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EFFORTS TO HOLD COMMODITY PRICES IN AFTERMATH OF CURRENCY DEVALUATION

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Economic authorities conferred last night and this morning on means to prevent a rise in commodity prices in the wake of the devaluation of the Israeli pound yesterday. Price increases, especially in the food industry, are feared as a consequence of the higher price of imported goods. Israeli authorities were reliably reported to be considering a reduction of tariffs on certain imported raw materials to eliminate the basis for local price rises for finished products which could set off a new inflationary spiral.

Customs duties on other imports may be increased and, pending a decision, importers were ordered this morning to deposit an additional 15 percent of the value of their imports in the event that customs rates are raised.

Meanwhile, the Israel pound remained steady today in relation to most other foreign currencies. The official rate of U.S. dollars was IL 4.20, the same as it was before both currencies were devalued. No changes were registered in the rates of Italian lira, Swiss francs or pounds sterling. But other European currencies and the Japanese yen were dearer today in terms of the Israeli pound. There was little significant change in the free (black) market rate. The dollar was being traded between IL 4.40-4.60. The German mark was stronger and rose more steeply than the French franc.

Fear Hikes On Imports

The Israeli pound was devalued yesterday in order to maintain parity with the U.S. dollar which was devalued by ten percent Monday. Israeli monetary authorities said today that there was no intention to reduce the IL beyond the ten percent devaluation. But the price of goods imported from Europe and Japan has gone up and this was reflected in certain sectors of the market today.

Some merchants have cancelled their discounts for cash payments. A general price increase is feared on such imported items as cars, television and stereo sets which are in heavy demand. Finance Ministry officials estimated increases of 10-12 percent on goods imported from Europe and Japan. But construction industry sources said they didn't anticipate a rise in the cost of flats beyond one percent at most.

A new round of price increases would almost certainly lead to new wage demands by Israeli workers at a time when most labor contracts are in the process of negotiation. Economic authorities said no rise in the price of wheat and other basic foods were expected unless the price rose at the source of supply.

PINCUS: ALIYA FROM WESTERN NATIONS DECLINING DUE TO OBJECTIVE CAUSES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Ezra Pincus, chairman of the World Zionist Organization Executive, said today that the causes for the decline in aliya from the Western nations, particularly the United States, stemmed from objective conditions in those countries and in Israel. Pincus spoke at the meeting of the Zionist General Council (Actions Committee) where the reduced

immigration rate from the affluent West and the state of Jewish education in the diaspora were major agenda items.

Pincus attributed the decline in immigration from the U.S. to a waning of emotional fervor among Jews as the Six-Day War receded into history and to the fact that America was "regaining its social equilibrium." On the other hand, he said, Israeli society was viewed as more materialistic and less idealistic. He urged olim to speak out against faults they found in Israeli society and said if they did so "constructively, not carpingly" they would be listened to.

Pincus quoted Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, chairman of the American section - WZO, who said that American Jews who visited Israel loved Israel but didn't like Israelis. He also quoted Gen. Haim Herzog, former Israeli intelligence chief and a prominent radio and tv commentator, who told the General Council meeting Monday that Israeli society was too cold in welcoming new immigrants. Pincus asked why Herzog had not offered his criticism over the mass media.

The WZO chairman said he would seek "at the highest levels" the cancellation of new customs duties which reduced the privileges previously enjoyed by immigrants. The new regulations allow newcomers to bring in items duty free only from their countries of origin and abolished the duty-free parcels they were allowed to receive from abroad during their first three years in the country. Pincus called the new regulations ill-conceived. He said they rightly irritated new immigrants who felt they were being punished for the offenses of a few.

At an earlier session, Rabbi Mordechai Kirschblum, associate head of the WZO's aliya department, reported that Israel received some 6000 olim from the U.S. in 1972 compared to 8000 the year before. He said aliya from France was 2350 last year compared to 3280 in 1971 and over 5000 three years ago.

SAPIR MEETS WITH TOP U.S. POLITICAL FINANCIAL EXPERTS TO DISCUSS \$ DEVALUATION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir of Israel met with top Administration political and financial experts here today to discuss the effects of the recent devaluation of the U.S. dollar on Israel's economy.

