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STATE DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES \$400,000,000 SALE OF ARMS TO SAUDI ARABIA

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22: (JTA) -- The State Department today announced approval of a massive \$400,000,000 comprehensive air defense system to Saudi Arabia, including the latest jet fighters and missiles, in a combined British-American consortium transaction.

The Department said the transaction "does not represent any departure from our traditional policy toward arms sales in the Middle East." American policy was defined as limiting arms sales to Mideast nations to amounts "essential for self-defense and internal security." The huge quantities of air weapons were approved to permit Saudi Arabia to establish a modern air defense potentiality.

A Department spokesman revealed that the deal includes British "Lightning" jet supersonic fighters and American "Hawk" ground-to-air missiles. Also included were a radar and communications network, and training facilities.

U. S. WANTS ISRAEL TO PAY IN DOLLARS FOR SURPLUS FOODS, MINISTER REVEALS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 22: (JTA) -- Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir returned from a visit to the United States today with a report that United States officials want Israel to pay for surplus foods in dollars and to set a higher interest on loans to Israel. Up to now the payments for U.S. surplus foods were made in Israeli pounds, part of which were given back to Israel as aid for economic projects.

Reporting that Israeli-United States negotiations were still in progress on terms of Israeli purchases of surplus food, the Finance Minister said that United States officials believe Israel no longer qualifies as a "developing country" and that financial ties between the two countries should therefore be placed on a regular basis.

SHAZAR INVITES DE GAULLE TO ISRAEL; INVITATION MEETS WARM RESPONSE

PARIS, Dec. 22: (JTA) -- Israel's President Shazar has invited President de Gaulle to make a state visit, it was learned here today. The invitation was contained in President Shazar's telegram of congratulation to Gen. de Gaulle on his election. The invitation met a warm and positive response from French official sources, who said that Gen. de Gaulle would "attentively study" the possibilities of accepting the invitation.

Another development stemming from the election campaign was a complaint from some Jewish circles that there had been anti-Semitic innuendoes in some references made by Francois Mitterand, who lost in the runoff election for the presidency during his campaigning. A spokesman for the Socialist candidate vehemently denied the charge today.

Mitterand said during the campaign that he would "rather have a Communist worker vote for me than a member of the Rothschild house" and that Frenchmen should elect their president on a popular basis and not "have him appointed by the House of Rothschild or the elegant Jockey Club."

Noting that Premier Georges Pompidou had served as the Rothschild bank managing director for several years, the Mitterand spokesman said: "What we tried to stress is the regime's association with high finance. We had no intention to throw the slightest shadow on the country's Jewish population." Other Socialist sources said that, if Mitterand had defeated Gen. de Gaulle, he would have named Pierre Mendes-France, one of France's leading Jews and a former Premier, as his Premier.

ESHKOL TO SEEK EXTENSION OF MANDATE TO FORM NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 22: (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol today indicated that he might ask President Shazar for an extension of his mandate to form a new Cabinet, in view of the fact that the National Religious Party continues to be the principal obstacle in his efforts to form a new coalition government. The present Cabinet, which includes the National Religious Party, is serving as a caretaker government, pending formation of a new Cabinet following the November 2 general election.

The religious party leaders are demanding a Cabinet commitment to stop all Sabbath work at the new port of Ashdod, as well as various concessions in the field of education. The Premier held lengthy talks with Moshe Shapira and other religious party leaders yesterday and today. Mr. Shapira, commenting on the negotiations, said, "So far we have agreed to disagree," but the Premier indicated he still hoped that an acceptable compromise could be found to permit formation of a new coalition.

