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## ISRAEL-SYRIAN MEETING BRINGS PLEDGE TO RESPECT PEACE AND CEASE FIRE

B'NOT YAACOV, Israel, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Israel and Syria agreed today -- at the first meeting of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission in eight years -- to "respect peace and observe the cease-fire" between the two governments, it was announced here by a spokesman for the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

The announcement was made following the conclusion here of the opening session of the extraordinary meeting of the ISMAC which will be followed by a second session on Sunday. At today's session, Israel proposed that Syria join in pledging "fidelity" to non-aggression provisions of the armistice agreement signed by the two countries in 1949.

Today's session lasted five hours and 45 minutes and was held at a Syrian customs house near the international bridge between this Israeli town and Syria. Sunday's session will be held on the Israeli side of the bridge. A resolution was proposed at today's session by Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the United Nations Supervision Organization, and was accepted by both sides. The statement reaffirms the adherence of Israel and Syria "to the principles of non-aggression as affirmed by the United Nations Charter and the General Armistice Agreement."

At 10:25 o'clock this morning, five minutes before the meeting was scheduled to open, an Israeli army jeep, flying a green pennant announcing in English and Hebrew: "Israeli Delegation to the Mixed Armistice Commission," approached from the Israeli side to the Syrian border check-point. Riding in the jeep was Israeli Lt. Col. Zvi Span. Behind the jeep were two Israeli station wagons carrying Israel's ISMAC delegation and officials of Israel's Foreign Ministry.

Syrian officers awaited the Israeli group and ordered the lifting of 10 black-white, striped barriers. The Israelis proceeded to the Syrian customs house, accompanied by United Nations observers and Syrian police outriders. Inside the customs house, the meeting was opened by Gen. Bull, promptly at 10:30 a.m. Without a break, and with only light refreshments served during the period, the meeting lasted until 4:15 p.m.

### Israel Delegate Terms the Meeting 'An Important Achievement'

Israel's delegation was headed by Moshe Sasson, director of the Foreign Ministry's armistice affairs division. It included Ambassador Yosef Tekoah, a former armistice affairs chief, who is now the Foreign Ministry's deputy director-general, and Israeli army officers who are Israel's members of the ISMAC.

Noting that eight years had passed since the Mixed Armistice Commission had met "informally," Mr. Sasson called the meeting "an important achievement." He referred to the sole, formal item on the agenda, concerning the cultivation of farm lands on the Israeli-Syrian border, and said: "Today, we hope for a frank and sincere exchange of views in order to agree on practical arrangements on problems of cultivation, which have been a source of recent tensions."

Mr. Sasson stressed that Israel's readiness to negotiate a practical arrangement on problems of cultivation is without prejudice to Israel's stated views on the broader political and juridical issues, which are not under discussion here. "Similarly, we enter these talks without prejudice to our views on the status of the demilitarized zone and the functions of the ISMAC in that zone," he said.

The remarks made at the meeting by the leader of the Syrian delegation were not made public. A U.N. spokesman told newsmen gathered here that there would be no progress report on the negotiations "as long as they are talking inside." An Israeli spokesman described today's opening session of ISMAC as "cordial and realistic."

## ISRAEL PARLIAMENT VOTES APPROVAL OF ESHKOL'S POLICY ON SYRIA

JERUSALEM, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- The Israel Government's policy of combining diplomatic and political negotiations with readiness to repel all aggression on its Syrian border was approved by the Knesset (Parliament) here last night by a vote of 54 to 21. "Negotiations with Syria," the Premier told Parliament, "are worth undertaking even if the chances for success are not high." Replying to those critics who had charged the Government with "softness," Mr. Eshkol said that, in the last two years, "Israel has given as good as she got from the Arab states."

ISRAEL FREIGHTER IN DISTRESS; SENDS S.O.S. SIGNALS FROM MEDITERRANEAN

NAPLES, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- A wide search was under way in the Mediterranean Sea today for an Israeli fighter, the 1,300-ton Hashlosa, which has not been heard from or sighted since it sent out an SOS last night.