Sapir attended a luncheon at the residence of Israeli Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin at which the participants included Paul Volcker, Undersecretary of the Treasury for International Monetary Affairs; William E. Simon, Deputy Secretary of the Treasury; Arthur Burns, chairman of the Federal Reserve System; Joseph J. Sisco, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs; and Harold Saunders, specialist on Israeli affairs on the staff of Dr. Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's national security advisor.

Details of their discussions were not disclosed. It was understood, however, that the recent monetary events were the principal reason for Sapir's one-day visit to Washington. The Israeli Cabinet Minister arrived in the U.S. last week on a private visit in connection with the Israel Bond Organization campaign. He left Washington late this afternoon for Miami to attend a Bond function and to address the mid-winter conference of the Israel Histrut Foundation in Miami Beach. He is expected

to return to Washington within the next few days for a meeting with Secretary of the Treasury George P. Schultz, to discuss a \$300-million loan for arms purchases.

While in the capital today, Sapir met with Roy Ash, head of the Office of Management and Budget and met for 45 minutes with Deputy Secretary of State Kenneth Rush at the State Department. State Department spokesman Charles Bray told reporters afterwards that the meeting was part of the "continuing dialogue with Israel." He said financial questions in general and U.S. assistance to Israel were discussed.

MRS. MEIR SAYS ENERGY CRISIS CAN BE SOLVED BY USING NON-OIL FUELS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir suggested today that the world could solve its energy crisis by the use of fuels other than oil, particularly coal, which she said was available in almost unlimited reserves. Mrs. Meir addressed the meeting of the Zionist General Council (Actions Committee) here.

Speaking as the leader of a have-not nation with respect to oil, Mrs. Meir said "I hope and believe that the powers and large states will not joyfully bring upon themselves the dictatorship of oil. The problems can be solved differently without knocking under to the Arab oil states," she said. Half-jestingly Mrs. Meir observed that most of the world's oil was "in the wrong places." She said that "Moses led the Israelites through the desert for 40 years and ended in the one place in the Middle East with no oil."

Figures For Western Aliya 'Dreadful'

Premier Meir said, in reply to questions, that she agreed with Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's statement that Jews should have the right to settle anywhere in the administered Arab territories. However, she added, this did not mean that Israel would never withdraw from some of the areas. She said that as far as she knew, that was Dayan's view as well. She noted that her government "wisely refrained" from drawing maps.

Asked by a Herut member whether a massive wave of immigration would not serve to balance the large Arab minority and thereby enable Israel to retain the administered territories without fear of being swamped by the higher Arab birth rate, Mrs. Meir said she agreed in principle. But she added that current immigration figures held out no prospect of massive aliya, especially from the West. Mrs. Meir called the figures for Western aliya "dreadful" and said that if Israel were not in a state-of-war the government would send several thousand of its finest youth to the "alya front" abroad to persuade Jewish youth to settle in Israel.

Mrs. Meir made an impassioned plea for more Jewish education abroad. She said she was deeply concerned over the fact that during the period of the Jewish State's existence, the size of the Jewish people was diminishing through assimilation and inter-marriage.

KIBBUTZNIKS ARE A WEIGHTY FACTOR

TEL AVIV, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Kibbutz members are overweight and their general physical condition is no better than that of town-dwelling office executives who lead a sedentary life, according to a medical report published in the official organ of the Kibbutz movement.

Dr. J. Kelerman, of the Sheba Medical Center, reported his findings after conducting a routine health check of 3000 members of 35 kibbutzim. He found that the weight of kibbutz mem-

bers was nine pounds above the national average and that kibbutz members smoked more than the general population.

He also reported that members of religious kibbutzim were in better physical condition and suffered fewer heart attacks than members of non-religious kibbutzim. Dr. Kelerman also claimed that people who suffered from heart maladies and resumed physical work are now more fit than people ten years younger.

ISRAELI FORMER PRISONER IN USSR, INVITED TO WORK WITH SENATE SUBCOMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Avraham Shifrin, who says he served 14 years in a Soviet "concentration camp" and four years in exile, and who came to Israel in 1970, has been invited to serve on a Congressional subcommittee investigating human rights in the Soviet Union. The invitation was extended by Sen. Edward J. Gurney (D. Fla.) after Shifrin testified last week for more than 11 hours before the Senate Subcommittee on Internal Security which is headed by Gurney. An aide to the Senator said Shifrin's Israeli citizenship is no bar to serving on a Congressional committee.

