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ISRAELIS PESSIMISTIC ON SUCCESS OF SCHEDULED ISRAEL-SYRIAN TALKS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Israeli circles here are increasingly pessimistic about the chances for success as a result of the forthcoming extraordinary session of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission which, if it opens at all, is to be convened Wednesday on the Syrian side of the international bridge connecting Israel with Syria at B'not Yaacov. The second session, if one is to follow, is scheduled to be held on Israel's side of the same bridge.

The pessimism here is motivated principally by Israel's awareness that the basic issue separating Israel from Syria is not the cultivation of farm lands in the demilitarized zones between the two countries, but Syria's avowed policy of aggression against Israel.

Observers here noted that, practically on the eve of the ISMAC session, proposed by Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, and officially summoned by U.N. Secretary-General U Thant, Radio Damascus continues to broadcast anti-Israeli threats and pledges of renewed aggression against Israel.

One basic point which Israel has stressed to the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization is that chances for the success of the talks depend to a considerable degree on continued border tranquility and enforcement by the Syrian Government of measures to prevent "Palestinian" terrorists from infiltrating into Israel. Israel has also made it clear to the U.N. that, under no conditions, will she tolerate enlargement of the agenda mutually agreed upon for the special ISMAC session by all three sides -- Israel, Syria and UNTSO. That fixed agenda deals exclusively with the rights of cultivating farming lands in the demilitarized zones.

Possibility of Syria's Maneuvering to Torpedo the Talks Seen

Some observers here have even begun to doubt whether Syria would actually attend the meeting scheduled for Wednesday or see it through. Damascus could easily torpedo the negotiations and try to lay the blame for the session's collapse on Israel, by demanding enlargement of the fixed agenda at the first session. It is believed here that, should the talks fail, the Secretary-General would be obliged, under the United Nations Charter, to convene a meeting of the Security Council to discuss the Israeli-Syrian crisis.

Meanwhile, preparations for Wednesday's scheduled session were being made on all three sides. UNTSO was making last-minute technical preparations for the talks. Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's top aides on this issue conferred on the matter with the Premier last night. Among the leading conferees, in addition to a half-dozen other experts, were Foreign Minister Abba Eban; General Yitzhak Rabin, chief of staff of Israel's defense forces; and Zvi Dinstein, Deputy Minister of Defense. Mr. Eshkol himself is Minister of Defense.

Similar meetings were reportedly being held today at Damascus, although it is not yet certain that Syria would attend or go through with Wednesday's scheduled session.

Gen. Bull is due to fly to Damascus Wednesday morning for eleventh hour consultations with leaders of the Syrian Government. He is to return to the site of the extraordinary session on the Syrian side of the B'not Yaacov bridge later that day to act as chairman of the opening session of ISMAC.

EUROMART COMMISSION OPENS TALKS WITH ISRAEL AT PARLEY IN BRUSSELS

BRUSSELS, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Exploratory talks between Israel and the Euromart Commission were opened here today, as the Commission met in accordance with a decision of the European Economic Community's Council of Ministers to examine Israel's application for associate membership in the EEC.

Amiel Najar, Israel's Ambassador to the six-nation EEC, reviewed the Jewish people's "historical links" with Europe, declaring that "there is no parallel to this relationship." "This," he said, "has been recognized by the main currents of opinion within the European community."

Mr. Najar cited relevant resolutions on the subject of firmer links between Israel and the EEC, adopted by the European Parliament, the congress of trade unions of the lands that are members of the EEC, and the session of the Socialist parties of the six member states

held recently in West Berlin. The six member states of the EEC are France, West Germany, Italy, the Netherlands, Belgium and Luxembourg.

Ambassador Najjar addressed the session after it had been opened formally by Axel Herbst, chairman of the EEC. He noted in his speech that the Arab states have intervened against EEC's broadening of its relations with Israel.

