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Conference of World Jewish Leaders Pledges to Aid Israel's Economic Objectives

JERUSALEM, August 10. (JTA) -- The more than 60 leading Jewish personalities in finance and industry from around the world, attending a two-day economic conference at the request of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, gave assurances today they would begin practical work in helping Israel to market and promote its exports. The conference closed today.

A number of them criticized Israel's economic policies. They listed high taxes, excessive bureaucracy, government competition with private enterprise, high interest rates and high labor costs creating high production costs. However, in the discussion which followed the complaints, some of the Jewish leaders expressed satisfaction of the profitability of their own investments in Israel.

Some of the leaders said that their experiences here and abroad indicated it was essential to create a central marketing agency for Israeli exports, as well as direct contacts for Israeli manufacturers with marketing bureaus abroad. Another topic discussed was a proposal for creation of a private company for development of applied science.

The conference was called with two main goals. One was arrangements to advise Israel on how best to advance its objective of economic independence. The other was to prepare plans for a large-scale economic meeting scheduled for April.

Eshkol Thanks the Assembled Leaders; Pincus Stresses Absorption Needs

Mr. Eshkol expressed his gratitude to the leaders who had responded to his invitation. He outlined Israel's peace policy which, he said, includes the furtherance of economic cooperation and regional planning with the Arab states, and equitable relations with the population in the areas that had been occupied by Israel as the result of the recent Arab-Israeli war. The participants also heard addresses by Labor Minister Yigal Allon, discussing the structure of Israel's labor force, and Foreign Minister Abba Eban, who presented a political review.

Aryeh L. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency, stressed at the conference the role that has been played in Israel's economy by the United Jewish Appeal and the Keren Hayesod, the fund-raising arm of the World Zionist Organization. In spite of the "staggering sum" of \$450,000,000 contributed in the last 10 years, mostly by American Jewry, he said, "the amount was inadequate for Israel's absorption needs, and the difference had to be met by Israel.

"This occurred despite the agreed-upon demarcation of the burdens which cast upon the Jewish people in the free world the task of being responsible for the absorption of the Jews from countries where they faced discrimination and distress. This demarcation was logical and correct. The Israel Government's policy of economic restraint makes it less possible now for Israel's taxpayers to take up the slack in absorption and to narrow the gap in real integration," he pointed out.

Three Members of Arab Family in Gaza Sentenced for Possessing Cache of Arms

JERUSALEM, August 10. (JTA) -- Three members of one Arab family -- the father and two sons -- were given stiff sentences by an Israeli court in Gaza today after being convicted of possessing a cache of arms found in their home. The father was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment. One of the sons was given a four-year term, and the second was sentenced to two years' imprisonment. The arms included 10 submachineguns made in Communist China, plus bullets for those guns.

Israel's military governor ruling the occupied areas taken from Jordan revoked today the Jordanian anti-Israel boycott law which forbade Arabs to trade in goods made in Israel. Earlier, Israel had announced that all Jordanian laws affecting the West Bank area remained in force except for those specifically repealed by the military government. The existence of the boycott law affecting Israel-made goods had not been revoked, thus legalizing any anti-Israel boycott implemented by Arabs living and trading in the West Bank areas. With today's decree, the boycott has been formally outlawed.

Jewish Congressman Asks for Admission to U.S. of 25,000 Arab Refugees

WASHINGTON, August 10. (JTA) -- A proposal was made in Congress today for the United States to admit 25,000 Palestinian Arab refugees to encourage other nations to join in the worldwide resettlement of the refugees.

Rep. Leonard Farbstein, New York Democrat, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, called on President Johnson to take the first step to ease tensions caused by the refugee situation. The Congressman said that such a gesture could ignite a chain reaction in which even Communist nations might join in admitting Arabs. "The Arab states would then be able to do no less for their brethren,"

Jordanian Government May Announce Plan for Talks with Israel Within 10 Days

JERUSALEM, August 10. (JTA) -- The Jordanian Government will announce, within 10 days, a plan for negotiations with Israel, according to a report today in The Jerusalem Post, quoting Ismail Hijazi, former Minister of Development in the Jordanian Cabinet.

