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General Assembly Urged To Give UNRWA More Funds Or Face Cutback Of Services

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 7 (JTA) -- The General Assembly received an urgent appeal today to provide more funds for Arab refugees or face a drastic curtailment of the services and facilities provided for them with resulting "further hardships . . . and political repercussions." The appeal was contained in the annual report of Laurence Michelmore, commissioner-general of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Arab refugees (UNRWA), published here.

Mr. Michelmore reported that 1,395,074 refugees were currently registered with his agency. He predicted a deficit of between \$3.3 million and \$3.8 million for fiscal 1969 and warned that UNRWA was faced with the threat that its cash reserves would soon be exhausted--"perhaps early in 1970."

The UNRWA chief said the agency had run a deficit in every year but one since 1963. He attributed the present crisis, however, to "the continuing consequences of the June, 1967 hostilities in the Middle East, including military occupation and the continued deferment of hope of return to their homes for all but a small fraction of those who had to move in 1967." He maintained that any reduction of aid to the refugees "would have to be carried out against the opposition of the refugees themselves and of the Arab host governments."

Mr. Michelmore's report laid great stress on what he called the "uncertainty about the future which has hung over the heads of the refugees for 21 years." The report covers the period from July 1, 1968 to June 30, 1969. It noted that prior to 1967, UNRWA provided assistance exclusively to refugees from those parts of Palestine which became Israel in 1948 who were living in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria and the Gaza Strip. Since June, 1967, however, it has been providing assistance "on an emergency basis and as a temporary measure" to refugees displaced by the Arab-Israeli war. Of the latter, only a limited return has been possible and as a consequence UNRWA found itself providing aid to more than 200,000 displaced refugees and other persons in Syria and East Jordan, the report said.

Michelmore Tells Of Arab Refugees' Disappointments, Dangers

"The refugees continue to express their disappointment and disillusionment over the delay in the realization of the hopes to return to their places of residence before June, 1967, their hopes for repatriation to their original homes or compensation for those not choosing to return," the report said. "In the meantime, the refugees were confronted constantly with the physical dangers and tensions resulting from hostilities across the cease-fire lines. They felt the frustrations and fears of measures taken for security reasons, such as curfews, interrogations, detentions and demolition of buildings, and this had a detrimental effect on their morale."

The Michelmore report said the flight of most refugees to East Jordan in the wake of the 1967 war created the "painful anomaly" of well-equipped refugee camps on the West Bank being only partly occupied "while their former inhabitants lived in barely tolerable conditions" in East Jordan. The report stated that "shelling, air raids and other hostilities" added to the strains of exile and emergency conditions there.

The same stresses were felt by the 240,000 refugees remaining on the West Bank where, "as the period of occupation lengthened and the prospect of a settlement seemed to recede, demonstrations, strikes and bomb explosions became more frequent and led to security counter-measures by the Israeli military authorities. This action and reaction dislocated the work of schools and training centers and imposed extra strains on the agency's staff," the report said.

According to Mr. Michelmore, the situation was worse in the Gaza Strip where "strikes and incidents of violence were an almost continuous feature of life." He stated that his agency had not escaped some of the consequences such as arrests, detention and imprisonment of staff for alleged illegal activities outside their official duties. The UNRWA camps are staffed almost entirely by Arabs.

Rohan Reverses Innocence Plea, Admits All Charges; His Lawyer Enters Insanity Plea

JERUSALEM, Oct. 7 (JTA) -- The El Aksa mosque fire trial took a predictable turn today when the accused arsonist, Michael Denis William Rohan, 28, reversed his plea of innocence and admitted to all of the charges against him except premeditation. Yitzhak Tunik, the Tel Aviv criminal lawyer defending the Australian sheep-shearer, entered a plea of temporary insanity on behalf of his client. Mr. Tunik asserted that Rohan could not be held punishable because at the time of the offense he was mentally ill.

The reversal was anti-climactic and interest in the trial has already noticeably diminished. The

400-seat hall in the convention center, packed to capacity when the trial opened yesterday, was only partly filled this morning. On Monday, Mr. Rohan pleaded innocent to two charges of arson and two charges of violation of a Holy Place, offenses which according to presiding Judge Henry E. Baker carry an aggregate penalty of 44 years in prison.

In switching to a guilty plea today, the accused took exception to only one fact on the charge sheet -- that he had "made up his mind" to set fire to the mosque "in the context of extreme religious convictions." Police who interrogated Rohan after his arrest Aug. 23 testified yesterday that he had claimed that God commanded him to burn the mosque so that the Temple could be rebuilt on its site. They said that Rohan claimed membership in the Church of God, a small Protestant fundamentalist sect.

