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GERMAN GOVT. ANNOUNCES FIRST CREDIT OF 75,000,000 MARKS TO ISRAEL

BONN, Dec; 29; (JTA) -- The German Government announced here today that it has extended a "first credit" of 75,000,000 Deutschmarks (\$18,750,000) to Israel. The credit, according to the announcement, will be paid out of the current, 1965 budget.

A promise to negotiate an economic agreement with Israel was made by the Government last spring, when it decided to establish diplomatic relations with Israel. A Government spokesman announcing the establishment of the credit today said that German-Israeli negotiations had not been conducted earlier and were delayed "due to political events in both countries." Germany held national elections in October, returning to power the Government headed by Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, while Israel held general elections in November, bringing back into power the present Prime Minister, Levi Eshkol.

The Government spokesman said that official German-Israeli economic negotiations will start next month.

GOLDA MEIR ANNOUNCES SHE WILL RETIRE FROM POST OF FOREIGN MINISTER

JERUSALEM, Dec; 29; (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister since 1956, announced officially last night that she will retire from her high post. She made the announcement at a meeting of the Knesset (Parliament) foreign affairs and security committee. Mrs. Meir thanked the parliamentary committee with which she has had the closest association for almost a decade for its cooperation.

Mrs. Meir's possible retirement from the Foreign Ministry position has been rumored here repeatedly, even before last November's general elections. It is expected that she will be succeeded in the post by Abba Eban. He was for many years Israel's Ambassador to both the United States and the United Nations, later became Minister of Education, and now holds the position of Deputy Prime Minister.

PROGRESS REPORTED IN TALKS FOR COALITION CABINET; ESHKOL IMPROVING

JERUSALEM, Dec; 29; (JTA) -- Progress has been made in the negotiations for the setting up of Israel's Cabinet, it was reported here today in a joint communique issued by the four political parties concerned in the talks. The groupings consist of the Mapai Party-Achdut Avoda alignment, the National Religious Party, the Independent Liberal and Mapam. The communique specifically stated that "progress has been made especially on the question of religious legislation."

The NRP has been insisting, as a pre-condition for its entry into the next Government, upon religious laws and regulations that would be more stringent than some agreeable to Mapam, the Independent Liberals and some sections of the Mapai-Achdut alignment.

Observers here, however, were still doubtful whether a Cabinet can be formed by the deadline of January 9, the cut-off date for Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's mandate to form a Cabinet. The negotiators for all the parties concerned have been instructed to confer again with the executive bodies of their respective groups regarding the issues at stake.

Meanwhile, Mr. Eshkol, who was hospitalized recently due to exhaustion, and was confined to his home again yesterday by his physicians, was reported to be recuperating today. It was not known yet, however, when he will be able to participate personally in the Cabinet-forming talks. Forbidden by his doctors to take a hand in those talks, he has passed on the task to his colleagues in the Mapai-Achdut alignment.

Ben-Gurion Renews Attack on Eshkol; Sees No Chance for Reconciliation

TEL AVIV, Dec; 29; (JTA) -- There is no chance of a reunion between the Mapai Party and Rafi, the independent political group formed by ex-Premier David Ben-Gurion when he broke away from Mapai last summer, according to a statement by Mr. Ben-Gurion published here today. Writing in the Rafi organ, Mabat Hadash, Mr. Ben-Gurion rejected

a call for Mapai-Rafi reconciliation issued by Davar, the organ of Histadrut, the Israel federation of labor and backbone of Mapai. In his negative reaction to Davar's reconciliation proposal, Mr. Ben-Gurion also renewed his personal attack against Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

ISRAEL FOREIGN OFFICE TAKES ISSUE WITH WASHINGTON'S STAND ON ARMS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- Reports from Washington quoting the State Department as saying that the Middle East arms race is not yet affected by the huge amount of arms which the United States and Britain have agreed to furnish to Arab countries, have provoked sharp reaction here.

