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U.N. IN LAST-DITCH TRY TO AVERT COLLAPSE OF ISRAELI-SYRIAN TALKS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization conferred with Syrian leaders in Damascus today apparently in a last-minute effort to save the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission talks that are slated to resume tomorrow.

Albert Gant, the UNTSC spokesman, is also in Damascus on a similar mission. He reportedly will urge Syrian representatives on the Mixed Armistice Commission to adhere to the previously agreed-upon agenda. Syria's insistence on departing from the limited purpose of the discussions threatens to disrupt the sessions.

Israel has made it clear that the talks must be confined to land cultivation and cultivation rights in the demilitarized zones on the Israeli-Syrian frontiers. That topic constitutes the sole item on the agenda of the ISMAC's extraordinary session, summoned by United Nations Secretary-General U Thant in an effort to avert the eruption of large-scale warfare between Syria and Israel.

The Commission's first meeting was held a week ago. At the second meeting of the Commission, on Sunday, Syria raised the question of sovereignty over the demilitarized zones among other issues which Israel considered extraneous. Israeli farmers in the area are the frequent target of sniper fire by Syrian border gunners.

Israel had expressed willingness to allow some Syrian farmers to enter the zones and work some plots, as long as Israel's sovereignty over the areas is recognized. Syria contends, however, that her acquiescence in this proposal would amount to her recognition of Israel.

LONDON REPORTS IMMINENT BREAKDOWN OF PAN-ARAB PLANS AGAINST ISRAEL

LONDON, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- The Arab League scheme to divert Jordan River waters to frustrate Israel's massive irrigation projects, seemed today on the verge of collapse, following the resignation of Dr. Sobhi Kahhala as chief of the Arab Jordan River Exploration Authority. Other officials of the Authority are slated for dismissal, it was reported here today.

Contention between Egyptian President Nasser and other Arab rulers has precluded, to date, united action on Jordan River plans. The water diversion committee, organized three years ago, has done little to implement its plans. Yesterday Saudi Arabia and several other states, announced they are rescinding their financial commitments to the project. Reports from Beirut indicate new conflict between Saudi Arabia and Egypt, which may be difficult to end.

Prospects for another "summit meeting" of Arab leaders such as the one held last fall to plan anti-Israel, pan-Arab strategy, now seem remote. According to reports, the Egyptian commander of the United Arab Military Command, established to defend the Jordan River diversionary projects, is ready to dissolve the group. Failure to obtain adequate financial support for the Arab Jordan River undertakings was reported as a major reason for the current crisis. Only 26 percent of last year's budget for the project's military unit has been paid to date.

SENATORS URGE STUDY OF EFFECTS OF ARAB BOYCOTT ON AMERICAN BUSINESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- A Senate resolution authorizing a study of laws designed to protect American business from the Arab boycott was introduced today by Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, and Sen. Harrison Williams, Jr., New Jersey Democrat. The resolution would authorize a study by the Senate Banking and Currency Committee of the effectiveness of the anti-boycott amendment incorporated into the Export Control Act in 1965.

Sen. Javits said that, since Congress moved against the Arab boycott in 1965, "there has been increasing evidence that large as well as small American businesses are still being adversely affected by these restrictive trade practices."

Secretary of Commerce John Connor has informed Sen. Javits that the aim of the anti-boycott measure "has not been achieved to any appreciable degree." Mr. Connor stated the Arab boycott had "a long history and deep roots in protracted political problems and

deeply-held national sentiments, neither of which can be expected to yield easily." "Our best hope," Secretary Connor said, "is that the boycotting countries will ultimately recognize that restrictive trade practices and boycotts are in conflict with their own economic self-interest. Although I believe it would be premature at this point to draw any final conclusions about the effectiveness of this aspect of the present amendment, it remains my conviction that amending the regulation to impose a prohibition on American businessmen would not work toward this end but, on the contrary, would be highly detrimental to our overall national and commercial interests."

