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Israeli Police Alerted to Possible Demonstrations in Old City and West Bank

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Police in the Old City of Jerusalem and the territory held by Israel in the west bank of the Jordan River were alerted today to watch for possible anti-Israel demonstrations there as signs of civil unrest among the Arab population there were reported.

Leaflets calling upon Arab teachers in Jerusalem not to conduct schools were found today in the Old City, and one Arab was arrested while caught slashing tires of automobiles near the police headquarters in the Jewish-populated parts of Jerusalem. The schools for Arab children are scheduled to be opened within a fortnight in all parts of Israel and Israeli-held territories.

A number of leading political Arab figures in the Israel-held west bank territory sent to King Hussein of Jordan a "declaration of loyalty" containing charges against Israeli authorities. These charges were included in a note submitted this week by Jordan to the United Nations Security Council. Among the signatories of the "declaration" were the former Jordanian Ambassador to Britain, Anwar Nuseibeh. They admitted their authorship of the "declaration."

Israeli authorities, who noted that some unrest among the Arabs had been expected, said nevertheless that they were concerned with the open declarations of loyalty to the Jordanian monarch. They felt that such a declaration was "going too far" and warned that, if resistance to the Israeli authorities becomes more pronounced, "some counter-measures will have to be taken."

Repatriation of Arab Refugees into Israel-Held West Bank Territory Starts Today

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The repatriation of Arab refugees wishing to return to the Israeli-held west bank of the Jordan River will begin tomorrow morning under the arrangements agreed upon between Israel and Jordan for the readmission of those Arabs who fled the west bank when Israel occupied that area during the June war. The crossing of some 2,000 refugees, embracing 400 families, will be made tomorrow over the Allenby bridge and over the Dumya bridge, near Jericho.

It was learned here today that Israel's determination to screen the applications filed by the would-be returnees has so far resulted in the banning of only 100 persons -- out of a total of 21,000 applications. Those refused entry include persons with a criminal past, security risks, and some who had failed to file sufficient proof showing they had previously lived on the west bank.

Israeli authorities said there would be no crossing on Saturday, the Jewish sabbath, but that officials hoped 2,000 or 3,000 people would cross each day next week. The Red Cross estimated that 20,000 applications had been submitted to the Israelis on behalf of 80,000 refugees. Registration closed last night.

Meanwhile, it was announced today that Arab residents of the west bank may soon be able to get money sent to them by their relatives in Jordan-held areas, through special arrangement with the International Red Cross. Under the arrangement, pension funds due to west bank residents would be sent by relatives in Jordan to a special fund in a Swiss bank. The Red Cross would then transfer those funds to the west bank Arabs.

Jordan has reportedly approved the plan so as to encourage more Arabs to move to the Israeli-held west bank. Although there has been no official confirmation about the Jordanian Government's approval of the plan, Arabs living on the west bank said today they had received letters from relatives in Jordan informing them of the impending payments.

Israel Minister Anticipates 'Rollback' in Unemployment; 22,000 New Jobs Planned

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The level of unemployment in Israel was stabilized during the first half of 1967, and "will be gradually rolled back" in the year's last six months, Labor Minister Yigal Allon declared here today.

By the end of this year, he said, 22,000 new jobs will be created "through the natural increase of the labor force." He said 32,593 unemployed were registered as jobless with the labor exchanges during the first week of August. Of that total, Mr. Allon reported, 21,000 were given work on job-relief projects. The unemployed for the first six months of 1967, he said, averaged 34,000.

Israel Informs U.N. of Continued Incitement of Arab Refugees by Jordanian Government

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 17. (JTA) -- With the flow of Arab refugees from the Jordanian side of the Jordan River, to the Israeli-held West Bank, scheduled to start tomorrow, Israel has told Secretary-General U Thant here that the Jordanian Government's campaign of "vituperation and direct incitements" were creating a "serious obstacle" to the entire plan for readmitting the Arabs from the Jordanian side.

