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EBAN CONFIRMS REJECTION NOW OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH SO. VIET NAM

JERUSALEM, March 24. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban confirmed today in Parliament the statements of his Ministry this week to the effect that Israel did not intend at present to establish diplomatic relations with South Viet Nam. Speaking during debate on his Ministry's budget, Mr. Eban said such statements had been cleared in advance with Premier Levi Eshkol and himself.

The issue developed as a result of a statement last Monday in Washington by Vu Van Thai, the South Viet Nam Ambassador to the United States, who said that negotiations for such relations had been held by officials of Israel and South Viet Nam.

Mr. Eban said he did not think it was wise for the Israel Government to commit itself to categorical statements of rejection of such relations, and that the Government should be left with the option of adopting a different attitude if circumstances changed. He added that any further steps regarding South Viet Nam would be taken at the Cabinet level, with participation of all parties in the government coalition.

The Tel Aviv daily, Maariv, reported today that Israel's decision to withhold recognition of South Viet Nam followed repeated recent approaches by Soviet Ambassador Dimitri Chuvakhin to the Israel Foreign Ministry against such recognition. Official Government sources declined to comment on the Maariv story.

According to Maariv, the Soviet envoy made his first plea during a call on the Foreign Ministry, and then repeated it at private meetings with Ministry officials. The envoy reportedly asked Israel to take an open anti-United States stand on the issue, and to call the United States intervention "American imperialism." At the same time, United States Ambassador Walworth Barbour asked Israel to provide aid to the Saigon regime.

The final decision was that, since Israel was not involved in the South Viet Nam conflict, Israel would not yield to either request, and neither attack the United States nor provide aid to Saigon. Israel also decided not to recognize the Saigon regime under these circumstances.

BEN-GURION SEES MID-EAST PEACE DEPENDENT ON RELATIONS OF WEST & USSR

LONDON, March 24. (JTA) -- Former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, arriving here for a brief visit, said today that pacification in the Middle East was dependent on better relations between the Soviet Union, Europe and the United States. Adding that no one could predict when this would happen, he asserted that "day will assuredly come."

He termed the scheduled visit of former West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer to Israel next month, in response to a long-standing invitation from the former Premier, a visit of "utmost importance." He cited the fact that there were in Israel many survivors of the Nazi regime "who cannot forget what Germany did to them and to the Jewish people, and we must respect their feelings." But, he added, those who argue that Germany has not changed "will be able to see that there is a different Germany now, represented by Dr. Adenauer and others. Dr. Adenauer is as far from Hitler as any man could be."

Declining to comment on Israel's internal affairs and on Britain's current general election campaign, Mr. Ben-Gurion did comment that he remained convinced that British-style elections would suit Israel, and that he was still urging such a system in Israel.

He said he planned to devote an address here to the Joint Palestine Appeal dinner next Tuesday, to the problems of Israel's Negev area. He predicted that the Negev would some day contain 2,000,000 Israelis. He reported that a study center at Sde Boker, where he maintains a vacation home, was now providing facilities for 300 students at various levels. He said the center should be expanded not only to university status, but also as a facility for research into problems of the Negev which, if it is to have a large population, needs exploitation to the limits of knowledge.

INDIANS IN PARLIAMENT HIT GOVERNMENT FOR SNUBBING ISRAELI PRESIDENT

NEW DELHI, March 24. (JTA) -- Members of Parliament challenged the Government today on the adequacy of facilities and treatment accorded Israeli President Zalman Shazar, during the latter's recent travel through New Delhi and Calcutta on a state visit to Nepal. Socialist members spearheaded the attack, supported by some members of the governing Congress Party.

Deputy Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh had a difficult time explaining that the Government meant no discourtesy, and that the entire program had been laid out last April in consultation with the Israeli consul in Bombay.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman told newsmen that the Government had "forewarned" Israel of India's "inability" to provide official hospitality to President Shazar, but he noted that India did make security arrangements for Mr. Shazar's safety in New Delhi and Calcutta. He said the facilities extended to Mr. Shazar were "in keeping with India's approach to matters concerning Israel." India recognized Israel many years ago but never followed through with an exchange of ambassadors.