ISRAEL BUYS CRUISE SHIP 'NILI' FOR \$4,200,000 AT AUCTION IN MIAMI

MIAMI, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- The Israeli cruise ship Nili, which was impounded here last year when its owners, Nili-Somerfin Car Ferries, Ltd., of Haifa, failed to meet mortgage payments, was sold to the Israel Government at auction here yesterday for \$4,200,000. The Israel Government, which purchased the vessel to protect its own position as a creditor of Somerfin, intends to resell it.

ISRAELIS PROTEST ON EFFORT TO FREE RUDOLF HESS FROM SPANDAU PRISON

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- A demand that Rudolf Hess, once Hitler's deputy, be kept in prison, was voiced today by the Israeli Organization of Partisans, Fighters Against Nazism and Survivors of Concentration Camps.

A statement by the group deplored the possibility that Hess, last of the Nuremberg Tribunal defendants still in jail, reportedly will be released because of his declining health. Any action to void imposition of the life sentence on Hess, the statement added, would "encourage neo-Nazis and anti-Semites the world over and would constitute the final burial of the barbaric Nazi past."

Reports from Germany have indicated that the Bonn Government wants Hess released from West Berlin's Spandau Prison, a facility under the supervision of the four principal, wartime allies -- the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

GESTAPO PAID INFORMER WHO HAD ANNE FRANK ARRESTED ABOUT \$1.40

MUNICH, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- A reward was paid to the person who betrayed Anne Frank during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands in the Second World War, resulting in her arrest by the Gestapo, a defendant in a war crimes trial testified here today.

Wilhelm Zoepf, a former SS major accused of complicity in the murders of thousands of Dutch Jews, told the court that the betrayer had received the "usual amount" for telling the Nazis where the Jewish family was hidden. This sum was said to have been at one time 5 gulden (about \$1.40) per Jew, but was later increased.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA ISSUES RECORDINGS OF SONGS FROM THERESIENSTADT CAMP

LONDON, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- The Czech State Music Publishing House has issued an LP record with six children's songs from the Theresienstadt concentration camp, according to a report received here from Prague today. Although the composers and the authors of the lyrics could not be traced, former inmates had retained the songs and were able to record them after the war. The record is described as both an artistic presentation and a historical document.

ITALIAN JEWS REQUEST GOVERNMENT TO FIGHT NAZI TERRORISM IN COUNTRY

ROME, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- The Union of Italian Jewish Communities called on the Italian Government today to take all appropriate measures to counteract Nazi terrorism in Italy, particularly in South Tyrol.

In a statement warning of the dangers of neo-Nazism and neo-Fascism, the Union's executive council instructed its president, Judge Sergio Piperno, to make known to competent authorities the organization's position, and urged Governments and individuals to be watchful and to refrain from attitudes which could appear to be encouragement of neo-Nazi ideologies.

Italian Jewry Reported Flourishing under Present Laws, Practices

NEW YORK, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Italy "operates and flourishes under a law which outlines and guarantees its rights, its activities, structure and representation," it was reported here today by Fritz Becker, representative of the World Jewish Congress in Rome, who is here on a brief visit. "The law covering the community was drafted by Jewish attorneys and enacted in 1930," Mr. Becker declared, adding that it is "very different from what goes on in the United States, but it satisfies Italian Jewry. They are pleased with it and seek only minor modifications."

Mr. Becker said there were 32,000 Jews in Italy -- 11,000 in Rome, 7,000 in Milan, between 1,000 and 2,000 in each of the four other centers -- Florence, Turin, Trieste and Leghorn -- and the remainder scattered in some 15 or 16 other cities throughout Italy.

JOHNSON ASSURES RABBIS U.S.A. OPPOSES USE OF FORCE IN MIDDLE EAST

LAKEWOOD, N.J., Feb. 1. (JTA) -- President Johnson today assured 500 Orthodox rabbis, attending a religious convention here, that the United States "resolutely" opposes "the use of force or threats of force by one state against another" in the Middle East area, and intends to maintain that policy.

