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ISRAEL FEARS SYRIAN TALKS MAY END IF DAMASCUS FAILS TO ALTER STAND

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Israeli circles reported today that the next meeting of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission, due to be convened Thursday at Kibbutz Mahanayim, will be crucial and may indicate whether the talks could produce any results whatever. Continuation of the talks will depend entirely on the attitude the Syrians adopt at Thursday's meeting, the fourth in the extraordinary session of ISMAC, summoned by United Nations Secretary-General U Thant.

The important question, as seen here, is whether the Syrians will be willing at last to settle down to discuss the sole item on the ICMAC agenda, as previously agreed to by both sides and adopted formally by both at the first of this series of Commission meetings, on January 25. That item would deal only with land cultivation rights in the demilitarized zones on the Israeli-Syrian frontiers. It excludes discussion of proposals made by Syria, calling for withdrawal of alleged Israeli "fortifications" in the disputed areas.

If the Syrians stick to the agenda, it is believed here that there is still a chance for a successful outcome of the negotiations. But the very continuation of the talks will be endangered if the Syrian delegates to the ISMAC meeting insist on dragging in extraneous issues. Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, who first proposed the ICMAC's convening to Mr. Thant, has made it clear that he wants the agenda to guide the meetings.

Israel has repeatedly and unequivocally stated its determination to consider during this phase of the negotiations only the set agenda, dealing with "practical arrangements for cultivation of farm lands and cultivation rights along the demarcation line" between Israel and Syria, agreed to in the armistice pact between the two governments in 1949.

Israel holds that that is exactly what the agenda calls for and that, not by any stretch of the imagination, is the agenda possible of extension to a discussion including the fate of the demilitarized zones situated in sovereign Israeli territory. Both Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Foreign Minister Abba Eban have over and over again emphasized that point.

Syrians Want U.N. to 'Force' Israel to Give Up Sovereignty

Israel's misgivings have been exacerbated further by an article yesterday in *Ul-Thawra*, a semi-official newspaper in Syria, which called upon ISMAC to "force Israel to withdraw from the demilitarized zone." The article added that, if the Mixed Armistice Commission "failed to do so, it will have lost sight of its responsibilities and will be unable to discuss any other question."

Israeli circles point out that a direct Syrian threat is included in the article, reflecting the views of the ruling junta in Damascus. The article had stated further that, if the Mixed Armistice Commission proved itself "incapable" of forcing Israel's evacuation from the demilitarized zones, "it will have no alternative but suspension of the meetings."

Israel trusts that Gen. Bull, as chairman of all three previous meetings of the Commission, and chairman of Thursday's scheduled resumption of the talks, will be able to get Syria to adhere to the agenda. That is absolutely necessary, Israeli circles say, not only for the success of the current talks but also as a precedent for any other meetings with the Arabs in the future.

ISRAEL DISCOVERS TWO MORE LAND MINES PLANTED BY ARAB INFILTRATORS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Two more land mines, obviously planted by Arab infiltrators, were found on Israel's borders today, one near the Lebanese border, the other in the Lachish area near Jordan. In both cases, Israeli experts dismantled the explosives before they were detonated, and no damage resulted.

The first mine was found by a young Bedouin student at a school attended by Israeli Bedouins in the north, near Lebanon. Footprints of three men were found leading from and back to the Lebanese frontier. One set of the footprints led right to the school's front entrance. Israel complained about this incident to the Israeli-Lebanese Mixed Armistice Commission. The second mine, in the Lachish area, was made up of a bundle of nine, plastic anti-vehicle explosives.

GERMAN CAPTAIN FAILING TO HELP ISRAELI SHIP ON WAY HOME FOR FROB

HAMBURG, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Captain Paul Eggart of Hamburg, master of a German tanker, the "St. Michaelis," will face interrogation by officers of the Rudolf Cetke Shipping Company here, when he returns to Hamburg this month, it was reported today. Eggart is charged with failure to go to the rescue of the Israel freighter "Hashlosha" which sank two weeks ago in the Mediterranean Sea, near Sardinia.

