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U.J.A. Launches Nationwide Israel Emergency Fund; Expects to Raise Vast Amounts

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal has launched a nationwide Israel Emergency Fund drive "to mobilize the greatest and swiftest outpouring of millions of dollars in UJA's history," it was announced today by Edward Ginsberg of Cleveland, UJA Associate General Chairman. "No set goal has been laid down for this emergency fund," Mr. Ginsberg said, "but we are completely confident that the American Jewish community will bring in a sum which will far outstrip all previous campaigns, because we think people understand the dimensions of the present problem."

Plans to establish the Israel Emergency Fund were set in a continuous series of tension-packed meetings of the UJA national executive committee and other key leaders of the entire American Jewish community who streamed into New York from all parts of the nation during the past week. Even as the formal structure of the emergency drive was being formulated, the leaders were taking time out to send wires and make personal telephone calls to other top Jewish philanthropists to solicit scores of individual gifts ranging in the hundreds of thousands of dollars. "A massive total of individual contributions will be brought in," Mr. Ginsberg declared, "at an initial National Big Gifts Meeting to be held at the Americana Hotel here on Monday evening, June 12."

Mr. Ginsberg stressed that the UJA Israel Emergency Fund drive will seek funds over and above the regular 1967 campaign, which has been concluded in most communities. The Emergency Fund proceeds, he emphasized, would be used exclusively for the aid programs in Israel. "We are asking the Jews of America to do two things at once," Mr. Ginsberg emphasized. "We call upon them to turn their past pledges to their regular community campaigns into immediately usable cash. And then we ask that they give again -- in amounts commensurate with the overwhelming need -- to the UJA Israel Emergency Fund. We have complete confidence that the Jews of America will respond in fullest measure to the emergency drive."

Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds Back Call for Emergency Fund

The UJA announcement of the Israel Emergency Fund was issued with the approval of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, whose national Board met in an electric gathering in New York this morning at the New York Hilton. The Council is the national coordinating body for some 230 community campaigns which raise funds both for local Jewish communal needs, and for overseas aid through allocations to the UJA.

"The presidents and executive directors of Jewish Welfare Federations from every part of the nation who attended today's Council meeting," Mr. Ginsberg said, not only voted unanimous approval of the UJA's Israel Emergency Fund, but the also are going home to lead their communities in an immediate, all-out effort to raise the unprecedented amounts required to meet this historic and humanitarian responsibility of the American Jewish community."

"Nearly one-and-a-half million Jews found refuge in Israel in the past two decades," Mr. Ginsberg noted. "The UJA helped finance this largest refugee exodus in history, and the UJA took a major role in financing the vast programs of resettlement, rehabilitation, housing, medical aid and social welfare services that the immigrants desperately required."

"After the first few years of the establishment of Statehood," Mr. Ginsberg stated, "Israel's people themselves have carried two-thirds of the multi-million dollar burden of the immigrant assistance and absorption programs, with the Jews of the rest of the free world contributing the other third. It is obvious that Israel's people cannot continue with this imbalanced financial situation."

"Nearly 500,000 immigrants -- the unabsorbed, the aged, the ill, the handicapped, the orphaned -- are still dependent in varying degrees on the humanitarian welfare, educational, medical and rehabilitation services provided by UJA-supported agencies in Israel," Mr. Ginsberg said. "The current crisis has dislocated the entire social service structure and bitter human suffering will mount unless UJA acts quickly."

Montreal Jewry Proclaims Special Emergency Fund-Raising Campaign for Israel

MONTREAL, June 4. (JTA) -- In an unprecedented action prompted by the emergency in Israel, the Allied Jewish Community Services executive committee today called upon the campaign organization of Combined Jewish Appeal for Allied Jewish Community Services and United Israel Appeal to proceed immediately with a Special Emergency Campaign for Israel as well as with the regular 1967 campaign for local, national and overseas needs.

A total goal for this single campaign which will serve two purposes was set tentatively at a minimum of \$10,000,000. A resolution passed in emergency session by the executive committee emphasized the need for "unlimited gifts to the Emergency Campaign to be paid in cash, as well as contributions to the regular annual campaign that will include normal increases." It also called upon the Montreal Jewish community "to place a moratorium on all other fund raising campaigns while Israel is facing its present crisis.

