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ESHKOL ANNOUNCES NEW STEPS TO COMBAT INFLATION; REASSURES NATION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Premier Levi Eshkol announced in a radio "fire-side talk" last night that the Government has cut its outlays by 100,000,000 pounds (\$33,000,000) as part of a new austerity program to curb inflation and spiraling prices.

He also announced cancellation of tax increases on a number of products and a 25,000,000 pound (\$8,300,000) subsidy to help maintain prices for a number of essential foods. The subsidy will permit cutbacks on the prices of milk, eggs, vegetables and oil.

The radio chat, first in an announced series, was an effort by the Premier to reassure the nation that the Government was doing its part in the battle against inflation. He also sought to encourage a growing popular movement for voluntary waiving by workers of wage increases which Cabinet members also have decided to emulate.

He also announced a cut of 25,000,000 pounds (\$8,300,000) to 30,000,000 pounds (\$10,000,000) in indirect taxes which will cancel boosts in the price of cooking gas and oil. He pledged there would be no further tax increases this year but added that this did not include service fee increases, such as train fares and postal service charges.

Sees Hope in Voluntary Willingness to Forego Wage Increases

The Premier promised that sums voluntarily renounced by wage earners in institutions would revert back to the institutions to improve their financial position and their services. He appealed to his nation-wide audience with these words: "If you -- each and every one of you -- really care for tomorrow, do something for it today."

The Premier said the planned tax increases had been made necessary by increasing labor costs but that he now saw hope for a change. He said "egotism is yielding place to a sense of national responsibility," a reference to the expressions by both groups and individuals of willingness to forego in part wages and wage increases.

Leaders of two opposition parties, the Ben-Gurion Israel Workers Party and Gahal, the Herut-Liberal Alignment, complained that the Premier was holding back his anti-inflation moves from Parliament and saving them for his broadcasts. They forced postponement of a discussion in Parliament this afternoon of the proposed national budget of more than \$1,500,000,000 for the fiscal year starting April 1, which was introduced in Parliament last week. The proposed budget provides for direct and indirect tax increases of nearly \$87,000,000.

STATE DEPT. DECLINES COMMENT ON NASSER'S NEW THREAT AGAINST ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- State Department spokesman Robert McCloskey declined to comment today on Egyptian press reports that President Nasser of Egypt had threatened a preventive war against Israel if Israel tested a nuclear weapon. The State Department spokesman said, however, the United States was opposed to the proliferation of nuclear weapons anywhere in the world, including the Near East.

This country, he said, keeps abreast of developments in all countries in efforts to assure non-proliferation. He said that the United States had no information that any Near Eastern country was making or intending to make a nuclear weapon. He added that this country considered the safeguards of the International Atomic Energy Agency a step in the prevention of proliferation.

Meanwhile, high-ranking U.S. officials welcomed today an Egyptian parliamentary delegation invited as official guests of the United States in an effort to develop a closer relationship between America and Egypt. The five-member delegation is headed by Anwar El-Sadat, speaker of the Egyptian National Assembly.

The group was met at Dulles International Airport by Deputy Under-Secretary of State Raymond Hare. The Egyptians have been invited to the White House and will meet there with President Johnson tomorrow.

DR. WISE RESIGNS AS PRESIDENT OF TEL AVIV UNIVERSITY; CITES DISAGREEMENT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Dr. George Wise has resigned as President of Tel Aviv University, along with Dr. Yuval Neeman as Vice-President and Prof. Abba Lerner as Dean of Social Science, with Prof. De Vries expected to resign today as Dean of the Medical School. Dr. Wise told reporters that he resigned because of a personal disagreement with Prof. Benzion Katz, the University Rector, over lines of development of the university "but not only that."

Dr. Wise had threatened to resign last December over Prof. Katz' goal of a limited-size university devoted to purely academic pursuits. Dr. Wise had sought to expand the size of the university and the diversity of its faculties. He has not as yet received a reply from the chairman of the university executive board, Mordechai Namir, to his resignation letter. Mr. Namir and Professor Katz have not been available for comment and Dr. Neeman declined to discuss his reasons for resigning.

\$15,000,000 DAMAGES CAUSED TO CROPS IN ISRAEL BY SEVERE DROUGHT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The Agricultural Ministry reported today that two-thirds of all field crops have been damaged by Israel's severe drought with damages estimated at 45,000,000 pounds (\$15,000,000).

The Ministry reported also that of the approximately 4,000,000 acres sown this season nearly 2,500,000 had been spoiled by the drought and that all field crops south of Beer-sheba had been affected. Since such areas were sown at the farmer's risk, these areas are not eligible for compensation, the Ministry added.

In a breakdown, the Ministry said that wheat losses came to 70 percent of planted areas, barley to 61 percent and hay to 55 percent. Israel will have to import an extra 70,000 tons of wheat, 80,000 tons of barley and 50,000 tons of sorghum at a cost of \$15,000,000 to make up for the crop losses.

HUNGARIAN PREMIER URGES ARABS TO ENTER PEACEFUL TALKS WITH ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The Washington Post today carried a report from its correspondent in Beirut stating that "for the first time in many years a prominent Communist politician has risked Arab ire by coming out in favor of negotiations with Israel to solve the Palestine problem."

