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Cabinet, Histadrut, Mapam Thrashing Out Consequences of Devaluation

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA)--A three-way clash involving Israel's Cabinet, its Mapam members and the Histadrut, was reported developing today over labor demands for cost-of-living changes in wage agreements to offset the price rises stemming from Israel's new economic policy. After sharp debate, the Knesset approved today at a first reading approval of the emergency regulations under which the Israeli pound was devalued and companion measures of some price increases, along with new controls on currency trading. Approval at the required second reading was expected later in the Knesset session tonight. Histadrut officials announced yesterday that the federation was supporting the government's devaluation of the pound and its wage and price freeze and urged all workers to avoid actions likely to bring about changes in present wage agreements. But the federation couched that appeal with a demand on the government that prices of essential commodities--which spurred yesterday by at least 10 percent--be rolled back to pre-devaluation levels. The Histadrut appealed formally to the Cabinet last night to rescind the price increases announced yesterday on many basic foodstuffs. Spokesmen for Mapam and the Histadrut denounced the devaluation and its impact on Israeli prices and wage standards. Mapam Deputy Dov Zakin cited the arguments given last week--before devaluation--by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir in opposition to devaluation.

The Mapam Deputy said those arguments were still valid and asserted that the manner in which the government had handled devaluation and its related controls was "undermining confidence" in Israel's currency and hitting out at the worker, "thus increasing the inequality between income groups in the country." Itzhak Ben-Aharon, Histadrut secretary-general and a Labor Party MK, said that while the devaluation may have been needed, the price increases on four or five basic foodstuffs were not. Sapir, backed by most members of Premier Golda Meir's Labor party, had previously proposed that the anticipated general five percent rise in prices in Israel expected from devaluation should be lopped off the automatic cost-of-living increments provided in wage agreements between the major unions and employers. The Histadrut central committee, in which Labor party members are a majority, has rejected that proposal. Leaders of Mapam announced a demand that cost-of-living allowances be paid retroactive to July 1, although existing agreements provide for such payments next Jan. 1. The Mapam secretariat issued a statement yesterday declaring that it planned to make the question of earlier payments of cost-of-living allowances its main goal for workers. The leftist party hinted it would support strikes by workers in support of early payment of the allowances.

McCloskey Raps Arab Federation Statement As Inconsistent With Resolution 242

WASHINGTON, Aug. 23 (JTA)--State Department spokesman Robert J. McCloskey said today that the new Arab Federation's ugly statement last Friday was "equally unfortunate in the same sense about which we commented about Minister Dayan's statement last Friday." McCloskey said then that Israel Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's remark last Thursday that Israel should act like a "permanent" or "established" regime in the occupied Arab territories was "harmful" and "inconsistent" with United Nations Security Council Resolution 242 of Nov. 22, 1967, the basis for Middle East negotiations. On Friday the leaders of Egypt, Libya and Syria agreed that "There will be no peace or negotiation with the Zionist enemy, no yielding an inch of Arab territory, no bargaining on the Palestinian cause." The statement echoed the hard-line Khartoum resolution adopted by Arab states after the Six-Day War four years ago.

McCloskey said of the new Arab declaration: "They talk about not negotiating with Israel and not negotiating on the Palestine question. In our view that is inconsistent (with Resolution 242), which the Egyptian government told us, as well as Ambassador (Gunnar V.) Jarring (the Mideast intermediary), it accepts. That resolution, McCloskey continued, "calls for an agreement between the parties for a just and lasting peace," and "It is difficult to see how the parties can move toward a peace settlement in accord with the Security Council resolution if they talk about only what cannot be accepted." Therefore, he concluded: "We hope both sides start thinking and talking more in terms of what they can accept."