Jordan's "continued hostility, verbal assaults and vile defamation," Mr. Thant was told in a note from Israel's permanent representative, Ambassador Gideon Rafael, are not fit for circulation by the Secretariat as official U.N. documents. Jordan's charges of Israeli actions against Jordanian villages and civilians, he said, are "without foundation, totally groundless."

Meanwhile, the representatives of the 13 Arab states here formed an "action committee" today to press for the election of a Jordanian as a vice-president of the next General Assembly, scheduled to convene next month. Two other Arabs are candidates for the chairmanships of two of the Assembly's standing committees.

It was announced today that Ernesto A. Thalmann, the Swiss diplomat named by Mr. Thant as his personal representative to study the situation of Jerusalem, would leave for Jerusalem Monday, but will not have a staff of his own. He will use parts of the staff of Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, supervisor of the cease fire arrangements. A U.N. spokesman denied today, on behalf of Mr. Thant, that the Secretary-General is engaged in any talks for the reopening of the Suez Canal which Egypt blocked last June when the six-day war flared.

Congressman Criticizes U.S. Training of Military Officers from Hostile Arab States

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Opposition to training in the United States of military officers from the Arab states that broke relations with this country was expressed here today by Representative Bob Wilson, California Republican and member of the House Armed Services Committee.

Addressing the annual convention of the Jewish War Veterans of America, Congressman Wilson said that he would continue to seek the expulsion of Arab military officers still under training here. "If any nation is entitled to training assistance and the sale of military supplies, it is Israel, which stood singlehanded against the Communist-equipped and Communist-trained Arab onslaught," he declared.

(The Los Angeles Examiner, California's largest daily, also expressed opposition to the State Department's policy of continuing to provide military training to officers from the Arab states which had broken their U.S. diplomatic ties. An editorial requested a full probe by the House Armed Services Committee. "To continue to give U.S. military training to personnel from countries hostile to us and allied with Moscow constitutes a flagrant violation of our national security," the editorial said.)

The Jewish War Veterans of the United States voted last night to prohibit its 100,000 members and 750 posts from participating in any patriotic observance with members of the John Birch Society. Malcolm Tarlow, national commander of the veterans, warned the 2,000 delegates that the "alarming acceptance by respectable groups of the John Birch Society represents a threat from the right and must be reversed at once." He did not identify these groups.

Israeli Farmers Turn in Record Wheat Harvest; Meet 60% of Country's Requirements

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Israeli farmers have turned in a record wheat harvest of 210,000 tons, comprising about 60 percent of the country's total requirements, it was reported here today by a spokesman for the Agricultural Ministry. He stressed the importance of the domestic yield in view of the decline in wheat surpluses throughout the world.

Comparison between the yields of Arab farmers on the West Bank of the Jordan, now occupied by Israel, and Israel's current output, showed that the former Jordanian region had produced an average of only 60 to 70 kilograms per dunam, while the average per-dunam yield in Israel was more than 200 kilograms.

Talks on Merger Between Mapai Party and Ben-Gurion's Group Postponed Indefinitely

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The proposed merger of the Mapai Party and the Achdut Avodah will be carried forward with dispatch, but the Mapai's merger negotiations with Ben-Gurion's Rafi Party are being indefinitely postponed, it was reported here today at a meeting of the Mapai secretariat in which Prime Minister Levi Eshkol participated.

The decision has reportedly displeased the chairmen of the various Mapai branches who are said to favor complete unification of all three Socialist parties. Attempts are now being made to summon Mapai's central committee to reverse the secretariat's decision.

Czech Author Charges Prague Government and Communist Party with Anti-Semitism

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- One of Czechoslovakia's leading writers, Ladislav Mnacko, asserted here last night that the higher echelons of the Czech Government and its Communist Party have "a large percentage" of anti-Semites who used the June war between Israel and the Arab states as an opportunity for inflaming the country's population against Jews.

