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ISRAEL REFUSES TO LET SYRIA ALTER AGENDA AT TOMORROW'S SLATED MEET

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Israel has reiterated its position of absolute refusal to have the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission discuss items not covered in the mutually agreed-upon agenda. This view was presented last night by Moshe Sasson, head of the Israeli delegation to the talks, during a meeting with Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, Chief of Staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization. Mr. Sasson is chief of the Israeli Foreign Ministry's armistice affairs division.

The fourth meeting of the talks is scheduled to be held on Thursday at Mahanayim on the Israeli side of the B'not Yaacov bridge. The last session was adjourned abruptly by Gen. Bull when the Syrian delegation persisted in raising issues not on the agenda, including the question of Israel's sovereignty over the demilitarized zone inside her territory.

Mr. Sasson had asked for the meeting with Gen. Bull, in order to clearly and openly define Israel's stand on the issue and leave no doubt in the minds of the UNTEC and Syrian officials. Although Israel is most reluctant to break up the talks, political circles here stressed that, under no circumstances, will they agree to divergence from the agenda. The agenda's sole item is restricted to talks on farm-land cultivation and cultivation rights in the demilitarized zones on the Israeli-Syrian frontiers, over which Israel has sole sovereignty.

In an article published today in the latest issue of the Army weekly, Bamachneh, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol refuted claims that Israel did not hesitate to exert force against Jordan while avoiding the use of force against Syria. In addition to being Premier, Mr. Eshkol is also Minister of Defense.

"When we found it necessary to act against Syria," Mr. Eshkol declared, "we employed tanks and planes. When we decided, we acted. We shall revert to the use of arms in accordance with the requirements and circumstances on the merit of each case." Mr. Eshkol warned the Syrians that they were going too far in their persistent attempts both to undermine the talks in the Armistice Commission and their continued acts of sabotage.

MEMBER OF SPANISH CABINET SAYS MADRID WILL NEVER RECOGNIZE ISRAEL

LONDON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Fraga Iribarne, Spain's Minister of Information and Tourism, told a press conference in Beirut that Spain would never recognize Israel, it was reported here today from Beirut, Lebanon.

The Spanish Cabinet member, in making that statement, stressed Spain's ties of friendship with the Arab countries in the Middle East.

BRITISH JEWS, SNUBBED BY KOSYGIN, PLAN PROTESTS ON SOVIET JEWRY

LONDON, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews will meet Sunday to consider "the serious position of Soviet Jewry," in the absence of a reply from the Soviet Embassy to a request for a meeting with Prime Minister Alexei N. Kosygin. Board spokesmen indicated they did not expect the confrontation to take place during the Russian leader's eight-day visit here, now in its second day.

Representatives of organizations associated with the Board's unsuccessful efforts to arrange a confrontation with Mr. Kosygin have been invited to the Sunday gathering, which will feature the reading of a special prayer for Soviet Jewry, issued by the Chief Rabbinate of Britain. The prayer will be read in synagogues throughout Britain on Saturday.

A number of British Jewish leaders today expressed sharp displeasure over the appearance on a television program of Jewish student representatives with some leaders of Ukrainian, Lithuanian, Latvian and Estonian emigre organizations who complained about "Soviet colonialism," thus giving the Jewish criticism of Soviet treatment of Jews an "undesirable" slant. Jewish organizations have been careful to stress they do not wish to engage in controversy over Soviet political policies, but are concerned exclusively with the position of Soviet Jewry. British student leaders, meanwhile, are planning a demonstration Sunday to demand fair treatment of Jews in Russia.

ZARCHIN DESALINATION PLANT IN ISRAEL SOLD FOR USE BY ITALIANS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- An Israeli desalination plant, produced in accordance with the vacuum-freezing process invented by Alexander Zarchin, has been sold to the Italian Government, it was announced here today.

The first such plant to be sold abroad will be used in Italy's semi-arid south. The Israeli firm will supply its key components, and the rest will be made in Italy according to Israeli specifications and plans. Cost of the plant is \$250,000.

The plant will be assembled at Bari, Italy, for testing, after which it will be shipped to the south of Italy, where Israeli experts will be on hand to operate it for the first few months. It will produce 400 tons of fresh water per day. A similar plant is now in use in Eilat, Israel, and a second reportedly may be constructed next summer.

WEST GERMANY OPENS WAR CRIMES PROBES AGAINST 13 HITLER JURISTS

BONN, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Investigations were under way here today against 13 former leading jurists allegedly responsible for having planned and carried out the murder of insane persons during the Hitler period, it was announced by Dr. Fritz Bauer, the chief West German prosecutor.

One of the leading members of the accused group is Dr. Harry Hassen, former president of the Volksgerichtshof, Hitler's so-called highest people's court. The procedure marks the first time that high-ranking German jurists have been charged with crimes against insane persons. All of the 13 are former general state prosecutors, judges and other law-enforcing officials.

BONN PLEDGES TO BAN NEO-NAZI PARTY IF IT VIOLATES CONSTITUTION

TORONTO, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- If the West German National Democratic Party, a neo-Nazi group, violates the Bonn constitution, "it will be banned," the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany today informed the Toronto Citizens Committee Concerned With Neo-Nazism in West Germany.

