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AMERICAN-ISRAEL DISCUSSIONS ON DESALINATION STARTED IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- The joint United States-Israel desalination board began today discussion of final aspects of the feasibility study which envisages the operation in Israel by 1972 of a dual-purpose, nuclear-powered desalting plant. Discussions concern the approval of the final report of the feasibility study and recommendations for implementation. The board findings will be presented to the two governments within a fortnight, it is believed.

The board is thought likely to continue in existence even after the approval of the desalinating project to act as a liaison agency between the United States and Israel on desalination. The study was made by the Kaiser-Catalytic Co., of Philadelphia. A phase of the current meeting took place today in that city. Israeli delegates participating in the deliberations are Gen. Zvi Zur, chief coordinator of the Israeli Desalination Program; Aron Weiner, head of Tahal, the Israeli Government water planning authority; and Prof. Shimon Yiftach, of the Israel Atomic Energy Commission.

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING MAY BE REQUESTED ON U.S. ARMING OF ARAB

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- A member of the Near Eastern subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs committee served notice today that he will request "full-scale hearings" on the new American arms shipments to Arab states unless the State Department immediately provides a satisfactory explanation.

The Congressman, Rep. Leonard Farbstein, New York Democrat, stated in a letter to Secretary of State Dean Rusk that "the Government's actions run contrary not only to the expressed policy of the administration but also to the wishes manifest in countless resolutions and amendments to the foreign aid acts of the Congress."

(It was learned meanwhile that Secretary Rusk may appear next week before the full Foreign Affairs committee, primarily to testify on Viet Nam, but may then also be asked about the provision of aid and arms to Arab states.)

Rep. Farbstein said in the letter to Mr. Rusk that he was "utterly mystified by the action of our Government in supplying Patton tanks as well as infantry arms to Jordan." "I can conceive of no use to which Jordan would seek to put these weapons but a war of aggression against Israel," he stated.

The Congressman said this development weighted the balance of power against Israel and aggravated an already volatile situation. He asked the Secretary of State to explain how the arms shipments "concur with our professed policy of reducing the possibility of war in the Middle East." He said he wanted to know whether the United States intended "to force Israel to divert more of its resources to restore the arms balance and assure its security."

Senators Seek Explanation on American Line Bowing to Arab Boycott

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- Secretary of Commerce John T. Connor has been asked by three prominent United States Senators for an explanation of steps taken, if any, to meet the situation created by the Arab boycott in connection with the cancellation of a scheduled Haifa stop by the American President Lines' ship "President Roosevelt."

The Senators are Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, Harrison Williams, New Jersey Democrat, and Claiborne Pell, Rhode Island Democrat. They charged that the American President Lines defied the spirit of the anti-boycott law by surrendering to Egyptian pressure. The line cancelled the Haifa visit after Egypt threatened to bar the ship from passage through the Suez Canal.

It was also learned that a question was raised about the Administration's recent recommendations for resumption of aid programs to Egypt because of the alleged "moderation" of Egyptian policies affecting the United States. The President Roosevelt incident was cited in this connection.

Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, asked how Egypt's "arrogant dictation as to which ports of call American ships may visit" could be reconciled with "the official State Department announcement that Egypt has moderated policies affecting American interests and is entitled to vast new aid shipments from this country."

AGREEMENT OF FORMATION OF NEW ISRAELI CABINET REPORTED REACHED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- Virtually complete agreement reportedly was reached today on religious issues which had prolonged negotiations for a new coalition government to be headed again by Premier Levi Eshkol. The coalition Cabinet of the Mapai-Achdut Avoda, the National Religious Party, the left-wing Mapam and the Independent Liberals is expected to be presented to the Parliament on Sunday or Monday.

Discussions were already underway today on the composition of the new Cabinet and on distribution of portfolios in the new Government. The agreement, which involves some concessions to the religious party over restrictions of work on the Sabbath, must be ratified by the central bodies of each prospective coalition party. Despite objections from Mapam, the agreement is expected to receive that ratification.

Under the agreement, Sabbath work restrictions will cover shops but not private offices. The Labor Minister will present an official letter undertaking to halt work at the new Ashdod port on the Sabbath, except in cases of special urgency.

PINCUS SEES 1966 AS PERIOD OF CRISIS IN ABSORPTION OF IMMIGRANTS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- Terming 1966 the beginning of a period of crisis for absorption of immigrants to Israel, Louis Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, today outlined the difficulties which the Agency anticipates during the coming year in such absorption.

Speaking at a dinner for United Israel Appeal leaders holding a world council here, Mr. Pincus warned that, if no more funds were received from the United Jewish Appeal and the United Israel appeal than were available in 1965, there could be a shortfall of \$23,000,000. He stressed that the Agency's income had been decreased by \$10,000,000 because of the ending of West German reparations payments.

In addition, he said, the Joint Distribution Committee had curtailed its support of Malben, the program for aiding aged and infirm newcomers. Reporting that the Agency was seeking to make up the difference, he stressed that this was costing the Agency an additional \$2,000,000. Moreover, he pointed out, Israel's "creeping inflation" meant that the Agency was getting much less goods for the same money.