Mr. Mnacko, who is not a Jew -- his wife is Jewish -- came here a few days ago after stop-overs in West Germany and Austria where he publicly denounced his Government's stand against Israel. He said the Czech Government "hurried to adopt an anti-Israel line during the recent Middle East crisis, only to create an anti-Jewish atmosphere as in the days of Slansky." Rudolf Slansky, a Czech Jew, was executed in 1952 after a show-trial of a number of Jews who were accused of having been "traitors in collusion with Zionism." The Slansky case, as it was called, had stirred up anti-Semitism throughout Czechoslovakia.

Informed here that the Czech Government had ordered cancellation of his citizenship, while the Communist Party in Prague had expelled him, he said he would ultimately return home and fight those decrees, since he considers himself "a better Communist than they are." In its decree against him, Prague had also stripped him of the many honors and decorations he had received for his works. He is the holder of the coveted Klement Gottwald Prize, the highest award in Czechoslovakia, and had been twice named as honored State Artist.

Mr. Mnacko said that many of his country's intellectuals, writers among them, opposed their Government's anti-Israeli policy, "but they don't dare open their mouths." "I find it impossible," he stated, "to support a policy, or even to be silent, when such a policy would lead to the liquidation of an entire state." He said he spoke for no organization, but only for himself, but insisted that others would speak up if they dared.

Czechoslovakia Invalidates Postage Stamps Depicting Venerated Ancient Jewish Institutions

NEW YORK, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Czechoslovakia has invalidated a series of stamps issued earlier this year depicting some of Prague's most venerated Jewish institutional buildings, such as the "Old New" Synagogue and the Jewish Museum, it was reported here by the Morning Freiheit, a pro-Communist Yiddish newspaper.

According to the newspaper, an Israeli citizen visiting Prague had had a letter rejected by the postmaster there because he had used the banned postage stamps. The Prague report also indicated that one of the daily newspapers in the Czech capital, Literaturny Noviny, protested against the postal ban.

Compromise Sought by Opponents to Repeal of Ban on N.Y. State Aid to Religious Schools

ALBANY, N.Y., Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Strenuous efforts were being made here today to work out a compromise which could result in cancelling threats by Jewish and Protestant organizations which announced that they will campaign for the nullification of the work of the entire State Constitutional Convention because they consider the state-church issue of "paramount" importance. The entire convention's plan for a new constitution is to be put to the voters next November.

The convention voted down yesterday a series of amendments to the state laws which forbid the use of public funds for aid to religious schools. After two days of sharp debate, the convention decided -- by a vote of 132-49 -- to repeal the 73-year-old law which bans state financial aid to denominational schools, "directly or indirectly."

An effort to get the convention to put the educational issue before the voters as a separate referendum failed when the proponent of that move, Minority Leader Earl J. Brydges, a Niagara Falls Republican, said he would not press his plan to a vote because, he conceded, he knew the plan would not be adopted. A third idea, to incorporate in the new law a plan whereby the new constitution would permit the legislature to authorize a "shared time," was defeated.

Under a "shared time" program, parochial school pupils would be permitted to study certain subjects -- like chemistry and other strictly nonsectarian courses -- in public schools. Under a ruling at present by the State Board of Education, "shared time" is not allowed in New York State because it is considered unconstitutional.

The effort at working out a compromise revolves around the "shared time" plan. Leaders of the convention felt that, if they reversed their stand against "shared time" authorization, the Jewish and Protestant groups, opposing the lifting of the 73-year-old law, might be willing to support the entire new constitution when it comes before the voters next November.

Leading the campaign against the entire constitution on this issue, are the American Jewish Congress, New York Federation of Reform Synagogues, United Synagogue of America (Conservative), the National Council of Jewish Women, and the Protestant Council. On the other hand, Orthodox Jewry and the representatives of the Roman Catholic Church here have endorsed the revocation of the old law.

