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Republican National Committee Issues Policy Statement on Israel-Arab Issues

WASHINGTON, August 3, (JTA) -- A policy statement demanding an Administration stand against Arab extremism and Soviet attempts to penetrate the Middle East was adopted today by the top-level Republican Coordinating Committee and released by the Republican National Committee.

Entitled "The Middle East -- Crisis and Opportunity," the paper emphasized that in recent developments "the Administration never said whether our sympathies were with Israel or the Arabs. By contrast, the declared Soviet position was 100 percent pro-Arab." The Republicans held that "the United States should make a determined effort to expose and isolate the radical troublemakers in the Middle East. We should aid only those states following non-aggressive, non-Communist policies."

The committee that approved the sweeping new stand on the Middle East included such leaders as former President Eisenhower, Richard M. Nixon, Thomas E. Dewey, Alf M. Landon, Senate Minority Leader Everett M. Dirksen, Chairman Bourke B. Hickenlooper of the Republican Policy Committee, Chairman Margaret Chase Smith of the Republican Conference, House Minority Leader Gerald R. Ford, Chairman Bob Wilson of the National Republican Congressional Committee, Chairman Ray Bliss of the Republican National Committee, Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller of New York, Gov. George W. Romney of Michigan, Gov. John A. Volpe of Massachusetts, Gov. Raymond P. Shafer of Pennsylvania, and many others.

The thrust of the Republican position was that the Israeli victory provided "an excellent opportunity" to deal with Arab extremism and the Communist maneuvers in the region by bold action. The Republicans charged that instead of exploiting the situation, the Administration displayed "confusion" and "still has no policy for the Middle East."

The policy advocated by the Republicans would "expose and isolate the radical troublemakers in the Middle East" and withhold aid from any Arab nation that follows irresponsible policies. The Democratic administrations were criticized for increasing aid to the Nasser regime. A demand was made for an "alert, firm and resourceful" policy "to prevent extension of Soviet imperialism into the Middle East and North Africa."

Recommendations Made on Peace Settlement and Holy Places in Jerusalem

The foremost Republican individual recommendation was that "the United States should exert its influence to secure a Middle East peace settlement which will confirm Israel's right to live and prosper as an independent nation." The Republicans said that "stability and peace require the parties to the Arab-Israeli conflict to agree upon permanent boundaries for Israel. Such territorial arrangements as are determined must provide security for all and permit the disengagement of opposing military forces. The United States should be prepared to join other powers in guaranteeing borders that are confirmed."

Israel's rights to innocent passage in the Suez Canal and the Strait of Tiran were strongly asserted. A formula on the holy places of Jerusalem was advanced in a manner that appeared compatible with the expressed Israeli position. The Republicans called for cooperation by the Arab states and the United States in the rehabilitation and resettlement of the Arab refugees.

The so-called old "Eisenhower Plan" was advanced to establish Arab-Israeli harmony through regional cooperative development of nuclear desalination. This was seen as a possible means of providing an Arab refugee solution.

The Administration was charged with ignoring warnings that President Nasser of Egypt had been plotting aggressive moves against Israel. Even after it was obvious that war was imminent and Nasser's role was seen, the Republicans said, "the Administration floundered about." The State Department's assertion that the United States was "neutral in thought, word and deed" was criticized along with subsequent expressions that fell short of taking a firm position while the Russians lined up with the Arabs.

Sporadic Shooting Between Jordanians and Israelis Reported for Third Day

TEL AVIV, August 3, (JTA) -- Jordanian troops fired across the Jordan River today for the third day in a row. They fired at an Israeli patrol moving on the west bank of the river and the patrol replied. The Israeli army spokesman said there were no Israeli casualties in the exchange.

Egypt Agrees to Accept Israel's Formula on Suez Canal Issue for One Month

JERUSALEM, August 3, (JTA) -- Israel was informed officially today that Egypt had agreed that, for one month, neither Egypt nor Israel will run ships in the Suez Canal. The information was given to the Foreign Ministry by Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, the United Nations supervisor over the Arab-Israeli cease-fire arrangements.

Israel has been insisting on a "neither or both" formula, under which both of the states would be allowed to sail small boats on the canal -- or neither. Egypt had rejected that proposal, and a number of fights had broken out between Egypt and Israel along the Suez area because of that disagreement. Now Gen. Bull has virtually fixed the interim truce line at the borders of the canal.

