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STRIKING WORKERS AT ASHDOD RETURN TO WORK; ACCEPT 90 DISMISSALS

JERUSALEM, May 9. (JTA) -- About 300 workers at the Leyland truck assembly plant in the new town of Ashdod ended their strike today, and accepted dismissal of 90 of the firm's employees, while Labor Minister Yigael Allon told the Knesset (Parliament) here this morning that unemployment has risen "considerably" throughout Israel last month.

The Ashdod workers had staged a riot during the May Day celebration last week, then followed through with a strike when Leyland announced that 90 workers would be laid off. Today, the company and the workers' shop committee, at a conference attended by members of the Ashdod Labor Council, agreed to the layoff. As the Leyland workers returned to their jobs, the firm, the committee and the Labor Council started to check the official lists of Leyland workers to determine the names of those who are to be laid off.

Mr. Allon told the Knesset, which resumed its regular session today after a six-week Passover holiday, that employment in Israel has been undergoing a "temporary lull" which, he said, had been foreseen and made public two months ago, when this year's fiscal budget had been submitted to Parliament.

Speaking formally on behalf of the Cabinet, Mr. Allon said that, while the country has been enjoying a long period of full employment "and even over-employment," the number of unemployed has risen in April to 4,400, compared with 2,300 in April of 1965. The Labor Minister told the House:

"This is a transit period, in which some inefficient plants may have to close down. But the Government will not aid inefficiencies, as help to such plants would jeopardize the exportability of goods. On the other hand, the Government will direct defense industries and other industries to establish themselves in development areas. The Government will ask its branches to prefer the development areas through orders. It will also provide greater economic incentives to the diamond industry in those areas. Although unemployment may continue in some localities, there is no cause for panic."

\$40,000,000 WEST GERMAN LOAN TO ISRAEL TO BE SETTLED THIS WEEK

JERUSALEM, May 9. (JTA) -- A Ministerial Committee which discussed the West German economic aid talks under way in Bonn, envisaged the possibility here today that the conference in the West German capital would be concluded successfully this week.

The committee, headed by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, heard reports on the Bonn conference from two members of Israel's negotiating team who came here Saturday night for a quick review, and flew back to Bonn late last night, in time for resumption of the negotiations there today. The reports were given by Yaacov Arnon, director-general of the Finance Ministry, and Zeev Shek, director of the Foreign Ministry's department of West European affairs. The third principal member of the Israeli negotiating team is Ambassador Asher Ben-Nathan, Israel's envoy to Bonn.

The Ministerial Committee authorized the negotiators to accept Germany's offer of a loan of \$40,000,000 for this year. It was understood that, due to Bonn's budgetary problems, West Germany may not be able to raise the figure beyond the \$40,000,000 or to commit itself for a loan beyond this year, but might, when the pact is signed, issue a "declaration of intent" to continue economic aid to Israel in the coming years.

The latest German offer is understood to have improved by comparison with Bonn's previous position, containing better terms for long-term loans, including repayment in 20 years at interest of 3 percent.

NINE ARRESTED IN NEW DEMONSTRATION AGAINST ADENAUER IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, May 9. (JTA) -- Nine persons were arrested here last night, when 200 to 300 demonstrators staged a protest against a reception being given at the Sheraton Hotel here in honor of Dr. Konrad Adenauer, West Germany's former chancellor now on a visit to Israel as a guest of the Government.

The reception was given by Dr. Rolf Pauls, Bonn's Ambassador to Israel. The demonstrators massed outside the hotel but were kept from entering by mounted policemen wearing steel helmets and wielding clubs. One youth did manage to enter the hotel lounge, just before Dr. Adenauer arrived for the reception. The youth showered leaflets protesting Dr. Adenauer's visit to Israel.

Inside the hotel ballroom, however, hundred of guests came to greet Dr. Adenauer who, despite his age, stood in the receiving line for three solid hours, greeting the invited guests who had turned out to honor him.

ARAB BOYCOTT OFFICE SEEKS 'CLARIFICATION' ON COCA-COLA DEAL FOR ISRAEL

LONDON, May 9. (JTA) -- The Coca-Cola Company was today given three months to clarify recently published reports that Coca-Cola has given a concession to an American Jewish company to open a Coca-Cola bottling plant in Israel.

Mohammed Mahgoub, commissioner general of the Arab Central Office for the Boycott of Israel, said the three months could be used by the American company "to explain its attitude, after which its position will be reviewed" respecting sales to Arab states. He claimed that more people drink Coca-Cola in Arab countries than in the United States.