The President's message was read here this morning at the closing session of a three-day parley of the Rabbinical Council of America. Noting in his greeting to the Council that "we are all concerned over maintaining peace in the Middle East," Mr. Johnson declared:

"The achievements of the Israeli people over a scant two decades have taught us all what skill and determination can do. Israel today is an impressive tribute to the dedication of its people as well as to the support of nations and friends around the world. The United States is proud to be one of those nations.

"For the past two decades, the United States has been in the forefront of those genuinely wishing to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict troubling the Near East. This is not easy to achieve, but we must persevere in our efforts to make progress toward this objective.

We have made it clear that we will resolutely oppose the use of force or the threat of force by one state against another in the area. We intend to live up to that commitment but we must recognize that, until basic solutions are found, tensions are likely to continue placing the highest premium on cool and far-sighted statesmanship. We must do all we can and we must ask our friends in the area to go that extra mile with us in the unremitting search for the peaceful way. I join you in praying that peace may come to all lands. I pledge our determination to work with all nations dedicated to that goal."

Warning Voiced on Rise of Neo-Nazism in Germany; Other Resolutions Adopted

Rabbi Harry I. Wohlberg, of Brooklyn, chairman of the convocation, told the parley today that the rise of neo-Nazism in Germany is not a Jewish problem, but a world problem. He stated that the Jews have earned the right to warn mankind of Nazism because "we paid the highest price with our 6,000,000 martyrs." "We must issue the most solemn warning to the nations of the world and to their leaders," he said, "to heed in time the danger signals that are flying in Germany.

"The first thing that should be done," he said, "is to demand from Bonn that it outlaw the National Democratic Party" which "includes in its leadership and membership a large proportion of admitted Nazis." He also criticized the State Department for refusing to bar the deputy chairman of the NDP, Adolf von Thadden, from visiting the United States, and reminded Washington that, in the past, the U.S.A. had no difficulty in barring Communists from this country. He asked: "Are Nazis better than Communists?"

The session approved a resolution introduced by Rabbi Israel Kalvan, executive vice-president of the Council, addressed to the West German Government, appealing for the adoption of severe measures to stamp out all vestiges of Nazism.

Other resolutions called upon the Soviet Government to grant opportunities for free and unqualified religious freedom to its 3,000,000 Jewish inhabitants; called upon the United States Government to take steps to strengthen the security of Israel; and appealed to the four great powers -- the U.S.A., Britain, France and the Soviet Union -- to concentrate their efforts toward security in the Middle East. The Council also expressed dismay and condemned the "desecration of the Sabbath in certain centers and Y's throughout the country."

Jewish-Christian Dialogues Upheld by American Jewish Committee Spokesman

NEW YORK, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of interreligious affairs of the American Jewish Committee, today rejected criticism by a leader of the Rabbinical Council of America who had objected to Jewish secular organizations engaging in "religious doctrinal dialogues" with Christians. Rabbi Zev Segal, first vice-president of the Council, made that criticism in an address at that organization's mid-winter conference at Lakewood, N.J., yesterday.

In a retort issued here today, Rabbi Tanenbaum said that "Rabbi Segal and those who hold his view have an obligation to demonstrate that discussions of religious subjects between Christians and Jews have, in fact, weakened the faith and religious commitment of Jews who have participated in such conversations."

He said "the evidence overwhelmingly has been in the opposite direction, namely that honest discussion of basic religious differences in an atmosphere of mutual respect and openness has contributed to a strengthening of one's loyalty to Judaism.

"We believe, that the time has come for all responsible Jewish leaders to abandon the outworn cliches regarding so-called secular agencies. The word 'secularism' as used by the rabbi has no substantive meaning in the religious vocabulary of Judaism."