The message was in reply to a petition delivered to the West German consulate here citing neo-Nazi trends. It was drawn up following a mass meeting attended by 6,000 last week, to protest a scheduled television appearance of the NDP's deputy chairman, Adolf von Thadden.

Sharp opposition forced cancellation of von Thadden "live" participation in a program over the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation network, but an interview with the neo-Nazi leader, taped in Germany, was presented instead.

In its prompt reply to the committee's protest, the West German Government said the NDP has so far avoided overt violation of the constitution "in word or deed." "However," the Bonn statement went on to say, "should the party show unconstitutional intentions, a ban by the Federal Constitutional Court would immediately follow."

Meanwhile, the Canadian press continued today to criticize severely the Government-owned CBC for its handling of the von Thadden interview. The Observer of Sarnia, Ont., headlined an editorial "Canadian Viewers Don't Need von Thadden," stating that taxpayers should not subsidize "sensationalism" and that "the CBC should be spending its dollars to explore issues that relate directly to the Canadian people."

The von Thadden broadcast, in the opinion of the News Chronicle of Port Arthur, Ont., was "feeble and one-sided." The paper complained that there was no exploration on the program of von Thadden's political ideas, or of anti-Semitism. A third newspaper, the St. Thomas Times Journal, disputed the CBC's contention that the program was presented in deference to the principle of free speech for a minority group, and asked "who says this is a minority group?"

RALLY IN BELGIUM WARNS AGAINST NEO-NAZISM IN GERMANY AND AT HOME

BRUSSELS, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Warnings against any revival of Nazism in Belgium and other countries, particularly in West Germany, were voiced last night by speakers at a mass meeting in Gand. The rally was organized by Belgian movements of former resistance fighters, as well as by the Catholic, Liberal, Socialist and Communist parties. Speakers called for better information and civic guidance of youth against such activities.

At the close of the meeting, telegrams of protest against resurgent neo-Nazism were sent to the West German Ambassador in Belgium, and to the Belgian Prime Minister. Minor incidents were provoked at the meeting by members of the "Volksunie Party" and the "Vlaamse Militanten Orde."

JEWS RESIGN FROM ANTI-POVERTY GROUP; CHARGE BIAS AGAINST HASSIDIM

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Twelve Jewish members of the Williamsburg Committee Against Poverty have resigned in protest against alleged discrimination by the committee against needy Jews in the area, the United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg reported today. The Jewish group included four rabbis. Williamsburg is a Brooklyn community with a large concentration of Negroes, Puerto Ricans, and the largest community of Hassidic Jews in the United States.

The principal function of the committee is to set up a permanent corporation to direct anti-poverty activities in the area under a directive from Mitchell Sviridoff, administrator of New York City's Human Resources Department. In tendering their resignation, the 12 Jewish members indicated they were refusing also to accept responsibility for creation of the permanent organization. Their letter was sent to the Rev. H. Carl McCall, chairman of the New York City Council Against Poverty.

The Jewish signers charged that other ethnic groups represented on the committee had refused to recognize that there were "acute pockets of poverty" among the Hassidic Jews, who were entitled to consideration of their needs in the anti-poverty program.

One particular action by other members of the committee, to which the resigning Jewish members objected, was an insistence on removal from membership in the proposed permanent corporation of all non-residents. Such a rule would eliminate Sol Levy, executive director of the YM and YWHA of Williamsburg and chairman of the committee, as well as other professionals now directing social agencies in the Williamsburg community. Such an action, the Jewish leaders declared, "destroys the essential recommendation of the Sviridoff Report which seeks to integrate existing services and agencies within the community with poverty programs."

'Hostility' Toward Jews Seen; Appeal to Washington Threatened

The signers also asserted, in their letter, that there were "subtle overtones of hostility" toward them as Jews "when picketing took place outside the YM and YWHA of Williamsburg, during the last meeting of the Community Committee." They declared that the picketing had no other purpose "than to protest the professionals on the committee. In view of the fact that, out of the total membership of 54 on the committee, only four non-resident professionals were involved, the picketing could be interpreted in no other way than as a move against the Jewish community" in Williamsburg.

The signers said that, while there were no statistics available, it was the belief of the signers "and the sociological experts who have examined the Williamsburg community, that there are in fact innumerable instances of poverty among Jews in the community." They also stressed that the usual indices used to measure poverty -- such as juvenile delinquency, delivery at wards in municipal hospitals, venereal disease and welfare roll membership -- "are not adequate instruments for measuring poverty among Jews."

The signers said that the refusal of the committee to consider aid to the Hassidic Jews in need "was an affront to the total Jewish community" and that, if necessary, they would take their case to Sargent Shriver, director of the Office of Economic Opportunity in Washington. They added they had delayed action on their protest for some time, out of concern that such action might lead to similar resignations in other parts of the city -- but that the situation had become "unbearable."