"Asking him to put his thoughts together and make some pertinent recommendations as a witness," John Gardner, the Senator's press secretary said of Shifrin, "is certainly legal. Any American or non-American can be invited for this purpose. He is not being made a member of the subcommittee staff." The subcommittee became aware of Shifrin after he had made speeches in Canada and the Miami area, Gardner said. He added that Shifrin's 20-year-old daughter is in Israel and his divorced wife is in Russia.

LORD CARADON URGED TO MEDIATE IN THE ISRAEL-ARAB IMPASSE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14 (JTA)--West Bank Arab leaders complained to Lord Caradon yesterday that Arabs were being denied their basic right of self-determination. But one of them, Mayor Mohammed Ali el-Jaabari of Hebron, urged the visiting British diplomat to serve as a mediator between Israel and the Arabs.

Lord Caradon, the former British Ambassador to the United Nations and the principal author of the Security Council's Resolution 242 is on a private visit to Israel. He lunched with Foreign Minister Abba Eban yesterday and visited friends on the West Bank where he lived during the 1930s when he was district commissioner of the Nablus district.

Jaabari said Lord Caradon's familiarity with the country would make him an effective mediator who could bring the two sides together. But Mayor Elias Freij, of Bethlehem, said that time was working against Arab interests. He noted that Israel has built 44 settlements on Arab lands and has scheduled more for the future.

Negotiations Under International Auspices

Lord Caradon told his hosts both in Hebron and Bethlehem that he thought the Middle East problem was moving toward a peaceful solution. He cited King Hussein's moderation and his recognition of the right of self-determination for the Palestinian Arabs.

In a radio interview, the British diplomat said that the text of Resolution 242 clearly implied negotiations between the parties prior to any territorial withdrawals. Observing that the essential phrase in the resolution, which has not been sufficiently stressed, was "withdrawal to secure and recognized boundaries," Lord Caradon said: "For borders to be secure they have to be recog-

nized and that is why one has to reach agreement between the parties. This is the central point."

Lord Caradon suggested negotiations under international auspices as a compromise between Israel's insistence on direct negotiations and the Arabs' opposition to any negotiations. He said he would expect both parties to come to negotiations without preconditions and prepared to discuss any subjects.

FOREIGN OFFICE ASKED TO AID SOVIET JEW CHARGED WITH INDUSTRIAL SABOTAGE

LONDON, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Four members of the all-party Parliamentary Committee for the Release of Soviet Jewry, visited the Foreign Office to seek official intervention on behalf of Isak Shkolnik, a Jewish engineer from Vinnitze in the Soviet Ukraine, who has been charged with industrial espionage on behalf of a British firm. The four, Patrick Cormack, Peter Aroher, Greville Janner and Hugh Dykes, were received by the Minister of State Julian Amery.

Jewish sources in the Soviet Union said that Shkolnik, 36, was falsely accused. They claimed that his case, like that of Lazar Lubarsky, an engineer from Rostov sentenced Feb. 1 to four years' imprisonment, was part of an official Soviet campaign to harass and intimidate Jewish activists.

They said that Shkolnik's troubles, like those of Lubarsky, began when he stated publicly that he wanted to go to Israel. He was arrested last July and charged originally with slandering the Soviet Union. The charge of industrial espionage was added later. The sources pointed out that Lubarsky, too, was originally charged with slander and later accused of giving away State industrial secrets. That charge was not substantiated at his trial.

The sources said that Shkolnik had asked relations in Israel for the necessary affidavit to obtain a Soviet exit visa. The document was sent but never reached him. When Shkolnik appeared at the Vinnitze railroad station to see off a Jewish couple going to Israel, he became a marked man, the sources said.

BREAK SEEN IN DIPLOMATIC IMPASSE BETWEEN SPAIN AND ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14 (JTA)--A definite break in the diplomatic impasse between Spain and Israel was seen here in the statement by a leading Spanish journalist that the two countries establish "formal relations." For political and economic reasons, the Spanish government has refused to have diplomatic relations with Israel. Spain has held steadfastly to Arab positions in the United Nations and in the international forums regarding Middle East issues and strict controls to suppress skyjacking and international terrorism such as that waged by the Arab Black September gang.