Joe Alex Morris, Jr., reported that Hungarian Premier Gulya Kallai, ending an official visit to Kuwait, told a press conference there that the Palestinian problem, like all international problems, should be solved peacefully through negotiations. "Any solution of the Palestinian problem in favor of the Arab countries would do nothing less than create new conflict equally as grave as the first," he stated.

U. S. WRITER AND LONDON PUBLISHER LOSE IN LIBEL CASE INVOLVING STERNISTS

LONDON, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Geoffrey Jackson Morton, the Palestine police officer who shot Abraham Stern, leader of the "Stern Gang" which fought the Mandate authorities from the end of World War II until the British withdrew from Palestine, was awarded a judgment for libel in High Court yesterday against Gerold Frank, author of the book, "The Deed," and his British publisher, Jonathan Cape.

Morton will receive damages from Jonathan Cape. Mr. Frank, a New Yorker, did not make an appearance in the case and judgment was given against him for damages to be assessed. "The Deed" tells the story of the Sternists who conducted a terror campaign against the British Administration in Palestine and were responsible for the assassination of Lord Moyne, the British Minister of State in Cairo, in 1944.

ELIMINATION FROM LITURGY OF MORE PASSAGES OFFENSIVE TO JEWS SUGGESTED

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The Catholic Church should make further changes in liturgy to eliminate readings which either hurt or offend Jews, a Jesuit priest told a Catholic-Jewish conference here.

The Rev. Walter M. Abbott, associate editor of America, the Jesuit weekly, mentioned as an example that when Pope Paul VI visited the United States last October millions of Americans, including Jews, watching the Pope's New York appearance, "gasped" when a seminarian read a passage from John that referred to the disciples "gathered together for fear of the Jews."

Father Abbott said though many watchers assumed that the Pope had chosen the passage, "It was the long-established reading printed in the missal for the mass of peace." He added that apparently neither the Pope nor anyone else officiating at the mass thought of the effect "when this established text would be read out in the world's Jewish capital."

Sponsors of the conference were Iona College, College of New Rochelle and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The audience of 200 included priests, nuns, brothers and Catholic and Jewish lay listeners.

RABBIS AND JEWISH LAY LEADERS DISCUSS VIET NAM ISSUE AT CONFERENCE

NEW YORK, Feb. 22: (JTA) -- A consensus for a military stalemate in Viet Nam allowing intensive effort for peace emerged here today as rabbis and lay leaders of the three religious movements in American Judaism -- Orthodox, Conservative and Reform -- held an all-day study conference on Judaism and world peace. The conference, held at Columbia University under the auspices of the Synagogue Council of America, the national coordinating agency for the rabbinic and congregational organizations of the three religious groups, was called to air the issue and not to offer or adopt any resolutions on it.

Dr. Irving Greenberg, an Orthodox rabbi and Associate Professor of History at Yeshiva University, called on religious groups to campaign to prevent "political reprisal if the Administration explores the possibilities" of recognizing the Viet Cong or "a neutralist or Titoist solution." Pointing to the right under Jewish law to "conscientious objection to a specific war," Dr. Greenberg added: "Religious groups should evaluate and challenge the adequacy of the Administration's efforts."

Dr. Seymour Siegel, a Conservative rabbi and Associate Professor of Theology at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, called for "holding the conflict within controllable bounds and actively and sacrificially seeking means to terminate the conflict" -- a position, he said, which is similar in essence to that taken recently by Sen. Robert F. Kennedy. Dr. Siegel, who is also secretary of the Rabbinical Assembly, the association of Conservative rabbis, declared that "Even in the midst of a war, we are bidden always to seek the ways of peace -- and to preserve the dignity of our adversary."

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, a Reform rabbi and the chairman of the Committee on Justice and Peace of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, a Reform group, called on the United States to "desist" in Viet Nam, declaring that when Washington talks of "our commitments to the government of South Viet Nam," it means "our own propped up puppet of Saigon." He added that: "The majority of the population of South Viet Nam support the National Liberation Front and almost all the territory of the South is willingly under 'Viet Cong's control.'"

Other discussants included Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Rabbinical Council of America; Rabbi Max J. Routtenberg, president of the Rabbinical Assembly; Moses I. Feurstein, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; Rabbi Balfour Brickner, director of the Commission on Interfaith Activities, Union of American Hebrew Congregations; Rabbi Harry Halpern of United Synagogue of America; Rabbi Samuel D. Soskin, CCAR; and George Maislen, past president of the United Synagogue of America.

Orthodox Rabbinical Group Backs Washington's Policy on Viet Nam

NEW YORK, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Alliance of America, a group of American-born Orthodox rabbis which is not affiliated with the Synagogue Council of America, sent a letter to President Johnson today expressing its "deepest confidence" in the President and the Administration's policy on Viet Nam.