TRUMAN REPORTED HOPING TO FLY FOR VISIT TO ISRAEL THIS SUMMER

WASHINGTON, May 9. (JTA) -- Former President Harry S. Truman hopes to fly to Israel in the first week of July to dedicate the Truman Peace Center at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Drew Pearson reported today from Independence, Mo.

Describing an interview with Mr. Truman, the syndicated columnist said Chief Justice Earl Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court will accompany the former President. Mr. Truman hopes to announce in person the first winner of the annual prize to be offered by the Center for the individual making the greatest contribution to peace.

Israel Ambassador Avraham Farman today represented the Government of Israel at a party in Kansas City honoring the 82nd birthday of Mr. Truman. The centerpiece for the birthday luncheon table was a huge cake, decorated with a frosted picture of the proposed Harry S. Truman Center For the Advancement of Peace to be erected at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The Ambassador was invited because sponsors of the celebration were mindful of Mr. Truman's deep personal affinity for the Jewish State.

NASSER INDICATES EGYPT IS WORKING ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS; BLAMES ISRAEL

LONDON, May 9. (JTA) -- Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser told British television viewers, on a program broadcast last night by BBC, that Israel has a 24-megawatt atomic reactor which produces plutonium and that, for that reason, the Arab countries must begin work in the nuclear field.

He told one of the BBC interviewers, who had taped the program at Heliopolis, outside Cairo, that he was "seriously afraid" that the Arabs would have to engage in a preventive war against Israel if Israel acquires nuclear bombs. The Egyptian leader claimed that his Government had agreed to United Nations proposals against the spread of nuclear weapons, "but Israel refused."

Asked whether he saw any chances for a compromise between the Arab states and Israel, Mr. Nasser replied: "Well, the Arabs of Palestine want to return to their homeland, to regain their property." Since the Israelis "refuse to admit a single Arab to return," he declared, "the only solution is force."

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL CONGRESS CONDEMNNS FLOW OF ARMS TO ARABS

STOCKHOLM, May 9. (JTA) -- The Socialist International, currently conducting its world congress here, adopted a resolution today condemning the flow of arms to the Arab states as a threat to Israel. The resolution reaffirmed a previously issued call for solution of the Middle East problem "by negotiations and by respect for the independence of all nations."

"The congress notes," the resolution stated, "that recurring tensions in the Middle East could constitute threats to world peace. Threats against Israel and the heavy flow of arms to certain Arab countries constitute a real danger to Israel's social and economic development, to the region, and to world peace."

Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's former Foreign Minister, and head of the Israeli delegation to the congress, objected to a proposal for barring speeches by non-members from African states. "The Jewish people," she told the congress, "have a long memory of suffering as a result of prejudice and anti-Semitism. The Jewish people are sensitive to and understanding of the African people." Mrs. Meir also spoke in general of the problems facing underdeveloped countries. Sweden's Prime Minister Tage Erlander singled out Mrs. Meir's address as "an outstanding contribution" to the subject.

ISRAELI ARAB YOUTH ARRESTED ON SUSPICION OF SPYING FOR LEBANON

TEL AVIV, May 9. (JTA) -- Israeli authorities announced here today that an Israeli, Rahamim Hajaz, 22 years old, has been detained on suspicion of spying for Lebanon. He was arrested a month ago near the Lebanese border, allegedly while he was carrying photographs, maps and lists of Israeli army camps. The announcement stated that he will be tried on charges of espionage in a court at Haifa. The date of the scheduled trial was not given.

The three young Israelis who were found guilty in the Haifa District Court yesterday of spying for Egypt will be sentenced on June 14.

EBAN DEPARTS FOR WARSAW TO MEET WITH ISRAELI AMBASSADORS

TEL AVIV, May 9. (JTA) -- Israel's Foreign Minister, Abba Eban, departed for London last night on his way to Warsaw, where he will hold a conference with all of Israel's Ambassadors serving in the capitals of the Communist bloc in Eastern Europe.

SOVIET EMBASSY IN MEXICO HOLDS PRESS CONFERENCE ON JEWS IN RUSSIA

MEXICO CITY, May 9. (JTA) -- An illustration of Soviet sensitivity to foreign criticism regarding anti-Semitism in the USSR was noted here today when Nikolay S. Leonoff, press attache of the USSR Embassy in Mexico, called a press conference to deny that the Soviet Government has failed to give Russian Jews equal religious and cultural rights.

Taking issue with a petition to the Kremlin published here two weeks ago by some of the most prominent Mexican artists, writers and political leaders, requesting a change in Moscow's anti-Semitic policies, Mr. Leonoff declared: "It is to be regretted that so many intellectuals have found it possible to act mistakenly on so many errors."