ONLY 30.2 PERCENT OF JEWS IN MONTREAL SPEAK YIDDISH, REPORT SHOWS

MONTREAL, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Yiddish, which 99.6 percent of the Jews in metropolitan Montreal considered as their mother tongue in 1931, was spoken by only 30.2 percent in 1961. The sharp drop in usage of the language by East European Jewry was reported in an interim analysis by Louis Rosenberg, research director of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Metropolitan Montreal includes the city itself and its extensive surrounding areas. The report indicated that, in 1961, the percentage of those able to speak both official languages, English and French, was higher among the Jews than among any other ethnic group, except the French.

Jewish Center at Rochester Publishes Journal Including Yiddish

ROCHESTER, N.Y., Feb. 7. (JTA) -- An English-Yiddish journal of Jewish literature and thought has been published here, and is believed to be the first periodical of its kind issued by any Jewish center in the United States.

Entitled "Jewish Roots," the journal is published by the Jewish Young Men's and Women's Association of Rochester. The first issue contains 64 pages, 42 of which comprise the Yiddish section.

HENRY MORGENTHAU, JR., EX-SECRETARY OF TREASURY, DEAD AT AGE OF 75

POUGHKEEPSIE, N.Y., Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Henry Morgenthau, Jr., Secretary of the Treasury under President Franklin D. Roosevelt for 11 years, former general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and first chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, died at the Vassar Brothers Hospital here last night at the age of 75.

Under his leadership, the UJA, from 1947 to 1950, raised \$465,000,000 for national and overseas aid. From 1951 to 1954 he was chairman of the board of governors for the American Financial and Development Corporation for Israel, which launched a \$500,000,000 Israel Bond issue.

A close friend of Franklin Delano Roosevelt for many years, prior to FDR's election as Governor of New York State and subsequent election as President of the United States, Mr. Morgenthau was appointed as chairman of the New York State Agricultural Advisory Committee and, later, as head of the Federal Farm Board. Still later, he became Secretary of the Treasury, serving in that post during the crucial years of the depression and the New Deal.

Mr. Morgenthau's interest in foreign affairs and knowledge of agriculture brought him into a number of controversies, especially his plan for post-World War II Germany, known as the Morgenthau Plan, under which that nation would have been stripped of industries and converted into an agricultural state.

Mr. Morgenthau was born in New York, the son of Henry Morgenthau. The latter had been United States Ambassador to Turkey from 1913 to 1916, and had also been chairman of the Democratic National Committee's financial committee, as well as very active in many Jewish philanthropies. The second Henry Morgenthau graduated from Cornell University in 1910. In his maturity, he was the recipient of many honorary doctorates, including such kudos from Hebrew Union College, the Chicago College of Jewish Studies and Yeshiva University.

Besides his widow, the former Mrs. Marcello Puthon Hirsch of New York, Mr. Morgenthau is survived by three children of a previous marriage. They are Robert M. Morgenthau, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York and unsuccessful Democratic candidate against Governor Rockefeller in 1962; Henry Morgenthau 3rd of Cambridge, Mass., a television producer; and Dr. Joan E. Morgenthau, a pediatrician. Funeral services for Mr. Morgenthau were scheduled to be conducted Thursday morning, at Temple Emanu-El, New York.

HADASSAH REQUESTS U.S.A. TO PRESS FOR ARAB-ISRAELI TALKS ON PEACE

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization of America, urged the United States today to take the initiative in influencing Arab states to enter into negotiations with Israel to establish peace and stability in the Middle East. The action was taken at Hadassah's midwinter conference at Hadassah House here by 200 leaders representing the organization's 318,000 members throughout the United States and Puerto Rico.

Earlier, Hadassah leaders received a briefing at the United Nations on the current international situation from Ambassador Seymour M. Finger of the United States Mission to the United Nations, and Ambassador Michael S. Comay, Israel's permanent representative to the United Nations.

In the resolution, Hadassah declared: "We record our deep appreciation to our Government for its generous economic aid to Israel and for its consistent expressions and manifestations of friendship. At the same time, we must record our disappointment that our Government has taken no positive steps to bring about an Arab-Israel peace through direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states. Peace is the declared objective of U.S. foreign policy everywhere. We believe that peace in the Near East can be achieved if all the peoples of that area are convinced that the community of nations is determined to encourage this goal."

ST. LOUIS JEWISH AGENCIES MOBILIZE RESOURCES TO AID STORM VICTIMS

ST. LOUIS, Feb. 7. (JTA) -- Jewish health and welfare services in St. Louis were mobilized to provide assistance to victims of the devastating tornado which raked St. Louis County. Immediately after the tornado struck, Bernard Edelstein, executive director of the Jewish Federation of St. Louis, notified the American Red Cross that the Jewish social and welfare agencies affiliated with Federation were prepared to provide assistance. The Federation set up a central clearing point for aid requests, directed by Sidney Fosin, associate director.

A number of tornado victims received emergency treatment at the Jewish Hospital. A survey of Jewish agencies by the St. Louis Jewish Light disclosed the variety of services these agencies offered the storm victims. The Jewish Community Centers Association reported it was able to offer various types of aid, including daytime care of children. The Jewish Family and Children's Service offered individual assistance, including financial aid in conjunction with the Federation. The Jewish Center for the Aged provided temporary nursing care for the aged needing this help.