"The Rabbinical Alliance deplores the rash of critical statements being issued against the Government in the name of religion and morality," the letter states. "These declarations are detrimental to the security of these blessed United States, and are inimical to the best interest of our beloved country. The Rabbinical Alliance wishes to make clear to the President and to his Administration that these few religious leaders and educators do not speak for the vast majority of Americans. They most surely do not represent the majority opinion of the Jewish community in America. We stand firmly behind our beloved President and we offer our prayers for the success of our Government policy in Viet Nam and all over the world."

PRESIDENT JOHNSON WARNS AGAINST BIGOTRY IN 'BROTHERHOOD WEEK' APPEAL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 22: (JTA) -- President Johnson, the honorary president of Brotherhood Week -- which is now being observed throughout the nation -- linked the event with "the unfinished task of the Great Society" in an appeal for rededication to America's "traditional ideals of tolerance, compassion and respect for individual dignity."

He said the event was observed during the week of Washington's birthday because the First President's ideals "still serve and guide us 'to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no tolerance.' " He added that "social and economic injustice remained 'the personal and moral responsibility of every citizen.'"

PHYSICIANS EXPECT NO IMPROVEMENT IN RABBI ADLER'S PRESENT CONDITION

DETROIT, Feb. 22. (JTA) -- Doctors attending Rabbi Morris Adler, who was shot in the head by an insane congregant nine days ago, said in a bulletin today that since the rabbi had not regained consciousness in nine days, no improvement was expected in the immediate future. A medical bulletin issued today by Sinai Hospital stressed, however, that there had been no further deterioration in his condition, although his condition remains critical."

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY ANNOUNCES \$10,000,000 EXPANSION PROGRAM

NEW YORK, Feb. 22: (JTA) -- A \$10,000,000 expansion program for the Midtown Center of Yeshiva University was announced here yesterday. The expansion will include construction of a \$4,500,000 classroom building for Stern College for Women, acquisition of a \$4,000,000 apartment-hotel as a residence hall for its students, and a \$1,500,000 renovation of the existing facility of Stern College for Women.

The new building to be erected on a 6,000 square foot plot will be an 11-story structure, with two sub-level floors, and containing 38 classrooms capable of accommodating 1,200 students. It will have in excess of 70,000 square feet of space. Construction is scheduled to begin next Fall and be completed by September, 1967.

The facility, which will also be utilized by the University's Teachers Institute for Women, also will contain administrative offices, lecture halls, dining room, kitchen, a library with space for over 100,000 volumes, and a psychology center, which will include a language laboratory, experimental animal room and psychology laboratory. The classroom building will be connected to the existing structure on each of the latter's five floors, enabling the two to be utilized as a single academic and administrative unit.

U. S. COMMITTEE ISSUES PHONOGRAPH RECORD COMMEMORATING DR. WEIZMANN

NEW YORK, Feb. 22: (JTA) -- The American Committee for the Weizmann Institute of Science today released a special, long-play phonograph record, entitled "Chaim Weizmann: Israel and the Jewish People," in commemoration of the late first President of Israel.

The record includes voicings of statements made by the late Dr. Weizmann at the United Nations and on other historic occasions, including the ceremonies in which he was sworn in as Israel's first President, in 1948. Other voices on the recording are those of President Johnson, former President Truman, Sir Winston Churchill, Adlai Stevenson, David Ben-Gurion and many other prominent personalities. Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban is the narrator of the documentary record.

U. S. OFFICIAL GOING TO ISRAEL TO STUDY AID PROGRAM FOR AFRICAN LANDS

HARRIMAN, N. Y., Feb. 22. (JTA.) -- The director of adult education of the U. S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare announced yesterday that he is going to Israel in an effort to tap Israeli knowhow, developed in its successful aid program in Asia and Africa, to help America's own foreign assistance efforts.

Dr. Edward Warner Brice made this known to the Conference on Welfare State -- Welfare Society held at Arden House here under the sponsorship of the American Historical Cultural Exchange Institute. He will discuss Israel's successful efforts in the fields of education and health especially in a large number of African states and suggest an "exchange between specialists there and in the United States" -- a two-way deal under which some Americans will go to Israel and some Israelis will come here for an exchange of experiences and techniques.

PRESIDENT SHAZAR RECEIVES MARLENE DIETRICH ON HER VISIT TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 22: (JTA) -- President and Mrs. Zalman Shazar today received the American film actress Marlene Dietrich, who is currently visiting Israel. Miss Dietrich, who was born in Germany but has been an American citizen for 30 years, later visited the Yad Vashem memorial where she lit a candle in memory of the victims of the Nazi holocaust.

The film star, who visited Israel once before, said today that she returned because of her "strong attraction" for the Jewish people and admiration for Israel. She was warmly received by Israeli audiences during her appearances here and she also gave benefit performances for the Israeli armed forces.

NACHUM YUD, NOTED YIDDISH POET, DIED IN NEW YORK; FUNERAL TODAY

NEW YORK, Feb. 22: (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held tomorrow for Nachum Yud (Yerusalimchik), the noted Yiddish poet and author, who died at his home here this weekend at the age of 77. He was a member of the editorial staff of the Jewish Daily Forward, in New York.

Born in Russia, Nachum Yud came to this country in 1916 and established himself as a talented writer of fables with many of his books used in Yiddish schools. His works were published in many Yiddish periodicals.