Israel to Renew Work on Diverting Jordan River Waters to Lake Tiberias

TEL AVIV, August 3, (JTA) -- Labor Minister Yigal Allon announced today that Israel plans soon to renew its postponed project for diverting the Jordan River's northern waters.

The plan would divert the river from a point south of the B'not Yaacov Bridge to lead the stream toward Lake Tiberias so that a huge waterfall would result, to be used as a source for hydroelectric power. It was abandoned when the Syrians opened a series of attacks against Israel. Israel's National Water Scheme contented itself with use of water only from Lake Tiberias.

Mr. Allon revealed the plan for renewing the project when he addressed a meeting today of the central committee of Histadrut, Israel's federation of labor. The meeting was held to discuss the unemployment situation. Now, Mr. Allon said, the Government is planning to revive the original Jordan River plan, thus providing many jobs for Israelis.

Israel Answers to Syrian Allegations at U.N.; Says They Remind of 'Damascus Blood Libel'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., August 3, (JTA) -- Israel labeled today recent Syrian accusations of atrocities and alleged intimidation of its population by Israel as "most shocking statements, reminiscent of the darkest period of medieval times and of the 'Damascus blood libel' of a century ago."

A letter to Secretary-General U Thant from Ambassador Shabtai Rosenne, Israel's acting permanent representative, refuted and rejected Syrian allegations, made in previous communications to the U.N., as "false." Dr. Rosenne said: "There is not and has never been any intimidation of the local population which is being provided with food. There is a plentiful supply of foodstuff in the shops. All cases of pilferage which come to notice are brought before an appropriate court martial or military court."

Israel Provides Relief Work for Arabs in the Occupied West Bank Area; Plans for Farmers

JERUSALEM, August 3, (JTA) -- Israel Labor Ministry sources said today that about 1,000 Arab workers in the occupied West Bank area have been given relief work in road-building, afforestation and irrigation projects. The Bank of Israel has advocated urgent measures to reactivate the economy of the West Bank. Half of the credit resources of the area are in Jordanian banks. Credit sponsored by the Israel Government for West Bank merchants and relief jobs are two of the principal Government moves to aid the West Bank economy.

Israel is also planning a major change in agricultural production in the occupied West Bank section involving cutbacks in some crops and efforts to induce West Bank Arab farmers to plant new kinds of crops to meet conditions created by Israel's June victory, an Israeli official said here.

Ariel Amiad, the Director General of the Ministry of Agriculture, also described here a long-range development program to speed settlement of Arab refugees in Arab territory now under Israeli control. The plans provide for more intensive cultivation and irrigation which could make the Jordan River Valley between Jericho and Beisan "a paradise." He stressed that such projects were being planned for implementation, if a political decision about the future of the occupied sections made such a program necessary.

The official said that the crop changes will include cutbacks in tomatoes, watermelon and sweet melons because normal markets for such foods have been cut off by the occupation. He said West Bank farmers will be encouraged to plant green vegetables, tobacco and cotton. The changes will become effective when the next planting season starts in October.

He also noted that the Jordanian Government had discouraged West Bank farmers from tobacco growing because this conflicted with the interests of East Bank farmers. He added that the West Bank farmers also had no experience in growing cotton. They will be taken to see farms operated by Israeli Arabs who grow cotton. Israeli Arabs also will be sent to West Bank sections as instructors.

Israeli Troops in Sinai Desert Begin to Receive Fresh Water Through Pipeline

TEL AVIV, August 3, (JTA) -- Israeli troops on duty in northern central Sinai began today to receive fresh water directly from El Arish water wells through a six-inch pipeline laid in record time in a blitz operation by the Israeli army and civil engineers. In 21 days, the two services placed the line from El Arish on the north Sinai shore to Bir Ghafafa, about 60 miles.

A little ceremony was held as seven water hoses poured fresh water into the hot Sinai desert sand to mark the opening of the new pipeline.

Moscow Hints of Possible Arab Recognition of Israel Considered a Propaganda Trick

JERUSALEM, August 3, (JTA) -- Diplomatic observers here characterized today Moscow-inspired news items appearing in various parts of the world, hinting of possible Arab recognition of Israel, as part of the Soviet Union's propaganda campaign in its Middle East policy.

