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ISRAEL PRESENTS ITS VIEWS ON U. N. SETTLEMENT OF ARAB REFUGEE PROBLEM

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 12. (JTA) -- Israel is willing to play its part in a negotiated and agreed program for settling the Arab refugee problem "in a constructive and peaceful manner, including the settlement of compensation claims," Secretary-General U Thant was informed formally here today by Ambassador Michael S. Comay, Israel's permanent representative at the United Nations.

The real solution of the Arab refugee question, Mr. Comay declared on behalf of his Government, lies in the absorption of the refugees "among their brethren in the Arab world, just as Israel has absorbed about the same number of Jews from Arab countries."

The Israeli envoy made his statements on the Arab refugee issue in a letter to Mr. Thant replying to one addressed to the Secretary-General last week by 12 of the 13 Arab League states. In the Arab missive, Mr. Thant was invited to visit the Arab refugee camps conducted by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees "in order to witness the deteriorating conditions of the refugees, and the prevailing dangerous situation in the area."

The camps are located in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and the Gaza Strip -- the area under Egyptian jurisdiction. UNRWA has listed more than 1,200,000 refugees on its relief rolls. The Arab states submitting their letter to Mr. Thant contended that UNRWA faces a deficit of \$4,200,000 and is being threatened by reduction of rations and services. Mr. Comay, in his letter, denied these assertions.

"According to reports," Mr. Comay stated, "the Commissioner-General of UNRWA has obtained additional voluntary contributions sufficient to cover current budgetary needs, and has informed the agency's Advisory Committee accordingly. The impression given in the letter from the Arab representatives, to the effect that the agency faces an immediate financial crisis would, therefore, appear to be unwarranted."

Arab and Israel Views Circulated to U. N. Member States

In the Arab letter, the Arab League members repeated all the old charges made here repeatedly against Israel, claiming that Israel and the United Nations were responsible for "the Palestine tragedy." The Arab letter also claimed that the financial problem relating to the refugees would have been solved if the U. N. had agreed to the naming of United Nations custodian for "substantial property" which the refugees say they had abandoned in Israel. Such a proposal has been made in the General Assembly several times the last few years, and has consistently failed to receive Assembly approval.

Mr. Comay charged in his letter that the Arab missive had been "submitted and circulated mainly for propaganda reasons." It contained, he asserted, "a number of shopworn political slogans and factual misstatements about the nature and origin of the Arab refugee problem." He recalled to Mr. Thant the fact that the Arab representatives had made the same assertions at the last Assembly, when the Special Political Committee held 28 meetings on the issue, and its sessions were "marked by a rhetorical flood of over 140 statements and interventions by Arab representatives."

The Arab letter informed Mr. Thant that it had been sent in pursuance of a resolution adopted by the Arab summit conference held in Cairo last month. The only Arab League member that did not sign the Arab letter was Tunisia, whose president, Habib Bourguiba, proposed last year that the Arab states should start peace talks with Israel.

Both the Arab letter and the one by Mr. Comay were circulated by Mr. Thant today as official General Assembly documents, in accordance with the requests for such action by the respective signatories.

Mr. Thant said last week that he was "weighing" the Arab invitation to visit the refugee camps and would decline to accept the bid unless he felt he could achieve "positive results." Last Friday, Mr. Comay conferred with Mr. Thant on the issue raised by the Arab invitation, and was reported to have pointed out to the Secretary-General that no such "positive results" would come from the proposed visit.

SOVIET SCIENTISTS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL TO STUDY ANTI-PEST METHODS

TEL AVIV, April 12. (JTA) -- Three Soviet scientists arrived in Israel today to study local agricultural techniques in combatting plant pests. The three, who conferred immediately on their arrival with Agriculture Minister Haim Gvati, are Dr. Y. Gussayev of Leningrad; Dr. H. Hadihelly of Georgia, a woman scientist; and Dr. Tryapitsin of the Soviet Academy of Sciences.

During their visit here, which was first proposed by Mr. Gvati in talks with Soviet Ambassador Dimitri Chuvakhin, the three scientists will study particularly biological anti-pest methods at the Agriculture Ministry's Plant Protection Department.

COCA-COLA CHAIRMAN SAYS FIRM WILL NOT YIELD TO 'SO-CALLED' ARAB BOYCOTT

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- Assurance that "the Coca-Cola Export Corporation has not and will not conduct its affairs in response to any boycott, and that includes the so-called Arab boycott" was given here today by James A. Farley, chairman of the board of the corporation, in a statement issued to the press. Mr. Farley explained why his corporation refuses to give a franchise to an Israeli firm, and said that the experience with that firm precludes entering into a business agreement with it. The statement read:

"Certain allegations have been made regarding the Coca-Cola Export Corporation, the most damaging of which could be the assertion that the company is somehow unalterably opposed to giving a bottling franchise to an enterprise in Israel, thus supporting the Arab boycott. These charges are completely unfair and unfounded.

