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Eshkol Says Johnson's 'Dramatic Initiative' Will Strengthen Cause of World Peace

JERUSALEM, April 4 (JTA)--Prime Minister Levi Eshkol said today that his talks with President Johnson last year had convinced him that the President was prepared to place his influence on the side of peace and "his dramatic initiative this week, too, will strengthen the cause of peace and freedom all over the world."

Mr. Eshkol's comments were included in his closing speech before the international economic conference here which brought outstanding Jews here from all parts of the free world to consult and plan for the economic development of Israel.

Foreign Minister Abba S. Eban told the conference that "all mankind breathes more freely today because the prospect of negotiations has been opened in the Vietnam conflict." He told the delegates that the policy of standing firm while seeking negotiations promised to yield a harvest of peace in the Middle East, too. But, he warned, the turning point could be conceived only when the negotiating table is approached.

Kfar Ruppin, Tirat Zvi in Beisan Valley Again Targets of Jordanian Mortar Fire

TEL AVIV, April 4 (JTA)--Children spent the night in bomb shelters at Kfar Ruppin and Tirat Zvi, in the Beisan Valley which were the targets of Jordanian shelling again, it was reported here today. There were no casualties and the only damage was done to a truck at Kfar Ruppin. According to a military spokesman, six mortar shells landed there and eight struck in the Tirat Zvi area. Israeli artillery returned the fire and silenced the Jordanian positions. An Army halftrack was damaged last night when it struck a mine near Timna in the Eilat region. There were no casualties. Three pairs of footprints were found leading from and to the Jordanian border.

Economic Conclave Approves Permanent Agency, Giant Investment Project for Israel

JERUSALEM, April 4 (JTA)--The world economic conference called by Prime Minister Eshkol ended here today after adopting a long series of resolutions and initiating new projects and enterprises designed to further Israel's economic growth. The outcome of the four-day parley which brought together some 500 leading Jewish businessmen from abroad and several hundred of their Israeli counterparts, appeared to be a new era of partnership and mutual cooperation, based not only on substantial capital investments but on infusions of know-how and programs for training Israelis in managerial and production skills.

The principal resolutions called for the establishment of the conference as a permanent and continuing body and for the creation of a giant investment company, capitalized at more than \$100 million, to provide long term financing for Israeli enterprises. Sir Sigmund Warburg, of Britain, one of the backers of the company, said that it would invest mainly in new enterprises and development industries. It would not compete with local finance companies but mainly work through them, he said.

The conference, which had gone through four days of intensive discussion, considerable hard bargaining and controversy, closed on a sudden note of high emotion. It occurred spontaneously when the regional chairman for South Africa, taking leave of Prime Minister Eshkol, burst into tears. As if by signal, hundreds of white handkerchiefs appeared in the chamber as delegates began wiping their eyes. Hard-headed businessmen embraced each other as tears flowed. Prime Minister Eshkol and Finance Minister Sapir were apparently too choked with emotion to speak.

Up to that point, however, the conference was conducted on a brisk, practical level and had a long list of achievements to show for it. It decided to set up an insurance company to safeguard investments in new enterprises and to do research into their profitability; it agreed to increase the capital of a re-insurance company owned by 32 Israeli insurance firms from \$700,000 to \$5 million. The conference committee on textiles and leather financed some 20 investment projects and marketing agreements. These included a million dollar investment in a ladies handbag factory in Israel of which 77 percent was already subscribed.

The conference resolutions are grouped in four sections. A preamble to the first section contains the personal pledge of each delegate to continue to help and support Israel in the economic field and in all areas leading to progress, stability and peace for Israel and the Middle East. The section contains the Government recommendations including provision of incentives to investment, price stability, improvements in productivity and reduction in unit costs. There is a pledge of the progressive reduction of high protective customs and tariff duties on imports.

The third section outlines ten points on which the delegates committed themselves. These include development of their home markets for Israeli products and the mobilization of the interest of potential investors and merchandisers in Israeli products. The final chapter lists recommendations and conclusions and proposes that the Prime Minister should, from time to time, convene successive economic conferences for review and evaluation of the developing situation. It proposes that the conference presidium should meet at least once a year to review the activities of the regional committees which will function continuously in their areas. The staff of the Israel Investment Authority will coordinate all these activities.

Two conference decisions which attracted much comment were for the establishment of an insurance company to safeguard investment in new enterprises and to do research into the profitability of proposed investments, and for the recapitalization of an Israeli re-insurance firm.

