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Sapir Says Line on Basic Foods, Fuel Prices Will Be Held Despite Devaluation

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20, (JTA) — Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir assured the nation in a broadcast today that the Israel Government would act to ensure the stability of prices for basic foodstuffs despite the devaluation of the Israel pound in the wake of Britain's devaluation yesterday.

The Israeli Government announced a 14.3 percent devaluation of the Israeli pound yesterday after similar action by the British Government. The Israeli pound previously had been valued at three to the dollar. The new rate will be 3.5 to the dollar. Messages exchanged yesterday between Leslie O'Brien, Governor of the Bank of England, and David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel, pledged mutual support and assistance in connection with the devaluation of the two currencies.

(In London, the Financial Times said today that the devaluation in Jerusalem would have a beneficial effect on investments from abroad. The devaluation, the paper said, would make transfer of funds to Israel more attractive and would end speculation that had been current that the Israeli Government would devalue its currency independently of other international developments.)

Mr. Sapir said that the prices of goods imported from hard currency countries would probably rise slightly. He added that Israeli customs duties would remain at present levels which, in effect, meant lowering of those rates. Goods from the pound sterling area will thus have an advantage over similar products from the United States or Central Europe, he explained.

"Price rises abroad as compared to Israel will, at the worst, bring about small increases in the prices of these products in Israel," he told the radio audience. "On the other hand, the lowering of customs tariffs may cause lower prices for certain products imported from the sterling bloc."

Says New Incentive Rates Should Make Israeli Exports More Competitive

He said that the Government effort to keep domestic prices stable would include fuel and that therefore transportation and electricity charges would not increase. This was being done, he declared, so that the basic standard of living "will not be hurt." He said Israel had to act to prevent the danger of shrinkage of exports stemming from the competition of sterling bloc countries whose export prices are now lower because of devaluation. He expressed confidence that Israel would pass through the new trial and continue to strengthen its economy.

Mr. Sapir later told the Knesset that incentives now paid to exporters would be cut less than the devaluation percentage so that the exporters would, in effect, be able to compete on better terms than before in overseas markets. Export industries such as diamonds and citrus, which did not receive the incentive allowances, should also be in a better competitive position with the new rate of exchange, he said.

The Tel Aviv Stock Exchange remained closed today. It will reopen for normal operations tomorrow after the situation is cleared up, officials said. Stock Exchange sources said that they anticipated increased investments by foreign investors because of the better exchange rate which they said should put "new blood" into the securities markets here. Banks resumed normal operations today for all currencies for which exchange rates had been fixed. Activity in other currencies was being undertaken on the responsibility of the bank.

No effects of the overnight shifts in currency relations were observable at Haifa port where ships departed with their scheduled passengers and the Lod Airport was as busy as ever. Israel took the news of the devaluation calmly. It was generally expected that the price of imported goods would rise less than the new exchange rate might warrant since customs duties have been left unchanged, or, in some cases, reduced. The controller of foreign exchange in the Finance Ministry estimated that average price increases would be no higher than one to two percent.

Leading figures in Israeli commerce and industry met with Minister of Commerce and Industry Ze'ev Sharef and agreed to use their influence to hold present price levels on stocks still in inventory. Mr. Sharef warned that the government would not hesitate to use all legal means at its disposal to resist unwarranted price increases.

Members of the Mapam Party, it was learned today, opposed devaluation when it was raised in the Cabinet, fearing its effect on salaried employees. Criticism of the measure came from Prof. Dan. Patinkin, leading Israeli economist, who said it was a "half-measure" and that the devaluation should have been greater.

Israel to Retain Same Exchange Rate for Pound and Jordanian Dinar

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA)—The rate of exchange between the Israeli pound and the Jordanian dinar will remain unchanged despite the 14.3 percent devaluation of the Israeli currency, the military governor of the occupied West Bank area decreed today. His ruling was taken in anticipation of action by the Amman authorities to devalue the Jordanian currency and retain its former parity with sterling. Israeli banks in the West Bank area have been accepting Jordanian currency from Arab residents there — a development which has permitted unofficial trade between the area and Jordan proper, mostly in the sale of foodstuffs to Jordan.