"For more than 25 years, I have been chairman of the board of directors of the Coca-Cola Export Corporation, following many years of public service and, for most of my life, have been a resident of the City of New York, a community of diverse nationalities and religions and cultures. The simple facts should serve to answer such charges that are designed to appeal to peoples' emotions rather than their good and fair judgment. The facts are these:

"1) The Coca-Cola Export Corporation has over the years taken into serious consideration requests by enterprises in new areas including Israel for franchises to bottle Coca-Cola. In the past years, one such request from a promising applicant has been approved, only to have the Israeli Government deny a permit to the applicant to commence operations. Subsequent applications have been rejected. The basic criterion for accepting or rejecting such requests have been whether, in the judgment of the company, the investment would be successful.

"2) These decisions are not permanent. The Coca-Cola Export Corporation assesses and reassesses the possibilities of establishing bottling operations in various countries, always taking into account local and economic and market conditions. It goes without saying that if, in certain locations, these conditions are found to have changed, the Coca-Cola Export Corporation has been more than willing for purely business reasons to change its decision.

"3) Insofar as Israel is concerned, the market conditions there have been considered repeatedly as they have been considered in other countries in the Middle East. Until now, the officials of the company have found no reason to alter earlier judgments with respect to the advisability of starting a new plant. If the situation changes, we certainly will consider changing our decision. It should be kept in mind that the Coca-Cola Export Corporation is not alone in assessment of the desirability of opening a bottling plant in Israel. No other American soft drink manufacturer, to our knowledge, has opened a bottling plant there.

"4) Finally, in connection with the recent allegation that Coca-Cola has rejected a franchise for an Israeli company, the most important fact should be kept in mind. The group from Israel which has most actively sought a bottling franchise from Coca-Cola is the Tempo Beverage Company. This company dominates the soft drink market in Israel and is well-entrenched in its field. In 1963, the Israeli courts found the Tempo Beverage Company guilty of infringement of the Coca-Cola trademark and bottle design. This unhappy experience with the subject company obviously precludes our entering into a business arrangement with it.

"I am deeply distressed by the charges that have been made against the company of which I have been chairman of the board for more than a quarter of a century. I think that it is unfair that such charges with their high emotional content should be made in defiance of the simple facts I have here outlined. I assure the public that the Coca-Cola Export Corporation has not and will not conduct its affairs in response to any boycott, and that includes the so-called Arab boycott."

CONGRESSMAN URGES HEARINGS ON COCA-COLA REJECTION OF ISRAEL TRADE

WASHINGTON, April 12. (JTA) -- Congressional hearings to obtain testimony from the Coca-Cola Export Corporation were urged today by Rep. Seymour Halpern, ranking Republican member of the House Subcommittee on International Trade, as part of a drive to strengthen anti-boycott provisions of the export control act.

In a letter to Secretary of Commerce John T. Connor, Rep. Halpern charged that the Coca-Cola Company submitted to Arab boycott pressures because important provisions were omitted last year from the legislation adopted. He announced that he had studied the Coca-Cola case and "decided to institute legal action by amendment to revive the deleted language and provide potency and teeth to the law."

Rep. Halpern asserted that "despite assurances by the Departments of Commerce and State that the non-mandatory provisions" that would discourage American commercial vulnerability to the Arab boycott were adequate, Coca-Cola and other American companies continue to be subjected to "Arab dictation as to trading with Israel."

"Inadequacy in the wording of the law is forcing companies to comply with the Arab intrusion into American foreign trade and they camouflage such submission as the Coca-Cola Company has done," he stated. He recalled that a warning was sounded during last year's Congressional debate "that just such a situation would ensue unless a specific measure prohibiting compliance with foreign boycotts was retained."

The Congressman asked for a "detailed and comprehensive report on why gaps and loopholes in the anti-boycott law have emerged despite assurances to the contrary given to Congress when we reluctantly agreed to accept the weakened version of the bill recommended by the Executive Department." It was learned that a number of other subcommittee members supported the Halpern proposal for strengthening the anti-boycott law. If hearings are called, representatives of other corporations in addition to Coca-Cola may be asked to testify.

Coca-Cola Banned for a Day in Mt. Sinai Hospital; Order Rescinded

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- A ban on deliveries of Coca-Cola to Mount Sinai Hospital here, growing out of charges that the company has yielded to the Arab boycott, was ordered yesterday by one official of the hospital but was cancelled by the hospital director before the end of the day.

The official, an unidentified purchasing officer, ordered the ban on deliveries to the hospital's coffee shop and vending machines in protest against the refusal of the company's export division to give a franchise to Tempo Soft Drinks Co. of Israel. The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith charged in a report released last week that the action stemmed from the Arab boycott, a charge the company has denied.

Dr. Martin Steinberg, the director, said in ending the ban that "we are here to cure people, not to fool around with Coca-Cola." He said the purchasing official apparently acted after reading the ADL report, adding "it was over the weekend and he must have got excited and acted on his own."

He explained that the "correct procedure" would have been to refer the matter to the hospital's purchasing committee. Dr. Steinberg called that committee into special session at which it rescinded the ban, though expressing some sympathy for the unnamed official's action in ordering the ban.

The company declined to comment either on the hospital development or on an announcement by the Jewish War Veterans that the JWV executive committee would consider a counter-boycott on sale of the company's products in the United States.