The Soviets have been spreading such rumors systematically through Paris, Belgrade, New Delhi, and London. The observers said that the stories were designed to upgrade the Soviet and Arab images in western public opinion and to contrast Arab "reasonableness" with a "stubborn" Israel.

Reports of this alleged softer stand by the Arab rulers are not being published either in the Soviet Union or in the Arab countries. No intimation of any such change in the Arab position has been received by any Israeli official nor has any Western country passed on such information to Israel, it was noted.

Tunisia Criticizes the 'Violent Nature' of Arab Propaganda Against Israel

LONDON, August 3, (JTA) -- The Arab Foreign Ministers conference in Khartoum split sharply yesterday over proposals on unification of Arab action against Israel, it was reported here today from the Sudan.

The delegation of Tunisia, which repeatedly urged Israel-Arab negotiations before the June war, deplored the "violent nature" of anti-Israel propaganda by some Arab countries before the outbreak of the war. The delegation argued that such "blood-thirsty threats" had lessened sympathy for the Arab cause in other parts of the world.

Tokyo Parley Against Atom Bombs Deadlocked by Arab Demand to Bar Israeli Delegate

TOKYO, August 3, (JTA) -- A Japanese-sponsored conference, convened by an organization known as Gensuikin -- Congress Against Atomic and Hydrogen Bombs -- was deadlocked today because the organizers, bowing to Arab pressure, refused to seat an Israeli delegate.

The group tried to reject the credentials of Yitzhak Patish, political secretary of the Mapam Party, after Arab delegations charged him with representing an "expansionist" state. The credentials committee ruled that it could not recognize Mr. Patish because it opposes "territorial expansion by armed forces."

Delegates from Britain, the United States and New Zealand came to the defense of the Israeli. The conference could not adopt a decision on admitting or rejecting Patish due to the disagreements between the delegations upholding Mr. Patish and the Arab states opposing him.

U.S. Conservative Rabbis and Histadrut to Conduct Joint Education Program

TEL AVIV, August 3, (JTA) -- A joint program to bring Israeli and American Jewish closer together was informally approved today by officials of the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, and members of a visiting delegation of Conservative rabbis of the Rabbinical Assembly of America.

The proposal was the theme of speeches made by Aharon Becker, Histadrut Secretary-General, and Rabbi Wolfe Kelman of New York, executive vice-president of the rabbinical association, at a farewell party given by Mr. Becker to the visiting rabbis. They attended a seminar at Beth Berl arranged by the Histadrut. The program will begin with exchanges of scholars and joint adult education institutes.

American Freighter Detained at Haifa under Compensation Claim by Israeli Worker

HAIFA, August 3, (JTA) -- The American freighter "Globe Explorer" was detained here today in compliance with a court order stemming from a claim for compensation for injuries suffered by a Haifa dock worker on the ship.

Chaim Dedanon was at work on the vessel on a previous visit when he was struck by a stream of hot vapors from a broken tube. He was taken to the hospital and while he was there the ship left for America. The worker filed suit for 115,000 pounds (\$37,000) in damages. On the vessel's current visit, a Haifa attorney received a detention order barring the ship from sailing until its owners provide adequate assurances they will deal with the lawsuit.

Israeli Professional Workers to Work in Seven Jewish Community Centers in U.S.

NEW YORK, August 3, (JTA) -- A group of eight Israeli professional workers will arrive in the United States in September under a program being jointly conducted for the third year by the National Jewish Welfare Board and the Jewish Agency for Israel, it was reported here today. As the national association of Jewish Community Centers and YM-YWHA's, the JWB has arranged for the Israeli workers to join the staffs of seven different American Jewish Community Centers for a two-year period to help enrich the Jewish content of their programs.

Those who are coming here to help meet the expressed need of Centers for people with extensive Jewish backgrounds who are qualified to conduct informal Jewish education programs and youth activities. The Centers where they will be employed are in Cleveland, Atlanta, Savannah, St. Paul, San Antonio, Chicago and Scranton.

U.S. Government Seeks Dismissal of Suit on Special Christmas Postage Stamp

WASHINGTON, August 3. (JTA) -- The U.S. Government today asked for dismissal of a suit aimed at halting production of a special 1967 Christmas postage stamp depicting Hans Memling's painting, "Madonna and Child With Angels." The suit was brought by advocates of separation of church and state who told the U.S. District Court here that the stamp involves unconstitutional use of Federal money to advance a religious theme.

