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ISRAEL GOVERNMENT STUDIES BONN'S CONCRETE OFFER OF FINANCIAL AID

JERUSALEM, April 28. (JTA) -- The Israel Government was pondering today over the concrete proposals of the financial aid offered yesterday by the West German Government at the Israeli-German talks in Bonn. Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir held a meeting tonight to discuss the proposals.

State Secretary Rolf Lahr, head of the West German team, offered the Israeli negotiators yesterday a concrete sum within the framework of a long-term economic aid program. The aid program would succeed the expired reparations agreement between the two countries. The amount of the money offer was not disclosed. Israel Government experts spent an entire day today evaluating the offer. Their conclusions were not reported but the atmosphere was described as one of "moderate optimism."

In addition to the differences of opinion between West Germany and Israel over the sum offered yesterday by the German negotiators, there is another principal point to be resolved. The Bonn Government wants an arrangement under which aid commitments would be made for one-year periods only, with renewal of negotiations each year thereafter. Israel reportedly was seeking a firm West German understanding as a basis for such future negotiations. Political sources here indicated they expected the talks would be completed next week. West Germany was reported also to want a quick conclusion of the negotiations.

U.S. SEEKING AGREEMENT WITH RUSSIA ON FLOW OF ARMS TO MIDDLE EAST

WASHINGTON, April 28. (JTA) -- A high State Department official said today it was a matter of "accelerating urgency" to limit further shipments of advanced arms to the Near East, and revealed that the United States intends to continue contacts with the Soviet Union to seek agreement on limiting the flow of new arms into the area.

The Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations, Douglas MacArthur, 2nd, said in a letter to Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, that, "in spite of the lack of a positive response to date, the Department of State fully agrees that we should continue our contacts on this question with the Soviet Government as well as the other governments concerned." He added: "I can assure you we intend to do this. The arms problem remains at the top of the list of our concerns in the Near East, and we will explore every possibility of moving it toward solution."

The State Department official stressed that it was an objective of U.S. policy "to find some means of turning the spiral of arms acquisition by Near Eastern countries downward, so that the limited resources of these nations can be more fully devoted to economic development. As the appetite grows for sophisticated weapons, the cost of building and maintaining a military arsenal increases enormously. This, together with the greater threat that advanced weapons pose to the peace of the area, makes the Near East arms problem one of accelerating urgency."

Mr. MacArthur said the United States had "initiated diplomatic contacts on a number of occasions with the governments concerned in a very real effort to achieve some measure of restraint on this arms race. Our contacts have included the Soviet Union." He pointed out that "the Soviet Union's role has been a key one, in that it has poured more than \$2,000,000,000 worth of arms into the Near East in the last 10 years. Thus far, unfortunately, the Soviet Government has shown no genuine desire to reach an understanding on limiting the flow of arms into the area." Nevertheless, said Mr. MacArthur, the Department felt that contacts with Russia on this question should be pursued, along with approaches to the other governments concerned.

EGYPTIAN SPY RETURNED TO EGYPT BY ISRAEL AFTER SERVING JAIL TERM

TEL AVIV, April 28. (JTA) -- An Egyptian who entered Israel in 1957 as a journalist with French travel documents and was arrested and convicted as a spy was returned today to Egypt by Israeli authorities.

Ahmed Ali Oshan was sentenced to serve six years. Released at the end of his prison term, he was handed over to United Nations troops at a border post near the Gaza Strip for transfer to Egypt.

NEGRO-JEWISH RELATIONS DISCUSSED AT CONVENTION OF JEWISH CONGRESS

GROSSINGER, N. Y., April 28. (JTA) -- Negro-Jewish relations were discussed here today at the national biennial convention of the American Jewish Congress, with Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, of Cleveland, asserting that recent incidents of Negro anti-Semitism have brought about a "Jewish backlash." He criticized what he called "the new isolationists in Jewish life" who, he claimed, were part of this "backlash."

He said there was a "new preoccupation with Negro anti-Semitism" among Jewish academicians who have posed a "false dichotomy between the preservation of Judaism and the application of Jewish values to contemporary issues." "These forces tell us to ignore the world in order to survive as Jews," Rabbi Lelyveld declared, "but in doing so they ignore the whole point of Jewish survival. For what is the meaning of our millennia of dedication if it is not 'to improve the world into the kingdom of the Almighty?'"