Soviet, In Surprise Move, Offers Security Council Mideast 'Political Solution'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 20 (JTA)—The Soviet Union, in a surprise move, submitted a draft resolution to the Security Council this afternoon which Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily Kuznetsov claimed contained "all the key elements for a political solution" of the Middle Eastern crisis but which Israel's Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban characterized, in his initial comment, as a "backward-looking resolution."

Nevertheless, observers here were quick to note that for the first time, the Soviet Union had presented a resolution which did not contain condemnation of Israel or demands for compensation to the Arab states for losses that they suffered during last June's Six-Day War. They also noted that the resolution made no mention of dispatching a representative of the Secretary General to the Middle East.

The Soviet draft called for the immediate withdrawal of "both parties" to the positions they held on June 4, 1967. It affirmed the rights of every country in the area, including Israel, to live in peace and security, forbade the threat or use of force and called for an end to belligerency and the "wasteful arms race." The Soviet draft stressed the need of working with all parties for a just solution of the Middle East problem and called for a just settlement of the refugee question and free passage through international waterways "in accordance with agreements."

The Soviet resolution came as the Security Council reconvened this afternoon with the intention of voting on the British draft resolution presented by Lord Caradon last week. In view of the last minute entry of a Soviet draft, the Council agreed to postpone the vote and adjourned until Wednesday afternoon.

Mr. Eban, in a statement following introduction of the Soviet draft, said that he reserved the right to comment fully on that document at a later time. He reiterated that Israel's policy "has not and will not change," namely that Israel will maintain and respect the cease-fire lines until they are replaced by peace treaties with her Arab neighbors.

Mr. Eban also denied charges made by the Jordanian Foreign Minister, Abdul Monem Rifai, that Israelis fired this afternoon on the Jordanian town of Karama, killing 3 children and 9 adult civilians and seriously wounding 25 others and destroying a mosque. Mr. Eban said that the Jordanian report was "false and tendentious."

NATO Official Expresses Concern Over Soviet Naval Buildup in Mediterranean

BRUSSELS, Nov. 20 (JTA)—Secretary-General Manlio Brosio of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), told a session of the organization today that "it could become a matter of great disquiet to the Alliance if the increase in Soviet naval forces in the Mediterranean, as well as of Soviet influence around its shores and in the Middle East could come to signify the prelude of a return to the cold war."

The NATO official spoke against a background of reports that the Soviet Union was establishing a military base in Egypt. The London Daily Telegraph said today that the chief issue in negotiations now was Soviet insistence on having the last word on use of the equipment being supplied to Egypt. The Egyptians, the paper said, want the Soviet bases as protection against Israel.

One Israeli Soldier Wounded as Jordanians Open Fire on Israeli Patrol

JERUSALEM, Nov. 20 (JTA)—A two-hour gunbattle flared across the Jordan River today near Umm Humetra, a river passage north of the Dead Sea. An Israeli patrol car struck a mine on an unpaved road there and one soldier was injured. When a second patrol car came along shortly after, Jordanian forces opened fire on it from the east bank of the river. The Israeli patrol returned the fire and the exchange petered out after two hours.

State Dept. Lifts Passport Restrictions on American Travel to Egypt

WASHINGTON, Nov. 20 (JTA)—The State Department announced today that American citizens wishing to travel to Egypt will no longer have to obtain special endorsement of their passports. The decision was ascribed to improvement in American-Egyptian relations. The Department spokesman said that the Egyptian Government had assured the United States that "all categories of American travellers are welcome."

The spokesman, Robert McCloskey, said that no negotiations had taken place concerning restoration of diplomatic relations and said the United States would welcome a retraction by President Nasser of the charges voiced in June that American aircraft had aided Israel in the war.

Federations Executive Summarizes Major Activities Of CJFWF General Assembly

CLEVELAND, Nov. 20. (JTA) — The 36th general assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, which concluded its sessions here yesterday, devoted its major efforts to three areas of chief concern to the Jewish community, Philip Bernstein, executive director of the Council, reported in a survey of the weeklong deliberations of the 1,600 delegates and guests at the parley. He defined these areas as measures to strengthen Jewish communities and Jewish life; the human rights revolution and the crisis in the cities, and the crisis in the Middle East.