Officials of Israel's Foreign Ministry, in commenting on these reports, said today: "Western arms supplies to the Arab states force the arms race in the Middle East upward, and force Israel to take measures to increase her deterrent power."

The officials pointed out that both Jordan and Saudi Arabia, which are to receive Western arms shipments, belong to the Unified Arab Command. The sale of British and American arms to these countries, the officials stated, "places a still bigger burden upon Israel." Even if the Middle East arms balance is "still unimpaired today," the statement continued, "Israel must immediately prepare for the situation to exist a few years hence, when increased Arab forces will be operational."

Ambassador Harman Confers with State Secretary Rusk on Middle East

WASHINGTON, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- Israeli Ambassador Avraham Harman held a 40-minute conference with U.S. Secretary of State Dean Rusk today, reviewing current developments in the Middle East. It was their first talk since Mr. Harman visited Israel earlier this month.

In their conversation, an Israeli spokesman said, the Ambassador drew Mr. Rusk's special attention to the recent increase in the scale of Arab rearmament in the Middle East, "which Israel views with concern." The Ambassador was accompanied on his visit to Mr. Rusk by Ephraim Evron, a member of Israel's mission here with the rank of Minister.

ISRAEL WANTS U.S. TO STIPULATE CONDITIONS IN PROVIDING FOOD TO EGYPT

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- A demand that the shipment of United States food supplies to Egypt should be conditional on the cessation of Nasser's policy of aggression was voiced in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, tonight by Foreign Minister Golda Meir. The food surplus granted to Egypt, the Foreign Minister said, enabled that country to purchase arms from the Soviet Union. Mrs. Meir also voiced Israel's concern at the shipment of Western planes and armor to Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

In an address in Tel Aviv today, Mrs. Meir, referring to the statement earlier this year by Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba that the problem of Israel should not be solved by war but by negotiations, said that Israel appreciates this attitude and hopes that more Arabs will follow Bourguiba's example. "Israel is ready to open talks with the Arabs without prior conditions," she said. She added that, meanwhile, "our army, which is strong and well equipped, is the best guarantee for security in the area."

ISRAEL 'APPREHENSIVE' OVER NEW COMMANDER OF U.N. FORCES IN GAZA AREA

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- Israeli circles said here today they would watch with "caution and apprehension" the activities of an Indian military officer, Maj. Gen Indarjit Rikhye, whom United Nations Secretary-General U Thant appointed yesterday as the new commander of the United Nations peace-keeping force in Gaza area.

While there was no official comment by the Israel Government regarding the Rikhye appointment, it was noted here that, in the past, Israel has been critical regarding the naming of Indians to key United Nations posts, since the Indian Government regularly supports Arab policies against Israel. On the other hand, it was observed here that, during the recent flare up of warfare between India and Pakistan in Kashmir, the Arabs had supported Pakistan in spite of the fact that India has courted the favor of the Arab bloc.

(At the United Nations, it was pointed out today that Gen. Rykhié has been military adviser to the Secretary-General since 1960, holding that post not only under Mr. Thant but also under the late Secretary-General Dag Hammarskjöld. In naming Gen. Rykhié, yesterday, Mr. Thant said the Indian officer would take up command of the U.N. Emergency Force on February 1, succeeding the present commander, Maj. Gen. Syseno Sarmiento, a Brazilian. Gen. Rykhié's appointment is for one year. The UNEF was created in 1956 and stands on guard on the Egyptian side of the border with Israel, along the Gaza Strip frontier and at Sharm el Sheikh, overlooking the Gulf of Akaba.)

U. S. JEWS CONTRIBUTE \$625,000,000 A YEAR TO CHARITY, 'FORTUNE' ESTIMATES

NEW YORK, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- Jews in the United States contribute more than \$625,000,000 a year to various philanthropic causes while the total of private philanthropy reaches eight billion dollars a year, an article in the January issue of Fortune, the monthly magazine of American big business, estimates. It calls Jewish giving a "miracle."