The spokesman denied that India's failure to show courtesy to President Shazar stemmed from pressure from the Arab League or any Arab government.

(In Jerusalem, Foreign Minister Abba Eban told Parliament today that the Government "regretted" the Indian attitude toward President Shazar during his Calcutta stop, and that he was sorry to note that India did not have the courage to disregard threats by Arab countries. Mr. Eban indicated he felt this was the reason why India had snubbed Mr. Shazar.)

BRAZILIAN VETERANS RETURN MEDALS IN PROTEST AGAINST FASCIST

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 24. (JTA) -- A group of 283 veterans of the Brazilian Expeditionary Force, who fought against the Nazis on the Italian front during World War II, returned their medals and citations to the Government today in protest against the appointment by President Castello Branco of Raimundo Padilha, a former Fascist leader, as Government spokesman in the Chamber of Deputies.

Deploping the appointment in an address to the Chamber, Deputy Jamil Amiden, who is chairman of the veterans' group, said that the president, as a military man himself, would realize the significance of the action by the veterans in returning their medals. Mr. Amiden noted that Padilha was on record in United States State Department documents as having been a member of the Brazilian Integralista, a Fascist group which was involved in espionage activities for the Nazis during the Second World War.

President Castello Branco said last week that an investigation had shown that there was no foundation to the charges of espionage against Padilha. It is known, however, that the latter was one of the leaders of the Brazilian Fascists who supported Hitler. Deputy Abel Rafael, another former Fascist, defended the appointment, and told the Chamber that there was no point in charging Padilha with membership in the Integralista, since one-third of the deputies were members of that group.

DOMINANT AUSTRIAN PARTY DISSOCIATES ITSELF FROM RELIGIOUS BIAS

VIENNA, March 24. (JTA) -- The Austrian Peoples Party, which last month won an absolute majority in Parliamentary elections, announced at a meeting here today that the party dissociates itself "unconditionally" from any attempts to inject racial or religious issues into Austrian politics. During the meeting, Alois Scheibenreif, a Peoples Party deputy, withdrew "with regrets" the anti-Semitic insults he had directed during the election campaign at Foreign Minister Bruno Kreisky, who is Jewish.

Meanwhile, Ernst Feldsberg, president of the Austrian Jewish community, called the attention of Vienna Mayor Marek to recent signs of a new revival of anti-Semitism here. Mayor Marek pledged that the Vienna community will fight every new manifestation of anti-Semitism.

ISRAEL LAUNCHES FIRST EXPERIMENTAL, EDUCATIONAL TV OF LOCAL ORIGIN

TEL AVIV, March 24. (JTA) -- Pupils in 32 schools in Tel Aviv received today the first television broadcast of local origin -- a lesson in mathematics. The schools were chosen for the experimental project for educational television transmitted by a station financed by the Rothschild family.

An Instructional Television Trust was inaugurated shortly before the first telecast in the presence of Premier Eshkol, Education Minister Zalman Aranne and Lord Rothschild of Britain, chairman of the Trust. The Israel Government decided last summer to establish general television for Israelis by the end of 1967.

ISRAEL SPEARHEADS U.N. MOVE TO OUTLAW NAZI WAR CRIME TRIAL LIMITS

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 24. (JTA) -- Backed by five other delegations, including those of the United States and France, Israel's representative on the United Nations Commission on Human Rights insisted here today that the U.N. adopt a special Convention banning statutes of limitations for the trial and punishment of war criminals throughout the world.

Israel's delegate, Associate Supreme Court Justice Haim H. Cohn, told the Commission that adoption of such an international instrument was urgent, pinpointing the situation in West Germany as an example of the need for the Convention. After recent revisions of its laws, West Germany still has a deadline of December 1, 1969, beyond which date major Nazi war criminals need not be tried.