Eggart's ship, it is alleged, was only six nautical miles away from the vessel when the ill-fated "Hashlosha" struck out its SCS, but did not attempt any rescue operations. A shipping company spokesman said the 47-year-old captain was a highly experienced seaman and his fault "must have been one of human error."

Eggart has been suspended and is en route to Hamburg by air. The German captain had reportedly admitted he had seen flares but said he thought they were part of some sort of naval exercises. He said he had also heard radio distress signals, but that they were garbled and indecipherable.

NEW ISRAELI-AMERICAN FIRM TO ENGAGE IN CONSULTATION ON PROJECTS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The Ministerial Economic Commission today announced approval of a new Israel-American company which will engage in consultation work for Israel in Israel and abroad. The new firm, Israelund Engineers, Ltd., was formed by the Israel Electric Company and the engineering consulting firm of Sargent and Lundy of the United States.

The joint Israel-based venture is expected to result in considerable savings to Israeli industry by providing know-how that formerly had to be sought abroad, and is also expected to earn foreign exchange needed by Israel's economy.

ISRAEL AUTOCAR TO MAKE VEHICLE BASED ON BRITISH 'TRIUMPH' CHASSIS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Israel Autocars Company, which assembles and manufactures automobiles and trucks, announced today it had reached an agreement with the British Standard Triumph car Company for production of vehicles in Israel based on the Triumph chassis.

The Triumph is a small sports car which, in recent years, has been gaining great popularity in the American market. Israel Autocars will not produce a sports car but a special, heavy-duty vehicle built on the Triumph chassis. The Israeli version of the Triumph will have a fiber-glass body and four-wheel drive, making it particularly suitable for agricultural and industrial purposes. Production is expected to start in April or May.

ISRAEL TRADE BALANCE REDUCED AS BUSINESS WITH BRITAIN INCREASES

LONDON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Trade between Britain and Israel increased in total volume by some \$10,52 million in the first 11 months of 1966, as compared to the previous period in 1965, and Israel succeeded in reducing the unfavorable trade balance by nearly \$780,000 according to figures made public here today.

During the first 11 months of 1966, Israel's imports from Britain were valued at 50,104 million pounds sterling (\$140,291 million). Britain's purchases from Israel during that same period were 24,640 million pounds sterling (\$68.99 million) leaving Israel with an adverse trade balance of 25,464 million pounds sterling (\$71,299 million).

In the first 11 months of 1965, Britain's exports to Israel totaled 48,364 million pounds sterling (\$135,419 million). Israel's exports to Britain amounted to 22,622 million pounds sterling, leaving Israel with a trade deficit of 25,742 million pounds sterling (\$72,078 million.)

ISRAELIS HONOR MEMCRY OF STERN, TERRORIST LEADER SLAIN BY BRITISH

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Many leading Israelis brushed aside memories of the bitterness of the struggle that preceded Israel's liberation and joined comrades-in-arms, friends and followers of the late Abraham Stern, in observance of the 25th anniversary of the slaying of the Stern Group leader by British police.

Stern, who organized and led the dissident group which waged a campaign of terror and violence against the Mandate authorities, and rejected the leadership of the organized Jewish community in Palestine, was killed by the police who trapped him in an apartment in the southern part of Tel Aviv.

Yesterday, numbers of Israelis visited Stern's grave and the house in which he was killed on a street which was renamed Abraham Stern Street. Rabbi Yedidya Fraenkel conducted memorial services and former Sternists sang the hymn, "Unknown Soldiers," -- the song of the Stern Group, or Lehi, as it was known in Hebrew. In Jerusalem, Mayor Teddy Kollek gave the name of Yayir -- Stern's underground pseudonym -- to a street in a quarter of the city inhabited by recent immigrants, most of whom had never heard of Stern or the Lehi.