The Hashlosa, with a crew of 17, unloaded a cargo of phosphates at Messina, Sicily, yesterday, then proceeded presumably toward Marseilles, France. During the night, the Hashlosa sent out its distress signal, but the location indicated only that she was somewhere along the sea-route between Naples and Marseilles. The distress signal was picked up here and by at least three ships at sea -- the Israeli vessel Moledet, which was due to dock at Naples this morning; a small German freighter; and the Italian frigate, the Cigno.

The Moledet is believed to have changed its scheduled route to help search for the Hashlosa. Also engaged in the search are the Cigno and several planes which left the Rome Airport to engage in the search immediately after Naples had heard the SOS. The planes have reported to their bases that, so far, they have found no trace of the Hashlosa.

PLANS FOR BEN-GURION'S VISIT TO U.S. ANNOUNCED BY UNITED JEWISH APPEAL

NEW YORK, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- David Ben-Gurion, the first Prime Minister of Israel, whose 80th birthday is being celebrated by Jewish communities throughout the world, has accepted the invitation of the leadership of the American Jewish community to come to the United States and participate in various meetings of the United Jewish Appeal during the month of March, it was announced today by Max M. Fisher, general chairman of the UJA.

The announcement was made on behalf of the "Public Committee for the Celebration of the 80th Birthday of David Ben-Gurion," of which Mr. Fisher is chairman, and which extended the invitation to Mr. Ben-Gurion. The Committee is composed of 47 national Jewish organizations, representing every shade of opinion in the Jewish community. Mr. Ben-Gurion will arrive at the Kennedy Airport on March 1.

In addition to the UJA meetings, he will address the Annual National Conference of the Israel Bond Organization at Miami Beach, confer with the leaders of other major Jewish organizations and meet with student-faculty groups of leading colleges and universities, Jewish and non-Jewish.

Mr. Ben-Gurion will visit five major cities on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal's 1967 nationwide campaign. They are Philadelphia, on March 6; Los Angeles, March 8; Chicago, March 11; New York, March 16; and Boston, March 19. In each of these cities, Mr. Ben-Gurion will also meet with Jewish leaders on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal's Israel Education Fund which is conducting a capital fund program to build and equip schools, libraries and youth centers in Israel.

U.S. ZIONISTS URGED TO BECOME MORE ACTIVE IN ENCOURAGING ALIYAH

NEW YORK, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- The general recognition of the need for change in various aspects of the Zionist movement and the first real understanding of the problem and need for encouraging immigration from the western world were hailed at a press conference today by Mrs. Rose Halprin, chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency as the major achievements of the session of the World Zionist Actions Committee held recently in Jerusalem.

Mrs. Halprin, who returned from the Actions Committee meetings, said that a large proportion of the Israeli press and public were taking a genuine interest in Zionist affairs for the first time in many years following the recent decision to implement organizational changes in the World Zionist Organization.

The Jewish Agency leader stressed that it was now imperative for the Israel Government, on the one hand, and American Zionist groups on the other, to tackle the problem of encouraging immigration from the United States. "If the American Zionist movement does not address itself to the Aliyah problem, it will have failed in this important aspect of Zionism," she declared.

Mrs. Halprin pointed out that the problem of immigration from the United States was complicated by the fact that there was a growing lack of understanding between the older and younger generations of American Jewry with the latter concentrating on the problems of American society rather than perpetuating a Jewish identity.

American Jewry must learn, Mrs. Halprin declared, "how to maintain Jewishness, perpetuate Jewish values and maintain our separateness while playing our part in the struggle for a better way of life for the United States and the whole world."

Mrs. Halprin stressed that, while it is correct that without immigration from the West there is no Zionist movement, "our youth cannot respond to the idea of the centrality of Israel if they do not know what Jewish life is and what it means."