According to the newspaper, one of its reporters interviewed Mr. Hijazi yesterday on the Allenby Bridge which links the West Bank of the Jordan River with Jordan proper. Mr. Hijazi was quoted as saying that the Hussein Government will submit details of its plan to negotiate with Israel when the next Arab summit meeting is convened at Khartoum, Sudan. Asked when the plan would be made public, Mr. Hijazi replied: "Within 10 days, God willing."

Polish-Born Jew Arrested in Israel on Charges of Spying for Syria

TEL AVIV, August 10. (JTA) -- J. Dabani, a 42-year-old, Polish-born Jew who had fought in the Israel army during the war of liberation in 1948-49, has been arrested here on charges of having acted as a spy for Syria, it was announced today.

According to police, Dabani left Israel three years ago, going to Paris, where he had contacted the Syrian Embassy. He was allegedly offered \$5,000 if he would serve as a spy, but on condition that he would go first to Damascus for instructions. The police authorities said he had refused to go to Damascus but, nevertheless, received payments from the Syrian Embassy from time to time.

Last year, he returned to Israel. He had been shadowed by Israeli authorities for the last few months, and was arrested last month on charges of spying for Syria and "maintaining contact with the enemy." His arrest was kept secret until today.

Minister Reports \$2,500,000 in Damages to Israeli Buildings During the Six-Day War

TEL AVIV, August 10. (JTA) -- Israeli civilians suffered damages totaling 7,500,000 Israeli pounds (\$2,500,000) to buildings hit by firing during the fighting in the June war, it was announced here today by Mordechai Bentov, Minister of Housing.

Of the total, he said, damages of 5,000,000 pounds were suffered in Jerusalem. In Israeli agricultural settlements, 36 kibbutzim and 18 moshavim (cooperative settlements) reported heavy damages to 300 dwellings, 10 communal dining halls, 15 classrooms, six clinics and four cultural centers. The figures, Mr. Bentov said, were based on damage claims filed with his Ministry, 4,000 of those claims being filed in Jerusalem alone.

U.N. General Assembly Resolution on Jerusalem is Not an Order, Israel Says

JERUSALEM, August 10. (JTA) -- Israeli Foreign Ministry officials said today that Israel had not yet received a reported request from United Nations Secretary-General U Thant that Israel agree to confer with a special representative on the Jerusalem issue.

The officials also commented on a statement by a U.N. spokesman in New York that Israel had failed to comply with a July resolution of the special session of the General Assembly requiring Israel to rescind measures uniting New and Old Jerusalem. The statement said Israel had received "repeated reminders" from Mr. Thant.

The officials stressed that the U.N. spokesman's comment missed the point which was, that Israel had declared at the time it did not intend to comply with the resolution. They noted that Assembly resolutions are not orders but recommendations.

Catholic Official in West Bank Rejects Jordanian Charges Against Israel

JERUSALEM, August 10. (JTA) -- A Catholic official in the Israeli-held West Bank section of Jordan denied today charges emanating from Jordan that some Catholic churches in the area had been closed because of "improper behavior by Israeli visitors. Father Batkhish, secretary of the Patriarchate not only rejected the charges but also expressed appreciation for Israeli orders concerning treatment of the holy places.

Printed notices were posted yesterday on all Christian holy places for all non-Christians. The notices ordered removal of hats by such visitors and a ban on eating, smoking and drinking on the premises. The orders also banned visits during religious services and admonished visitors to dress properly "as befits a place of worship."

Israel Parliament Adjourns Its Summer Session; Will Reopen at the End of October

JERUSALEM, August 10. (JTA) -- Israel's Parliamentary summer session, which was dominated almost entirely by the May-June crisis and war, adjourned last night after a marathon meeting during which a dozen urgent technical and administrative bills were passed. The winter term will begin October 30.

The session began with Premier Levi Eshkol's speech containing a last warning to the major powers and to the Arabs that Israel could not remain passive much longer while President Nasser of Egypt was moving troops to the Sinai-Israel border and blockading the Strait of Tiran. It continued under Jordanian shelling after war broke out on June 5 and a Cabinet of national unity -- containing Gen. Moshe Dayan as new Defense Minister -- was sworn in.

Moroccan Jewish Community Disintegrates; Grand Rabbi, Two Other Rabbis Emigrate

PARIS, August 10, (JTA) — Grand Rabbi Moshe Malka, vice-president of the Casablanca Rabbinical Tribunal, has left Morocco to settle in Israel, it was reported today. The Grand Rabbi delivered a sermon last Saturday at the Synagogue in the Olim camp in Marseille in which he stressed the obligation of every Jew to help Israel during its present difficulties.