According to reports widely published here, Rohan spent several months in an Australian mental institution in 1965 and was at one time declared a schizophrenic. These reports are expected to figure in Mr. Tunik's defense. But there seemed little chance that the trial would be shortened although Judge Baker indicated that he hoped it would. Prosecuting attorney Meir Shamgar, one of the lawyers who helped prosecute Nazi deportation chief Adolf Eichmann, said the prosecution was not prepared to accept the defense plea. He asked the court for permission to "prove the facts fully." Judge Baker then ruled that the court would hear all 43 witnesses. But he said he hoped Mr. Tunik's cross-examination would be shortened considerably to cut down the length of the trial.

Arab radio and television broadcasts charged yesterday that the charges against Rohan were "trumped up" and that his trial was a "show" put on for the benefit of world opinion. A spokesman on Amman television quoted "informed sources" who alleged that certain wealthy Jews wanted the Temple restored on its ancient site and that their agents set fire to the mosque. According to Amman, Rohan is an "innocent scapegoat."

Malaysian Premier, A Moslem, Threatens Holy War Over Jerusalem

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Oct. 7 (JTA) -- Prime Minister Tunku Abdul Rahman of Malaysia proposed in the General Assembly today that "as a temporary expedient, and pending a final settlement, the UN itself should assume authority and jurisdiction over Jerusalem" in order to protect the Holy Places.

In one of the most bellicose speeches heard so far in debate which began Sept. 18, he warned that unless the UN took action to enforce its Jerusalem decisions, "the pressure of public opinion in the Moslem world will certainly explode and force their leaders to take some drastic action which would have very serious consequences on world peace."

Mr. Rahman said that he had come almost directly from the Rabat Moslem summit conference which, along with the Moslem world, held Israel responsible for "the sacrilege committed on the El Aksa Mosque which caused anger and humiliation to all Moslems." He asserted that the status and future of Jerusalem was no longer a matter between Israel and Jordan only or between Israel and the Arab states but was a matter of concern to the entire Moslem world.

The Malaysian warned that "if no progress is made to restore Jerusalem to the rightful owners, then sooner or later a crusade to recover it will start in earnest." It would not then be possible, he said, to prevent the sporadic fighting from escalating into a holy war with dangerous consequences to world peace.

Mrs. Meir Returns Home, Has Praises For Nixon For 'Understanding Our Problems'

TEL AVIV, Oct. 7 (JTA) -- Premier Golda Meir returned home today apparently well satisfied with the results of her visit to the United States and with warm words for President Richard M. Nixon. Speaking to newsmen she described Mr. Nixon as a man "who listens and understands our problems." She said he "is prepared and willing to pursue the same policy he is pursuing now -- mainly to see to it that Israel's ability to defend itself will not fall short." Mrs. Meir was reported to have asked the President for more arms and planes and for economic aid to help pay for them.

When she left the U.S., Mrs. Meir sent a cable from her plane to Mr. Nixon thanking him and Mrs. Nixon for their hospitality. "The impressions and expressions of friendship I carry with me and above all my meetings with you combine to make my visit truly one of the highlights of my life," the message said.

Eban Confers With Michael Stewart On Mideast, Anglo-Israeli Relations, Chieftains

LONDON, Oct. 7 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban met with British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart here yesterday in what was officially described as a general discussion encompassing the whole range of Middle East problems and Anglo-Israeli relations. According to authoritative sources, Israel's request for Chieftain tanks was discussed but was not the main agenda item. Other matters taken up reportedly included Britain's vote for the Security Council's El Aksa mosque fire resolution which implicitly blamed Israel and which urged Israel to rescind legislation affecting Jerusalem.

Mr. Eban told newsmen of his audience with Pope Paul VI at the Vatican yesterday and disclosed that he had asked the Pontiff to intervene on humanitarian grounds to help secure the release of two Israeli nationals held captive in Syria since their TWA airliner was hijacked to Damascus Aug. 29.

Allon Says He Expects Few Of The Jews Now Leaving Poland To Come To Israel

JERUSALEM, Oct. 7 (JTA) -- Deputy Prime Minister Yigal Allon asserted yesterday that few of the Jews now leaving Poland will come to Israel. Mr. Allon, who heads the Ministry of Immigrant Absorption, told a press conference that Israel nevertheless expected 50,000 immigrants in 1970, double the number that will have arrived here by the end of 1969. According to Mr. Allon, the Jews now leaving Poland are a remnant of those who could have left in the 1950s but elected to remain in the Communist country. "They still do not seek a home in Israel," he said.