"Nobody ignores the fact," he stated, "that some governments are openly trying to divert the European Economic Community from any association with Israel. The Arab states imagine they can intimidate Europe and force it to endorse their economic war against Israel. My Government is confident that the EEC, with which it shares ideals of peace and constructive cooperation will, as in the past, not allow these interventions to influence the positive development of the community's relations with my country."

Dr. Yaacov Arnon, director-general of Israel's Finance Ministry, then analyzed the development of Israel's economy since the rebirth of the state in 1948. He referred to the inflow of capital into Israel and the influx of new immigrants in Israel. He dwelt particularly on the impact of modern technology on the economy of Israel, and stressed the fact that Israel seeks full association with the EEC.

JEWISH GROUPS URGE STATE DEPARTMENT TO ISSUE WARNING TO SYRIA

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Three national Jewish organizations -- The Union of American Hebrew Congregations, The Central Conference of American Rabbis and The National Council of Jewish Women -- today called upon the United States Government to warn Syria to stop its aggressive acts against Israel.

In a telegram to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, signed by Rabbi Maurice E. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Reform leaders expressed "deep concern at the increasing violence and danger in the Middle East."

"Neither the United States nor the United Nations has the moral right to expect the State of Israel to accept continuing bloodshed and mounting assaults on its right to existence," they said. They considered recent Syrian campaigns of terror as a "blatant violation of armistice agreements and an open contempt for the United Nations." They felt "that all nations in the Middle East must respect the borders and the right to life of all neighbors."

The Reform leaders blamed the current crisis on "failure by the United Nations to act on earlier complaints and the Security Council's one-sided condemnation of Israel," adding: "We regret the Israeli raid on Jordan of Nov. 13 but we feel there is a limit to provocations which any nation can tolerate." They asked Mr. Rusk to use his good offices to "warn the Syrian Government against further assaults on the integrity of Israel and the lives and property of Israeli citizens."

The National Council of Jewish Women warned that there is danger of "a full-scale war" in the Middle East and urged the U.S. Government to act quickly "to end the continuous acts of terrorism and aggression in the Middle East." It also urged that the U.S. "stand ready to assist in direct negotiations for a permanent settlement of the disputes."

"We also suggest that the Soviet Union, a powerful influence in the area, be invited to participate in peace efforts," The Council leaders declared. They called on the U.S. Government to issue "a clear expression of condemnation against the Arab countries which refuse to observe United Nations armistice terms."

SECRETARY UDALL WILL NOT VISIT ISRAEL ON DESALINATION TRIP TO NEAR EAST

WASHINGTON, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Secretary of Interior Stewart Udall will not visit Israel during his forthcoming extended visit to Near Eastern nations interested in desalination because Israel failed to invite him, State Department sources said today.

Secretary Udall will leave next week with an itinerary including Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Kuwait and Iran. The trip may be extended to include Lebanon and Greece. A Saudi Arabian embassy spokesman stated here today that his Government had made clear to the United States that Secretary Udall was welcome to ceremonies initiating a new dual purpose desalination undertaking at Jidda with a stipulation that he refrain from visiting Israel on the same trip.

The State Department and Department of Interior sources aware of developments sought to deny that any Arab conditions had been imposed. They insisted that Israel was not added to the itinerary merely because the Israel Government failed to extend a timely invitation. They explained that now it is too late for Israel to offer such an invitation because Greece and Lebanon have made known that they are eager to welcome the Secretary. Any available additional time would be spent in those nations, it was said. The entire Near Eastern sojourn will last about two weeks.

The failure of Secretary Udall to visit Israel was puzzling because of the extensive contacts between the Department of the Interior and Israel on a joint American-Israel nuclear desalination project.

TRIAL OF NAZI GENERAL STARTS IN GERMANY; DEPORTED 94,398 DUTCH JEWS

MUNICH, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Former SS General Wilhelm Marster, the Nazi officer who was in charge of deporting to concentration camps 94,398 Jews from Holland, including Anne Frank, went on trial here today on charges of mass murder. He was commander of the Nazi security police in occupied Holland. Of the total of Jews he ordered deported between 1942 and 1944, only 1,070 survived. Anne Frank, author of the famous diary bearing her name, died at Bergen-Belsen. Most of the others were put to death at Auschwitz and Sobibor.