The Grand Rabbi's departure reportedly was felt keenly among the dwindling number of Casablanca Jews. Departures are becoming more frequent and many well-to-do Jewish families are leaving. Two other members of the Rabbinical Tribunal, Rabbi Itzhak Hazan, Rabbi Malka's assistant, and Registrar Chalom Israel, left with the Grand Rabbi.

The departure of the three rabbinical leaders was viewed as a symptom of the disintegration of the Moroccan Jewish community, but the fact that the Rabbinical Tribunal was no longer able to function was regarded as even more serious. There are now only two members left on the Tribunal, its president, Grand Rabbi Chalom Messas, and Rabbi Rahamin Benamara.

Writers Association Asks Bonn Government to Act Against Anti-Semitic Newspaper

BONN, August 10, (JTA) — The International Association of Writers in the German Language charged today that the extremist West German newspaper, National und Soldaten-Zeitung, was anti-Semitic and deliberately untruthful. The Association protested to the West German authorities for not taking action against the paper.

Declaring that the publication was inciting people, the letter of protest, sent to Minister of Interior Paul Luecke, added that the newspaper was obviously supporting the Nazi ideology and that this had become clear repeatedly. The newspaper also had been denounced by liberal and trade union groups in West Germany.

Rate of Inter-marriage in U.S. Was Higher in Early Years of Jewish Settlement Than Today

NEW YORK, August 10, (JTA) — The results of a comparative study on intermarriage released today by the Central Conference of American Rabbis reveal that the rate of intermarriage and consequently assimilation of the Jew into the predominantly Gentile environment of American society is lower at present than during the early years of Jewish settlement from 1654 to 1840.

The study was conducted by Rabbi Malcolm Stern, of the CCAR, who noted that only on the college campus does an intermarriage ratio of 15 percent between Jews and non-Jewish students match the historic figures. "We should not be unnecessarily alarmed at claims of a sharp rise in the rate of inter-marriage between Jews and non-Jews," Rabbi Stern said. He claimed that records show that by 1840 there were 15,000 Jewish settlers in this country located mostly on the Eastern Seaboard. From 1654 to 1840 there were 942 Jewish marriages, and of these, 150 or approximately 15 percent were between Jews and Christians. Since at that time only Orthodox Judaism existed, these mixed marriages were performed either by Christian clergymen or in civil ceremonies.

A variety of statistics exist on current rates of intermarriage. A March, 1957 sample study by the Federal Bureau of the Census produced an intermarriage statistic of 7 percent, while two other disputed studies of the Jewish community in Washington, D.C. and Iowa produced intermarriage figures of 13 percent and 42 percent. Rabbi Stern stated that accurate information on the rate of intermarriage was lacking. He said that a CCAR committee was engaged in an extensive scientific study which they expect to conclude in a year or two.

"The farther away Jews are from centers of organized Jewish life, the greater the tendency toward intermarriage and ultimate assimilation," Rabbi Stern emphasized. He said that the Iowa survey proves this point as does the statistic on the college campus. The Washington, D.C. study and the college campus survey demonstrate that "assimilation will occur in a large metropolis with a mobile population and the absence of home and family influence."

"Our greatest challenge confronts us today on the college campus," he stressed. "In the pre-1840 period, religion played a greater role in influencing the lives of individuals than today. In these times we are living in an age where agnosticism, materialism and apathy have replaced the church and the synagogue for many." Rabbi Stern concluded that "the more organized the Jewish community becomes, the greater the tendency for Jews to remain Jews and for their non-Jewish spouses to identify with the Jewish community. The continued vitality of synagogue life will prove an effective brake to the assimilation trend and continues to keep Judaism and the Jew a vital force on the American scene."

Rabbi Max Eichhorn of the National Jewish Welfare Board, an authority on conversions, has found the conversion of non-Jews to Judaism to be on the increase over the years, mostly due to marital reasons, although in recent years a growing number convert to Judaism for intellectual reasons. These conversions are voluntary, since the Jewish community does not openly engage in any program of proselytizing.

