promises, or even with token concessions. It can expect nothing less than the ceaseless and persistent demands by liberal humanitarians all over the world for a full restoration of rights to Soviet Jewry."

(From London, it was reported today that a Society of Friends of Russian Jewry, including long-standing friends of the Soviet Union among its members, was formed there. The members include the famous philosopher Lord Bertrand Russell, Philip Goodhart, Member of Parliament, and Joseph Hermann, the painter. The Society plans to publish a monthly bulletin called "Focus on Soviet Jewry.")

At last night's session, the UAHG launched a \$2,000,000 campaign for establishment of a religious art center in New York for the creation of various artistic projects dealing with Jewish religious and cultural themes. The center will encourage member congregations to utilize newly created works, including music and drama, "to deepen and enrich religious worship and experience."

JEWS IN RUMANIA UNVEIL MONUMENT IN BUCHAREST TO VICTIMS OF 'STRUMA'

LONDON, Nov. 16: (JTA) -- A monument to the victims of the "Struma," the ship which sank off Haifa in February 1942, with a cargo of "illegal" immigrants, has been unveiled in Bucharest, it was reported here today from the Rumanian capital. The monument was sponsored by the Union of Jewish Communities in Rumania.

It was also reported that the Union had launched a campaign to clean up and restore Jewish cemeteries all over Rumania which are in a dilapidated condition. About 120 cemeteries are considered in need of such repair.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR PLEDGES PUNISHMENT OF NAZI WAR CRIMINALS BEFORE 1969

BONN, Nov. 16: (JTA) -- Chancellor Ludwig Erhard declared in the Bundestag, the West German lower house of Parliament, that the federal republic would do everything in its power to complete the investigations and bring to justice all remaining Nazi war criminals before the extended statute of limitations goes into effect in 1969.

He appealed to "the whole world" to make available to West German authorities any materials relating to the Nazi war crimes. He also expressed satisfaction that neither the rightwing nor leftwing extremists had had any success at the September Parliamentary elections.

EX-MINISTER OF LEBANON ELECTED BY U.N. TO INTERNATIONAL COURT OF JUSTICE

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 16: (JTA) -- Fouad Ammoun, former Minister of Foreign Affairs of Lebanon, was elected here today to fill the vacancy on the nine-member International Court of Justice created three months ago by the death of another Arab member of the Court, Judge Abdel Hamid Badawi of Egypt.

The Security Council, which, in accordance with the procedures in this case, had to approve Mr. Ammoun's candidacy first, elected him by a vote of 11 to 0. A few minutes later, the General Assembly elected him by a vote of 100 out of the 106 members present. Six members of the Assembly voted for Sture Petren of Sweden. The usual term for a member of the court is seven years, but Mr. Ammoun will serve only for the rest of the tenure held by the late Judge Badawi, which will expire in February, 1967.

U. S. BASE IN LIBYA FIRES EMPLOYEE REFUSING TO SIGN ANTI-ISRAEL PLEDGE

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16; (JTA) -- The United States Army-Air Force Exchange Service fired an American Christian assigned to manage food facilities at Wheelus Air Force Base in Libya, because he refused to sign an anti-Israel visa declaration requested by the Libyan Government, Rep. Richard S. Schweiker, Pennsylvania Republican, disclosed today.

Edward P. Hunt, of Bala, Pa., was reinstated with full back pay after Rep. Schweiker protested the firing to Secretary of Defense Robert S. McNamara. But the Defense and State Departments refused to protest to the Libyan authorities and indicated that the United States would continue requiring employees assigned to Libya to obey Libyan requirements; Rep. Schweiker said: "It is absolutely outrageous for any agency of the United States Government to fire an employee because he refuses to sign a declaration which he feels is anti-Semitic."

Mr. Hunt, a 31-year-old food supervisor for the Defense Department, was transferred last April from Fort Belvoir, Va., to manage facilities at Wheelus Air Force base in Libya. When he arrived at the European Exchange Service headquarters in Nuremberg, Germany, en route to his Libyan assignment, Mr. Hunt was ordered, for the first time, to sign a Libyan visa application containing a discriminatory clause.

The application included a statement that "I know that, in case of obtaining any Israeli visa, my visa to Libya will be considered invalid."

Mr. Hunt, a Roman Catholic, informed his superiors that he could not conscientiously sign an anti-Israeli declaration. He felt that an American citizen should be able to work at an American base anywhere in the world without committing himself not to visit the State of Israel.

"Due to my deep religious convictions concerning the Hebrew faith and its people, I cannot in conscience sign any statement contrary to my beliefs," he told the Defense Department. When he persisted in refusing to sign the Libyan oath, Mr. Hunt was notified by Brig. Gen. John D. Hines, commanding general of the European U. S. Exchange System, that he was fired. Mr. Hunt had to pay his own return transportation from Germany to the United States. The U. S. Exchange Service deducted from his final pay the cost of transporting him to Germany en route to Libya.

Rep. Schweiker, a Protestant, learned of the case and protested to Secretary McNamara. The Defense Department then acted to reinstate Mr. Hunt with reimbursement of back pay and travel expenses, but sent someone else to the job at Wheelus Air Force base. State Department sources said no protest was made to Libya because of Moslem sensitivity on matters pertaining to Israel. The Army-Air Force Exchange Service will continue to accede to Libyan requirements, it was indicated.

1,000 STUDENTS FROM LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES GIVEN TRAINING IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 16; (JTA) -- About 1,000 students from Latin American countries have received technical training in Israel according to figures released here today on the eve of the start of negotiations with the Organization of American States for the third renewal of the agreement on technical aid to be held in Washington, D.C. soon.