The State Department's sharp criticism came as the Egyptian Minister of State for Foreign Affairs, Hafez Ismail, left Cairo on a three-week tour to Denmark, Finland, Sweden, Norway, Iceland and France to obtain support for Egypt's position in the upcoming General Assembly, which opens Sept. 21. (In Jerusalem yesterday, Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said Friday's Arab statement was in effect a rejection of Security Council Resolution 242.) Regarding the Egyptian-Libyan-Syrian federation itself, McCloskey said the United States considered it a matter for those three governments and their people to decide. "We have never objected to such efforts at regional groupings if they reflect the popular will," he observed. (Former Egyptian Vice President Aly Sabry, with 90 other defendants was charged in Cairo yesterday with high treason. Sabry has opposed the federation.) Asked to comment on the Big Four ambassadors' draft agreement for easier access between East Germany and West Berlin, McCloskey said the draft was "not necessarily a barometer for the Middle East." He explained that he would have "difficulty establishing a link between Berlin and the Middle East," even though the same Big Four are involved in negotiations on both issues.

Arab Federation Seen As Threat As France Continues To Ship Mirages

TEL AVIV, Aug. 23 (JTA)--Reliable Israeli sources who have studied the statement on the signing of the new Arab federation see a potential threat to Israel in the form of French Mirage jets launched from Egyptian or Syrian, as well as Libyan, airfields. They note that the federation will have a united training-and-operations command for deployment of the services and equipment of any of the three partners. Moreover, they point out, Libya has a token unit at the Suez Canal front, and Libyan planes

Rabin Predicts Canal Reopening; U.S. Posture Toward USSR Can Aid Peace

CLEVELAND, Aug. 23 (JTA)--Israel's ambassador to the United States, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, predicted last night that "In the long run, Egypt--with the good offices of the United States--will make concessions and the (Suez) canal will be reopened." Addressing the 57th annual national convention of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, Rabin asserted that "Israel is making many concessions by allowing Egypt to reopen the Suez Canal, run it and receive the enormous revenues that it can earn from it, even though a peace has not been attained." Israel, he went on, "is even willing to withdraw from the East Bank of the canal, which is the best defense between Cairo and Tel Aviv." But, he declared, "Israel has been asked to make even more concessions and withdraw from the Sinai, while the Russian Navy would be able to go through the canal into the Red Sea." In exchange for this, "Egypt will only offer a cease-fire for six months," he noted, asking: "How can Israeli leaders ask their people to support such an arrangement?" Rabin added, however, that "if Israel continues to maintain its strength with the help of the United States, and if the United States maintains its strong posture toward the Soviet Union, there can be a change toward peace, and perhaps a whole peace in 10 or 15 years."

Panthers To Delay U.S. Visit; Rally Dispersed By Police; Six Panthers Arrested

JERUSALEM, Aug. 23 (JTA)--A leader of one of Israel's Black Panther groups said last night that the group had postponed a planned visit to the United States intended to dramatize for American Jews and its leaders the Panther charges of discrimination against Israel's generally poor Oriental Jews. The announcement was made during one of several speeches by Panther leaders at a rally in Zion Square in Jerusalem. Despite Panther predictions of an "unprecedented demonstration," only about 250 members showed up and initially there were almost as many television cameramen and newsmen present as Panthers. Steel-helmeted police used batons and water cannon to clear Zion Square after it had been occupied for almost two hours by the Panthers and an audience of about 2,000 curious on-lookers. Most of the demonstrators fled as soon as the hundreds of policemen suddenly emerged on the streets leading to the Square. A handful of Panthers tried to resist but were driven off by batons or water cannon spray and about a half dozen of the demonstrators were arrested in the action which lasted about three minutes, according to a Jewish Telegraphic Agency reporter who observed the demonstration and the police charge. The Panther leader who announced postponement of the scheduled visit to the United States said the delay had been approved to give American Jewish leaders time to "fulfill their promise" to assure low-cost housing for Oriental Jews.

Another reason, he told the crowd, was to provide more time for completion of a research project now underway on problems of poverty in Israel. The sponsorship for the project and identity of the researchers was not indicated. The demonstrators carried placards, some of which displayed a clenched fist salute used by American Black Panthers. Others denounced Premier Golda Meir. One cartoon said "Devaluation Government -- Go to Hell." Another placard theme was "A State Made Up Half of Kings and Half of Slaves Should be Burned Down." The demonstrators marched down Jaffa Road, Jerusalem's main street, to the square. They carried three black coffins shoulder-high, one marked "Discrimination." The demonstration had been licensed by the police who said later that several conditions accepted by the Panthers in applying for the permit were violated. Panther leaders Reuben Agrabill, Charlie Bitton and Saadia Marciano denounced the government's alleged discrimination against Oriental Jews which they compared to the Soviet Union's treatment of Russian Jews. They declared that Israel's devaluation of the pound would bring "more suffering" to those Israeli Jews already suffering. They warned that the recent inaction of the Panthers was "the quiet before the storm" and said whatever was being done was inadequate because the "basic problem" was the "feeling" that they were being discriminated against.