On trial with Gen. Marster are his former secretary and head of the women's branch of the Nazi security police in the Netherlands, Gertrud Slottke; and former SS Major Wilhelm Zoeps. The three are accused in 23 indictments of directing and supervising the deportation of the Dutch Jews to their deaths.

Alongside the official prosecution in the court room is an attorney representing Anne Frank's father, Otto Frank. The court granted Mr. Frank last week the status of "civilian plaintiff." He is represented by Robert Kempner, an American who was a prosecutor at the Allied War Crimes Tribunal at Nuremberg.

OXFORD UNIVERSITY CLUB CANCELS INVITATION TO GERMAN NEO-NAZI LEADER

LONDON, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- The Oxford University's Liberal Club formally canceled its invitation today to Adolf von Thadden, deputy leader of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party in West Germany, who had previously been scheduled to address the club on the Oxford campus on January 27.

Miss Caroline Walker, the club's press secretary, announced this morning that, after three discussions of the subject in the last week, the club decided to withdraw the von Thadden invitation because it could find no prominent member of the Liberal Party willing to share the platform with the German right-winger. "As a Liberal club," she said, "we are unwilling to give von Thadden a free platform or gratuitous publicity in Germany."

The club had decided previously, under pressure by Jewish students at Oxford and by others, to refuse to let von Thadden speak unless a prominent Liberal was on the same program as counter-balance. Richard Moore, a Liberal member of Parliament, had accepted an invitation to speak during the meeting to have been addressed by von Thadden, but withdrew his acceptance last week.

GERMAN TRADE UNION EXPELS MEMBERS FOR BELONGING TO NEO-NAZI PARTY

BONN, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Membership in the extreme right-wing National Democratic Party by any individual who is a member of a German trade union, is incompatible with the ideals of trade unionism, Karl Buschmann, chairman of the Clothing Union, declared in a speech at Neumuenster today. Since the middle of last year, he disclosed, some members of his union have been expelled for being members of the NDP.

Several leading members of the NDP have resigned recently. Today, one of the party's top leaders, Karl Brenner, announced he had quit the party because he is now convinced that his "political democratic beliefs could not be realized within the NDP."

AUSCHWITZ SURVIVORS CRITICIZE ANNE FRANK'S FATHER FOR BANNING PLAY

TEL AVIV, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Two survivors of the Auschwitz death camp, who have written widely on the Nazi holocaust have sharply criticized Anne Frank's father for barring the Israeli Soldiers' Theater from performing a drama based on his daughter's world-famous diary, published posthumously.

Otto Frank, who has been waging a 14-year war against novelist Meyer Levin's stage version of the diary, banned the performance by the Israeli soldiers because they used Levin's script. The criticism was voiced by Elie Wiesel, now an American, and A. Katzetnick, now an Israeli.

Wiesel wrote to Levin that "I fail to understand the behavior of Anne's father. That he should speak of rights, agreements and court trials is beyond me. Your play is what it should be -- an outcry." The soldiers' troupe performed the Levin version for two months and it received excellent notices.

SWASTIKAS SMEARED ON WALLS AND DOORS OF JEWISH HOME IN ITALY

ROME, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Swastikas were found smeared on the walls and doors of the home of the Jewish painter, Zanri Schawinsky, a known anti-Nazi. The home is on a hill overlooking the Italian side of Lake Locarno, north of Milan.

Prior to 1933, he was a member of the Bauhaus group in Germany. He fled to Italy and then to the United States, when the Nazis seized power in Germany. He worked in the United States with Gropius and Breuer. He returned to Italy last summer to live. Currently he is visiting in the United States.

SCHOLARS DISCUSS COORDINATION OF STUDIES OF JEWISH LIFE IN EUROPE

BRUSSELS, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- The existence of 12 research units and institutes on the European continent, dealing with studies of contemporary Jewish life in Europe and the spread of such research to 14 countries, including several in East Europe, was reported here at the Second Scholars Conference on Jewish Life in Contemporary Europe.