Looking ahead to the future of Jewish life, he noted: the Assembly developed plans for involving Jewish college youth in the work of federations and agencies, dealing with issues of primary concern to the youths themselves—civil rights, anti-poverty programs, public welfare legislation, protests against the destruction of Jewish life in the Soviet Union, the Middle East crisis and in volunteer services such as tutoring, work with the sick and aged and children. These plans will be carried out in cooperation with the Hillel Foundation, where three-quarters of the Jewish university students are in cities with Jewish federations.

Community leaders at the Assembly met with leaders of national Conservative, Orthodox and Reform congregational bodies and the American Association for Jewish Education, to plan for closer cooperation with community federations and bureaus of Jewish education in strengthening the quality of Jewish education. The plans dealt especially with recruitment and training of teachers and with post elementary schools, Mr. Bernstein said. In many areas where congregations individually maintain quality high schools, community schools cutting across congregational lines but respecting ideological differences, are being established.

Other workshop sessions of the Assembly dealt with pathologies in Jewish communities, particularly in health and in mental impairment among the aged. A national study reported to the Assembly revealed that 68 percent of the residents of large homes for the aged were mentally impaired. The study found that many such persons could be helped, and pointed the way for homes for the aged to undertake rehabilitation programs.

A group of national health experts helped define goals for Jewish federations and hospitals to achieve comprehensive health care instead of the current fragmented programs and to emphasize high quality and broad coverage. Emerging new patterns of financing affected by Medicare, Medicaid and other federal funds, were discussed. In community planning for the aged, stress was placed on involving the aged themselves in the determination and leadership of programs to serve themselves, Mr. Bernstein reported.

Workshops Appraised New Approaches To Community Planning And New Techniques

The Assembly, he said, examined new approaches in community planning for the broad spectrum of communal needs, to take full advantage of new opportunities for improving services and channelling allocations. Such planning would involve new techniques of advanced operations research and budget and cost benefit systems pioneered in other fields. The planning discussions took account of the new urban geography, resulting from population shifts to the suburbs.

The 150 young new leaders at the Assembly, many of them winners of the outstanding young leadership awards of their communities, reviewed the community seminar "study programs in depth" to deal with the "why" as well as the "what" and "how" of Jewish communal services. Plans were made to extend such seminars to more cities.

Women's sessions dealt not only with women's fund raising, but particularly with creative volunteer services for the major concerns of federations and the major issues of the total community. The role of volunteers is expanding and more complex, the sessions found, in the light of current urban problems.

Underlying much of the discussions was that of the workshop on the personnel shortages of Jewish agencies. The General Assembly recommended that the federation in each city should set up machinery for the intensive recruitment and training of people for careers in Jewish communal service.

Communal leaders examined the experience of Jewish federations and other organizations in dealing with critical urban problems, particularly programs to overcome poverty. The case studies revealed many Jewish organizations conducting a variety of anti-poverty programs—sixty different projects in one city—and giving leadership to action by the entire community, Mr. Bernstein said.

The great attention given by the General Assembly in plenary sessions to the crisis in the Middle East was carried also into the workshops on these issues. The meetings were concerned with the critical problems of Jews in Arab Lands and new responsibilities for refugees coming to Western Europe as well as to Israel. At the same time, the community leaders projected greater cooperation with the communities in Western Europe to strengthen their community organizations' self-help services and fund-raising for their own needs and for sharing in world wide Jewish responsibilities, especially for Israel.

In the continuing crisis of the Middle East, leaders of federations and welfare funds at the Assembly, in cooperation with UJA officials, formulated plans for all-out fund raising for the Israel Emergency Fund, carrying forward the extraordinary experience of 1967 when welfare funds raised by far the largest sums in the history of American Jewry for these purposes.

B'nai B'rith Official Sees New Rapport with Youth in Rights, Poverty Battles

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 20 (JTA)—Jewish parents were advised today to involve themselves more deeply in efforts to improve housing, schooling and employment opportunities for Negroes "as an example to your children" and as a means of creating better rapport with them.

