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ARGENTINE FOREIGN MINISTER ASSURES EBAN ON FULL FREEDOMS TO JEWS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Nicanor Costa Mendez, Foreign Minister of Argentina, assured Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban today that, contrary to reports giving "a wrong picture" of the policies of the new Argentine regime under Gen. Juan Carlos Onganía, the Buenos Aires Government extends full freedoms to all peoples in that country, including the sizable Jewish community in Argentina.

Mr. Costa Mendez was one of seven foreign ministers with whom Mr. Eban met here today in continuing his series of high level conversations with many of the world statesmen attending the current session of the General Assembly. Among others, Mr. Eban conferred today with Poland's Foreign Minister Adam Rapacki, considered one of the key Soviet bloc statesmen here for the Assembly.

As he did in most of his conferences with the various foreign ministers here, Mr. Eban talked with the Argentine foreign policy chief mainly about mutual efforts to coordinate the policies of the two governments regarding general issues before the United Nations at the present time; bilateral relations concerning economic, social and technical matters; and the various Middle East issues, especially the question of Arab refugees, to be debated by the Assembly this year.

However, the Foreign Minister of Argentina, noting that his Government felt that Israel has a special interest in affairs concerning all Jewish people, referred to the fact that, as he stated, many press accounts have wrongfully reported that Argentina's new regime was not friendly to the Jews in Argentina. He said he "regretted" those reports "deeply." He stated emphatically that Argentina extends fullest freedoms to the Jews in the country.

Regarding Israel, Mr. Costa Mendez assured Mr. Eban that his Government supports Israel. He urged Mr. Eban to persuade the Israeli Government to ask Israeli President Zalman Shazar to visit Argentina. Mr. Shazar had been scheduled to visit Argentina last summer during a tour of several Latin American countries. However, that visit was canceled, since the political overturn of the Buenos Aires Government coincided with President Shazar's scheduled trip to Buenos Aires.

Talk With Rapacki, First With a Soviet Bloc Leader, Stresses Friendship

In his conference with Mr. Rapacki, Mr. Eban and the Polish Foreign Minister resumed discussions they began last May, when Mr. Eban visited Warsaw. On the agenda were the traditional Polish-Israeli atmosphere of friendly relations, including bilateral interests in Polish-Israeli political, economic and cultural relations.

Accompanying Mr. Eban to the talk with Mr. Rapacki was Gideon Raphael, vice-chairman of Israel's delegation to this year's Assembly, who had been with Mr. Eban in the Polish capital when he talked with Warsaw's Foreign Minister last spring. The Eban-Rapacki conference was Israel's first high-level talk here this year with any representative of the Soviet Bloc at this year's Assembly.

Mr. Eban's conferences today included one with J. M. A. F. Luns, Foreign Minister of The Netherlands; and these other Foreign Ministers: Antonio Carrillo Flores, of Mexico; Rene Chalmers, of Kaiti; Samuel Ngude Odaka, of Uganda, and M. P. Ilboudo, of Upper Volta.

Among items discussed with the various statesmen were also Israel's interest in the issues concerning Africa, especially the regime in Rhodesia, apartheid in South Africa, the situation in Southwest Africa and the affairs in Mozambique and Angola; human rights in general; and the drive toward economic and social development.

SO. AFRICAN JEWISH BODY CLEARS NEW PRIME MINISTER OF ANTI-SEMITISM

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Maurice Porter, chairman of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, told the monthly meeting of the board yesterday that the South African Jewish community mourned the "tragic passing" of Premier Hendrick Verwoerd. The occasion was the first meeting of the board since Verwoerd's assassination. Mr. Porter

said that the late Premier had faithfully implemented a pledge he made, when he became Prime Minister, to continue fair and normal treatment of South African Jewry, a pledge which canceled views he had expressed while he was in the opposition. Mr. Porter added that the new Premier, Balthazar Vorster, had never expressed views critical of the Jewish community and could confidently be expected to continue the pledge of his predecessors. He said the Jewish community wished him well.

The South African Jewish Times said in an editorial that it welcomed the new Premier's assurance that he would "work for national unity, uphold Parliament and parliamentary institutions, protect the security of the state and the lives and property of its citizens, and in foreign affairs work for friendly relations with other countries."

The political correspondent of the Sunday Times predicted "a lessening, not an increase of tension in the country in the immediate period ahead." The United Party, the opposition, said in a statement that it would give the new Premier "a fair chance to prove his intentions and the character of his leadership."

USSR OFFERS TO SEND ATHLETES TO ISRAEL DESPITE MUSIC CANCELANATION

TEL AVIV, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- The mystery of Soviet attitudes toward Israel deepened today with disclosure that the Russian Football Association had offered to send a soccer team to Israel less than a week after Soviet officials canceled a scheduled tour by the Israeli Philharmonic Orchestra in the Soviet Union.

In a message to the Israeli Football Association, the Russians offered to send the team for two games in Israel between February 18 and February 28. No reply has as yet been given to the Soviet offer, which came as a considerable surprise after the unilateral Soviet cancellation of the orchestra tour.

