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## JOHNSON WELCOMES SHAZAR AT WHITE HOUSE; STRESSES U.S. COMMITMENTS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2. (JTA) -- President Lyndon B. Johnson today warmly welcomed President Zalman Shazar of Israel at the White House where a friendly ceremonial exchange took place highlighted by a personal report on Latin America requested of the Israeli leader by the U.S. President.

The President accompanied Mr. Shazar to the White House Rose Garden and there explained to him that the United States would stand behind its commitments not only in the Viet Nam situation but also in other parts of the world. President Johnson also referred to U.S. aid to Israel and the long-pending desalination project.

President Johnson appeared with President Shazar in front of the White House, clasping hands, to be televised together. Mr. Johnson was heard telling Mr. Shazar that he looked forward to the formal dinner to be tendered at the White House tonight in honor of the Israeli President. Mr. and Mrs. Shazar were then taken across Pennsylvania Avenue to Blair House, the official guest residence for distinguished foreign visitors. The Shazars are staying there at the invitation of President Johnson. Accompanying the Shazar party today was Walworth Barbour, U.S. Ambassador to Israel.

### Vice-President Humphrey Meets Shazar on Arrival at Airport

The White House audience followed in the wake of an impressive official reception tendered the Shazar party on arrival aboard an aircraft provided by President Johnson. Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey enthusiastically greeted Mr. Shazar as he alighted at the U.S. Military Air Terminal. Mr. Humphrey, in a brief exchange with Mr. Shazar, emphasized that President Johnson was very interested in having a report on the Shazar visit to Latin America.

An honor guard of elite troops stood at attention and flags of both Israel and America were displayed. Mrs. Humphrey presented a bouquet of roses to Mr. and Mrs. Shazar as did eight-year-old Shaily Patir, the daughter of Israel Embassy Counsellor Dan Patir. Among those welcoming the Israelis was Raymond Hare, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, and James Symington, U.S. Chief of Protocol.

Following his lengthy White House meeting with President Johnson, Mr. Shazar said: "I had a very good talk with the President and have been made to feel once again, as when we first met in 1963, the depth of his understanding of Israel, of our desire for peace and security, of our progress and our problems." He added that "I believe that the ties of friendship between our two countries are very close and our conversation today was the latest expression of this."

The Israeli President disclosed that he had "the opportunity of telling President Johnson something of my visits to Uruguay, Chile and Brazil and of the unforgettable memories of the kindness and understanding I experienced in these countries. I am very happy indeed to have this opportunity to spend a couple of days in Washington on my way home. I bring back with me to my people the conviction of real understanding and harmony between our two countries," he stated.

### Shazar Invites President Johnson to be His Guest in Israel

President Shazar and President Johnson were together for over an hour. As they parted company until they meet again tonight at the White House dinner in honor of the President of Israel, Mr. Shazar told President Johnson that "I would like to see you as my guest in Israel." In his meetings with President Johnson and other functions today, Mr. Shazar was accompanied by Ambassador Avraham Harman, Minister Ephraim Evron of the Israel Embassy, and other members of the Embassy.

A luncheon tendered in honor of President Shazar by Secretary-General Dr. Jose Mora of the Organization of American States drew a response from the Israeli President, who declared he was particularly pleased to be a guest of the OAS which, he said, sought human freedom and progress in Latin America. He reviewed his visit to Uruguay, Chile, and

Brazil and said it was indicative of "the close understanding which exists between my country and all the countries of this organization."

Mr. Shazar told how OAS relations with Israel have been strengthened "in many constructive ways." He said: "We in Israel are greatly encouraged by this development and for our part will do all we can to strengthen these relations." OAS officials noted Israel's constructive role in aiding the development of Latin American nations.

President Shazar, following the luncheon attended by many Latin American ambassadors, was present at a ceremony at which a new agreement involving the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Development Bank and Israel. Dr. Mora signed a technical assistance agreement providing for the training of Latin American rural development teams by Israel experts. The Inter-American Development Bank is contributing \$122,000 to the cost.

Tonight the Shazars are the guests of the President and Mrs. Johnson at a White House dinner. The President told Mr. Shazar that he was having some difficulty about that function because everybody wanted to come. This afternoon Mrs. Avraham Harman, wife of the Ambassador, served a luncheon at the Ambassador's residence honoring Mrs. Shazar. The luncheon was attended by Mrs. Hubert H. Humphrey and other distinguished ladies.

#### W.J.C. ASSEMBLY HEARS REPORT ON EFFECT OF PROTESTS ON SOVIET JEWRY

BRUSSELS, Aug. 2. (JTA) -- Jewish complaints against the mistreatment of Soviet Jewry have resulted in minor concessions by the Moscow authorities in regard to the position of the Jews in the Soviet Union, the World Jewish Congress plenary assembly was told here today.

That assertion was made at the session by Alex L. Easterman, of London, director of the WJC department of international affairs. "Soviet authorities," he said, "have been denying indignantly any official or semi-official bias of action against Soviet Jews. Nevertheless, the truth of our complaints and the validity of our protests regarding Soviet Jews have been proven by the fact that minor concessions were made lately, and minor improvements have occurred in the situation of Russian Jewry."