(New York Times correspondent Paul Hoffman reported from Warsaw yesterday that "the silent exodus of Jews continues. Some 200 leave every week for Vienna or the Scandinavian countries." He added that, according to informed sources, only 10,000 Jews will remain in Poland by year's end, out of a total population of 32 million. Mr. Hoffman described Poland as a virtual police state where citizens are willing to speak on almost any subject except domestic politics.)

A Jewish Agency official disclosed today that Polish-speaking emissaries have been sent to Europe to try to persuade Jews leaving Poland to come to Israel. Gen. Uzzi Narkiss, director-general of the Agency's immigration and absorption department, reported the dispatch of emissaries at a meeting of the Agency Executive. The recent heavy exodus of Jews from Poland was spurred by an announcement by the Warsaw regime last spring that it would severely restrict the issuances of exit permits after a Sept. 1, 1969 deadline. The Jews leaving Poland now obtained their permits before the deadline.

Mr. Allon said that 40 percent of next year's anticipated immigration will be from Europe, 30 percent from Africa and Asia, 20 percent from North America and 10 percent from Latin America. He said he wanted his ministry to assume responsibility for new immigrants while they are still abroad and first decide to come to Israel instead of after they arrive. The Absorption Ministry, created by the late Prime Minister Levi Eshkol last year, functions jointly with the Jewish Agency in the absorption of newcomers. The Agency is solely responsible for the immigration process. Mr. Allon came under attack by the Jewish Agency Executive recently when he said he would try to get the immigration function assigned to the Absorption Ministry if he is asked to retain that portfolio in the Government formed after this month's national election.

Russian Jewish Poet, Deprived Of Work Permit, Reported Desperate

TEL AVIV, Oct. 7 (JTA) -- A Russian Jewish poet whose application to emigrate to Israel was approved four years ago and then suddenly revoked was reported by an Israeli newspaper yesterday to be in desperate straits. According to Yediot Achronot, the poet, Joseph Keirler, wanted news of his plight to be published in Israel and elsewhere on the chance that the publicity would either lead to a reconsideration of his application or to his arrest.

Yediot Achronot said that Mr. Keirler, whose name appears in the Soviet Literary Encyclopedia, was born in 1918 and served time in Siberia in prison during the Stalin purges of the 1950s. When he returned to Moscow, he married and had a son, now aged 11. When the boy was born, he applied for emigration and after several years his application was approved. As his family prepared to leave, he was summoned to the security police and told that the permit was cancelled. Since then Mr. Keirler has been without work, the newspaper reported.

Resistant Fighters-Deportees Probers Find Nazis In Ireland, Austria, Spain

LONDON, Oct. 7 (JTA) -- Two investigators of the International Union of Resistance Fighters and Deportees headquartered in Belgium have uncovered wanted Nazi war criminals living in Ireland, Austria, and Spain, the Daily Express reported.

Hubert Halin and Hermann Langbein said they found a former Nazi agent of Belgian nationality living in Dublin. The agent had been sentenced to 20 years imprisonment by the Belgians in 1947 but escaped after serving one year. The investigators said that in Vienna they uncovered the former Auschwitz camp doctor who helped select Jewish inmates for the gas chambers. He was running a suburban practice. They also claimed to have found the former commandant of Birkenau concentration camp and the man who designed the Auschwitz gas chambers and crematoria, both at liberty in Austria. They said that in Spain they discovered Renatus Van Avondt, the wartime SS chief in Louvain, who was twice sentenced to death by Belgian courts.

At a meeting in Brussels, the Union of Resistance Fighters and Deportees charged Austrian courts with negligence and delay in bringing former Nazi war criminals to justice. They referred specifically to the case of Julianus Van Doren, a former Belgian SS man who was arrested in Austria for participation in the torture and deportation of Jews in 1941. Van Doren was an assistant to Jan Verbelen, a Belgian war criminal sentenced to death in absentia in Belgium but acquitted in Austria.

Argentine Jews Protest Anti-Israel Propaganda Tour By Syrian Ambassador

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 7 (JTA) -- Argentine Jews have protested to the Government over an anti-Israel propaganda tour by the Syrian Ambassador, Col. Jawdat Atassi, who visited several provincial cities which have large populations of Arab origin. The DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry, lodged a protest with Alvarez de Toledo, under-secretary of the Foreign Ministry. They charged that Col. Atassi exceeded his diplomatic prerogatives and was attempting to divide communities in which Jews and Arabs lived in harmony. The Syrian envoy visited Cordoba, Tucuman, Salta, and Jujuy. He accused Zionists of conducting systematic propaganda all over the world.