The number of OAS students trained in Israel is second only to the total trained in the United States. The major attractions for such students in Israel is the availability of Spanish-speaking teachers and the similarity of many development problems in Israel and Latin American nations.

A seminar on cooperation sponsored by the OAS opened here yesterday with participation of top leaders in the field from 20 Latin American states. The participants were welcomed by Labor Minister Yigal Allon.

\$3,000,000 IN GIFTS FOR HEBREW UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCED IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, Nov. 16; (JTA) -- Professor Joseph Kaplan, president of the International Geophysical Year, world famous scientist, was honored by the American Friends of the Hebrew University at the Beverly Hilton Hotel on the occasion of the celebration of the 40th anniversary of the University.

Professor Kaplan, president of the local chapter of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, in a brief speech said that the urgency for education was more immediate than the pressure for a safe landing on the moon. More than \$3,000,000 in advance gifts for the benefit of the University was announced. The dinner was chaired by Louis H. Boyar, prominent Los Angeles industrialist.

(In Washington, the Jewish community pledged this week a total of \$717,000 for the construction of a student dormitory and a residence for faculty members of the Hebrew University, it was announced by Nathaniel L. Goldstein, president of the American Friends of the university.)

WASHINGTON JEWISH LEADERS HAIL APPEARANCE OF NEW ANGLO-JEWISH WEEKLY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16: (JTA) -- Jewish community leaders of the District of Columbia have enthusiastically welcomed appearance of the first issue of the nation's newest English-Jewish weekly, "The Jewish Week," a new concept in journalism that has attracted favorable notice throughout the country.

President Louis C. Grossberg and Executive Director Isaac Franck of the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington, have greeted "The Jewish Week" as a "highly promising successor to the "National Jewish Ledger." They wrote Joseph M. Hochstein, Editor and Publisher, that "on the basis of your own, and of Mr. Philip Hochstein's experience and distinguished record in the newspaper field, we have every reason to be confident that you will succeed" in enriching Jewish religious, cultural, and organizational life;

Joseph M. Hochstein is the son of Philip Hochstein, who is senior editor of the Newhouse newspapers and president of National Publications, Inc., a family-held corporation that publishes the new newspaper. The younger Hochstein resigned in October as Managing Editor of the Newhouse National News Service to devote full time to establishing "The Jewish Week."

A policy statement by "The Jewish Week" affirmed that "our Jewishness is moral, religious, cultural, human; Politically, we are Americans of a generous, concerned outlook. We are not partisan, but are deeply concerned with basic issues and will take some strong positions;" The newspaper also said its policy would "observe the Sabbath in our own operation and we will never be condescending toward any expression of Jewish religious observance. We do not, however, propose to undertake the tasks of the rabbi. We will not preach."

The staff made known that "all of us are deeply and ardently sympathetic to the Israeli state, both as Americans and as Jews;" "The Jewish Week" uses the format of a full-sized daily newspaper and extensive use of staff photography.

B'NAI B'RITH CELEBRATES CENTENNIAL OF ITS EXISTENCE IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Nov. 16: (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith began this week the celebration of its 100th anniversary in Washington, D.C., as part of the national capital scene. The Washington Post issued a special supplement to commemorate the centennial of the Jewish organization's local history. B'nai B'rith was formed in Washington at the end of the Civil War, in 1865, as the Elijah Lodge, to unite Northern Jews and those co-religionists who cast their lot with the Southern states.

The local celebration will be highlighted by a three-day annual meeting of B'nai B'rith's international board of governors. A centennial dinner, attended by an estimated 1,200 persons, will take place November 21 and will witness the presentation of the B'nai B'rith humanitarianism award to both Israel Ambassador and Mrs. Avraham Harman.

OWNER OF CHAGALL PAINTING LOOTED BY NAZIS WINS IT BACK IN U.S. COURT

NEW YORK, Nov. 16: (JTA) -- A New York State Supreme Court jury declared yesterday that Mrs. Erna Menzel was the owner of a Marc Chagall painting which a Gestapo unit confiscated in the Menzel home in Brussels in 1941. The work is named "Nose and Ladder."

The story, as unfolded during a two-week trial, began in 1932 when the Menzels, who are not Jewish, bought the gouache for \$150. When the German army invaded Belgium, the Menzels fled, coming to New York in 1941. For years they checked art catalogs, seeking the painting. In 1962, Mrs. Menzel, then a widow, found the painting listed as belonging to Albert A. List, the Jewish philanthropist and she filed suit against him to recover. Mr. List said he had purchased the work from the Peries Galleries of New York in 1955 for \$4,000. The gallery said it had bought the work from a Paris gallery earlier that year for \$2,800.

In addition to establishing the current value of the gouache at \$22,500, the jury held that Mr. List was entitled to regain the full value of the painting from the Peries Galleries.

INTERNATIONAL SYNAGOGUE AT N.Y. AIRPORT GETS ANCIENT BUCHAREST TORAH

NEW YORK, Nov. 16: (JTA) -- The new International Synagogue at Kennedy Airport in New York received yesterday a 200-year-old Torah Scroll from a Bucharest synagogue described as the first allowed to be sent by the Communist country to the United States.

That description was given by Dr. Charles H. Kremer, president of the Rumanian Jewish Federation of America, in presenting the Scroll to Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz, chairman of the board of the synagogue, and Rabbi Harold Gordon, executive vice-president of the New York Board of Rabbis.