ROCKWELL ORDERED TO STAND TRIAL ON CHARGES OF DISORDERLY CONDUCT

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- George Rockwell, the American Nazi leader, was ordered yesterday to stand trial on May 16 on two charges of disorderly conduct stemming from a near-riot in New York State Supreme Court here in 1960.

Criminal Court Judge Neal P. Bottigheri handed down the order in denying a demand by Martin Berger, a Jewish attorney serving as Rockwell's counsel without fee, that Rockwell receive a hearing to have the charges dismissed. Judge Bottigheri ruled that a case had been established for trial on the charges.

Mr. Berger accepted an assignment from the American Civil Liberties Union to defend Rockwell. He acted as Rockwell's attorney previously when Rockwell was arrested on a warrant issued in 1960. The arrest took place when Rockwell came to New York to address a meeting of a Columbia University student group.

MINNESOTA JEWS APPEAL TO ARCHBISHOP AGAINST ENDORSING DEICIDE FILM

MINNEAPOLIS, April 12. (JTA) -- The Archdiocese of St. Paul was urged by the Jewish Community Relations Council of Minnesota to reconsider its endorsement of the planned commercial showing in the area of a film on the life of Jesus widely denounced by Jewish groups as perpetuating "age old hatreds" and the charge of deicide against Jews.

Samuel Scheiner, executive director of the Council, protested the endorsement in a letter to Archbishop Leo Binz. The official said that the film, "The Redeemer," had led a rabbi to declare that "the film was so damaging to the Jewish community that not even 10,000 classroom hours will be able to erase the visual and psychic experience" of seeing it.

Mr. Scheiner also told the prelate that the Jewish community "has been greatly concerned about the showing" of "The Redeemer" despite "considerable revisions and changes" in the original version.

He cited a review of the film by a Jewish film advisory committee in which "every member" of the committee felt that the film had "a very damaging and inflammatory depiction of the crucifixion" and that despite the revisions, the overall effect remained "disastrous." He added that the film "perpetuates the old myth of the Jews as deicides and therefore furthers anti-Semitism."

Mr. Scheiner stressed that his letter was not "for the purpose of urging censorship" of the film. In view of the recent Vatican Declaration on the Jews, he said, he was confident "you would want to have this information prior to this film's being shown to this area's Catholic population so that you can preview the film and evaluate its effect on Catholic youngsters who may be exposed to a movie which perpetuates the age-old hatreds and prejudices which have been borne by the Jews because of the inflammatory depiction of the crucifixion."

JUDGE MALODNER RETIRES AS CHIEF JUSTICE OF U. S. COURT OF APPEALS

PHILADELPHIA, April 12. (JTA) -- Judge Harry E. Kalodner, chief judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third District, has stepped down from the chief judgeship, having reached the mandatory retirement age of 70. However, he will remain an active member of the Federal appellate court.

Judge Kalodner, who has been active in Jewish affairs for many years, was appointed by the late President Roosevelt to the U. S. District Court, in 1938, and elevated to the Court of Appeals in 1946. Previously he had been a judge of the Court of Common Pleas here. He is a member of the board of trustees of Yeshiva University, and vice-president of Temple Beth Zion here. He has been chief judge of the appellate court since last October.

LOS ANGELES REVISES SCHOOL CALENDAR IN CONSIDERATION OF JEWS

LOS ANGELES, April 12. (JTA) -- The Los Angeles Board of Education voted to revise the 1966-67 school calendar to permit some 100,000 Jewish pupils and 3,000 Jewish teachers to observe the two days of the Jewish New Year without loss of school time or salaries.

The revision changes the opening date from September 12 to September 19. It followed lengthy efforts by Jewish teachers to obtain such a revision. Two of the teachers, Harold Dener and Louis Barak of San Fernando Valley, urged Los Angeles Jewry to express thanks to the board.

JEWISH STUDENTS IN MISSOURI TEACHERS COLLEGE HOLD SABBATH SERVICES

WARRENSBURG, Mo.; April 12. (JTA) -- Thirty Jewish students, of 100 Jews enrolled here at the Central Missouri State Teachers College, have formed a Jewish Student Organization, hold Sabbath services on Saturday mornings, once a month, at the college chapel, and are drawing up plans for official recognition as a campus body by the administration of the college.

The students are being aided and advised by two Jewish members of the faculty, Dr. Marvin Rimerman and Michael Rosenbush. They are also being encouraged by other Jews living in this small community, as well as by Jews in nearby Sedalia. The students have elected Miss Ruth Pearlstone, of St. Louis, as president of their association. The association expects to receive official college administration recognition before the next semester.

ASSOCIATION FOR ADVANCEMENT OF HEBREW EDUCATION FORMED IN NEW HAVEN

NEW HAVEN, April 12. (JTA) -- A group of local Jewish leaders have formed the Association for the Advancement of Hebrew Education to disseminate the teachings of Judaism in the New Haven community.

Irving Rohinsky, president, said that the new group will use public forums, lectures by rabbis and lay leaders and will publish a newspaper.