Samuel Bronfman sent a telegram to Israel's Premier Levi Eshkol conveying to him that "the Jewish community of Montreal at two remarkable demonstrations of deeply felt concern expressed unswerving solidarity with Israel in crisis" and that "scores of leading citizens of Montreal met with me to plan extraordinary financial campaign assistance to the people of Israel and that a national meeting was taking place today including all major communities for these purposes."

The telegram concluded that "Mass demonstrations in Montreal of over 12,000 people and at meetings in Toronto, Winnipeg, Vancouver, Edmonton, large crowds pledged affinity with Israel hoping justice would prevail, international sanity be restored and Israel be allowed to address herself to acts of peaceful existence. Canadian Jewry stands firm."

Chicago Jewish Welfare Fund Votes \$1,000,000 to Aid Welfare Agencies in Israel

CHICAGO, June 4. (JTA) -- The board of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Chicago voted at a special meeting to send \$1,000,000 to Israel to help meet the welfare crisis there stemming from mobilization of manpower and resources.

David Silbert, president, said that \$500,000 was being borrowed from the fund's endowment funds and the remainder from current contributions to the fund's share of the Combined Jewish Appeal campaign for \$6,750,000. The million dollar contribution is in addition to the \$500,000 which the JWF previously sent to the United Jewish Appeal.

Harry K. Cole, president of the Combined Jewish Appeal, and Rabbi Ralph Simon, CJA general chairman, called an emergency meeting of Chicago Jewish leaders and heads of all Jewish organizations in Chicago to a meeting tomorrow noon to make plans for a CJA emergency rescue fund campaign.

Rothschild Family Reported Contributing \$3,000,000 to Emergency Fund

LONDON, June 4. (JTA) -- An initial allocation through an emergency fund for Israel raised by the Joint Palestine Appeal was increased by two thirds this weekend by a contribution totaling \$3,000,000 by the Rothschild banking family, according to press reports here. The Rothschild contribution, given to the emergency fund set up here to help Israel during the current crisis, raised the initial total of the fund to \$7,500,000.

J.N.F. to Telephone Every Jew in U.S. for Funds for Israeli Settlements

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund of America, in response to an urgent call from Jerusalem, has undertaken to telephone every Jew in America in an urgent appeal for funds desperately needed to strengthen Israel's border settlements during the present crisis. The call came from Jacob Tsur, JNF world chairman in Jerusalem, in which he said: "During the last few days, we have been compelled to step up our activities aimed at insuring the safety of Israel's borders. We can continue these activities so essential to Israel's security only if we receive immediately substantial financial support from our friends in the United States. Act now, time is of the essence."

The JNF has decided to engage in a nationwide effort aimed at reaching every Jew by telephone to solicit his contribution to the JNF Save Israel Fund. Instructions have gone out to all JNF Councils through the nation to organize telephone squads in their respective locality.

Jewish Leaders Call on Leading Members of Senate and House; Urge Support for Israel

WASHINGTON, June 4. (JTA) -- A delegation of leaders of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations called on leading members of the Senate and House to urge support for Israel.

The delegation included Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the Conference, Dr. William A. Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith, Mrs. Mortimer Jacobson, president of Hadassah, Malcolm A. Tarlov, national commander of the Jewish War Veterans and others. They reported a favorable response.

Enlarged Israel Cabinet Meets on Crisis; Gen. Dayan Attends as Defense Minister

JERUSALEM, June 4. (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet met here today to discuss the current Israeli-Arab crisis, reportedly found itself concerned over the slow results from actions by maritime powers designed to lift the blockade of the Strait of Tiran, and was understood to have issued instructions that Israeli diplomatic missions abroad step up their efforts to gain some positive achievements toward lifting the blockade through diplomatic means.

The Cabinet was an enlarged body today, being attended by the newly-designated Minister of Defense, Moshe Dayan, and by the two non-members of the coalition Government who have been designated as members of the National Unity Cabinet. They are Menahem Beigin, and Ycsef Saphir, both of Gahal, the parliamentary fusion of Herut and the Liberal Party. Also attending the session today was Israel's Ambassador Avraham Harman, who had come here especially from Washington to help the Cabinet review the United States position in the current crisis. Mr. Harman departed immediately after the Cabinet meeting for his post in Washington.