"The miracle of Jewish giving can be traced to ancient Biblical and rabbinical teachings that make philanthropy the very core of Jewish values," the article, written by Robert Sheehan, states. It also attributes the vast and successful results of Jewish giving to "the circumstances of early Jewish life in America which made it imperative to develop forceful fund-raising techniques."

Noting that the Jewish population in the United States had grown rapidly through large waves of immigration in the last century, forcing American Jews to raise money to aid their poor, the article recalls that the American Jews started improving their fund-raising techniques about 1895, with the formation of "the federated charitable fund drive."

Now, the writer states, with 5,585,000 Jews in the United States, about 80 percent of them native-born, "the Jewish federated fund drives raise \$130,000,000 a year, and this is exclusive of endowment income and a variety of large capital campaigns." The Jewish "gross national product" for philanthropic purposes, "it was stated, "runs to something over \$625,000,000 a year."

Non-Jews 'Marvel' at the Technique of the United Jewish Appeal

"An outstanding charity," the article continued, "is the United Jewish Appeal, which is concerned with the resettlement in Israel of Jewish refugees from Europe and Africa. In its 27 years of existence, UJA has raised over \$1,500,000,000. In 1966 its goal is \$73,000,000. The campaign is being led by Max M. Fisher, the Detroit industrialist, who is also president of the nonsectarian United Foundation of Detroit. Jewish businessmen, of course, do not confine their fund-raising skills to Jewish charities."

"The campaigns of the UJA and other leading Jewish charities are marvels of organization, but beyond that there does indeed seem to be a strong historic and religious thread that motivates the leaders. In ancient times the highest prestige was accorded the trustees of the 'Kuppah.' If a Jewish businessman today prizes the esteem of his peers, then the way to earn it, whether he be an active religious worshiper or not, is to do his full share in behalf of Jewish philanthropy. It is the practice of some Jewish golf clubs and luncheon clubs to check first of all on the adequacy of the applicant's Jewish and United Fund gifts."

"Non-Jewish fund raisers marvel at the technique of the famous 'calling dinners' that kick off major Jewish philanthropic campaigns. After the formal speeches by visiting dignitaries, the chairman starts calling the roll. Each guest rises as his name is called, and the chairman coolly asks, 'All right, Jack, what will you give?' Or perhaps, 'Well now, Morris, you gave \$25,000 five years ago, what will you give this time?' A noted Jewish businessman smilingly comments, 'It sounds kind of brutal, doesn't it? But actually, it's a lot of fun, and what's more -- it works.'"

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS TO HOLD 'SOVIET JEWRY WEEK' IN ISRAEL IN 1966

NEW YORK, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- The history, development and present condition of the Jews in the Soviet Union will be detailed during Soviet Jewry Week scheduled to be held throughout Israel in 1966, it was reported here today by Dr. Ariele Tartakower, chairman of the World Jewish Congress executive in Israel at a luncheon in his honor.

The Israel Government, Jewish Agency, trade unions and other authorities were cooperating in the preparations for the Week, Dr. Tartakower reported. The Soviet Jewry Week, he said, will feature meetings in all of the major cities of Israel, lectures and discussions in the schools, and a special travelling exhibit of materials -- books, religious objects, art works, pictures and demographic information -- that will reflect Jewish life in the Soviet Union.

The World Jewish Congress, the Israel leader revealed, was now working on a history of Russian Jewry and study of Jewish life in the USSR that will be ready in time for the Week. He said that detailed plans would be transmitted to all World Jewish Congress affiliates throughout the world with the object of similar weeks being organized by other communities.

Dr. Tartakower also reported that the WJC Israel executive was engaged in a program to pay honor to a number of non-Jews who, during the Hitler regime, had saved Jews from death in a number of countries. "Many of these heroes are now in poor circumstances," he said, adding that help was being extended in about 30 cases, some of whom are now living in Israel. Others are brought to Israel so that they can receive a special medalion that has been struck to honor their heroism.