Simon Mirelman, chairman of the South American committee, told the conference that he would personally follow up the conference decisions by visiting each Latin American country. Alan Bronfman, Canadian chairman, said a national committee would be established in Canada with a professional director. Victor M. Carter, of Los Angeles, chairman of the American mission, praised Prime Minister Eshkol's initiative in calling the conference. Francois Pereire of France, said that the deals concluded by the European delegates during the conference would provide work for 2,500 people. David Sussman of South Africa, termed the conference the "Four-Days War."

The organizing committee for the investment firm will be headed by Mr. Carter and Dr. Astorre Meyer of Italy. Subscribers to the capital shares of the new firm have already been registered from five continents. They each pledged \$100,000. One-fifth of the capital will be provided by Israelis, including the Government, but Sir. Sigmund Warburg stressed that the Government will not control the firm nor even have a decisive influence.

In his concluding remarks, Prime Minister Eshkol paid tribute to "my friends, Ed Ginsberg, Abe Feinberg, Sam Rothberg and Louis Fox." The organizations they head, he said — the United Jewish Appeal, the Israel Bond Organization and the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds — "make up a glorious chapter in the history of Jewish solidarity. Today they face new challenges. They will have to finish the job they have started and prepare for the absorption of tens, and hundreds and thousands of immigrants yet to come."

Security Council, In Impasse, Seeks Way to Dispose of Jordan, Israeli Complaints

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 4 (JTA)--The United Nations Security Council met this afternoon for the fourth time to consider the Jordan-Israeli cross-complaints of cease-fire violations on March 29 but it was almost completely at a loss as to how to proceed. When the session opened, only the Jordanian representative had been inscribed on the speaker's list. None of the major powers or neutral states, apparently, was prepared to come forward with any proposals of a substantive nature and the Council was, to all intents, at an impasse.

At least three different proposals for a resolution or consensus on which the Security Council could mark the issue closed were being discussed, but none of them had reached the drafting state. One proposal, given little possibility of acceptance, was to call on Israel and Jordan to agree to the stationing of observers in the cease-fire area — a proposal which Secretary-General U Thant would like to see adopted. Another would be for the Security Council to reaffirm its Nov. 22 resolution and admonish both sides to cooperate more closely with Ambassador Gunnar V. Jarring, the UN special envoy in the Middle East. A third proposal was for a simple resolution or declaration calling on both sides to observe the terms of the cease-fire.

A two-and-a-half hour session of the Council on Tuesday resolved itself into a slugging match between the Arab spokesmen and Ambassador Yosef Tekoah of Israel. The Israeli envoy then answered the Arab charges against Israel one by one and launched into a vigorous attack on the Arab states for their treatment of the Jewish minorities in their hands.

State Dept. Says Hussein Is 'In Control' of Situation and Will Receive U.S. Arms

WASHINGTON, April 4 (JTA)--State Department officials said today that United States arms will be shipped to Jordan as agreed because the United States Government evaluation is that King Hussein remains in control and is not the captive of the El Fatah terrorist movement as reported in some dispatches from Amman. Authorities indicated that El Fatah terrorists have become heroes in the eyes of many Jordanians and they conceded that it is more difficult for Hussein now to control their actions.

Shipment of U.S. arms is still seen here as a move to strengthen the Hussein regime, promote stability, and prevent a deterioration of the situation on the east bank of the Jordan River. U.S. officials depicted recent clashes along the cease-fire line in the nature of developments that strengthened El Fatah and made control by Hussein more difficult.

The Department of Agriculture announced that Jordan will be supplied with 1.1 million bushels of wheat or equivalent flour under the Food for Peace program. The value of the food is \$2.1 million. Repayment will be in dollars under long-term credit terms.

Deny Republican Charges Israel Was Forced to Pay High Price for Skyhawks

WASHINGTON, April 4 (JTA)--A State Department spokesman denied today a charge by the Republican Coordinating Committee that the Administration slowed the delivery of Douglas A-4 Skyhawk military jets "by attempting to make a profit on the sale of the Skyhawks to Israel." The Committee said that following the sales agreement on a government-to-government level, Israel paid the agreed price to the Naval Air Systems Command, the Government agency charged with obtaining a contract from the Douglas Company, manufacturer of the Skyhawk. According to the Committee, the Naval Air Systems Command nevertheless spent considerable time trying unsuccessfully to force Douglas to sell the Government the planes "at an especially low cost" for resale to Israel at a profit. Israel had been charged a premium price for the Skyhawks.

Warsaw Yiddish Daily Compelled To Carry Nasser Speeches, Anti-Zionist Attacks

LONDON, April 4 (JTA)--Poland's only Yiddish daily, Folkstimme, is being forced to publish lengthy excerpts from speeches by Egypt's President Nasser and other Arab leaders in addition to denunciations of "Zionists" by Polish Party and Government officials and demands for the dismissal of Jewish officials for alleged Zionist sympathies, it was learned here today.