REQUEST FOR CLOSING SCHOOLS ON JEWISH HOLIDAYS CANCELED IN DETROIT

DETROIT, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- The Detroit Federation of Teachers has withdrawn a request to have Detroit's public schools closed on the Jewish High Holy Days this year, it was announced by Mary Ellen Riordan, president of the Federation. She said that the request was withdrawn on the understanding that the number of substitutes would be sufficient on those days to take the place of absent, observant Jewish teachers.

Robert S. Melamed, chairman of the Detroit Teacher Committee for More Vigorous Union Leadership, an opposition group within the Federation, said that his organization would continue to demand the closing of the public schools on the High Holy Days. He said that substitutes have never been in adequate supply for the holidays, and that non-Jewish teachers have had to suffer unbearable teaching loads on those occasions. The Jewish teachers, he added, had to use their sick leave on those holidays.

RABBIS PLAN INCREASED ACTION ON VIET NAM WAR IN THEIR CONGREGATIONS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- Increased action by Jewish congregations, in cooperation with other faiths, to question the wisdom and justice of the war in Viet Nam was indicated today by many Jewish participants of the national emergency meeting held here by clergy and laymen concerned about Viet Nam.

A co-chairman, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, took a prominent role in the meeting. Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, addressed the meeting with an appeal for application of religious values to challenge the American military role in Viet Nam. As a result of the meeting, many rabbis said they would seek a wider discussion of Viet Nam in temples and synagogues throughout the nation, with broader participation through social action committees and public forums.

Police here today arrested Josef Mlot-Mroz, of Salem, Mass., who displayed an anti-Semitic sign when he chained himself to the White House in protest against the rabbis and other clergymen seeking peace. He carried a sign declaring "Communism is Jewish." Police released him upon payment of collateral on a charge of disorderly conduct.

NEW YORK SCHOOLS ENDORSE AMERICAN-ISRAEL SECONDARY EDUCATION PLAN

NEW YORK, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- Dr. Bernard E. Donovan, Superintendent of Schools of the New York City Board of Education, has endorsed the American-Israel Secondary School Program under which 60 to 80 American high school sophomores will be sent to Israel for a year of study, it was announced today by Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the Jewish Agency-American Section, a major cooperating organization for the project in the United States.

In a letter in which he accepted the honorary chairmanship of the project, Dr. Donovan said that "the American-Israel Secondary School Program adds a new dimension to the high school level foreign study program. By providing a year of study in Israel adjusted to our American educational requirements in conjunction with significant work in Judaism and the Land of the People of Israel, you are providing a well-rounded program and an important source of enrichment. I am very pleased to endorse this program and recommend it for qualified students."

WOMEN'S GROUP OF NEW YORK UJA LAUNCHES DRIVE WITH \$1,000,000

NEW YORK, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- A record total of \$1,100,000 in individual contributions was reached today by 200 women who took part in a luncheon inaugurating the 1967 campaign of the women's division of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York.

The outstanding individual gift at the luncheon was made by Miss Caroline Greenfield, of New York, who donated \$350,000 toward the cost of building the new Leo Baeck High School to be erected in Haifa by the Israel Education Fund of the UJA. Construction of the school will begin in the spring. The women who attended the inaugural luncheon were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Belfer.

GERALD E. ROSENBERGER DEAD AT 63; ACTIVE IN ADL, UJA, FEDERATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- Gerald E. Rosenberger, a New York philanthropist active in Jewish affairs, died here yesterday at the age of 63. Funeral services will be held tomorrow. Born in New York City, Mr. Rosenberger was active on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies. He was also an associate chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and served on the national committee of the National Jewish Hospital of Denver.

FUNERAL SERVICES TODAY FOR LOUIS FREIMAN, YIDDISH PLAYWRIGHT; WAS 75

NEW YORK, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Louis Freiman, a Yiddish playwright, who died here at the age of 75. He wrote many successful works for the Yiddish stage over the course of a half-century. Mr. Freiman came to the United States some 60 years ago. He wrote his first play for the Jewish theater in Chicago, and, when it proved successful, came to New York.