Klarman Outlines Plans For Absorption Of 4,500 Poor Children

CLEVELAND, Aug. 23 (JTA)--"The kibbutzim can offer much to the Israeli child in search of rehabilitation, as well as to the new immigrant," according to world director of Youth Aliyah, Joseph Klarman. "The renaissance of Youth Aliyah's children's groups in the kibbutzim," he added, "will benefit Youth Aliyah, its children and the kibbutzim themselves." Klarman submitted this view in a report to Hadassah's Youth Aliyah National Board in which he elaborated on his recent plan for the additional absorption by Israel of 4,500 children "of culturally deprived backgrounds." Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America, is holding its 57th annual national convention here. Klarman said the program would cost around IL 24 million. Even though the Israeli pound has now been devalued, its American equivalent dropping from 28.6 cents to 23.8 cents, Klarman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the IL 24 million sum would remain as the budget for the new absorption program. The proposed budget was projected before the devaluation occurred. (The JTA Daily News Bulletin's Aug. 13 report that the program would cost the equivalent of \$575 million was incorrect. Under the old conversion rule, it would have been equal to around \$6.9 million; under the new rate it is equal to around \$5.7 million.)

Of the 4,500 additional children to be absorbed, Klarman continued, 1,000 will go to kibbutzim during the next school year at a cost of IL 2.7 million (\$771,000 under the old rate, \$643,000 under the new rate), with the other 3,500 to be taken in the following school year. Each of the 10 new day centers will take in 210 students. The cost for building these prefabricated centers and maintaining them for one year will be IL 6,869,000 (\$1.97 million under the old rate, \$1.64 million under the new rate). The cost for building or renovating 31 dormitories and maintaining them for one year will be IL 15,125,000 (\$4.3 million old, \$3.6 million new). An allocation by Hadassah of \$400,000 to build and equip a day center in Jerusalem for underprivileged Jewish and Arab youths was announced yesterday by the organization's president, Mrs. Max Schenk. She added criticism of American Jewish leaders who engage in "summit sermonizing" about Israel's internal difficulties, declaring that they "reside in comfort in the United States, where pollution, slums, poverty and violence coexist with luxury, wealth and technological development." A resolution passed at the Hadassah Medical Organization plenary demanded that the World Health Organization cease processing political measures, such as the anti-Israel resolutions it has adopted at three consecutive meetings. Another resolution expressed "deepest admiration" for Israel's "humane" treatment of surrendering Jordanian terrorists.

Israel Bond Organization Outlines Plans For Intensified Fall Campaign

NEW YORK, Aug. 23 (JTA)--The National Campaign Executive Committee of the Israel Bond Organization, at a meeting in New York, outlined plans for an intensified fall campaign to help maintain Israel's economic equilibrium in the face of mounting defense and domestic needs by accelerating Israel's economic development, which affects all sectors of the country's economic life. Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond campaign, said that the Israel economy may also be affected as a result of the monetary and trade aspects of President Nixon's recently announced economic decisions, including the added tax on imports. Rothberg stated that Israel must continue to provide housing and employment for the incoming Soviet Jews. "To do less would be to seal their fate," he declared. He pointed out that while the Israel government had been cognizant of the plight of the deprived sector and had done as much as it could to alleviate the problem in the years since the Six-Day War, it was now taking action to bring about large-scale improvements. These programs will require vast sums of money, he said. Leo Bernstein, executive vice president of the Israel Bond Organization, reported that cash sales of Israel Bonds for the first seven months of this year amounted to \$132 million as against \$100 million for the same period last year, an increase of 32 percent. Based on the projections for the last five months of the year, which is usually the most active campaign period, a goal of \$300 million is achievable, he said.