Justice Cohn introduced a resolution calling for the drafting of the proposed Convention and the preparation of the document for final voting a year from now. Poland presented its own draft resolution, endorsing the principle of a ban on statutes of limitations regarding war criminals, but sidestepping the need for a formal Convention. The Soviet Union proposed that a committee be appointed to reconcile the Israeli and Polish stands, and Justice Cohn accepted that proposal.

The Israeli draft was co-sponsored, in addition to France and the U.S.A. by New Zealand, Austria, and the Netherlands. The Dutch delegation noted in its endorsement that its thinking on the subject had been aided by a memorandum submitted by one of the nongovernmental groups having consultative status before the Commission, the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations. The latter represents B'nai B'rith and the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

U.S. Senator Objects to Teenage Fad for Display of Iron Cross, Swastika

WASHINGTON, March 24. (JTA) -- Sen. Ross Bass, Tennessee Democrat, a World War II bombardier shot down by the Nazi Luftwaffe, commented here today on a new teen-age fad featuring the wearing of Iron Crosses and swastikas. Noting reports that department store sales of replicas of the German Iron Cross are booming in the District of Columbia and other parts of the country, Sen. Bass said: "The kids ought to be buying veterans' poppies. They would look better as an ornament."

The Senator said he did not believe the teenagers understood what the Nazi emblems symbolized. The teenage fad includes earrings for girls with large black crosses emblazoned on the cheap jewelry, and rings with emblems that simulate German military insignia for boys.

ISRAELI JUDGE MARRIES IN N.Y.; ORTHODOX RABBINATE MAY QUESTION VALIDITY

NEW YORK, March 24. (JTA) -- Justice Haim H. Cohn, of the Israel Supreme Court, was married here yesterday to a woman who had been divorced from her first husband, then married a second man, who died. Because Justice Cohn is a "cohen," a member of the Jewish priestly tribe, his marriage raised the question as to whether his union is valid under the rules of the Israeli rabbinate, which forbids a "cohen" to marry a divorced woman.

The ceremony was conducted in a hotel suite here by Rabbi Edward Candrow, president of the New York Board of Rabbis and spiritual leader of Temple Beth El, a Conservative congregation in Cedarhurst, L.I. He said after the ceremony that the validity of Justice Cohn's marriage under the rules of the Israeli rabbinate, which is Orthodox, is a matter of interpretation. "I consulted a number of my Orthodox colleagues," he said, "and it was agreed that the bride was a widow, and not a divorcee." Justice Cohn's bride is the former Michal Smoira, an Israeli music critic.

HIAS EXECUTIVE PLEADS FOR EASIER U. S. RULES ON ADMITTING CUBAN JEWS

WASHINGTON, March 24. (JTA) -- James P. Rice, executive director of the United Hias Service, urged today changes in Federal immigration procedures to ease the problems of Cuban Jews stranded in transit to the United States, while awaiting employment certification. Mr. Rice made the plea in testimony before the Senate subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees, of which Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat, is chairman.

Mr. Rice said the stranded Cuban-Jewish migrants could make contributions to the professions, arts, science and business in this country. He cited as an example 61 Cuban Jewish refugees who found temporary haven in Curacao, but have encountered serious delays in waiting to be processed for entry to the United States.

The Hias executive said that, of the estimated 10,000 Jews in Cuba when Castro took power, less than 2,400 remain, and more may leave. He said they fled not because of anti-Semitism, to which they were never subjected, but because they did not wish to live under a Communist regime, and because they did not want their children to be educated in such a regime.