HADASSAH HEAD URGES 'DYNAMIC' U.S. STEPS TOWARD PEACE IN MID-EAST

NEW YORK, Feb. 6, (JTA) -- Mrs. Mortimer Jacobson, national president of Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization of America, called upon the United States tonight to adopt "a stronger and more dynamic foreign policy geared to the establishment of peace in the Middle East." She asserted that, so long as present "war trends" are not reversed in the Middle East, the area will remain "a potential threat to peace."

Mrs. Jacobson voiced that appeal to Washington as she addressed the opening session of Hadassah's annual mid-winter conference at Hadassah House. More than 200 leaders, representing Hadassah's 318,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico, are participating in the three-day conference.

"The Middle East," Mrs. Jacobson said, "continues to be a powder keg. Terrorist activities are spreading along Israel's borders, and the United Nations by itself seems unable to quell them. Israel is placed in the position where she is censured for defending herself against the onslaughts of her enemies. And Syria, who instigates terrorist attacks upon Israel, remains uncensured.

"Through the years, we have been gratified by the generous economic aid the United States has provided to the State of Israel. But the greatest need in the Middle East today is peace. We, therefore, urge the United States to undertake a stronger and more dynamic foreign policy geared to the establishment of peace in the Middle East and to the reversal of the present war trends that remain a potential threat to peace so long as they exist."

In discussing conditions in Israel today, Mrs. Jacobson called upon the American Zionist Movement "to close ranks in an all-out effort to help curb unemployment in Israel." She urged an increase in the number of tours to Israel, and a stepped-up construction program to help curb unemployment in that country. She said: "It will take at least two years for Israel's economy to right itself. In the meanwhile, however, we must do all we can to help Israel." "At the same time," she added, "we must realize that the effectiveness of our aid is contingent in large measure upon a strong Zionist movement -- a movement that can handle today's problems with creative imagination, as it seeks to mobilize American Jewish youth for the purpose of assuming leadership of the Zionist movement in the future."

Calls on Soviet Premier to Make Good Promise on Jewish Emigration

Turning to the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union, Mrs. Jacobson urged USSR Premier Alexei Kosygin to make good his recent Paris promise to permit Soviet Jews to reunite with their families abroad. Mrs. Jacobson recently returned from the UCER as head of a group of 24 Hadassah leaders visiting that country. Despite Mr. Kosygin's Paris promise of two months ago, she charged, the Soviet Union is still "placing obstacles in the way of Jews wishing to reunite with their families abroad." "Jews in Moscow and Riga, who go to passport offices with copies of Soviet newspapers containing Mr. Kosygin's statement," she charged, "are being told that the family reunification program is virtually completed and that applications to leave the USSR from now on will be 'treated in the same way as before.'"

(In London, today, Anglo-Jewish leaders indicated that they had little expectation of being received by Premier Kosygin during his official visit to Britain, which started today. It was disclosed that the Board of Deputies of British Jews, the Anglo-Jewish representative body, had had no response to its letter to the Soviet Embassy requesting Premier Kosygin to receive an Anglo-Jewish delegation to discuss the position of Soviet Jewry.)

Another speaker, at tonight's session, Dr. Jack Karpas, deputy director-general of the Hadassah Medical Organization, reported that Hadassah is developing plans for an intensive rehabilitation program for patients who have recovered from initial attacks of stroke, cancer and heart disease.

"Our objective here," he said, "is to help restore them to useful life. We regard the psycho-social factors of these diseases as important as the diseases themselves. Statistics show that such patients can live for many years but are not necessarily able to do the kind of work they had done before the onset of these illnesses. However, with retraining for other jobs -- within the scope of their abilities -- they can again become productive members of society. The two important factors involved here are: First, they must accept their health situation, and second, their families must do so."

In a financial report, Mrs. Max Schenk, national treasurer of Hadassah, said that Hadassah is exerting every effort to reduce costs while maintaining the highest standards of its operations in Israel in the light of the Israel Government's efforts to "cool off the overheated economy." She noted that this includes the tightening by Hadassah of staff positions and other operational expenditures.