NAZI GENERAL, CONDEMNED TO DEATH IN BELGIUM, IS ACQUITTED IN AUSTRIA

VIENNA, Dec. 22; (JTA) -- Robert Jan Verbelen, a former SS general condemned to death in absentia by Belgium in 1947 for wartime crimes in that country, was found innocent yesterday by a Vienna jury court in charges of participating in terrorist acts and mass murders in Belgium;

The jurors said, in the decision, that Verbelen had acted in an "emergency" situation and had "only" fulfilled orders of his superiors. The State Attorney immediately announced he was appealing the verdict;

Verbelen, who served as a wartime deputy to Leon Degrelle, the former Belgian Rexist leader, during the German occupation, fled from Belgium and turned up in Austria in 1945, acquiring Austrian citizenship. In 1962, the Belgian Government asked his extradition. The Austrian Government rejected the request because of Verbelen's Austrian citizenship. Later the Government withdrew that citizenship and Verbelen again disappeared, returning to Vienna in 1963 when he was arrested;

Under new Austrian legislation, the crimes for which he was tried in absentia are no longer indictable and he was therefore indicted on the new charges of which the jury court today acquitted him;

Acquittal of Nazi General in Vienna Draws Strong Criticism

BRUSSELS, Dec. 22; (JTA) -- The acquittal yesterday in Vienna of Robert Jan Verbelen, a former SS general condemned to death in absentia in Belgium in 1947 for war crimes in that country, evoked sharp criticism today in Belgium. Verbelen was found innocent by the Vienna court of charges of participating in terrorist acts and mass murders in occupied Belgium;

Justice Minister Pierre Wigny told the Belgian Broadcasting Service in an interview that he was indignant over the acquittal. He recalled Verbelen's 1947 death sentence and said that he was still considered here as under that sentence and subject to its implementation if he ever returned to Belgium;

The Union of International Resistance and Deportees issued a statement from its headquarters here expressing its indignation and charging that the Nazi ideology had left "deep traces" in Austria; The Union said this had been shown previously in other "scandalous sentences" in previous Nazi war crimes trials. The Union added that the Verbelen verdict was "one more proof" of the "active and extended solidarity" still existing between former Nazi criminals and their friends;

LIFE SENTENCE DEMANDED FOR EX-NAZI CHIEF OF CRACOW; DEPORTED JEWS

KIEL, Dec. 22; (JTA) -- A sentence of life imprisonment was demanded today by the state prosecutor in the re-trial of Martin Fellenz, a former SS Lt. Col. and former Nazi police chief in Cracow in occupied Poland during the war;

Fellenz was sentenced to a four-year term in his first trial in Flensburg in connection with the deportation of 38,000 Jews in the Cracow area. He was released soon after the start of his term because the court ordered the period of his pre-trial detention deducted from his sentence;

The Flensburg prosecutor appealed against the light sentence and the West German High Court ordered a second trial. New charges have been made against Fellenz during the new trial. He has denied all charges, asserting that responsibility for actions in occupied Poland rested with the Nazi police chief for the entire area, a statement in conflict with prosecution evidence that local Nazi police chiefs had authority to order deportations;

GERMAN YOUTH SENTENCED FOR SMEARING SWASTIKAS ON JEWISH TOMBSTONES

BAMBERG, Dec. 22; (JTA) -- Reinhard Woitzik, the 20-year-old jobless dental technician who admitted smearings of 23 tombstones and monuments in the Bamberg Jewish cemetery last summer, began today a term of 18 to 42 months in the Juvenile Detention Center. The youth, who said in his trial yesterday that he was ashamed of his acts, was found guilty of desecrating the cemetery;

Woitzik said he had developed a hatred of Jews after spending his childhood in post-war refugee camps and seeing his father, a onetime member of Hitler's SS Elite Guard, arrested in 1961 on suspicion of war crimes;

SOVIET AMBASSADOR DECORATES VETERAN OF RED ARMY LIVING IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Dec. 22; (JTA) -- Soviet Ambassador Dimitri Chuvakhin pinned two medals for valor on Shlomo Rigler of Natanya, a World War II veteran of the Red Army, in the first such award to former Soviet citizens in Israel. Rigler was a private in a tank unit which fought in General Zhukov's forces from Auschwitz to Breslau. He joined the Red Army after it liberated Breslau, later settling in Israel;

HUGE MASS MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES PROTESTS SOVIET POLICY ON JEWS

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 22; (JTA) -- A resolution protesting Soviet suppression of Jewish religious and cultural rights in the USSR was adopted here today at a huge mass meeting. The resolution urged the Soviet Government to meet its "constitutional and moral obligations" to Russian Jewry;

Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, president of the DALA, the central representative body for Argentine Jews, which sponsored the protest, recalled previous efforts to induce Soviet authorities to remove widely-publicized disabilities imposed on Russian Jews. He called for reopening of Yiddish schools and theaters, resumption of publication of newspapers and journals in Yiddish, ending of impediments to religious observances and permitting Russian Jews to be reunited with families living in other countries;

Other speakers included Dr. Jose Luis Romero, dean of the philosophy faculty of the Buenos Aires University, Prof. Lazaro Schallman and Jaim Finkielstein, educator.

Meeting in Mexico Protests Soviet Discriminations Against Jews

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 22; (JTA) -- A strong resolution protesting against the Soviet Union's discriminations against Russian Jewry was adopted here last night by a capacity audience that filled to overflowing the large auditorium of the Jewish Sports Center. The audience included non-Jews. One of the principal speakers was Ruben Moheño, a member of the Mexican Parliament;

The resolution called on the USSR, among other objectives, to lift the restrictions against Jewish culture and religion, and to permit Russian Jews who wish to do so to emigrate to Israel. Among other speakers were Gregorio Shapiro, president of the Jewish Central Committee of Mexico; and Jacob Mondlak, a Zionist-Revisionist leader here who presided;

ARCHBISHOP OF PHILADELPHIA LAUDS VATICAN DECLARATION ON JEWS

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22; (JTA) -- The recent Ecumenical Council's schema on relations with the Jewish people, later promulgated as a Catholic Church decree by Pope Paul VI, was "indeed an improvement" over previous drafts of that document, and showed clearly that the Catholic Church shares "a common patrimony with the Jews," the Most Rev. John A. Krol, Archbishop of Philadelphia, declared here;

At a news conference discussing the results of the Ecumenical Council's actions, the Archbishop supported the document relating to the Jews, and stated that certain changes from earlier drafts were fully justified. On the deletion of the word "deicide" from the schema, he stated: "One must not get lost in words. The impact of the document is clear. It would have been ridiculous to use that word 'deicide' in the declaration. We cannot condemn the Jews of today for the acts performed 2,000 years ago. The word 'deicide' implies the knowing that a god was being killed."

Archbishop Krol also upheld the change in the document, dropping the word "condemn" in regard to anti-Semitism and substituting the word "deplore." The use of "condemn," he said, "would have been alien to the mind of Pope John and to the total tendency of the Council. The word has always been deleted when it arises at the Council. As a pastoral Council, we do not condemn."

Archbishop Krol was the only American on the preparatory commission formed after the late Pope John XXIII first announced his intention in 1959, to convene an Ecumenical Council. Later, he was the only American bishop among five Council secretaries. In general, he said, the Council "far surpassed the expectations" of the late Pope John.

RABBIS URGE JEWS TO FOREGO NEW YEAR'S EVE PARTIES, ATTEND SERVICES

NEW YORK, Dec. 22; (JTA) -- The coincidence of New Year's Eve and Sabbath eve next week prompted spokesmen for rabbinical organizations to appeal to Jews to refrain from participation in the usual New Year's Eve revelries out of respect for the Sabbath.

The Rabbinical Council of Greater Washington, in its appeal, called New Year's Eve celebrations a throwback to a pagan cult and a violation of the "basic tenets" of the Jewish religion. Rabbi Harry J. Kaufman, president of the rabbinical group, urged all Jews and Jewish organizations "to refrain from sponsoring or participating in public or private functions" on that Friday night.

The Greater Kansas City Rabbinical Association emphasized, in a statement, that "all of the synagogues in our community will be holding their regular Sabbath Eve services or Onegai Shabbat." The "earnest hope" was expressed Kansas City Jews would go to those services rather than to the usual "dances, cocktail parties and the like."

The Houston Rabbinical Association published a statement that it "does not approve of any Jewish organization sponsoring a New Year's Eve dance on a Friday evening."