Ben Barkin, chairman of the B'nai B'rith Youth Commission, policy-making body of the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, told the annual meeting of the commissioners here that their demands for local and national initiatives to bring about equality for Negroes may provide "fringe benefits you never expected." "You will find added rapport with your teen-age children. You will find you're making them proud of you because they are already involved in the thick of where the action is. Most of them question the inequities of the system and are probably blaming you, their parents and leaders, for letting these injustices go on," Mr. Barkin said.

Courses in Yiddish Language, Literature, Culture Set Up at Five Universities

NEW YORK, Nov. 20 (JTA)—Courses in the Yiddish language, literature and culture will be offered by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations on the campuses of five leading American universities through a subsidy provided by the Farband-Labor Zionist Order. The schools are Harvard, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Brandeis University, Northwestern University and the University of California at Los Angeles.

The joint project, which is intended to stimulate interest in Yiddish culture among university students was announced today by Jacob Katzman, general secretary of the Farband, and Rabbi Benjamin M. Kahn, director of the Hillel Foundations. The Farband subsidy will amount to \$250 per semester on each campus. The courses offered will vary from school to school.

At Northwestern University, the Hillel Foundation will offer an advanced course in Yiddish classics and a basic course in the Yiddish language. Elementary and intermediate Yiddish will be taught at M.I.T. Conversational Yiddish will be taught at Brandeis University and elementary modern Yiddish at Harvard. Yiddish courses at UCLA will be taught by a former member of the Warsaw Yiddish Theater.

Socialist International Would Arouse Public Opinion for Soviet Jews

LONDON, Nov. 20 (JTA)—A campaign to arouse public opinion over the plight of 3 million Jews in the Soviet Union and to stimulate action on the humanitarian issues involved was announced at a meeting of the London bureau of the Socialist International which closed here last night. The campaign will be based on a report by a special working party on the status of Soviet Jewry which was adopted by the Socialist International at its annual conference in Zurich last month.

The meeting also discussed the Arab-Israel conflict and decided to forward the International's resolution on that subject to Secretary General U Thant with a request that he circulate it among all United Nations members. The resolution expressed "full solidarity with the people of Israel who are defending their existence and their liberty against aggression" and called for "negotiated peace treaties between Israel and the Arab states."

Herut Leader Says Pleas for Jews to Soviet 'Humanitarian Feelings' Are Useless

TEL AVIV, Nov. 20 (JTA)—A Herut member of Parliament told a mass meeting for Soviet Jewry today that it was useless to appeal to the "humanitarian feelings" of Soviet leaders and that "we must try to force them to solve the Jewish problem by opening the gates for Jews."

Speaking at a B'nai B'rith-sponsored protest rally, Chaim Landau said that "we demand 'Let my people go'." He declared that the only solution to the oppression of Soviet Jewry was to enable them to migrate to Israel. Other speakers said that anti-Jewish tendencies were continuing in the Soviet Union and that only pressure and demand from the whole world would bring about a change in Soviet attitudes. They called on public opinion everywhere to join in the demands for Soviet Jewry.

Munich Court Sentences Israeli Hunters of Nazi War Criminal to Jail Terms

BONN, Nov. 20 (JTA)—A three-months prison sentence was imposed today by a Munich court on two Israelis, Baruch Shur and Daniel Gordon, who were accused of having broken into the apartment of the wife of the former Gestapo head, Heinrich Mueller, fugitive war criminal. The sentence was in line with the demand of the prosecution for a maximum sentence.

The two Israelis, who have been held without bail since their arrest, were not in court when sentence was imposed. It was not learned immediately whether they planned to appeal.

Former Concentration Camp Commander Arrested in Munich on Murder Charges

MUNICH, Nov. 20 (JTA)—The arrest of former SS officer Anton Ganz who is held responsible for the deaths of many inmates of two Nazi concentration camps in his charge during World War II, was announced here by the Bavarian Justice Ministry. Ganz is 68.

Psychiatrist Says Concentration Camp Victims Suffered Permanent Mental Damage

LONDON, Nov. 20 (JTA)—Nazi persecution caused irreversible intrinsic changes in the mental structures of surviving victims who will probably never be mentally normal as long as they live, a German psychiatrist told a World Psychiatric Association symposium here. Professor Walter von Baeyer, of Heidelberg University, said that more than one third of the survivors of Nazi persecution are suffering from lasting psychopathological conditions which resist therapy.