LOS ANGELES JEWISH POPULATION UP 28 PERCENT IN SIX-YEAR PERIOD

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 6, (JTA) -- The Jewish population in Los Angeles County increased by 28 percent between 1959 and 1965 -- from 391,000 to a rounded approximate of 500,000 -- it was reported here today by the Jewish Federation-Council's Research Service Bureau. The bureau compared age distribution in the six years since its last population study, and found the largest percentage of increase among teenagers 15-19 and adults over 60.

The older group has increased from 46,100 to some 70,500, a 53 percent increase since 1959. The 15-19 group shows the largest percentage increase -- 74 percent -- from 25,000 to 43,400. This group comprises 9 percent of the country's Jewish population, a 36 percent increase over 1959 percentages. Residents over 60 comprise 14 percent of the country's Jewish residents, a 20 percent increase.

Some 42,600 children under 5 today comprise 8.5 percent of the Jewish population, whereas six years ago 10 percent of the country's total were under 5. Nevertheless, this age group has increased by 3,500 in the interim.

Although adults 30-59 have increased from 172,900 to 209,000, their percentage of the total Jewish population has decreased from 44 to 42 percent. The 41,700 residents between 20-29 have decreased from 9 to 8 percent of the total, while the 5-14 group comprises 19 percent. The figures seem to indicate that, while more Jewish children are being born today to more parents than in 1959, the average Jewish family may be getting smaller.

'THANKS TO SCANDINAVIA' PROJECT GETS \$300,000 FOR SCHOLARSHIPS

NEW YORK, Feb. 6, (JTA) -- Richard Netter, president of the Thanks to Scandinavia program, reported today that more than \$300,000 had been contributed to the program to provide scholarships for students in four Scandinavian countries in appreciation for the efforts of those countries in saving Jews from the Nazis during World War II.

In a progress report for 1966, Mr. Netter also said that pledges totaling more than \$150,000 had been received. He reported that the original goal of the project had been \$1,000,000, but that the program had dropped such limits in view of the widespread support shown for the project.

He said that scholarships of \$3,000 each were now being granted for one school year but, in some cases, were granted for two years, and that selections were now being made for the 1967-68 school year.

He reported that, in the first year, scholarships had been awarded only to Danish students but that the seven recipients of scholarships for 1966 included students from four Scandinavian countries -- Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland.

NEWARK JEWISH COMMUNITY OPPOSES BILL EXPANDING SCHOOL BUS SERVICE

NEWARK, N.J., Feb. 6, (JTA) -- The Jewish Community Council of Essex County voiced strong opposition today to a bill introduced in the State Assembly at Trenton, which proposes to extend the distance over which pupils may be bused to public and non-public schools.

The measure would broaden the busing programs in the state to encompass all students traveling two miles to grammar school and two-and-a-half miles to high school. It would also make available busing for non-public school students in every district providing any transportation for public school children.

Opposition to the bill by the JCC maintains that public funds should not be provided to transport children to religious schools of any faith. Such a policy, the group declared, violates "the historic American tradition of separation of church and state as defined by the First Amendment."

B'NAI B'RITH YOUTH REQUEST RELATIONS WITH JEWISH GROUPS IN USSR

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6, (JTA) -- The 35 international leaders of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization today passed a resolution calling upon the Soviet Government to permit American Jewish youth organizations to establish relations with Jewish youth in Russia.

The statement also urged that Israeli and North American Jewish communities explore ways to provide additional scholarships for thousands of qualified young people who wish to work and study in Israel.

PHILIP KLEIN, PHILADELPHIA JEWISH PUBLISHER, DECORATED BY BRAZIL

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 6, (JTA) -- Philip Klein, co-publisher of the Philadelphia Jewish Times, has been awarded Brazil's National Order of the Southern Cross, the highest order of merit that can be presented by that country to a non-citizen. In presenting the medal, Ayntron Gil Dieguez, Brazil's Consul in Philadelphia, cited Mr. Klein for his work as president of International House and chairman of the board of Marcum Junior College.