These concessions "touch only the fringe of the problem," Mr. Easterman stressed. He reported that the WJC has constantly pointed out to Soviet representatives that "a genuine change in the situation of Soviet Jewry would earn the applause of not only the Jews around the world but of non-Jews as well."

The Congress made public today a letter addressed to the WJC president, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, from the Council of Jewish Communities of Czechoslovakia, which had been invited to send representatives to the plenary assembly. While noting that the Council would not send anyone to attend the parley, the letter said:

"This certainly does not mean that our attitude toward the World Jewish Congress is negative. We are, and want to be still more, in permanent contact with Jewish organizations, particularly the World Jewish Congress. We presume that our absence will not be interpreted as our disinterestedness. We would welcome personal contact between the representatives of your organization and ours, both in this country and abroad." The letter was signed by Frantisek Fuchs, acting president of the Council. Added was a separate letter joining with the first the same sentiments from the Jewish communities in Slovakia.

#### U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL CONCLUDES DEBATE ON ISRAEL-SYRIAN CONFLICT

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 2. (JTA) -- The Security Council "should be in position to come to a vote" tomorrow on a resolution sponsored by Jordan and Mali to condemn Israel severely for its July 14th air raid against Syria, Apollo K. Kironde, of Uganda, this month's president of the Council, said today. He made this announcement as he adjourned the Council session this afternoon after a meeting lasting only an hour.

Mr. Kironde, who was the last of the Council's 15 members to participate in this debate started out by declaring that Syria's case regarding an Israeli aggression was "incontrovertible" and admitted by Israel. However, he said, "condemnation of Israel would not establish peace in the Middle East."

He went on to say that Syria has virtually admitted, "at least by inference," that it cannot control the passions of Arab refugees who insist on carrying out terrorist acts inside Israel. Israel has maintained here right along that its July 14th raid against Syria was an act of reprisal provoked by repeated Arab terrorist raids into Israel from Syria.

The Council President adjourned the session until tomorrow morning after the Jordanian member of the body, Mohammed K. El Farra engaged in a 45-minute diatribe against Israel.

ESHKOL CONSIDERS MAKING CHANGES IN PROPOSED AUSTERITY PROGRAM

JERUSALEM, Aug. 2. (JTA) -- Important changes were being considered today by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and some of his economic aides in the three-year, economic austerity program outlined previously by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir.

Some of the changes were being mulled in response to stern demands by the Mapam Party, which threatened to bolt the coalition government unless the "burdens and sacrifices" envisaged in the Sapir program were divided evenly among all sectors of Israel's population, including big business and the self-employed. It was feared that, without the support of Mapam, the current coalition government might collapse.

Both Mr. Eshkol and Mr. Sapir, who have been meeting with the Mapam leadership since Sunday, have already agreed to impose certain restrictions on big business, to make sure that the living standards of the Israeli workers are not "over-deteriorated" by the new economic program.

Mapam has demanded specifically that the Government ensure in advance alternate employment for dismissed workers; enactment of an unemployment insurance law; absolute freezing of all prices, profits and dividends; and the levy of an excess profits tax on business incomes above certain limits. The left-wing party leaders want also the imposition of a one-time tax on capital, and the freezing at present levels of all subsidies for business and industry.

While these demands from the left were under consideration, Mapai Party senior officials were making their own plans for tightening the Sapir program. They have already decided, in separate meetings with Mr. Eshkol, to take strict measures against earners of high salaries, and on imposition of taxes on high-salary earners, corporations and businessmen.

With the new economic program facing criticism not only from Mapam but also inside Mapai itself, the Sapir plans are to be subjected to considerable revision before they are returned to the Cabinet for ultimate, final decisions.

ISRAEL'S TRADE DEFICIT DECREASING; EXPORT CONSIDERED LAGGING

JERUSALEM, Aug. 2. (JTA) -- Israel's trade deficit decreased by \$11,000,000 to \$124,000,000 during the first five months of this year, according to figures released here today by the Bank of Israel.

The major reason for the lack of more substantial improvement in the trade gap, according to the bank, was the stagnation of exports which rose by only 13.8 percent in the first half of the year. Most of the export increase was due to the sale of used ships and aircraft. The sale abroad of industrial diamonds, one of Israel's main export items, increased by only 5.2 percent compared with a 16.4 percent rise for the same period last year.

Officials of the Israel Government bank pointed out today that the lag in improvement in the trade deficit can no longer be attributed as in the past to either excess demands of the local market or a manpower shortage. The current reason seems to be, according to the officials, that Israel's goods have ceased to be competitive owing to climbing production costs.

Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, addressing a gathering of manufacturers, this week, urged them to reduce the manufacturing costs and made concrete proposals how this can be done. This, he explained, could result in bringing up Israel's export this year to \$830,000,000, which would be \$80,000,000 more than last year.