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE COMPLAINS ON ANTI-JEWISH BIAS; SUBMITS BRIEF

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22: (JTA) -- The Jewish Labor Committee charged in a brief filed here with Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., chairman of the Equal Employment Opportunities Commission, that research data shows that "discrimination against Jews continues in our major centers of Jewish population;" That bias, according to Emanuel Muravchik, national director of the JLC, is rife particularly in the white collar field, and in technical, administrative, executive and professional employment;

Mr. Muravchik submitted the brief in response to a request by Mr. Roosevelt for reactions to a proposal that 60,000 of the largest American firms be required to submit annual reports on their practices regarding the hiring of persons from minority groups. "Any proper reporting process," stated the JLC executive, "like any proper enforcement procedure, must deal with discrimination against Jews as well as against Negroes, Hispanic Americans, American Indians and Orientals." The JLC, however, Mr. Roosevelt was told, opposes the questioning of individual employes as to their religion or race; Mr. Muravchik proposed alternative methods for determining whether individuals are Jewish.

PROTESTANTS IN QUEBEC URGE ELIMINATION OF RELIGION FROM SCHOOL SYSTEM

MONTREAL, Dec. 22: (JTA) -- Two major Protestant educational organizations in the Province of Quebec called here for the abolition of the "confessional" system of education in the province. Under the current "confessional" system, schools are conducted under either Catholic auspices or Protestant jurisdiction.

Both organizations submitted briefs on the issue to the Royal Commission on Bilingualism and Biculturalism. The groups are the Quebec Federation of Protestant Home and School Associations and the Quebec Association of Protestant School Boards.

The Federation suggested to the Royal Commission the establishment of a Dominion-wide "neutral school system." It stressed that "the teaching of religion should be entrusted to the parents at home and the religious institutions to which the parents belong." It added: "Financial support by Government should neither be demanded nor expected nor extended to such religious institutions."

In its submission, the Association of Protestant School Boards stated: "While we might favor schools based on a knowledge and practice of Christian history and morality, with religion taught by churches outside of the normal school day, other solutions are possible. As Protestants in Quebec, we attempt to maintain schools with a Christian but nonsectarian background. A de-emphasis on religious teaching in the schools seems to be part of a change now under way."

Meanwhile, the Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal has named Harold Lande, a national vice-president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, to the board's executive. The executive is comprised of seven members and, by law, must include one member of the Jewish faith.

HOFFBERGER FAMILY IN BALTIMORE PRESENTED WITH ISRAEL FREEDOM MEDAL

NEW YORK, Dec. 22: (JTA) -- Avraham Harman, Israel's Ambassador to the United States, presented the Israel Freedom Medal to the Hoffberger Family of Baltimore at a dinner in honor of the family, it was reported here today by the Israel Bond Organization. More than \$500,000 in Israel bonds were sold at the Baltimore dinner. Some 650 men and women attended the event at which Mayor Theodore R. McKeldin of Baltimore presented the Hoffbergers with a certificate for "exemplary service;" Charles H. Hoffberger accepted the Israel medal on behalf of the family.

Gov. Otto Kerner of Illinois was honored as Chicago's "Man of the Year" this week at another Israel bond dinner at which 4,000 persons marked the climax of Chicago Jewry's most successful bond campaign. Israel Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, and R. Sargent Shriver, director of the Peace Corps and the Office of Economic Opportunity, were principal speakers at the dinner, a key event in the campaign to sell \$7,500,000 in bonds in Chicago this year.

YIVO STARTS JEWISH HISTORY COURSES FOR N.Y. PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS

NEW YORK, Dec. 22: (JTA) -- The YIVO Institute for Jewish Research today reported that it is offering a study of Jewish life in its totality in a series of 15 two-hour lectures within the framework of the in-service courses for teachers in the municipal schools of New York City. The subject of the series, in which distinguished scholars, writers and educators take part, is "The Antecedents of American Jewish Life."

This is a brief survey of the main events and crucial developments in nearly 2,000 years of Jewish history, with the focus upon the Jewish experience in America. The course is part of the enlarged program of activities in celebration of the 40th anniversary of YIVO. The number of teachers already is 117, the maximum that the largest lecture hall at YIVO can accommodate.