Conversions are easier today than in the pre-1840 period, since Orthodoxy demands strict examination of a prospective convert by a rabbinic court consisting of three rabbis. Since the emergence of Conservative and Reform Judaism on the American scene, religious conversion requirements have been modified, thus leading to the rise of converts.

Truman Center for Advancement of Peace Will Be Built on Mount Scopus in Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, August 10. (JTA) -- The Harry S. Truman Center for the Advancement of Peace will be built on the Mount Scopus Hebrew University campus site, as the former President had wanted, Samuel Rothberg, chairman of the board of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, and Louis Boyar, a member of the university's board of governors, announced here today.

When the project was first announced in Independence, Missouri, the former President's birth-place, in January, 1966, by the American Friends, the Mount Scopus site was in an enclave surrounded by Jordanian territory since the 1948 war. The original plans therefore called for establishment of the Center on the new Hebrew University campus in new Jerusalem. A dedication ceremony was held there on July 11, 1966.

Capture of the Old City and the West Bank in the June war made it feasible to plan the Center on Mount Scopus. A total of \$3,600,000 for the center was subscribed by 36 leading American Jews who contributed \$100,000 each for the project.

'Americans for Permanent Peace in Middle East' Organized; Announces Five-Point Plan

NEW YORK, August 10. (JTA) -- A five-point plan for peace in the Middle East, including large-scale American aid and programs for displaced persons, was set forth in a full page advertisement in today's New York Times by the "Americans for Permanent Peace in the Middle East" organizing committee. Meshulam Riklis, industrialist, was listed as acting chairman and treasurer of the committee. Among other members are author James Michener and Paul O'Dwyer, former New York City Councilman.

The advertisement described Soviet rearmament of the Arabs in the wake of the Arab-Israeli war and urged the United States to act to halt Russia's use of "aggressive militarism" in the area. Objectives of the committee cited in the statement included "full United States pressure to foster constructive plans for economic and social development;" assistance to refugees for their social and economic benefit "regardless of political frontiers;" establishment of adequate international arms shipments control; and American use of all "its weight and influence" to achieve "cessation of continuing hostility of the Arab nations against Israel."

200 American Jewish Social Workers to Participate in International Parley in Israel

NEW YORK, August 10. (JTA) -- Two hundred of the leading Jewish social workers of the United States and Canada will participate in the International Conference of Jewish Communal Service in Jerusalem from August 19 to 23 on the theme of "The Responsibility of Jewish Communal Service for Strengthening Jewish Identification."

In all, 500 will attend the discussions, including social workers from Europe, Latin America, South Africa and Australia. Sanford Solender, executive vice-president of the National Jewish Welfare Board, is chairman of the international planning committee.

Dr. Ernest Akiba Simon, co-director of the Hebrew University School of Education, will deliver the opening address after a greeting by Israel's President Zalman Shazar, who is honorary president of the conference. Other speakers will include A.L. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, who is honorary chairman of the conference.

Hillside Board of Education Backs Expulsion from School of Boy for Wearing A Yarmulke

HILLSIDE, N.J., August 10. (JTA) -- The Board of Education of Hillside upheld last night the expulsion of a 13-year-old Orthodox Jewish boy from a summer course at Hillside High School for wearing a skull-cap.

Bernard Paul White, who attends a Jewish day school during the regular school year, entered the summer class wearing a skull-cap. The boy refused requests from his teacher, vice-principal John Kulikowski, School Superintendent Wayne Branom and board chairman Franklin Feltman that he not wear the yarmulke while attending the class. The superintendent and the chairman ruled the boy could not attend the class while wearing the skull-cap, and the boy's father asked the American Jewish Congress for help. Last night a hearing on the issue was held before the school board.

After the hearing, Mr. Feltman said he would seek a ruling by the State Commissioner of Education on the question. William White, the father, told the board meeting that "the rights of my son to practice his religion" were violated by the ban.

Eliezer Argov Appointed Overseas Director of the Jewish National Fund

JERUSALEM, August 10. (JTA) -- Eliezer Argov, member of the executive of the Jewish National Fund, well-known B'nai B'rith leader, has been appointed as the Overseas Director of the Fund, it was announced here today. His tasks include the organization of overseas Jewish National Fund activities, relations with world and national Jewish bodies and institutions, educational programs for youth and for teachers' councils. He is also the head of the United States and Canada department at the JNF headquarters here.