(President Johnson declared last night in New York that he was "determined" to preserve peace in the Middle East and "determined to preserve the territorial integrity of nations involved in the area." The President interpolated the declaration in a speech that was otherwise confined to domestic problems.)

The principal reviews of the situation were led by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Contrary to previous expectations, the Cabinet had reportedly taken no action today regarding the statement issued over the weekend by the French Government, which had declared its position in the crisis as being one of "positive neutrality."

Cabinet Approves Special \$500,000,000 Loan; Defense Tax Planned

The Cabinet voted approval of the issuance of a special Independence Loan of Israel Bonds in a sum of \$500 million. The bonds, to be sold in the United States, Canada, Mexico and other Latin American countries will pay interest of 4 percent and will be redeemable in 15 years. Another financial item before the Cabinet was the question of levying a special 15 percent defense tax on all income. The tax has already been approved by the Knesset's finance committee.

Mr. Dayan today named Gen. Tzvi Tzur, former Israeli defense forces chief of staff, as assistant Minister of Defense. Since Gen. Tzur is not a member of the Knesset, he is not eligible to become Deputy Minister. At the same time, Moshe Pearlman, well-known Israeli journalist and writer, who has particular experience as a liaison man with the foreign press, was named as the head of the foreign press section of the Israel army's spokesman's office.

Mr. Dayan held another press conference today, reiterating some of the statements he made at his first news conference yesterday, to the effect that he is firmly opposed to the use of non-Israelis in Israel's army. He declared: "We don't want American or British boys to lose their lives defending Israel against the Arabs. Personally I would not expect nor want anyone else to fight for us. Israel can fight and win its own battles with its own troops." Asked whether he considered war inevitable, he said Israel is awaiting results from diplomatic negotiations before embarking on unilateral action.

Jordanians Fire on Israeli Military Plane; Syrians Fire on Israeli Positions

JERUSALEM, June 4. (JTA) -- Jordanian anti-aircraft fire was directed at noon today against a light Israeli military plane flying over Israeli territory here. Neither the plane nor its occupants were hit. At about the same time, in the north, Syrian gunposts opened fire against Israeli positions. The Syrian fire came from a gun post in the Mousrada area. There, too, no Israeli was injured.

This morning, Israeli patrols arrested and detained for questioning 19 Bedouins belonging to a tribe encamped near Safed. Israeli investigators said that footprints to the encampment had led from the site near the Syrian border where two Israeli soldiers were killed by marauders this weekend. The arrested Bedouins insisted they were innocent of collaborating with Syrian marauders, saying they were being accused by anti-Israeli Arabs because the tribesmen are pro-Israel and had fought on Israel's side during the war of liberation.

The two Israeli soldiers who died in the attack by Syrian marauders were buried today, one at Safed, the other at nearby Ramat Yohanan. An Arab infiltrator shot during the same incident was buried in a nearby Arab village inside Israel. The Israelis had offered to turn that man's body over to the Syrians, but the latter had refused to accept the body.

U.S.A. Approves Sale of 'Considerable Quantity' of Gas Masks to Israel

WASHINGTON, June 4. (JTA) -- The United States Government has approved the sale of a "considerable quantity" of gas masks to Israel, officials said today. (The West German Government permitted the shipment of 20,000 gas masks to Israel last week.)

Israel Determined to Make a Stand on Akaba, U.N. Security Council Told

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 4. (JTA) -- The Security Council will resume tomorrow afternoon its debate on the crisis in the Middle East having before it two resolutions, one presented by the United States aiming to secure a "breathing spell" for more diplomatic negotiations to prevent the Arab countries and Israel from entering into a shooting war, and the other presented by Egypt which insists on keeping the Gulf of Akaba closed to Israeli ships as well as to other maritime nations carrying cargo to and from the Israel port of Eilat.