The Finance Minister said that the current economic recession in Israel was "only the beginning of a long uphill struggle against easy living, deficit spending by municipalities, public bodies and private firms, and excessive consumption in general, which could have had disastrous results if not checked."

WORK ON NEW DIKES FOR DEAD SEA MINERAL EVAPORATION RESUMED

TEL AVIV, Aug. 2. (JTA) -- The Dead Sea Works today resumed work on the construction of new dikes for mineral evaporation which was suspended three months ago when the American Kaiser Engineering firm withdrew from its obligations as the contractor on the project on the grounds that the specifications were not feasible.

Although the work was resumed by Tamarit, a subsidiary of the Dead Sea Works, the company plans within the next two months to select a new contractor from among a number of Israeli and foreign firms which have submitted offers. The Dead Sea Works still has not received satisfaction for its claims from American insurance companies which had bonded the fulfilment of the contract by the Kaiser firm.

SENATE BODY STARTS HEARINGS ON PERMITTING PRAYERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 2. (JTA) -- Important testimony by Catholic and Protestant witnesses today registered strong opposition to a proposed Constitutional amendment to permit prayers in public schools at Senate hearings which held an initial session on a resolution offered by Senate Republican Leader Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois and is backed by 47 other Senators.

Hearings are being conducted by the Senate Judiciary Committee's Constitutional Amendment Subcommittee headed by Sen. Birch Bayh, Indiana Democrat. Sen. Bayh today asked that the hearings be kept free of "emotionalism." He said his subcommittee would seek to find what, if anything, could be gained from amending the Constitution.

The Rev. Robert Drinan, Dean of the Boston College Law School, said he wished to testify on behalf of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish leaders and organizations in opposition to the Dirksen amendment. Rev. Drinan termed Sen. Dirksen's legislation "almost incomprehensible." He described the measure as "an almost irrational refusal to surrender one of the most persistent myths in American life -- the illusion that the public school can train future citizens in morality and piety."

The Rev. Dr. David R. Hunter, deputy general secretary of the National Council of Churches of Christ, said leaders of national Protestant bodies were not requesting this or any other amendment to reinstate prayer in public education. Prof. Paul Freund, Harvard Law School, registered "compelling objections" from a legal viewpoint.

Sen. Dirksen, however, sought to debunk the "sophisticated arguments" and warned that the issue will be resolved by the will of the "common man" who he depicted as demanding prayers in public school. The hearings will continue for eight days.

CLEVELAND JEWISH GROUP PROPOSES PROGRAM TO DEAL WITH RACIAL RIOTS

CLEVELAND, Aug. 2. (JTA) -- A comprehensive action program for dealing with the needs of the Hough area in this city -- the section of Cleveland that suffered from serious racial rioting here recently -- has been proposed to city and state officials by the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Community Federation.

Jay D. Feder and Sidney Zilber, vice-chairmen of the CRC, said the proposed short-run crash program was worked out in cooperation with other community organizations. The CRC was concerned, Mr. Feder said, with the plight of Jewish businessmen in the inner-city area whose enterprises were located in the path of the rioting. The extent of the role of anti-Semitism in the disturbances, he said, will be evaluated by the CRC.

The proposed CRC program includes: Demolition of vandalized properties wherever legally possible, with steps to be taken immediately for reconstruction or conversion of these properties; an intensive clean-up campaign in the entire area; opening of a job placement bureau for all youths aged 16-21; opening of new recreational facilities; emergency provision of food and housing for those displaced by the rioting; and establishment of a special \$350,000 fund for rehabilitation of the area.

HERUT TO EXPEDITE PLANS FOR MERGING WITH LIBERAL PARTY IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 2. (JTA) -- The right-wing Herut Party, which had just selected a new, eight-man executive committee, will seek now to expedite plans for merging Herut with the Liberal Party, it was announced here today by Yaacov Meridor, the new chairman of Herut.

Mr. Meridor has succeeded to the chairmanship from which Menachem Beigin, Herut's topmost leader for many years, resigned in order to facilitate a merger with the Liberals. Mr. Meridor said he would also try to find out whether it is possible to find a foundation for a relationship between the merged Herut-Liberal group and the Rafi Party. The latter is the dissident faction that had broken away from Mapai under the leadership of former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.

One of the major aims of his executive leadership, Mr. Meridor said, would be an effort to persuade Mr. Beigin to resume the Herut Party chairmanship. The eight-man executive committee is composed of five pro-Beigin members and three members of the opposition to Mr. Beigin.

WORLD UNION OF GENERAL ZIONISTS HOLDS PARLEY IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS, Aug. 2. (JTA) -- The World Union of General Zionists, which is headed by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, held a conference here today with 60 members from all parts of the world. The participants are attending the current plenary assembly of the World Jewish Congress now being held here.

The Zionist group discussed its own affairs. However, with regard to the dispute over the symposium on "Germany and the Jews" on Thursday in which Eugen Gerstenmaier, president of the West German Parliament, is due to participate, the General Zionists parley decided to leave it to the choice of each individual delegate whether to attend or not.