He cited as examples of the lack of anti-Semitism the monthly issuance of the Moscow magazine, *Sovietisch Heimland*, in Yiddish; the existence in Moscow of a yeshiva; and the claim that 8,000,000 copies of the poetry of the late Leib Kvitko, a Yiddish poet, had been circulated in the USSR. He did not mention the fact that Kvitko had been murdered in the Stalin purge of Jewish intellectuals, or the fact that the publication of the Kvitko works had been issued in Russian translation, not in Yiddish.

Mr. Leonoff also insisted that the existence of few synagogues in the USSR does not denote anti-Jewish persecution. He said that all houses of worship in his country, Christian as well as Jewish, are fewer now by comparison with the number open prior to the Bolshevik revolution. "Jews, like many other Russians, are leaving their religion," he said. He accused the Jewish Committee on the Rights of Soviet Jewry of carrying on anti-Soviet propaganda in this country.

Replying to Mr. Leonoff, Jacobo Mondlak, chairman of the Jewish Committee, told the influential newspaper, *El Universal*, that the Soviet diplomat's claims about the lack of official sanction of Soviet anti-Semitism are "false."

SOVIET DIPLOMAT ATTENDS SYNAGOGUE EXHIBITION IN TORONTO

TORONTO, May 9. (JTA) -- Victor M. Myznikov, cultural attache of the Soviet Embassy in Ottawa, joined members of Israel's diplomatic mission to Canada at a synagogue here yesterday, at the conclusion of an exhibition of Jewish art which included lithographs by a famous Soviet artist, Anatoli (Tanchum) Kaplan. It is believed that Mr. Myznikov's participation was the first instance of a Soviet diplomat's attendance at a function sponsored by a Canadian synagogue. The exhibit was held at Beth Tzedec Synagogue here, and evoked great interest in this city.

One of the outstanding features of the exhibit comprised the Kaplan lithographs, some in black and white, others in color, illustrating the works of Sholem Aleichem. Mr. Kaplan lives and works in Leningrad. Mr. Myznikov and the Israelis present shared the platform at the ceremonies closing the exhibit, and fraternized amicably.

EDITOR OF SOVIET JEWISH PUBLICATION TO VISIT CANADIAN COMMUNITIES

MONTREAL, May 9. (JTA) -- Aaron Vergelis, editor of the Soviet Yiddish-language *Sovietisch Heimland*, and active apologist for Russian policies toward its Jews, will make a tour of Canadian Jewish communities this month, it was reported here today.

His assignment, according to the report, is to "explain" to Canadian Jews, that there is no Jewish problem in the Soviet Union. Vergelis undertook a similar tour of the United States in 1963. Canadian Jewish organizations are sponsoring a protest meeting in Montreal at the end of this month on behalf of Soviet Jewry. It was assumed that the Vergelis tour was planned to counter the protest rally.

USSR OFFERED NEW DATES FOR CANCELLED CONCERTS OF ISRAEL SYMPHONY

TEL AVIV, May 9. (JTA) -- The Israel Philharmonic Orchestra today cabled the Soviet Ministry of Culture in Moscow, suggesting two possible dates for the beginning of the exchange in which the Israeli aggregation would tour the USSR, while the Moscow State Orchestra would perform here.

The exchange was scheduled originally to have been launched on May 16 but was cancelled by the Moscow authorities who had notified the Philharmonic here that "lack of rooms in Moscow hotels" made the exchange impossible. Later, the Ministry of Culture sent two messages to the Philharmonic, requesting that new dates be set. Today's cable from the Philharmonic offered to start the exchange either on May 21 or June 15.

SOVIET PUBLISHING HOUSE ISSUES NEW TRANSLATION OF 'SONG OF SONGS'

LONDON, May 9. (JTA) -- The Soviet Publishing House for scholarly books, Nauka, has published a new translation of the "Song of Songs" and plans to publish soon a catalog of Hebrew manuscripts in the Leningrad library, it was reported here from Moscow.

The new translation was prepared by Prof. Igor Diakonov. His introduction deals with the character of ancient Hebrew poetry. The volume appeared in an edition of 50,000 copies. The first volume of the forthcoming catalog, created for specialists in oriental studies, will be compiled by Joseph Ginzburg.

NEO-NAZI LEADER IN CANADA ACQUITTED OF UNLAWFUL ASSEMBLY CHARGES

TORONTO, May 9. (JTA) -- John Beattie, self-styled neo-Nazi leader, was acquitted of two charges of unlawful assembly and trying to create an unlawful assembly after cross-examining the Jewish mayor of Toronto and a Jewish alderman.