The paper, organ of the Jewish Cultural Association, only yesterday published a statement of allegiance and loyalty to the Polish regime. But it was obviously under intense pressure to condemn Zionism, which it originally failed to do and is therefore being fed, and made to publish, anti-Zionist items from PAP, the official Polish news agency. One passage that appeared in the paper today, read "we demand the dismissal from their posts in the administration and in public bodies, the various Zionists who falsify the true purpose of Polish history and Polish culture." This, and excerpts from Nasser and other Arab speeches, carried the PAP credit line. There was no editorial comment from the paper itself.

(New York Times correspondent Jonathan Randal reported from Warsaw today that "the Cultural Association of Polish Jews bowed to official pressure and publicly condemned what the regime has termed a Zionist-directed anti-Polish slander campaign in the West." Mr. Randal reported further that a resolution adopted by Party members in Szczecin (Stettin) demanded the purge of "those Jews who are cosmopolitan to the point of not being able to choose between Poland and Israel." He quoted the newspaper, Kurier Polski, in reply to foreign critics who have accused the Warsaw regime of anti-Semitism: "It is not our fault that among the open troublemongers who attempt to create disturbances in the country, among the creators of abuse and errors, among those guilty of negligence, economic as well as educational, were a certain percentage of people of Jewish origin. Should we permit them to go ahead because they are Jews?")

Belgian Jewish Students Protest Polish Government's Revival of Anti-Semitism

BRUSSELS, April 4 (JTA)--The Union of Belgian Jewish Students denounced Polish police violence against students in Warsaw and other cities and protested against the tactic of blaming Jews and Zionists for creating popular unrest. In a resolution adopted here, the students said that the use of Zionists as scapegoats has contributed to the revival of anti-Semitism which is still strong in certain sections of the Polish population.

Find Grave in Georgian Republic of 300 Jewish Children Slain by Nazis in 1942

LONDON, April 4 (JTA)--A mass grave of 300 Jewish children who were murdered in cold blood by the Nazis in 1942 was opened in the holiday resort town of Teberdi in the Soviet Georgian Republic, it was reported here today. The local town council announced that it would erect a monument on the gravesite. The existence of the grave was known but it was never opened until now. The Gestapo massacred the children after picking them out of a children's home in the town.

Scott Calls for Removal of Statute of Limitations on Nazi War Crimes

WASHINGTON, April 4 (JTA)--Sen. Hugh Scott, Pennsylvania Republican, asked President Johnson today to urge West Germany to eliminate or extend indefinitely the statute of limitations on Nazi war criminals "so that all who committed genocide and other crimes against humanity can be brought to justice." In a letter to the President, Sen. Scott pointed out that many leading Nazi criminals were still at large. He said the search continues for such persons as Martin Bormann, Hitler's Deputy Fuhrer; Dr. Joseph Mengele, who experimented on Jews in Auschwitz; Heinrich Mueller, Gestapo chief who planned the systematic annihilation of Jews at the Wannsee Conference of 1942, and others.

Sen. Scott said that less than 10 percent of known Nazi criminals have been brought to trial and many suspects are at large in South America, South Africa, Egypt and elsewhere. Unless Bonn's statute of limitations is lifted, no new investigations can be initiated after Dec. 31, 1969, said the senator. Even the most notorious Nazis would be free from prosecution if discovered after that date.

Bonn Claims of Drop in Neo-Nazi Party Membership Questioned by Newspaper

LONDON, April 4 (JTA)--A report by the West German Ministry of Interior that the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party has lost support in comparison to its size in 1966, was questioned by The Times in a dispatch from Bonn today. According to The Times correspondent, NPD membership remains unchanged at 28,000, although the party itself claims 37,000 members. About 35 percent of the members have a Nazi or extreme right-wing background. Although the Bonn Ministry claims that less than one-tenth of the West German electorate is inclined to support the NPD, "a section of the German population is ready once again to follow romantic nationalist concepts," The Times correspondent said.

British Chief Rabbis Ask Passover Day of Prayer for Jews in Lands of Oppression

LONDON, April 4 (JTA)--The Ashkenazic and Sephardic chief rabbis of Britain asked all ministers today to set aside one day of the Passover holiday for sermons and special prayers "for the plight of Jews in lands of repression and oppression." The proposal was made by the Board of Deputies of British Jews which took note of the deteriorating position of Jewish communities in Eastern Europe. The congregations of the Liberal and Reform synagogues and the Federation of Synagogues have agreed to similar observances.