NAZI GENERAL PLEADS GUILTY OF DEPORTING JEWS TO DEATH CAMPS

MUNICH, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Former SS General Wilhelm Harster, 62, commander of the Nazi security police in occupied Holland during World War II, confessed in open court here today that he was guilty of participation in the deportation of 80,000 Dutch Jews to Nazi extermination camps.

With two of his principal aides -- ex-SS Major Wilhelm Zoepef and Gertrud Slotke -- he has been on trial here since Monday, accused in 23 indictments of deporting to the death camps a total of 94,398 Dutch Jews, of whom all but 1,070 had perished, chiefly at Auschwitz and Sobibor.

Testifying as the principal defendant, Harster told the court under interrogation by the prosecution: "The fact that I did not have these 80,000 transferred to other jobs makes me morally and legally guilty, for which I must atone."

He confessed that, from the very start of the "big deportations" in July of 1942, he knew the Jews would be killed in the camps to which they were sent. Although he had not known the details about what was happening in the extermination camps, he said, he had learned of the mass murders from listening to British broadcasts. He stated that he had not dared ask his SS colleagues whether the BBC reports about mass extermination of Jews were true, and had received no information about these occurrences from his superiors.

Harster told the court that the deportees included old people, invalids, women, children and the mentally ill. He said that only the "wealthy, overseas Jews" were allowed to leave Holland, "most of them with the loss of their fortunes." Under instructions from Berlin, he testified, each of the well-to-do Jews had to pay at least 20,000 Swiss francs before he was allowed to emigrate.

The former SS chief testified it was his opinion, while he headed the deportation program in the Netherlands, that Germany would not win the war. "I thought," he said, "that defeat was my country's unavoidable fate." The court adjourned its sessions today until Friday.

COLIN JORDAN, BRITISH NAZI, SENTENCED TO 18 MONTHS IMPRISONMENT

LONDON, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Colin Jordan, 43-year-old leader of Britain's National Socialist Party, was convicted today of conspiracy to violate the Race Relations Act of 1965, and sentenced to 18 months' imprisonment. His co-defendant, Peter Pollard, a 19-year-old former sailor in the Royal Navy, was also found guilty, and given three years' probation.

Both have been on trial this week in the Devon Assize Court, charged specifically with desecrating a synagogue at Plymouth, where swastikas and Nazi slogans had been smeared on walls and doors. In testimony before his conviction, Colin denied that he had approved German Nazi atrocities and the Nazi program for the annihilation of European Jewry, but conceded that his organization had used the swastika as its emblem.

NEO-NAZI LEADER TO SPEAK BEFORE BRITISH STUDENTS DESPITE PROTESTS

LONDON, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Adolph von Thadden, deputy leader of West Germany's neo-Nazi National Democratic Party, will address a student club at Oxford University after all. The Cosmos Club on Oxford's campus announced today he had been invited to address a meeting Friday, and had accepted the invitation.

As soon as the announcement was made, Jonathan Cohen, senior treasurer of the club and a founder and former chairman of the undergraduate society, resigned from Cosmos. He said he believed the sponsoring of an address by von Thadden was "incompatible" with the principles of the society. "We should not provide a platform for this particular person," he stated. "The society's principles are those of the United Nations."

The Liberal Club of Oxford had previously invited him for an address next Friday, then canceled the invitation when it could find no Liberal Party leader willing to share the platform with him. The Oxford Conservation Association also considered inviting him, then changed its mind.

Today, the Cosmos executive committee accepted Mr. Cohen's resignation with "deep regret." The committee stated: "We believe that, whatever the opinions are, held by a man, his right to express those opinions must be upheld. This is especially true in a university proud of its long tradition of free inquiry. The meeting does not imply support for von Thadden's views. We thoroughly deplore all forms of racialism and aggressive nationalism."

In the face of wide protests against von Thadden's scheduled appearance at Oxford, the Cosmos Club said that "strict security precautions" will be taken when he appears on the campus. If the meeting is held as scheduled, it will be von Thadden's first public address in Britain.