Rabbi Lelyveld, a civil rights volunteer who was assaulted by segregationists in Mississippi in 1964, said: "It is a tribute to our heritage of compassion that we are ashamed of anti-Negro sentiments that do exist among Jews and rarely permit them a public airing. I do not serve the cause of Negro emancipation because I expect the Negro to love me in return. The command to remember the stranger and the oppressed is unconditional."

The Cleveland rabbi said it was "inevitable" that a "Jewish backlash" would develop in view of the confrontation between Negroes and Jews in low income areas and the conflict of interests between the two communities in problems of education and allied concerns. This reaction, he said, "manifests itself in gratuitous advice to Jewish organizations to tend to their Jewish knitting."

Rather than withdraw from full participation in the Negroes' struggle, Rabbi Lelyveld said, "we must demand more of ourselves. Our reason for being is not to maintain in ghetto-like separateness a Naturei Karta stance, but to take the obligations made on us by our covenant and apply them to today's world."

Edward M. Squadron, convention co-chairman, cited the work of the American Jewish Congress in establishing with the Urban League an interracial council for business opportunity as one way of helping translate the promise of equality into jobs and genuine economic opportunity.

CONVENTION OF U.S. MILITARY CHAPLAINS APPEALS TO RUSSIA ON JEWS

ATLANTA, April 28. (JTA) -- The Military Chaplains Association, composed of 300 chaplains from the United States armed forces, representing all faiths, adopted unanimously today a resolution calling on the Government of the Soviet Union to grant full cultural and religious freedoms to all peoples in the USSR, mentioning specifically the situation of Jews in Russia. The association today concluded its 41st annual convention held here.

The resolution, introduced by Capt. Shimon Pascow, a rabbi serving as a chaplain on the West Coast, declared: "Whereas we the members of the Military Chaplains Association are concerned with the religious and cultural rights of people everywhere, we call upon the Government of the Soviet Union to grant full cultural and religious freedom to all its people. We note with dismay the suppression of Judaism in the Soviet Union, and call upon that government to permit the opening of Jewish religious schools and synagogues, and permit the publishing of religious texts so that the Jewish people will be able to live in accordance with its historic religious traditions."

BRIGADIER EZER WEITZMANN TRANSFERS COMMAND OF ISRAELI AIR FORCE

TEL AVIV, April 28. (JTA) -- Brig. Ezer Weitzmann formally handed over today command of the Israeli Air Force to his successor, Col. Mordechai Hod. Brig. Weitzmann has been named Chief of Operations in the Army general headquarters.

A flypast of every type of plane in the Air Force took place as the two Air Force officers mounted a reviewing stand for the ceremony. A guard of honor brought the Air Force flag to Brig. Weitzmann who raised it aloft and then handed it to Col. Hod.

JOSEF WEITZ RESIGNS AS CHAIRMAN OF J.N.F. LAND DEVELOPMENT BODY

JERUSALEM, April 28. (JTA) -- Josef Weitz resigned today as chairman of the Land Development Authority of the Jewish National Fund. He will retire May 1. Yaacov Tsur, chairman of the JNF board, was named to replace Weitz.

DEFENDANT AT NAZI TRIAL ADMITS USE OF GAS TO KILL JEWS IN CAMPS

FRANKFURT, April 28. (JTA) -- Wilhelm Burger, 61, the principal defendant in the "smaller" Auschwitz death camp trial here, admitted in court today that he knew the Cyklon B gas shipped to the camp was used to kill inmates. He also admitted that he had traveled to Berlin with the valuables taken from Jews murdered in gas vans.

KLUTZNICK DERIDES THEORY OF JEWISH 'DEMISE' IN U.S.; VOICES OPTIMISM

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- Deriding guesses about the alleged "demise" of Jewish life in the United States, Philip M. Klutznick hailed here today the "conscious investment in the Jewish future" being made in the present era by American Jewry. The former United States Ambassador to the United Nations, now Washington's representative on an ad hoc U.N. committee of experts to examine the finances of the U.N. and its specialized agencies, voiced his optimistic view in an address read for him at the dedication of a new, \$2,200,000 YM-YWHA in this city, which highlighted the Golden Jubilee convention of the National Jewish Welfare Board, currently in session in New York.