Gideon Rafael, head of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, addressing the Security Council yesterday afternoon, said that "Israel is determined to make its stand on the Gulf of Akaba; nothing less than complete non-interference with free and innocent passage through the Gulf of Akaba is acceptable to the Government of Israel."

Mr. Rafael explained that the Israeli port of Eilat, lying at the Gulf of Akaba, is "a thriving port and industrial center in Israel's outlet to the Red Sea and links Israel with Africa and Asia. He stressed the fact that Eilat is the terminal of an oil pipeline connecting it with Haifa and that the maritime trade passing through Eilat is the basis of the city's economic life.

"Severing this artery," he said, "is an act as grave as an attempt to truncate part of our territory." He charged the Arabs with following the same line as was used by the Nazis in 1938 when they took over Danzig. "At that time the Nazis launched the theme 'Why fight for Danzig?' Now we hear the Arabs saying 'Why fight for Eilat?'" Mr. Rafael said, pointing out that "the world paid a high price" for submitting to Nazi propaganda at that time.

The Israeli diplomat insisted that the Security Council act immediately to secure the withdrawal of the Arab forces to their previous positions. He noted that belligerence is outlawed under the existing Arab-Israel agreements which established the borders between Israel and the neighboring Arab states. "I would remind the Arab representatives that their only valid basis for the Egyptian presence in the Gaza area and for the Jordanian presence on the West Bank is in the armistice regime," he said. "They should, therefore, be more prudent before they disregard the significance and sanctity of the armistice demarcation line."

Ambassador Roger Seydoux of France told the Security Council that his Government will maintain objectivity but is not indifferent to the crisis.

He said the ties between France and the Arab countries have enabled France to understand the vigilance with which the Arabs intended to maintain dignity and independence and that France also wanted to affirm assurance of the continuing existence of Israel. The immediate goal of the Council was to obtain a breathing spell to prevent the crisis from worsening, he stated, stressing that it would be wrong for the Security Council to ignore the special responsibilities of the big powers and that it would be useless, even dangerous to vote on draft resolutions on which it was doubtful that any agreement is likely.

British Prime Minister Harold Wilson, meanwhile conferred on the Middle East crisis here yesterday with United Nations Secretary-General U Thant and with Denmark's U.N. representative Hans Tabor who is this month's president of the Security Council. After leaving the United Nations following his more than three hours of talks, the British Premier said that the problem was to avert disaster. "The situation is extremely grave and one false step may lead to a serious conflict," he said.

Israel to Sign Anglo-American Declaration on Free Passage of Ships Through Akaba

WASHINGTON, June 4. (JTA) -- Israel agreed today to sign an Anglo-American declaration asserting the right of free passage for ships of all nations through the Gulf of Akaba, a spokesman for the Israel Embassy announced. He said Israel had been invited to sign the declaration and had agreed to do so.

The declaration pledges signatory nations to exercise their right to passage and join in securing this for any other nation. This last point made it possible for Israel to sign even though Israel was not specifically mentioned by name in the text of the declaration. Other maritime nations may join in signing the declaration.

British Prime Minister Harold Wilson indicated to a press conference here that the right of Israeli-flag ships would not necessarily be included in a proposed statement by maritime powers reasserting the freedom of passage in the Gulf of Akaba. He was vague on what action might be taken if the declaration were adopted and failed to open the straits to Israel-bound shipping. If actual military commitments were contemplated, he said, "it should be on a multilateral basis preferably through the United Nations Security Council, but one can't guarantee that that will be the case."

Endorsement of an Anglo-American declaration on maritime rights was voiced here by Senate Democratic Leader Mike Mansfield. The Senator said that "what's good enough for the Soviet Union in the Bosphorus and the Baltic is good enough for Israel in the Gulf of Akaba."

U.S. Jewish and Non-Jewish Groups Issue Joint Statement on Arab-Israel Crisis

WASHINGTON, June 4. (JTA) -- A joint statement issued today by 15 Jewish and non-Jewish national organizations announced adoption of principles for a peaceful settlement of the Mideast crisis. The three main points agreed on were "international guarantees for the territorial integrity of all states in the area, free access to the waters of the Gulf of Akaba, and restoration of a United Nations presence in the area."