These developments were reported by Dr. Moshe Davis, director of the Institute of Contemporary Jewry at the Hebrew University, a sponsor of the conference. The Center National Des Hautes Etudes Juives of Brussels was co-sponsor.

In reporting on advances since the first conference in 1962, Dr. Davis stressed the "welcome discovery" of young scholars coming from various universities throughout Europe who are anxious to prepare for careers in the field of research and teaching of contemporary Jewish studies.

Prof. R. Bachi of the Hebrew University said a general desire to coordinate Jewish demographic studies in the various countries, to assure the comparability of the findings, was one of the basic interests of the conference. He said the Institute at the Hebrew University, which has taken much of the initiative leading to the various studies, considers it important to advocate comparability. The eventual goal, he said, was a global synthesis of the democratic situation and prospects of the Jews in the contemporary world.

Prof. S. Herman of the Hebrew University said the goal of interlocking of research and training was a major theme of the conference. He said particular emphasis had been placed on the need to train research personnel who combined an intimate understanding of Jewish life with professional and scientific skills.

Dr. Max Gottschalk, president of the National Center for Higher Jewish Studies, stressed the need for a system of cooperative activity among scholars. The scholars agreed to work on a plan for such a continuing relationship by regular reports and communications to be correlated as part of the global research projects of the Institute in Jerusalem.

Rabbi Benjamin Kahn, national director of Hillel Foundations, discussed the problems of Jewish students in the United States. The conference held a session jointly with the Standing Conference of European Jewish Community Services. Representative figures of Jewish communities in Europe took part, including those of Brussels, Liege, Antwerp, London, Birmingham, Paris, Metz, Toulouse, Rome, Milan and Geneva.

JEWISH WOMAN SWORN IN AS EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISSIONER IN TENNESSEE

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Mrs. Leo H. Burson, of Memphis, the first Jew ever to achieve the status of a member of Tennessee's State Cabinet, was sworn in here this week in her new post as Commissioner of the Department of Employment Security. The job pays \$17,500 a year.

Mrs. Burson, a Hadassah leader, is very active in Jewish communal life in Memphis. She takes an active part in the United Jewish Appeal and is the only woman to have served as president of the Memphis Jewish Community Relations Council. She is also active in the sale of Israel bonds. A member of the National Board of Hadassah, she is also a past national vice-president. She is presently serving on the Board of Trustees of United Israel Appeal. She visited Israel several times and was a delegate to the 25th and 26th World Zionist Congresses in Jerusalem.

Governor Buford Ellington, in appointing Mrs. Burson to her state post said: "She will bring to the state government a talent dedicated to serving others. She not only expresses concern about the problems of fellow Tennesseans, but she uses her time and ability to produce positive action." Mrs. Burson served as state women's chairman for the campaign in which Mr. Ellington was elected Governor. She has been active for many years in the city's and state's civic and political life.

I.M. FELD NAMED CHAIRMAN OF SOCIETY OF FOUNDERS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Irving Mitchell Felt, prominent New York civic leader, has accepted the chairmanship of the Society of the Founders, the honor group of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, it was announced today by Nathaniel L. Goldstein, president of the American Friends.

During this past year Mr. Felt completed his third and final term as president of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York. He is now associate chairman of the Federation's Board.

TEVIAH REZNIKOFF, VETERAN ZIONIST LEADER IN MEXICO, DEAD; WAS 66

MEXICO CITY, Jan. 23. (JTA) -- Teviah Reznikoff, a veteran Mexican Zionist particularly active for many years on behalf of the Jewish National Fund in this country and throughout Central America, died here today, aged 66.

A native of Lithuania, Mr. Reznikoff came to Mexico 45 years ago. He had been a delegate to several of the Zionist Congresses in recent years and, for a time, member of the Zionist Actions Committee.