Pointing out that Jewish life in this country is exposed to the various revolutionary trends which affect the entire American community, Mr. Klutznick declared that, rather than wasting his energy on denying the theory of Jewish "demise," he found it more important to consider what can be done by the Jewish community "to make a better tomorrow."

"Some delight to denigrate this era," he said, "as the age of the 'edifice complex.' It is really a period of thoughtful additions as well as reconstruction. It is not by accident that this is the first time when the major additions to Center facilities are the product of joint planning by Federations and Canters."

Mr. Klutznick, who is also past international president of B'nai B'rith, said that such joint planning is illustrated by the fact that, in New York City alone, \$30,000,000 worth of new Jewish Centers have been planned, while across the entire United States, more than \$100,000,000 worth of Center and camping facilities have been developed or are being developed now. He noted that the new structure being dedicated today -- the Milton Weill Building of the Emanu-El Midtown YM-YWHA on New York's East Side -- is the eighth structure completed in as many years by Centers that are part of the Associated YM-YWHAs here.

"We are engaged," he declared, "in a new type of adventure in the Jewish experience. We have purposefully and deliberately chosen life in all its glory -- not decay." Since Mr. Klutznick had to leave for Geneva to attend a meeting of the special U.N. committee on finances on which he represents the U.S. Government, his address was read by Mrs. Leonard E. Bernheim, program chairman of the JWB's Golden Jubilee convention. Mr. Weill, after whom the new building was named, is convention chairman, while Mr. Klutznick heads the JWB's Golden Jubilee committee.

Louis Stern, national president of the JWB, presented medallions at the ceremony to Dr. Maurice B. Hexter and Joseph Willen, executive vice-presidents of the New York Federation, for their "distinguished leadership in the creation of Jewish community centers in Greater New York."

HIAS TO HELP THOUSANDS OF JEWS TO COME THIS YEAR TO U.S., CANADA

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- More than 12,000 men, women and children from all over the world will be helped this year by the United Hias Service to find new homes for themselves in the United States and other Western countries, Max M. Fisher, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, declared tonight at the Essex House.

Mr. Fisher spoke at a dinner in his honor, sponsored by United Hias Service, which raised over \$750,000 in pledges and contributions to the UJA among more than 250 guests. United Hias Service's work consists in making possible the migration of Jews to the U.S., Canada, Australia, France and other free western countries.

The increased flow of immigrants to the U.S., Mr. Fisher pointed out, was largely due to the new liberalized immigration law which has enabled the United Hias Service to help many more Jews than before. Mr. Fisher was among those who played an important part in obtaining passage of the law. He received a silver engraved carafe from Murray Gurfein, president of United Hias Service with an inscription expressing "appreciation for his leading role in assuring the survival of the Jewish people."

N.Y. APPROVES USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS FOR BOOKS TO RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, April 28. (JTA) -- The New York City Board of Education approved last night a plan to use federal funds to buy books for long term loans to the city's non-public non-sectarian and religious schools. There are about 140 Jewish day schools in the city.

The money will be used to buy library and textbooks and audio-visual aids for distribution to public schools and for loans to non-public schools. The policy is designed to aid primary and secondary school students in disadvantaged areas. A board spokesman stressed that the government funds would not be used to buy any material of "a religious or sectarian nature."

Officials of the non-public schools welcomed the decision which has been opposed by the American Jewish Congress and the United Parents Association.

CANADIAN EX-PREMIER CALLS FOR FEDERAL LAW AGAINST HATE LITERATURE

MONTREAL, April 28. (JTA) -- John G. Diefenbaker, former Prime Minister and now leader of the opposition in the Canadian Parliament, called here for enactment of federal legislation against the dissemination of hate literature. At the same time, he requested that Canada "take a strong lead" in protesting Soviet Union discriminations against Russian Jewry. He made these statements as principal guest speaker at an Israel bond dinner, attended by 500 persons, honoring Hyman Singerman.