SCLC Leader Raps Persecution Of Jews In Arab Lands As 'Morally Despicable'

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 7 (JTA) -- The regional director of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference issued a statement here on behalf of the organization deploring persecution of the Jews in the Arab states and condemning it as "morally despicable."

Rev. Leonard Smalls declared that "the mass executions which are in reality lynchings of Christians, Moslems, and Jews by the Iraqi Government, bear direct and dreadful witness to that Government's dismal policy of mistreatment and persecution of religious and ethnic minorities."

The Negro leader also condemned the continued detention in Syria of two Israelis, seized from the hijacked Trans World Airlines plane on Aug. 29. He said that "these despicable acts totally contradict Christian and Moslem moral principles." Rev. Smalls also protested the "sad plight of the several thousand Jews in Syria, Iraq and Egypt." He said his organization called on the United States Government, the United Nations and men of goodwill everywhere to prevail on the Arab regimes "to end, once and for all, the persecution of their Jewish and other minorities."

Jewish Defense League Says It Plans To Set Up A Chapter In Montreal

MONTREAL, Oct. 7 (JTA) -- The Jewish Defense League of New York, a militant self-defense organization, plans to set up a chapter here, according to its national director Rabbi Meir Kahane. Rabbi Kahane, speaking in Waterloo, Ontario, said that he plans to discuss formation of the chapter with some 25 interested potential members after he speaks here at McGill University in a few weeks.

A spokesman in New York City said that since Rabbi Kahane spoke recently in Waterloo, the main headquarters has been "besieged" by calls from various Canadian communities where Jews want a chapter formed. He said that the JDL expects "to form a chapter wherever it is felt there is a need for one, and where we are invited in." He said that the organization, which claims 6,000 members, was asked to come to Montreal.

When Rabbi Kahane spoke in Ontario, he said that the JDL's main source of funds is \$10 per year membership dues. He said, "money is a big problem. The big, wealthy Establishment Jewish groups 'are violently opposed to us.'" A spokesman for the Canadian Jewish Congress said "we are very concerned about this here" and said it would investigate.

Lindsay Headquarters Replies To JDL Following 'Times' Advertisement

NEW YORK, Oct. 7 (JTA) -- The Jewish Defense League, which has inaugurated a campaign to defeat incumbent Mayor John V. Lindsay in this year's mayoralty campaign, drew a terse criticism from Lindsay campaign headquarters today.

In the wake of a press conference in which the JDL told why it opposed the Mayor and how it sought to get him defeated, and an anti-Lindsay advertisement it placed yesterday in the New York Times, Lindsay headquarters said today that "the JDL has been denounced by nearly every responsible organization. They are unworthy of an answer."

In the advertisement, the JDL accused the Mayor of direct responsibility for what it claimed was a "violent outpouring of anti-Jewish hate" during last year's teachers' strike. It also accused the Mayor of maintaining known anti-Semites on the public payroll and creating the climate for the Democratic primary victory of Jesse Gray, a candidate for the City Council, who the JDL accuses of being an anti-Semite. Mayor Lindsay is a Republican and is running for re-election on the Liberal Party ticket as an independent.

According to the advertisement, the city administration was also responsible for imposing a "de facto quota system" on city colleges which allegedly operates against Jewish students in favor of other minorities. Mayor Lindsay was further accused of causing "a reign of terror" against Jewish merchants in ghetto areas and subjecting Jewish neighborhoods to an unprecedented crime wave by allegedly instructing police to "avoid showdowns" with militant blacks.

The Defense League, which has attracted widespread publicity, sent members armed with clubs and tire irons to New York's Temple Emanu-El this year to confront Black militants who reportedly were going to seek "reparations" from members for injustices done to Negroes over the years. The Negroes never showed up. The JDL maintains a camp in Orange County, N.Y. where youngsters are instructed in para-military tactics, judo and karate. The organization's tactics and aims have been widely condemned by Jewish organizations in New York City.

Miami Beach Dinner Given By Israel Bonds Results In One Million Dollars In Sales

MIAMI BEACH, Oct. 7 (JTA) -- A million dollars in Israel Bonds were sold at a Bonds for Israel dinner here last week. The affair was addressed by Moshe Gilboa, Consul General of Israel in the Southeastern United States, and the Israeli minister for economic affairs in the U.S., Simon Alexandroni. Mr. Gilboa referred to the warm welcome extended to Israeli Premier Gold Meir on her visit to this country and said it was indicative of continuing American friendship for Israel and U.S. understanding of Israel's security and economic needs.

Mr. Alexandroni said Israel's security problems did not overshadow the country's economic expansion or its educational and social development. He said that Israel needs financial support to acquire the necessary deterrents to attack while at the same time continuing its development in other areas.