25,000 JEWS REMAIN IN TUNISIA; THIRD OF THEM RECEIVE J.D.C. AID

GENEVA, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- The steady departure of Jews from Tunisia in recent years has left a welfare problem in which the Joint Distribution Committee is providing aid to 8,635 -- one third -- of the remaining 25,000 Jews in Tunisia, Charles H. Jordan, JDC executive chairman, reported today. There were 75,000 Jews in Tunisia in 1957.

He made the disclosure in announcing the appointment of Albert Sheldon of New York, as director of JDC services in Tunisia. He said the decline in the Tunisian Jewish population had not been matched by "a parallel decrease in needs." Mr. Sheldon served as assistant JDC director in Tunisia for the past two years.

DR. SCHWARTZ LEAVES FOR ISRAEL TO CONFER ON 1966 ISRAEL BOND DRIVE

NEW YORK, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, left yesterday to confer with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir on the results of the 1965 Israel bond campaign and plans for the 1966 drive.

Special projects for the Israel bond campaign will also be considered in connection with the celebration next year of the 15th anniversary of the founding of the Israel Bond Organization, Dr. Schwartz declared.

AUTHOR AND SCHOLAR WIN TEL AVIV MUNICIPALITY'S ANNUAL BIALIK AWARDS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- The 33rd annual Bialik Prizes of the Tel Aviv Municipality will be awarded to Yitzhak Berkowitz, a veteran Hebrew and Yiddish author, and Yehuda Ratznavi, a scholar of medieval Jewish literature, it was announced here today. The prizes, which total 4,000 pounds (\$1,334), will be presented on Sunday.

Mr. Berkowitz, who won a previous Bialik Prize, will receive the current award for his recently published "Chapters of Childhood." Mr. Ratznavi, who is instructor in Judeo-Arabic literature at Bar Ilan and Tel Aviv universities, will receive the Bialik Judaica award.

PIONEER WOMEN IN DETROIT DECIDE TO BUILD CULTURAL CENTER IN ISRAEL

DETROIT, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- A \$50,000 project for the construction of a children's home and mothers' cultural center in an area in Israel populated mainly by Jews from Oriental areas was decided upon here by the Detroit Council of Pioneer Women. The project will be named in honor of Mrs. Emma Lazaroff Schaver, who is active in the Zionist movement here. The \$50,000 total was set in honor of her sixtieth birthday.

The home and center will be built in the Ezra Ubitzaron section of Rishon L'Zion. In addition to Jews of Oriental origin, many of the section's inhabitants are immigrants from South America.

YAACOV ZERUBAVEL, VETERAN LABOR ZIONIST LEADER, HONORED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- Leaders of Labor Zionism in this country, and prominent Jewish writers and representatives of many other areas of Jewish activity in the United States, Zionist and non-Zionist, joined here in honoring Yaacov Zerubavel, veteran Zionist leader, in observance of his 80th birthday.

Mr. Zerubavel, who came to Palestine first in 1910 and later settled there permanently, was the co-founder of the world Labor Zionist movement in 1920. He has been active all his life as writer, editor and organizer. Several hundred persons joined in honoring him at the event, held here at the Commodore Hotel.

JEW NAMED GENERAL IN BRAZILIAN ARMY; IS FIFTH JEW TO HOLD SUCH POST

RIO DE JANEIRO, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- Isaac Nahoum, a Jew of a Sephardic family, was named by President Humberto Castello Branco today as Divisional General, one of the highest ranks in the Brazilian army. Gen. Nahoum is a member of the general staff of the Third Brazilian Army, which has its headquarters in the Province of Parana. He is the fifth Jew to be raised to the rank of general in this country.

OVED BEN AMI, FORMER ISRAELI MAYOR, UNDERGOES OPERATION IN BOSTON

BOSTON, Dec. 29: (JTA) -- Oved Ben Ami, builder of Ashdod, the new port city of Israel, and former Mayor of Natanya, underwent an operation at the New England Baptist Hospital of Boston. According to statements by the physicians today, the operation was very successful.