U.S. AWARDS \$165,686 TO MALBEN FROM COUNTERPART FUNDS IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- The United States Government has awarded a grant of \$165,686 from United States counterpart funds to Malben, the Joint Distribution Committee program on behalf of aged, ill and handicapped newcomers to Israel, it was announced here today.

Counterpart funds accrue from sales by the U.S. Government to the Israeli Government of food and other commodities. In addition to the grant, the U.S. donated over 2,300,000 lbs. of Food for Peace supplies to Malben institutions in the first six months of 1966. This included flour, milk, corn meal, oil and bulgur wheat, and was valued at close to \$150,000.

The grant will be used by JDC-Malben for urgent repairs and replacement of defective equipment in its eleven old age homes, in two hospitals for the chronically ill and handicapped, and in other related facilities, most of it on kitchen equipment, refrigeration units, heating installations and general maintenance equipment.

UNITED HIAS GIVES ELLIS ISLAND TORAH TO SYNAGOGUE AT AIRPORT

NEW YORK, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- The Torah Scroll of the Ellis Island Chapel, used by generations of Jewish immigrants, was presented today by United Hias Service to the International Synagogue at Kennedy Airport. Murray I. Gurfein, president of the worldwide Jewish migration agency, turned over the Torah in a ceremony that recalled the successive waves of Jewish immigration since the founding of Hias 83 years ago.

"Three million Jewish men, women and children have been assisted by United Hias to resettle in free countries," Mr. Gurfein said. "For many of these people the sight of this Scroll was convincing evidence that they had at last found a place where they could practice their religion openly and fearlessly. We are pleased that at Kennedy Airport, which has replaced Ellis Island as the principal port of entry for immigrants, the Torah will continue to serve new arrivals of Jewish faith."

BEN TOUSTER, PROMINENT JEWISH LEADER, ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF 'CARE'

NEW YORK, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Ben Touster, noted Jewish philanthropist was today elected chairman of the board of CARE, the nonprofit international aid agency. Mr. Touster's association with CARE began in 1951, when he joined the board as a representative of United Hias Service. He was elected a vice-president two years later, and since 1957 has served as treasurer.

Mr. Touster's keen interest in CARE programs in many countries of the world, including Israel, which he has visited frequently, is part of a lifetime of activity in philanthropic and communal affairs. He is a former president and now associate chairman of Hias; a trustee of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies; honorary vice chairman of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York; a member of the executive board of the American Jewish Committee; vice-president of Maimonides Medical Center, Brooklyn; honorary president of the Y.M. and Y.W.H.A., Borough Park; and has served many other organizations and institutions in various capacities.

"I feel deeply honored to have been chosen for this high office in an organization that does so much for so many," Mr. Touster said. To help feed 40,000,000 hungry people in the course of a year, to provide countless others in need with the means of making their own living, to bring the benefits of modern medicine to areas where it has never been known before is to my mind an achievement of historic importance. I believe the founding of CARE as a non-political and non-sectarian relief agency was one of the great ideas of the Twentieth Century, and I consider it a privilege to be associated with it."

DR. ISRAEL GOLDSTEIN HONORED BY ISRAELI JOURNALISTS ON 70th BIRTHDAY

TEL AVIV, Jan. 25. (JTA) -- Dr. Israel Goldstein, now a resident of Israel after 40 years as rabbi of New York's B'nai Jeshurun Temple, was feted here by the Journalists and Editors Association in honor of his 70th birthday. Dr. Goldstein is president of Keren Hayesod, the financial arm of the World Zionist Organization.

The Israeli journalists and editors lauded Dr. Goldstein for his many years of Zionist activity, hailing him as a "living symbol of an actual bridge between Jews outside and inside Israel and between the religious aspect of old tradition and the present requirements." They also praised him as another example of a Zionist leader who has settled in Israel.