J.D.C. Plans New Homes for the Aged in Israel; C.J.F.W.F. Mission Hears Report

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17, (JTA) -- Malben, the agency of the Joint Distribution Committee that provides for the care of the aged, has decided to contribute several million pounds to an extensive program to assist the elderly and disabled citizens of Israel, it was announced here today.

The program, initiated in cooperation with the Government, was described in a report given to the leaders of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds now in Israel for conferences on meeting increased national needs caused by the Arab-Israel six-day war,

The plan calls for the establishment, over a five-year period, of 12 new homes for the aged. Malben currently operates 11 homes, comprising about half of the nation's facilities for the aged. In presenting the plan to the American Jewish group, Malben's general director Harold Trobe emphasized that, while Israel's population is still relatively young in comparison with other advanced countries, the number of men over 65 and women over 60 has increased by 100 percent over the past 10 years.

Malben's plan would add more than 1,000 beds to the present 3,300 in the agency's present institutions, and the 3,700 beds in municipal and government institutions. A shortage of facilities for the chronically ill in Israel was also the subject of a report to the American Jewish leaders.

Britain's Trade Union Leaders Display Understanding for Israel's Position

TEL AVIV, Aug. 17, (JTA) -- Britain's trade union leaders have "a complete understanding of Israel's position," Aharon Becker, secretary-general of Histadrut, Israel's federation of labor, declared here upon his returning from a visit to England.

Mr. Becker addressed the British Trade Union congress during his visit, and also conferred with members of Britain's Cabinet, who belong to the Labor Party, and with other leading personalities in Britain. Mr. Becker said that a delegation of British trade union leaders will come to Israel in the next few days to study Israel's problems at first hand.

Lubavitcher Student Corps to Visit Hundreds of American Jewish Communities

NEW YORK, Aug. 17, (JTA) -- Fifty senior students of the Lubavitcher Yeshiva here left this week to visit hundreds of Jewish communities throughout the United States. These students, who have volunteered to spend three to four weeks of their summer vacation time to make these visits, will meet with Rabbis and Jewish communal leaders, visit synagogues and Jewish educational institutions, and meet thousands of Jews comprising the grass roots Jewish populace in homes and on the streets.

Traveling in pairs, they will seek to bolster Torah observance with special emphasis on the furtherance of Jewish education for the young, and will disseminate Jewish educational literature for schools, libraries and homes. They will have extra pairs of Tefillin (phylacteries) and will teach hundreds of Jewish teenagers and men how to observe this tradition. For many, putting on Tefillin will be a new experience.

Israel Government Committee Recommends Establishment of Television in the Country

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17, (JTA) -- A special Government committee headed by Minister of Police Eliahu Sasson to explore the feasibility of establishing a television service for Israel, recommended today that TV broadcast facilities be set up without delay, even if it means the presentation of programs on a low artistic level for a time.

The committee based its recommendation on the fact that many Arabs living in the West Bank area possess television sets and that this presents Israel with an opportunity to provide them with material on Israel and world events in a proper light.

Israeli Documentary Film Wins First Prize at International Festival in Montreal

MONTREAL, Aug. 17, (JTA) -- An Israeli documentary film titled "The Secret of Shock," dealing with the prevention of labor accidents, received the first prize last night at the Fifth International Labor Films festival here. The film was sent to the festival by the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation.

Morris Margulies Dies in New York; Was National Secretary of Z.O.A. for 10 Years

NEW YORK, Aug. 17, (JTA) -- Morris Margulies, veteran American Zionist leader, died Wednesday night at Polyclinic Hospital, at the age of 79. He served as national secretary of the Zionist Organization of America for a period of 10 years from 1932 through 1942. Thereafter he occupied other high positions both in the Zionist organization and other national Jewish bodies.

The deceased organized one of the earliest Zionist youth groups, The Nordau Zionist Society, in 1902. He also took an active part in the American Jewish Congress as a member of its executive, and was a member of the first executive committee of the American Keren Hayesod. He was born in Galicia, and settled in New York in 1899.