Regarding hate literature, the former Premier said that Parliament should be given a report on that subject presented two weeks ago by a Government committee headed by Dean Maxwell Cohen, of McGill University. The report recommended enactment of laws barring propaganda "by words, deeds or writing" advocating hatred toward any group in Canada. Much propaganda of that type, said Mr. Diefenbaker, could be prevented now by implementation of the criminal code as it stands. "There have been no convictions, it is true," he stated, "but that is because there have been no persecutions. You of the Jewish race have been subject to vitriolic attacks which must be checked."

Touching on the situation of Jews in the Soviet Union, Mr. Diefenbaker said that the threat against Russian Jewry must be the concern of "all who love justice and liberty." "There are many," he continued, "who say that such protests do no good. But I believe that, if we do not protest, the Soviet leaders may be lulled into thinking that what is being done does not matter to the free world."

16,644 JEWISH CHILDREN ATTEND PROTESTANT SCHOOLS IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL, April 28. (JTA) -- There are 16,644 Jewish children enrolled in the Greater Montreal public schools under the jurisdiction of the Protestant School Board, according to statistics disclosed here Wednesday by Louis Rosenberg, research director for the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The figures show that 9,745 Jewish children are enrolled in the Protestant elementary schools, making up 22 percent of the total student population in those institutions; and 6,899 Jewish children are among the total of 20,073 high school students in Greater Montreal. The overall percentage of Jewish children in both elementary and high schools here is 25.9.

SOUTH AFRICAN JEWRY LAUDED AS LEADING IN JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

JOHANNESBURG, April 28. (JTA) -- Johannesburg's Jewish Day Schools "far surpass anything else I know in this field," Lord Segal of Wytham, a member of the Board of Governors of Anglo-Jewry's Carmel College, told a distinguished gathering of leading Johannesburg Jews when he and Lady Segal and former Johannesburg Chief Rabbi L.I. Rabinowitz, who had come for the occasion from Israel, where he now lives, were guests of honor at a banquet given by the South African Board of Jewish Education to launch its Judge Kuper Education Foundation's Bursary Fund for the King David Jewish Day Schools.

Lord Segal said that each week of his five weeks visit to this country had given him a heightened respect for the deep Jewishness and warm openheartedness of South African Jewry. The Jewish Day Schools he had inspected here were model institutions, promoting an ideal blend of three loyalties -- to Judaism, to South Africa and to Israel. "Just as the great Afrikaans community of South Africa takes pride in its Dutch heritage, so the Jewish community can draw strength from its Jewish heritage," he said. "Jewish names have been proudly associated with Afrikaner names in the upbuilding of this country. You can best repay all you have received from this wonderful country by contributing your distinctive culture as Jews, which the Jewish Day Schools are here to transmit to your children."

Rabbi Rabinowitz said that in the 17 years he had served South African Jewry, the greatest communal achievement had been the establishment of the Jewish Day Schools. "Jewry the world over was in great danger from assimilative currents," he said. "Jewish education was the certain means of resisting those currents and must not be retarded for lack of funds." Chief Rabbi B.M. Casper introduced the distinguished guests. Louis Sachs, chairman of the S.A. Board of Jewish Education, announced several large donations initiating the campaign appeal, which evoked an outstanding response.

NACHMAN MEISEL, EDITOR AND LITERARY CRITIC, DIES IN ISRAEL; WAS 79

TEL AVIV, April 28. (JTA) -- Nachman Meisel, literary critic and editor in Yiddish and Hebrew, died in Afula today at the age of 79. He settled in Israel two years ago.

Born in Kiev in 1887, he began his literary career in Hebrew in Vilna when he was 21 and two years later turned to Yiddish as his literary medium. He was editor of the Literarische Bleter and a founder of a group which sought to broaden the scope of Yiddish literature in Russia. He visited Palestine in 1936 and wrote two volumes on the life of Isaac Loeb Peretz, the Yiddish classic writer.

He settled in the United States at the age of 50 and became secretary of the Yiddisher Kultur Farband in New York City and editor of its monthly magazine, Yiddische Kultur. He was a member of the Yiddish Pen Club and a founder of the Yiddish Scientific Institute. He wrote more than a dozen studies of Yiddish writers and on Yiddish interests.