The charges had been brought against the neo-Nazi by Samuel Kaplan, who had previously been acquitted of charges of assaulting Beattie. The hearing in a magistrate's court here was the last in a series arising from a near-riot in Toronto's Allan Gardens last May, almost a year ago. Beattie had previously been found guilty and fined for creating a disturbance and for unlawful assembly in connection with the Allan Gardens disturbance, at which he had planned to speak.

Magistrate Oppen, in acquitting Beattie, held that the prosecution had failed to establish that there was an intent on Beattie's part to incite to riot and tumultuous behavior, or that Beattie and his neo-Nazi associates were assembled in one place during the riot, when enraged anti-Nazis charged the neo-Nazis.

THREE U.S. TEENAGERS EMERGE AS WINNERS OF NATIONAL BIBLE CONTEST

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- Two girls and one boy won trips to Israel this summer as winners in the seventh annual National Bible Contest sponsored by the Department of Education and Culture of the Jewish Agency for Israel. The 91 contestants in the finals, held yesterday at the Jewish Agency auditorium, were from 56 United States and Canadian communities.

They were the survivors of two earlier elimination rounds in which over 15,000 children, between the ages of 13 and 16, competed in the three divisions of the competition -- advanced Hebrew, intermediate Hebrew and English. Winners were: Ethel Dolgin, of Los Angeles, a 15-year old student at the Rambam Torah Institute of Yeshiva University, who was the winner among the 33 finalists in the advanced Hebrew competition; Brenda Fleschner, of Far Rockaway, N.Y., a 16-year old student at the South Shore Hebrew High School, who won over 23 other competitors in the intermediate Hebrew competition; and David Bruce Witkin, of Denver, a 14-year old student at the School of the Beth Ha Medrosh Hagodol, who triumphed over 33 other competitors in the comprehensive English competition.

The winners were presented with their prizes by Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency for Israel. In making the awards -- trips to Israel for the winners, scholarships at summer camps for the runner-ups, and \$100 Israel bonds for those who achieved third place -- Mrs. Halprin pointed out that the Bible contests were "designed to develop greater interest among American youth in Hebrew culture." The Jewish Agency, she said, has been encouraged to note that the Bible contests have aroused an ever-growing interest among American Jewish youth. "They have been an effective aspect of our endeavors to combat indifference to Jewish cultural studies, and help stem the tide of assimilation among youth," she stressed.

THOUSANDS OF JEWISH CHILDREN PARADE IN BROOKLYN ON LAG B'OMER

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- Thousands of Jewish children from Hebrew day schools and afternoon schools in the New York area participated yesterday in a parade in Brooklyn, sponsored by the Lubavitcher movement's National Council of Mesibos Shabbos, to mark the celebration of Lag B'Omer, which commemorates the struggle by followers of Rabbi Akiva against the Roman conquerors of Palestine, some 2,000 years ago.

The Lag B'Omer parade was held simultaneously with the parade of some 10,000 Jewish youngsters on Fifth Avenue, marking Israel's 18th anniversary.

SQUARE IN CENTER OF ITALIAN CITY NAMED 'JEWISH DEPORTEES SQUARE'

LEGHORN, Italy, May 9. (JTA) -- A square in the center of this city was today named "Jewish Deportees Square" in ceremonies attended by leading civic and Jewish communal leaders. The Leghorn Jewish community had flourished without persecution from the time of the establishment of the city in the 16th century until the Nazi era.

CHAIRMAN ON WEST BERLIN JEWISH COMMUNITY DECORATED BY GOVERNMENT

BERLIN, May 9. (JTA) -- Dr. Heinz Galinski, chairman of the West Berlin Jewish community, who has completed 15 years in that post, was honored here today with the award of West Berlin's Great Federal Distinguished Service Cross. The medal was bestowed on Dr. Galinski by Prof. Werner Stein, Senator for Art and Science. The West Berlin Jewish community now includes 6,000 members.

INTERNATIONAL COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN ELECTS U.S. WOMAN AS HEAD

LONDON, May 9. (JTA) -- Mrs. Ronald Brown, of Cleveland, was elected this weekend president of the International Council of Jewish Women at the convention held here by the organization.

MOSES T. ELIOVSON, PROMINENT HEBREW SCHOLAR DEAD; BODY FLOWN TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, May 9. (JTA) -- The body of Moses Tobias Eliovson, prominent Hebrew scholar, was flown yesterday to Israel for interment there. Dr. Eliovson, who died suddenly in New York, was 68 years old. He was born in Johannesburg, South Africa, and was taken to Palestine in 1906 by his parents. His father, Rabbi Yehoshua Eliovson, was one of the founders of Tel Aviv.