The signatories were the American Jewish Committee, Americans for Democratic Action, American Veterans Committee, B'nai B'rith, B'nai B'rith Women, Catholic Association for International Peace, Friends (Quakers) Committee on National Legislation, Industrial Union Department, AFL-CIO, National Committee for a Sane Nuclear Policy, National Council of Jewish Women, National Council of Negro Women, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Unitarian Universalist Association, Women's International League for Peace and Freedom Young Women's Christian Association.

President Walter P. Reuther of the United Automobile Workers Union today wired President Johnson urging a strong United States position against the Egyptian blockade of the Strait of Tiran. Mr. Reuther said Egypt's action was "an aggression committed against the interest of all maritime nations."

3,742 Faculty Members in 128 Universities Demand Freedom of Passage to Eilat

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- A total of 3,742 faculty members from 128 universities around the United States signed this weekend a call addressed to Congress and the Washington Administration to "restore the freedom of passage through the Gulf of Akaba." Under the aegis of an Ad Hoc Committee of American Professors for Freedom of Navigation in the Gulf of Akaba, the call was signed by university and college presidents, deans and professors from 23 states, representing a cross-section of the American academic world.

The statement urged the United States to "safeguard the integrity of the State of Israel" and declared: "The Arab blockade of the Strait of Tiran and the Gulf of Akaba is an attack on the very life of the State of Israel and its people. It is also an attack on the principles of international law and order, without which the world becomes 'a condition of war of every one against every one.'"

Included among the many academicians who signed the call were three Nobel Prize laureates: Dr. Felix Bloch and Dr. Arthur Kornberg of Stanford University; and Dr. Selman A. Waksman, of Rutgers University. Many non-Jews were among the signers, including Robert L. Bishop, dean of the School of Humanities and Social Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Harold C. Case, president of Boston University; Dr. Buell G. Gallagher, president of the City College of New York; Father Hugh Edward Dunn, president of John Carroll University, Cleveland; and many other leading intellectuals on the campuses of higher institutions of learning throughout the United States.

Leading Protestants and Catholics in Canada Cable World Powers to Defend Israel

TORONTO, June 4. (JTA) -- A group of leading Protestants and Roman Catholics here, all engaged in various fields of religion and education, sent telegrams last night to the leaders of the major world powers, as well as to religious leaders, urging them "not to stand idly by" while the State of Israel is threatened with destruction.

The wires were sent, among others, to Soviet Russia's Premier Alexei N. Kosygin; President Johnson; Canada's Premier Lester B. Pearson; French President Charles de Gaulle; British Prime Minister Harold Wilson; United Nations Secretary-General U Thant; Pope Paul VI; the Archbishop of Canterbury; and the leaders of the World Council of Churches, the Canadian Council of Churches and the National Council of Churches in the United States.

"Once before in this century," the Christian message stated, "the leader of a nation proclaimed the sin of destroying the Jews. The world did not believe him. The world stood by. Again, the leader of a nation has proclaimed the aim of destroying Jews -- this time the State of Israel. Let us not believe that the unbelievable cannot happen again. This time, let us not stand by. The undersigned speak as Christians who remember with anguish the Nazi holocaust and are filled with deep apprehension about the survival of the State of Israel."

U.S. Rabbis Proclaim Thursday as National Day of Prayer for Safety of Israel

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- The major Jewish rabbinic agencies have called on their respective constituencies throughout the country to observe Thursday, June 8, as a national day of prayer for the peace and safety of Israel. In messages to their constituencies, the heads of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinical Assembly and the Rabbinical Council of America, urged Jews throughout the country to attend special synagogue services on Thursday and to observe the day as "a day of prayer for Divine help for the safety of Israel and the preservation of peace in the world."

Rabbi Seymour J. Cohen of Chicago, president of the Synagogue Council of America, welcomed statements of leading Christian clergymen who have publicly urged, as an act of conscience, that the United States support the integrity and freedom of Israel and the freedom of passage through the Strait of Tiran.

N.Y. Court Ruling on Textbooks to Religious Schools Criticized and Lauded

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- The ruling this weekend by the New York Court of Appeals, upholding the right of the state to provide textbooks for children attending religious schools evoked sharply opposing reactions today from Jewish spokesmen. The four to three Court of Appeals decision held that the law did not violate a section of the state constitution which bars public aid "directly or indirectly" to denominational schools.