Some observers suggested that the answer to the puzzle might be that, while the Soviet authorities strongly oppose visits by Israelis to Russia, they either do not oppose or in fact encourage their artists and athletes to visit Israel.

POSSIBLE ISRAELI TIES WITH SAIGON REPORTED; GOVERNMENT MUM ON ISSUE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- The Israel Government will soon reexamine the possibility of extending full diplomatic recognition to the South Viet Nam Government, the usually well-informed Davar, a daily newspaper, stated today. Davar is the organ of the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation.

The Davar report said that the possibility stemmed from the recent elections in South Viet Nam to choose a commission to write a constitution for the nation. The newspaper report noted that, while many public statements had been made on the issue, Israel still has not replied officially to the Saigon regime's request for recognition.

Government sources questioned by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency were unable to confirm or deny the Davar report. They said only that no Government action was being considered in the immediate future.

STATE DEPT. HEARS CHINESE COMMUNISTS ARE AIDING ARAB TERRORISTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- A State Department spokesman said today that the Department has received reports that Communist China is supplying the so-called Palestine Liberation Army with military equipment, but that these reports were not conclusive. Robert J. McClosky, State Department spokesman, said: "We have had reports to the effect that the Chinese Communists are supplying arms and otherwise embroidering relations with the Palestine Liberation Army but we have no documented evidence."

(Israeli concern over the development stems from the prospect that Communist Chinese assistance may increase the effectiveness of sabotage incursions into Israel. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency has reported a number of times in the last year that Ahmed Shukairy, chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, has been in close contact with Peking, receiving not only arms but also training facilities for his "army" from Communist China.)

Experts here noted that the total value of the Communist-Chinese-supplied arms was trifling compared with the hundreds of millions of dollars worth of arms given or sold by the United States and the Soviet Union to various Arab countries. The significance attached here to the report of the arms sales stems from a belief that it reflects a new Chinese Communist move into the Middle East to establish a foothold among the Arab "revolutionary" regimes. The Chinese weapons, it is believed here, are relatively obsolete small arms, such as rifles and light machine guns, that were originally manufactured in the Soviet Union and found their way into Arab hands either through Communist China or from the semi-clandestine arms market that flourishes in the Middle East with money supplied by the Chinese.

ARAB SABOTEURS DAMAGE ISRAELI ELECTRIC UNIT; U.N. GETS COMPLAINT

TEL AVIV, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Israel lodged today a formal complaint with the Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission over a raid from Jordan in which Arab terrorists sabotaged an electric transformer. Israel accused Jordan of a breach of the armistice agreement.

The transformer was knocked out of action, apparently by explosives placed by the raiders. The unit fed power to a water pumping station four miles west of the Dead Sea. Israeli trackers found footprints of two men leading from the Jordanian border to the scene and back to Jordan.

ISRAEL LAUNCHES NATIONWIDE OBSERVANCE OF BEN-GURION'S 80th BIRTHDAY

TEL AVIV, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- The nationwide celebrations observing the 80th birthday of David Ben-Gurion, which occurs this year on October 1, were formally inaugurated today when the greetings of the Israeli Government were presented to the former Premier by Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro and Police Minister Behor Shitreet, who journeyed to Sde Boker, Ben-Gurion's Negev retreat, for the event.

The Cabinet members presented Mr. Ben-Gurion with a scroll on which was inscribed the proclamation of the Cabinet marking the occasion. The proclamation declared: "The Israel Government notes with appreciation the historic services to Israel's resurgence, its security, well-being and ingathering of exiles rendered by David Ben-Gurion." The former Premier thanked the visiting Ministers, and the three then retired to Mr. Ben-Gurion's home for an hour-long talk.

On Friday, President Zalman Shazar will bring the greetings of the nation to Mr. Ben-Gurion at Sde Boker, where he will arrive by helicopter accompanied by two prominent Israeli writers, S. Y. Agnon and Haim Hazaz.

Six mass meetings will be held to mark Mr. Ben-Gurion's birthday -- one each in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, Haifa, Ramat Gan, Sde Boker and at another agricultural settlement. The former Premier will later visit the United States, England and France, where celebrations will be held under the auspices of specially formed committees.

ISRAELI FINANCE MINISTER IN WASHINGTON; PREDICTS RISE IN EXPORTS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Israel's Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, met here today with William Gaud, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development. The meeting was described as a courtesy call, but it is believed that Israeli-American economic relations in the area of development were reviewed. Mr. Sapir this morning took part in the opening session of the World Bank conference here.

In an interview yesterday, Mr. Sapir predicted that Israel's new austerity program would bring an increase in exports next year, rising to \$600,000,000 from this year's \$465,000,000.

The Finance Minister, who is in the United States primarily to attend meetings of the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank, said the export gains would come from a rise in productivity of from 7 to 8 percent in industry, and from an expansion of output in chemicals, phosphates, potash, high-quality textiles, diamond and farm products.