He estimated immigration this year at 11,000 families, and said that 90 percent of the newcomers were arriving completely destitute. Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the United Israel Appeal, told the dinner that some of the criticism voiced at the UIA council meeting against some Zionist leaders was that they do not set a personal example in contributions.

U. S. EXPERT ON STRATEGIC RESEARCH LECTURES IN ISRAEL'S WAR COLLEGE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- Dr. Herman Kahn, head of the Hudson Institute for Strategic Research in the United States and a leading expert on nuclear warfare, said here today that, if he were an Israeli, "I would advise you to engage in nuclear research but not to manufacture nuclear weapons."

Dr. Kahn, who is on a visit here to give guest lectures to the Israeli War College, made the statement in an interview after a visit to Nahal Sorek, where Israel has an atomic reactor. He said also that, if Israel and the Arab states had nuclear arms, in theory this would stabilize the Arab-Israel conflict if all the governments were sensible and responsible; but, otherwise, their conflict could cause untold tragedy.

CHIEF RABBI OF FRANCE LAUDS NEW STAND ON RELIGION BY POPE PAUL

PARIS, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan of France today called for the support of the principle of freedom of conscience in religious matters adopted by the Ecumenical Council and promulgated by Pope Paul VI. He said the promulgation of this principle by the Pope was "a great event," constituting the return of the Church to its original main springs.

The Chief Rabbi's call appeared as a front-page article in the leading French newspaper "Figaro," replacing the usual editorial of the newspaper and indicating that the newspaper endorses its contents. Rabbi Kaplan also said in his article that the Jews, "who know well about religious persecution, having experienced it through the generations, appreciate very much the declaration of the Vatican in the field of religious freedom." He asserted that the Vatican stand indicated "a willingness of the Church to break the vicious circle of intolerance of the past."

In urging Catholics to abide by the new dogma, the Chief Rabbi recalled that, during the period of the Temple in Jerusalem, the Jews had a custom of offering special sacrifices for "the seventy peoples of the world who were not believers in the God of Israel."

\$8,200,000 RAISED BY CHICAGO JEWISH APPEAL AND FEDERATION IN 1965 DRIVES

CHICAGO, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- Harold L. Rosenberg, 1965 general campaign chairman of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago, today announced that the 1965 Federation campaign had collected \$2,202,225, a new record for the Federation here. The Federation campaign supplements the amount received by the Federation from the Combined Jewish Appeal here. The Federation supports 12 medical and social welfare agencies serving some 211,000 Chicagoans each year.

Mr. Rosenberg noted that, "not only have we raised significantly more funds this year, but we have increased the base of giving by securing many new contributors to Federation." He emphasized that these are direct contributions toward a total of \$6,400,000 which the Federation provides to help the agencies meet their aggregate operating budgets of over \$34,000,000.

At the same time, Max Robert Schraye, general chairman of the 1965 campaign of the Combined Jewish Appeal of Metropolitan Chicago, said that CJA had raised \$6,003,000 for relief, resettlement and rehabilitation of Jews overseas and for social services in this country. This compares with \$5,703,000 raised by CJA last year, according to Mr. Schraye, who also reported a broadened base of giving with more contributors taking part in the campaign. Chicago's Combined Jewish Appeal is the Jewish community's major philanthropy.

WARNINGS AGAINST ASSIMILATION VOICED AT HADASSAH-WIZO PARLEY IN CANADA

TORONTO, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- Warnings against Jewish assimilation, and the need to insure the survival of the Jewish people were emphasized here at the 21st annual convention of the Hadassah-WIZO Organization of Canada. The parley is being attended by 870 delegates, representing 15,000 paid-up members in Hadassah-WIZO, the largest Jewish women's organization in the Dominion.

Principal addresses stressing the theme of Jewish survival were delivered by Anne Eisenstat, of Montreal, president of the organization; John Devor, vice-president of the Zionist Organization of Canada; and Dr. Judah Shapiro, of New York, secretary of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture.

Dr. Shapiro told the convention that Israel has not become "the point of fusion for the Jews of the world" as expected; Israel, he said, should now have a double role, functioning as a State where Jews can gather and, at the same time, acting as a center from which Jewish youth around the world could garner awareness of Jewish cultural values.

Another address was delivered by Mrs. Raya Jaglom, of Tel Aviv, chairman of the WIZO world executive. She expressed the hope that, in 1966, "our brethren from countries behind the Iron Curtain may be free to join us in Israel."

BRANDEIS AND U. OF ILLINOIS TO CONDUCT STUDY ON RELIGION IN FAMILY

WALTHAM, Mass., Jan. 6: (JTA) -- A large-scale survey to obtain detailed information about how family living and formation are related to religious living and activity will be conducted jointly by Brandeis University and the University of Illinois, it was announced here today. The survey, which will begin early this year, will comprise some 3,000 personal interviews at the homes of Protestants, Catholics and Jews throughout the State of Illinois.

The director of the project, Dr. Bernard Lazerwitz, currently on leave of absence from the University of Illinois and now associate professor of research at Brandeis' Florence Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare, said the purpose of the project is to gain a detailed picture of religious life and trends in Illinois. The survey, he said, will also illustrate how religious outlook influences family stability and growth, careers and the handling of various social problems.