CJFWF REPORTS 1966 CAMPAIGNS, THUS FAR, EXCEED PACE OF PEAK 1965 DRIVES

NEW YORK, March 24. (JTA) -- Jewish community fund-raising campaigns in the United States are currently at the one-third mark, 15 percent ahead of the pace set in 1965, when an eight-year record was achieved, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds reported today. The CJFWF, reporting findings of a meeting of its board of directors, said that the 1965 total of \$132,000,000 raised by federations was the highest in that eight-year period. That sum was exclusive of capital and endowment funds.

The board was told that the newly-formed Committee on Federation planning for Jewish Education, headed by Mandel Berman of Detroit, will work to establish guidelines for federations to carry out their responsibilities in this area most effectively. The committee will first study the federation role in Jewish education after bar mitzvah, as well as teacher recruitment and training, and develop plans to strengthen them. The committee is working closely with the American Association for Jewish Education.

The board was told that there was progress on the proposed CJFWF national population study of American Jewry. The CJFWF, the National Community Relations Advisory Council and the Synagogue Council of America have agreed on joint action to examine any possible role the U. S. Census Bureau can play in regard to collecting facts on the number of American Jews. The board was told that, in any event, the CJFWF study itself would have to delve into such matters as Jewish identification, commitment, Jewish education and intermarriage which the Census Bureau could not possibly obtain.

Other reports given the board included one by Alan V. Lowenstein, on the current discussions between the American Jewish Committee and the NCRAC; another by Irving Kane, on budget consultations with the Joint Distribution Committee, analyzing the impact of the loss of West German reparations; and one by S.P. Goldberg, director of the CJFWF department of overseas services.

MASS. COURT REFUSES TO INTERVENE IN SYNAGOGUE KASHRUTH DISPUTE

BOSTON, March 24. (JTA) -- The Massachusetts Supreme Court dismissed today a bill of complaint filed by the United Kasher Butchers Association against the Associated Synagogues of Massachusetts. The suit charged restraint of trade, elimination of a free market and denial of free competition. The high court ruling, holding that civil courts have no jurisdiction in purely religious disputes, upheld a similar ruling by a lower court.

At issue is a program of the Associated Synagogues, comprised of 60 Orthodox, Conservative and Reform congregations in the area, to centralize supervision of application of the Jewish dietary laws to commercial processing of foods and related products, used by observant Jewish consumers.

The complaint of the Butchers Association, made up of kosher retail meat stores in Boston, said that the Butchers Association had certified and supervised its member stores on kosher meat and poultry with those activities conducted for the past seven years under direction of Rabbi Mordecai Savitsky. The complaint charged that the Associated Synagogues had insisted since 1960 that kosher caterers buy meat only from retail stores supervised by the Association of Orthodox Rabbis (Vaad Harabonim) of the Associated Synagogues. The complaint asked that the Associated Synagogues be enjoined from the practice and also sought unspecified damages.

In its reply, the Associated Synagogues said kashruth certification has always been the responsibility of the organized Jewish community, and that Jewish religious law requires the divorcing, as far as possible, of the business aspect from the religious phase of kosher production.

FIRE GUTS SYNAGOGUE AT NEW SQUARE, N. Y.; MANY TORAH SCROLLS DESTROYED

NEW SQUARE, N. Y., March 24. (JTA) -- Firemen estimated today losses of \$350,000 in a fire which destroyed Zemach David Synagogue here yesterday. The Hassidic synagogue was undergoing modeling and refinishing. The cause of the fire is unknown.

Rabbi David Goldstein, leader of the synagogue, said many Torah scrolls were lost in the blaze. He said services would be held for the time being in the village school.

NEW YORK UJA WOMEN RAISE \$300,000; HONOR WIFE OF MAYOR LINDSAY

NEW YORK, March 24. (JTA) -- More than \$300,000 was raised here today toward the \$116,685,000 national goal of the United Jewish Appeal, at a luncheon and fashion show sponsored by the Women's Division of the UJA of Greater New York. Guest of honor at the luncheon was the wife of New York's Mayor, Mrs. John V. Lindsay, who was presented with a silver-bound copy of the Bible.