The Government, through the Department of Justice, disagreed. Opposing the injunction, Government attorneys said only half of the total stamps planned for distribution have been printed and that an injunction would prevent distribution in time for Christmas even if the Government eventually won the case. The Post Office has so far printed 650,000,000 of the controversial stamps. Sale was to commence on November 6.

N.Y. City Abandons Religious Rotation System for Adoption of Foundlings

NEW YORK, August 3. (JTA) -- A New York City procedure of assigning abandoned infants of unknown parentage to Catholic, Protestant and Jewish homes in rotation has been cancelled in a major policy change made public here today. The effect of the change is that parents for such foundlings will be chosen hereafter on the basis of their qualifications, without religious requirements. Twenty to 25 foundlings come under city care annually. About 60 percent of the foundlings are Negro.

The change does not affect a current procedure applied when a foundling is left at a house of worship. In such cases, the infant is assigned to that particular religion. The changes were adopted by the city Department of Social Service on July 15. Private welfare agencies which place foundlings will receive formal notification of the new policy on August 15.

Commissioner Mitchell J. Ginsberg said that, as a result of the change, "the ultimate test will be what is best for the child, not the religion of the home into which he is going." He added that the religious rotation system had led to an "element of inflexibility" in adoption planning, and delayed placement for some of the infants.

The rotation procedure has been a long-standing practice. In the 1940's, foundlings were designated Catholic and Protestant, in rotation, because the Jewish placement agencies waived their right to accept every third foundling in the absence of definite evidence that the infant was of Jewish origin. In 1953, the Louise Wise Services asked that the Jewish religion be restored to the rotation procedure, and the city did so.

Mr. Ginsberg said that the changes have been incorporated in the department's manual of procedures which now provide that, if a foundling's identity has not been established 10 days after it had been found, it is to be given a name and a birthdate based on estimates by physicians at the New York Foundling Hospital. Children left in hospitals or other institutions operated by religious groups will not necessarily take those religions, as they do when found in a house of worship.

N.Y. Supreme Court Orders Human Rights Commission to Reconsider Sabbatarian Complaint

NEW YORK, August 3. (JTA) -- The New York State Commission on Human Rights was ordered today by the State Supreme Court to reconsider a complaint against the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company by an Orthodox Jew who had been refused a job because he had insisted he would have to absent himself from work on the Jewish Sabbath.

According to the original complaint, Bernard Rubin had informed the Commission that, after passing a series of company examinations as a computer programmer, he had told his prospective employers that, as an Orthodox Jew, he would not be able to work on the Sabbath and would have to be excused from his job earlier than the usual quitting time on Friday afternoons, during the winter months. He claimed that he was then turned down for the job on the grounds that the company could not accommodate its work schedule to his requirements.

The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs, an Orthodox group, took the Rubin complaint to the Human Rights Commission which twice refused to entertain it on the grounds that there was no law to compel the prospective employer to honor Rubin's request. Last month, however, the complaint was filed with the State Supreme Court, after the Federal Commission on Employment Opportunity had set up new guidelines under which commercial firms were required to hire an applicant like Rubin, unless they could prove that use of such personnel would result in substantial harm to the firm.

Taking the new guidelines into consideration, State Supreme Court Justice Jacob Markowitz today remanded the case "for further consideration" by the State Commission.

Jewish Boys from Various Lands Attend Jamboree of Boy Scouts in U.S.; 12 from Israel

FARRAGUT, Idaho, August 3. (JTA) -- Twelve boys from Israel -- and an uncounted number of other Jewish boys from the United States and various other lands -- are in attendance here at the 12th World Jamboree of the Boy Scouts which is taking place here and will continue through August 11.

Jewish religious services are conducted every morning here in a special tent chapel by the Jamboree's Jewish chaplain, Rabbi Gilbert Kollin, of Spokane, Washington. Rabbi Kollin said he expected a large turn-out for the Friday evening and Saturday morning Sabbath services to be conducted this weekend. The exact number of Jewish boys here from the United States or from other countries outside Israel could not be estimated because Boy Scouts are not registered by religious affiliation.