Jose Maria Armero, chairman of the Spanish news agency, Europa Press, said in a statement published Monday in Madrid that Spain should stop "ignoring" Israel. Armero, who recently visited Israel, said that the two countries have common economic problems, particularly regarding relations with the European Economic Community. According to a news dispatch received here reporting Armero's statement, the Spanish journalist also said that in his view no other nation in the world was "as prepared as Israel to receive Spain's cultural message."

In conversations late last Dec. in Madrid, high Spanish officials acknowledged unofficially that an anomaly existed in view of the fact that

Spain and the Soviet Union, battlefield enemies in World War II have arranged to exchange trade missions but that Spain refuses to give similar recognition to the Israel government. Spain imports approximately \$12 million worth of goods from Israel, mainly crude copper, and exports to Israel about \$4 million worth of commodities, principally processed products, according to statistics of the past three years. About 9000 Jews divided almost evenly between Sephardim and Ashkenazim live in Spain, the majority in Barcelona and Madrid.

ISRAELI DRUZE LEADERS ASKED TO DISASSOCIATE FROM SPY MEMBERS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 14 (JTA)--Israeli Druze leaders have been urged to sever relations with the Druze community on the Golan Heights where a Syrian-directed spy ring was recently discovered by Israeli authorities. About 30 Druze from Majdal Shams village on the Golan Heights are being held in custody in connection with the ring's operations.

Kamal Mansour, a Druze who is President Zalmán Shazar's advisor on minorities, called the meeting of Israeli Druze leaders to propose that they dissociate themselves from their Golan Heights brethren who do not "understand the relations that have developed between Israelis and Druze in Israel." A decision was taken to hold a meeting with Druze leaders on the Golan Heights to explain the relations. The Druze have been loyal to Israel since its independence and serve in the Israeli Army.

CANADIAN CHURCH REJECTS JEWISH MISSIONIZING IN KEY 73

TORONTO, Feb. 14 (JTA)--The United Church of Canada has disassociated itself from descriptions of Jews as a "target" group for Key 73, the North American evangelistic movement for commitment to Christ. It does not, however, rule out seeking converts among Jews as well as among the rest of North American society. The executive of the United Church's General Council said in a statement:

"We view with deep concern the fact that some literature produced in the United States, and some movements associated with Key 73 in that country have suggested that this is an opportunity to 'present the Messiah to your Jewish friends' and to win 'Jews for Jesus.' We take exception to the implications of these statements and point out that we are aware that theologically this is not the only place many United Church people would find parts of this document less than compatible with present United Church belief and practice."

Continuing, the statement says that "we will oppose any tendency within the Key 73 program to single out any groups as a particular 'target' for our evangelistic thrust. We are also aware of the fact that some Jewish leaders have found these implications offensive, while others have declared that they do not share this fear."

Br. George Morrison, secretary of the General Council, said yesterday, "We think evangelism is a broader thing than many others in Key 73 would think. Evangelism to us is expressed not only in proclaiming the Gospel, but also social action and justice. We seek conversions among all people, but do not single out Jews for special mention among them."

Labor Minister Joseph Almagi predicted that college graduates and technicians would comprise a greatly increased share of Israel's labor market during the next five years, due partially to large numbers of professionals among new olim.

Aftermath of Inter-marriage Battle RAA URGES ORTHODOX RABBIS TO RESIGN FROM NEW YORK BOARD OF RABBIS

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (JTA)—The Rabbinical Alliance of America, an Orthodox group, called today on Orthodox rabbis who are members of the New York Board of Rabbis to resign from the Board because of its failure to bar from its membership those rabbis who perform mixed marriages. Only Reform rabbis perform such marriages. The New York Board of Rabbis claims to represent 1000 Reform, Conservative and Orthodox rabbis in the Greater New York area.

The vote at a stormy NYBR meeting last week was on an amendment to the organization's constitution which would bar membership to rabbis performing mixed marriages. Approval of an amendment requires a two-thirds vote of those present and the total in favor fell three votes short. Foes of the proposed amendment argued that approval would adversely affect efforts of a majority of Reform rabbis to deal with the problem at the annual convention next June of the Central Conference of American Rabbis. Delegates at the CCAR convention last June voted to postpone action on the issue for a year.

Rabbi William Berkowitz, NYBR president, said a mail survey of the membership indicated overwhelming approval of the proposed amendment but that the by-laws required members to be present for such votes. The attending rabbis did approve a resolution which "unequivocally" condemned rabbis who perform mixed marriages and urged them to stop doing so immediately.