Among the topics that will be covered in the interviews are: observance of the Sabbath and religious festivals; the amount and types of religious education received by children; activity in voluntary associations; religiousness of parental homes; and data about age, education and occupation. The project has been endorsed by Dr. Franklin Rechter, the Illinois Council of Churches' director of research and church planning; the Church Federation of Greater Chicago; the Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago; the Chicago Board of Rabbis; the National Jewish Welfare Board; and the Chicago Jewish Community Centers.

JEWISH WEEKLY IN AMSTERDAM MARKS 100th ANNIVERSARY OF ITS EXISTENCE

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- A special edition of the Amsterdam Jewish weekly, Nieuw Israelietisch Weekblad, was published here today to mark the newspaper's 100th anniversary. Included in the special issue were many features on Amsterdam Jewry during the past 100 years.

FLORENCE HELLER, J.W.B. PRESIDENT, DIES IN CHICAGO; FUNERAL TODAY

CHICAGO, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Mrs. Florence G. Heller, noted philanthropist and president of the National Jewish Welfare Board, who died here yesterday. She was 68; She contributed the funds that made possible the founding, endowing and housing of the Florence G. Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare, at Brandeis University, and was a member of the university's board of trustees;

When she was elected to the top office in the JWB, in 1964, Mrs. Heller became the first woman president of a general, national Jewish organization. She had previously been vice-president of the JWB, chairman of the organization's Jewish Community Center Services, and the JWB's representative on the United Nations Conference Group of National Organizations. In 1953, she received the JWB's Frank L. Weil Award;

Locally, she was one of the original contributors to the Louis A. Weiss Memorial Hospital, where she established a blood bank and an isotope laboratory bearing her name; was on the board of directors of the Jewish Federation of Metropolitan Chicago; and a member of the board of trustees of Sinai Temple. Nationally, she was active in the United Service Organization, and was a former vice-chairman of the national women's division of the United Jewish Appeal;

Mrs. Heller was a major contributor also of funds for the construction of a new building for the Jerusalem YMHA. She was a member of the board of the World Federation of YMHAs and Jewish Community Centers. She was a niece of the late Julius Rosenwald, the noted Jewish philanthropist;

B'RITH ABRAHAM RENEWS AFFILIATION WITH AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS

NEW YORK, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress announced today the re-affiliation of B'rith Abraham, 78-year-old fraternal order, whose leaders helped establish Congress during the first World War. The re-affiliation was in line with a resolution adopted by the order calling for the renewal of ties between the two organizations. B'rith Abraham has designated Henry H. Tator, Grand Master of the organization, and Joseph R. Apfel, Past Grand Master, to be its representatives on the National Governing Council of the Congress.

In welcoming the fraternal order back into the AJCongress "family," Dr. Joachim Prinz, president, declared: "As an affiliate of the American Jewish Congress, B'rith Abraham will share in the developing of AJCongress policy and participate in our national convention, thus making its own impact felt in the strengthening of Jewish life and the advancement of human rights."

JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTERS TO EMPLOY PROFESSIONALS FROM ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 6: (JTA) -- Fourteen additional Jewish Community Centers are planning to employ professional program workers from Israel next fall to help intensify the Jewish program of their agencies. Five such workers are now full-time staff members of the Centers in Boston, Detroit, St. Louis, San Francisco, and Pittsburgh as the result of a dual exchange program developed by the National Jewish Welfare Board and the Jewish Agency for Israel;

Manuel G. Batshaw, JWB director of national services, is leaving for Israel next month to select the new workers. Last year, Mr. Batshaw interviewed 43 candidates in Israel -- teachers and recreation and cultural specialists not associated with any political youth organization -- before choosing the five who met the rigid qualifications established by JWB and the Youth Department of the Jewish Agency. The five now employed are working with children, teenagers, older adults and adults involved in Center programs;

The JWB Israel Seminar, which was also launched last summer as a post-graduate professional training experience for full-time American Center workers, will be sponsored again next summer by JWB and the Jewish Agency for Israel. The seminar, under the direction of Daniel Grodofsky, of JWB's staff, will be limited to 35 workers who will spend seven weeks in Israel from July 5 to August 24;

14 ADULT JEWS BEING GIVEN 'BAR MITZVAH' COURSES IN NEW JERSEY CENTERS

FORT LEE, N.J., Jan. 6: (JTA) -- Fourteen men, many of them fathers of sons who had celebrated their Bar Mitzvah, are being prepared here for their own "Bar Mitzvah" by taking special instruction at the Jewish Center and at the nearby Fair Lawn Jewish Center, it was reported this week;

The classes here are being conducted by Rabbi Solomon Rothstein, of the local Center, and Cantor Emil Hager. At Fair Lawn, the instruction is being given by Rabbi Simon Glustrom, Cantor Max Rubin and one of the teachers at the Center's religious school, Mrs. Walter Weiss. In both cases, the men are being taught elementary Hebrew, Jewish history, tradition and customs. At both centers, special adult "Bar Mitzvah" services will be conducted for the graduates of the courses next spring.