New York Federation Calls Conference on Problem of Narcotics Use Among Jews

NEW YORK, April 4 (JTA)--The Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York announced plans today for an all-day conference here next month on the growing problem of narcotics use and addiction among Jews.

Howard I. Rhine, a New York attorney who is chairman of the federation's committee on narcotics, said that the May 5 conference was called to dramatize for the Jewish community the fact that narcotics use and abuse was becoming a specifically Jewish problem and to consider creation, under federation auspices, of a Jewish-sponsored facility to make available to the Jewish user treatment facilities which combine Jewish social work and religious resources. The committee was set up under auspices of the federation's commission on synagogue relations of which Rabbi Isaac Trainin is director. Mr. Rhine said that more than 100 experts would attend the conference, including doctors, officials of government treatment programs, psychiatrists, rabbis and representatives of various federation agencies.

He quoted Father W.L. Damiam Pitcaithly, director of the Samaritan Halfway House, a private treatment facility in New York, as declaring that some 20 percent of persons receiving treatment there were Jews. Mr. Rhine also said that statistics on narcotics use by Jews were hard to get, partly because Jews are able to afford private treatment and hence are often not in a situation requiring referral to public institutions.

Indicating that as little as ten years ago, narcotics abuse was rare among Jews, Mr. Rhine added that there was little doubt that narcotics use is high among Jewish college students, as it is among college students generally. He said that the conference was expected to produce some specific information on the distribution of narcotic users among Jews and on the degree to which specifically Jewish problems had a role in the pressures to which narcotics use is a response.

He said there was now no treatment facility under Jewish auspices and that the Jewish community had done nothing to grapple with the problem. He pointed out that Catholic and Protestant groups have long sponsored such facilities and that officials of such treatment centers often call Jewish institutions when a Jewish person comes to them for help. He said that when a rabbi encounters this problem among his congregations, he should have a Jewish facility for referral, rather than to have to go to a Government agency or to another religious group. Another objective of the conference, he said, will be to formulate plans for an education program on the problem for synagogues, Jewish centers and similar federation institutions.

United Hias Re-elects Israelis; Names Jacobson Executive Vice-President

NEW YORK, April 4 (JTA)--Carlos L. Israelis was re-elected president of United Hias Service, the worldwide Jewish migration agency, at a meeting of the board of directors tonight. Edward Ginsberg, of Cleveland, the national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, was elected a vice-president, and Carl Glick, financial analyst, will serve as associate secretary. Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive director, was elected to the newly-established office of executive vice-president.

The board also re-elected Murray I. Gurfein, chairman of the executive committee; Ben Touster, associate chairman of the board, and Harry Berse, Walter H. Bieringer, Adrian M. Easton, Max M. Fisher, Adolph Held, Daniel E. Ilshin, Mrs. A. Louis Oresman, Hugo E. Rogers, Jacob J. Rosenblum, William Rosenwald, Mrs. Albert Speed and Dr. Harold M. Weinberg, vice-presidents.

Israeli Merchant Marine Cadets Visit New York on Training Cruise

NEW YORK, April 4 (JTA)--Sixteen Israeli maritime cadets arrived in New York on a training cruise aboard the Israeli cargo motorship Hadar of the Zim Lines. The youngsters, aged 16 to 18, are students at the merchant marine training school in Netanya which is operated by ORT, the world-wide vocational training network. The cruise is part of their course leading to officers' licenses. Israel also maintains a national maritime college at Acre to supply officers for the Navy and merchant marine. Israeli cargo ships, plying the world's sea lanes, have always been used for training purposes.

U.S. Finds Polish Gov't. Bias Against American Jews Seeking Visas Since June War

WASHINGTON, April 4 (JTA)--The United States Government has noted a hardening pattern of discrimination by the Polish Government against American Jews seeking visas since the Six-Day War last June, it was disclosed today by Rep. Edward J. Derwinski, Illinois Republican. Rep. Derwinski, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, elicited this information from the Executive Department of the Government. It was attributed by Rep. Derwinski to "authoritative sources."

The Congressman said that Communist Poland indicated a tendency to discriminate against American Jews applying for visas shortly after the war. A number of instances of discrimination are known to Washington authorities, but the situation became much more acute during recent weeks when the Warsaw Government unleashed a thinly-veiled anti-Jewish campaign designed to discredit freedom demonstrations by students.

Rep. Derwinski revealed that there was definite knowledge here of an intensification of bias in the issuance of visas during recent weeks, experienced not only by Jews but also by non-Jews, especially those of Polish origin, he said. He indicated that the Polish authorities, in their fear and insecurity arising from current unrest, were attempting, to some extent, to "seal off" Poland from American visitors.