The resolution also called on rabbinic bodies throughout the country, and on the Synagogue Council of America, which represents the major Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbinic organizations, to join in the condemnation. Rabbi Berkowitz called adoption of the resolution "the first time a group consisting of 1000 rabbis—Orthodox, Conservative and Reform—has taken a strong position on the eradication of this evil."

Shattering Blow To Halacha

Rabbi Abraham Gross, president of the Rabbinical Alliance, said his group was not surprised by the failure to approve the amendment "but we are surprised and shocked over the lack of a massive exodus from the New York Board of Rabbis by those Orthodox rabbis who believed that they could 'contain' the Board from such a flagrant assault upon the integrity of the Jewish family." Rabbi Gross' statement made no reference to the resolution condemning rabbis who officiate at mixed marriages.

He asserted that "the small segment" of Orthodox rabbis in the NYBR had justified their membership with "various rationalizations," one of them being that the NYBR would stay out of issues of Jewish religious law and therefore was "not really a rabbinic organization in the traditional sense of the word."

But, he said, "the record" of the NYBR "and especially this latest grave breach of the sanctity of the Jewish home" should make Orthodox members realize that "such an action is not only an involvement in halachic matters but is a shattering blow at the halacha-itself."

Rabbi Gross said his group was also "astounded" by a statement last week by Rabbi Louis Bernstein, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, that the Council would aim at the elimination from leadership roles in Jewish public life

of all those who marry out of their faith and rabbis who perform mixed marriages. Asking how any Orthodox rabbi could draw a distinction between leaders and Jews who are not in leadership, Rabbi Gross declared: "We have one Torah which is equally applicable to all Jews without exception."

SOVIET POLICE THREATEN TBILISI JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 14 (JTA)—In a telephone conversation with Jews in Tbilisi, the capital of Soviet Georgia, the National Conference on Soviet Jewry learned that the apartments of two brothers, Isai and Grigori Goldshtein, were searched on the night of Feb. 10 by a team of police and local prosecutors. Jewish educational material was seized and the brothers were threatened with arrest and trial. The NCSJ also reported that Isai's wife, Elizabeta Bykova, was recently threatened with imprisonment in the prison camp of Magadan if she persisted in attempts to obtain exit visas to leave for Israel.

The material confiscated at Isai's apartment, alleged to be "subversive," included tapes for Hebrew language study, mezuzot, a Hebrew language grammar book, "One Thousand Words," a Hebrew conversation book by Shlomo Kodesh, letters to Israel, receipts of registered letters sent to Israel, and a new Soviet publication, Lolschakov's "Zionism in the Service of Imperialism," an anti-Semitic work, the NCSJ said.

Grigori happened to be away from his apartment at the time of the search, but material confiscated from his apartment included receipts of letters sent to Israel. The searches were carried out by a team of five men from the local prosecutor's office, headed by a Mr. Mahardze. The brothers were told that they were not placed under arrest; but a dossier was opened on them for "slandering" the USSR.

Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek said last night that East Jerusalem Arabs are not ready to participate in the city's political affairs. "We would welcome them but they are not ready for it," he said at a meeting of the executive committee of the Union of Socialist Youth. Kollek explained that the Arabs themselves feared that if they became active in the City Council their relatives in Arab countries would suffer.

Some 400 French personalities, in support of ISRAEL, the overseas representative of the Israeli left-wing extremist party; Matzpen, have signed a petition condemning "torture in Israel" of 12 "prisoners" charged with membership in the Syrian-directed spy and sabotage ring. Among the signatories are writer and philosopher Jean-Paul Sartre, leftist book publisher Francois Maspéro, writer and professor Laurent Schwartz, Maxime Rodinson, Charles Bettelheim, Jean-Jacques de Felice and Trotskyist leader Alain Krivine. Many of the signatories are Jewish.

A total of 31,652 immigrants from the Soviet Union arrived in Israel during 1972. One-third of them came from the Georgian Republic, Absorption Minister Natan Peled told the Knesset, and about 2000 came from Bokhara. About 40 percent of the Soviet emigres have settled in development areas; Peled said.

Jews in Samarkand who wish to apply for exit visas have a very difficult time, the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry reported. The ovir there has been closed. Application forms are sold under the table for 10 rubles.