The American Jewish Congress, a consistent foe of the law, under which school districts may provide textbooks for non-public schools with state funds, said it expected the issue would be carried to the United States Supreme Court for a final ruling.

Reuben E. Gross, chairman of the law commission of Agudath Israel of America, hailed the decision as a "historic victory in the development of the constitutional rights of children attending non-public schools." Each Jewish organization had submitted "friends of the court" briefs for their position in the hearings on the law.

Largest Toronto Suburb Removes Religious Instruction from Public Schools

TORONTO, June 4. (JTA) -- The Borough of North York, largest suburb within Metropolitan Toronto removed religious instruction from its public school system this weekend. Schools in Ontario possess the right to ask exemption from giving religious instruction if the school board puts such a request to the Department of Education. The motion was presented by trustee Sidney Moscoe and seconded by trustee Val Scott. It passed by a vote of 8-4. Of the 12 trustees, two are Jewish.

Back in 1959-63 North York was the center of a strenuous battle on the subject. Half of Metropolitan Toronto's 96,000 Jewish residents live there and in the early 1960's there were constant complaints about the doctrinal nature of the course. The Committee for a Fair Religious Policy carried on a move to introduce the "3:30 plan," providing that religious instruction be given at 3:30 to enable exempted pupils to leave the school. This plan was adopted in a number of schools but the borough's school administration, it was claimed, tended to permit this only in schools where there was a majority of Jewish pupils. The tension and conflict in North York in the early 60's gave rise to open public discussion on the subject of religious education in the public schools.

Anti-Jewish Propaganda Intensified in Quebec; Anti-Semitic Magazine Disseminated

MONTREAL, June 4. (JTA) -- Revival of anti-Jewish propaganda in Quebec was amplified this weekend as members of the Quebec Legislature received copies of a 64-page magazine format tract which accuses the Jews of being the cause of nearly every crime mankind has ever committed.

The magazine, "La Cle du Mystere" (The Key to the Mystery) tries to present the idea that Jews are themselves responsible for the indictment it contains by quoting Jewish writers and spokesmen extensively -- and out of context. At the end of the magazine, the pretense of objectivity is dropped and in the final conclusions the light of vitriolic hatred and vindictive racism breaks through.

Jewish Theological Seminary Awards Degrees to Wiesel, Sackler; 78 Graduate

NEW YORK, June 4. (JTA) -- Two prominent authors and two leading educators were among the recipients of honorary degrees from the Jewish Theological Seminary of America which held its annual commencement today. Among those awarded honorary degrees were Harry Sackler, author and dramatist; Elie Wiesel, novelist and journalist and author of "The Jews of Silence"; Dr. John Bennett, president of the Union Theological Seminary; Dean Harry W. Jones of the Law School of Columbia University.

Also receiving degrees at the commencement were Rabbi Eli A. Bohnen of Providence, R.I.; Rabbi Morris A. Gurstein of Chicago; Rabbi S. Gershon Levi of Jamaica, N.Y.; Rabbi Philip L. Lipis of Highland Park, Ill.; and Cantor Max Wohlberg of Malverne, N.Y. Seventy-eight students of the Seminary were awarded degrees including 20 who were ordained as rabbis.

Ohio State University Gets \$500,000 Gift to Establish Chair of Jewish History

COLUMBUS, O., June 4. (JTA) -- Samuel M. Melton, local Jewish philanthropist, has given Ohio State University \$500,000 to establish the Samuel and Esther Melton Chair of Jewish History and Studies, president Novice G. Fawcett announced yesterday. The chair, named for his late wife and himself, replaces the Melton Professorship they established in 1965.

Dr. Zvi Ankori, noted scholar in Jewish history who has been the only holder of the Melton Professorship, will become occupant of the new chair. He has been on leave from Hebrew University in Jerusalem and will now become a permanent member of the Ohio State faculty. Creation of the Melton Chair also has stimulated the university's acquisition of a large and important collection of books and materials in Jewish history and related fields, purchased in Amsterdam at a cost of more than \$20,000.