BONN REMINDS INDEMNITY CLAIMANTS OF SEPT. 30 DEADLINE FOR FILING

BONN, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- A reminder was issued here today calling attention to the fact that the deadline for filing claims for indemnity payments arising from the legislation adopted last year by the West German Government expanding the provisions of the indemnity law, is September 30. Those failing to register claims by that date for the new and expanded categories of persecution suffered under the Nazis will not receive compensation, the announcement said.

GERMAN PROPAGANDA PUBLICATION FEATURES STATEMENTS BY LEVI ESHKOL

HAMBURG, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- The current issue of "The German Tribune," an English-language publication printed in Hamburg, featured an interview in Israel in which Premier Levi Eshkol declared that the current generation of German youth could not be held responsible for the crimes of the Nazis. The publication is a propaganda organ disseminating news and views favorable to the West German regime.

The Premier made the statement in an interview in a newly-formed newspaper in Israel, established by the alignment of his Mapai Party with the Achdut Avodah.

ISRAEL TO CONDUCT STATE FUNERAL FOR MRS. WEIZMANN AT REHOVOT TODAY

JERUSALEM, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- The body of Mrs. Vera Weizmann, widow of the first President of Israel, was brought by plane today from London for a state funeral tomorrow. She will be buried next to her husband at Rehovot, location of the science institute which bears the Weizmann name. She died in London Saturday at the age of 87.

Premier Levi Eshkol ordered the state funeral and issued a statement mourning Mrs. Weizmann as "a woman of distinction and also an esteemed dear friend." He added that the people of Israel "will pay honor to a woman whose life coincided with a whole chapter of the nation's history during which it achieved independence."

She will be laid to rest tomorrow in the small family plot in Rehovot, on a small hill overlooking the Weizmann Institute.

The coffin was brought directly from Lydda Airport to the Weizmann Institute, where it lay in state today with army officers as an honor guard. Other units of the guard of honor were members of the Israel Women's Army, policewomen and Magen Dovid Adom nurses.

The public will be able to pay its respect until tomorrow morning, when funeral services will begin. President Zalman Shazar will deliver the eulogy. Army chaplains will conduct the religious rites. The family and a small number of invited friends will follow the coffin to the graveside, where army chaplains again will officiate.

'SEPARATIST' LEADER IN QUEBEC DENIES HIS PARTY IS ANTI-SEMITIC

OTTAWA, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Gilles Gregoire, the newly-elected leader of Quebec's National Ralliement, a separatist party, has denied that his party is anti-Semitic. The party has been under sharp criticism for several anti-Semitic articles in its monthly magazine, La Nation. M. Gregoire, in a statement issued from his House of Commons office, blamed the controversy on the press.

He referred specifically to an article in the August issue, headlined, "The Jews Flout Quebec," which drew sharp criticism from the Canadian Jewish Congress. The article alleged that Quebec Jews gave so much financial and other support to Israel that they did nothing for Quebec. He said that the article was published before he was elected as party leader and that a five-man editorial board had been named to review all material in the periodical. He said the controversial article was "a letter which slipped into the editorial page by mistake."

SENATOR FAILS ISRAEL'S FOREIGN AID PROGRAM AS 'GENEROUS, EFFECTIVE'

LOS ANGELES, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Senator William Proxmire, Wisconsin Democrat, hailed Israel's foreign aid program as "the most generous and by far the most effective" one of any country in the world. Addressing a dinner of the World Jewish Congress here, Sen. Proxmire cited Israel's Peace Corps-type projects in African and Asian countries, which, he said, in relation to Israel's population, was "ten times greater than that of the United States."

Other speakers at the dinner included California Governor Edmund G. Brown; Samuel Bronfman, vice-president of the World Jewish Congress; and Rabbi Max Nussbaum, chairman of the American section of the WJC. John Factor of Los Angeles was presented with the WJC Humanitarian Award.

47 AMERICAN JEWISH YOUTH LEAVE FOR YEAR'S STUDY, WORK IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- A group of 47 American Jewish youth left here today for Israel for a year of study, travel and work in a program of the Young Judaea, the Zionist youth organization sponsored by the Zionist Organization of America and Hadassah.

Included in the program will be four months of formal study at Young Judaea's Jerusalem Institute, where the youths will study Hebrew, Jewish history and the Bible. A period of living and working on agricultural settlements, and special interest periods during which each participant may choose his own occupational interest, are also part of the Young Judaea course.

SAMUEL D. LEIDESDORF HONORED BY N.Y.U. ON HIS 85th BIRTHDAY

NEW YORK, Sept. 26. (JTA) -- Samuel D. Leidesdorf, a prominent American Jewish leader, was honored by New York University yesterday on the occasion of his 85th birthday. Mr. Leidesdorf, who is chairman of the board of the NYU Medical Center, is a past president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, and has been very active in the United Jewish Appeal, the Joint Distribution Committee and numerous other Jewish philanthropic endeavors.