The plans outlined by the National Campaign Executive Committee will be implemented on the occasion of the National Leadership Conference for Israel Bonds to be held in Washington, D.C. on September 11 and 12. Israel's Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin will be the principal speaker. Bernstein pinpointed the areas of vital importance in the fall campaign, as follows: The High Holiday Israel Bond effort in hundreds of synagogues in the United States and Canada which last year raised \$28 million in Bond purchases, is expected to exceed \$40 million this year. In tribute to the 85th birthday of David Ben-Gurion, the Israel Bond campaign during October and November will be dedicated as a meaningful greeting to the illustrious founder of the State of Israel. This would be in the form of a cash campaign for \$85 million in Bonds for Ben-Gurion's 85th birthday. Additional corporate dinners for Israel Bonds Bond functions in such "areas of affluence" as country clubs, as well as special sales to trades and unions, federations and community funds, and the enrollment of many more Trustees (purchasers of \$10,000 or more in Bonds) are among the highlights of the planning for the immediate future, Mr. Bernstein added.

Hadassah Study Recommends Multi-Disciplinary Approach To Comprehensive Patient Care

CLEVELAND, Aug. 23 (JTA)--A "return to comprehensive patient care" and the "creation of a new 'image' of the family physician" has been recommended here in a report to the 57th annual national convention of Hadassah, the Women's Zionist Organization of America. The report, which has been published in English in Israel by the Jerusalem Academic Press, contends after a six-year study that these goals "will require changes in the education of physicians--the teaching methods, the kind of teachers appointed and the framework within which teaching is conducted." Furthermore, it says, "The curricula of the preclinical courses will have to be adapted to the goals and purposes of the new orientation to comprehensive family care, and an extramural framework for teaching should be established in the family clinics to complement that provided at present in the hospital departments." To that end, the report recommends the following "interim action": "Medical students should be brought into contact with patients during the early preclinical years of study; studies in the behavioral and social sciences should be introduced during the early stages of clinical teaching; a number of family physicians should immediately be integrated into Departments of Medicine in regional hospitals and trained for teaching duties; teaching in community health facilities should supplement teaching in hospital departments." Similar recommendations are made for the teaching of nurses.

"Such a program would not only encourage more physicians to elect family practice as their specialty but would provide better health care to the population," wrote Dr. Kalman J. Mann, Director General of the Hadassah Medical Organization. He was assisted in the study by Prof. Jack H. Medalle of the Tel Aviv University Medical School; Prof. Louis Guttman of the Hebrew University; Elinor Lieber of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center, part of the Hadassah Medical Organization, and Dr. Johannes J. Groen of the University of Leiden, the Netherlands. Their report, titled "Visits to Doctors," derived from an attempt to determine the truth of the concept of "doctor-proneness"--"the clinical impression that some people hardly ever visit a doctor, whereas others are 'regular customers.'" The Hadassah study, said Dr. Mann, found that "doctor-proneness" did not exist over a period of three years or more. The researchers confirmed the implication--"which family doctors have believed for many years, but which up till now was very difficult to examine"--that "people's social and emotional difficulties are reflected in the general health state and therefore physician contacts."

Rabbinical Alliance Leader incensed At State Department's Stand On Visas

NEW YORK, Aug. 23 (JTA)--Rabbi Abraham Gross, president of the Rabbinical Alliance of America, has advised the State Department that the Orthodox organization is "astoundedly shocked and incensed" at the Department's announced opposition to Congressional bills urging 30,000 emergency visas for Soviet Jews. "Our memories are fresh of the Breckinridge Long era and catastrophic failure to rescue our brethren," Rabbi Gross said in his telegram, referring to the Assistant Secretary of State who in the early 1940s opposed relaxation of immigration quotas to aid Jews escaping Nazi Germany. Referring to special State Department action to help Hungarian refugees in the late 1950s and Cuban refugees during the Castro era, Rabbi Gross asked the Department: "Shall it be Cubans, yes; Hungarians, yes, and Jews, no?" (The Department maintains that the Attorney General has the parole authority to aid Jews as he has aided Hungarians and Cubans, and that the emergency visas are unnecessary.) Rabbi Gross concluded: "We urge our democratic principles and humanitarian interests to be extended to our Jewish brethren in the Soviet Union, granting them freedom to emigrate and a haven from oppression in permitting them immediate entry to our shores."