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COMPENSATION FOR LOST PROPERTY TO JEWS FORCED TO FLEE ARAB COUNTRIES IS ONE OF ISRAEL'S PEACE CONDITIONS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 29 (JTA)--Premier Yitzhak Rabin pledged here that Israel would balance the legitimate demands of Jews from the Arab countries against the demands of Arab refugees from Israel when negotiations get underway for a peace settlement between Israel and the Arab states. Compensation for the lost property of Jews forced to flee Arab countries will be one of Israel's peace conditions, the Premier told a meeting at the Tel Aviv Museum attended by many Israelis from Arab countries.

But Rabin was unable to predict when negotiations would start. He said there was a long road ahead fraught with many difficulties and challenges. He noted the plight of Jews in Syria and expressed hope that efforts on their behalf would be fruitful and "the day may not be far off when we shall see them among us."

Knesset Speaker Israel Yeshayahu, addressing the same meeting, said it had been a serious error for the Israeli government in the past not to have focussed attention on the exchange of populations that occurred between Israel and the Arab states.

CLARIFICATION OF NON-BELLIGERENCY By Yitzhak Shargil

TEL AVIV, Feb. 29 (JTA)--Government ministers and other officials were busy over the weekend trying to clarify for a generally sceptical public the meaning of non-belligerency, a term that has suddenly emerged in the forefront of Middle East diplomacy. The Cabinet agreed last Sunday to assent to an American initiative to test the attitudes of Egypt, Syria and Jordan toward non-belligerency which would seem to be something more than the present military disengagements and considerably less than a formal political peace.

Justice Minister Chaim Zadok, addressing members of the Tel Aviv Bar, explained that international law recognized two situations--state of war and state of peace. He said that if Israel reached agreement with the Arabs on cessation of the state of war "I shall regard this as a most important achievement."

Zadok said that an end of war in terms of international law was a condition of peace. Although there are various degrees ranging from the close cooperation between the Benelux countries to the "cold war" that characterized U.S.-Soviet relations for many years, the common denominator was the non-use of armed force. What Israel has had with its neighbors up to now has been a temporary cessation of hostilities in the form of armistices, cease-fires or separation of forces agreements. Non-belligerency, Zadok said, would represent an important further and more permanent step toward peace.

Originated With Americans

Zadok said there was no reason to deny that the idea of this new approach originated with the Americans. "I can't see why we should not allow the Americans to explore this avenue, little as I

believe it can produce. But before they embark on this road, we must make sure the Americans understand the term exactly as we do," Zadok said.

Government sources disclosed last week that U.S. and Israeli experts would try to reach agreement on a definition of non-belligerency before the U.S. undertook its initiative, a process which, the sources said, could take weeks or months.

Transport Minister Gad Yaacobi told the Press Club here that as early as last March the government was pondering the question of non-belligerency as one of several possible conditions for the region. He said Attorney General Meir Shamgar, now a Supreme Court Justice, defined the basic differences between non-belligerency and the undertakings by Egypt to refrain from warlike acts as part of the disengagement of forces agreement.

Amon Eran, director general of the Prime Minister's Office, said at a meeting of the Tel Aviv Labor Council that an Israeli declaration in favor of non-belligerency was important for the nation's image as one open to all peace initiatives.

But former Foreign Minister Abba Eban continued to voice his opposition to the American initiative. Speaking over the army radio, Eban reiterated that a non-belligerency agreement would leave Israel with little bargaining leverage for a formal peace. He noted that the Arabs are already demanding total withdrawal from all occupied territories and the establishment of a Palestinian state in exchange for non-belligerency. In return for a real peace they would demand all that is left of Israel, Eban said.

SPECIAL TO THE JTA

ISRAEL STRENGTHENS ITS RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA

By Jim Reibel

(Editor's note: Jim Reibel, who did volunteer agricultural work at Kibbutz Mordechai and Kibbutz Almut in 1974, is currently in Ecuador working for the International Voluntary Services on an agricultural extension program and serving as special correspondent for the JTA.)

QUITO, Ecuador, Feb. 29 (JTA)--Within the last month Aba Gefen, director of the Department of Cultural and Scientific Exchange of the Foreign Ministry of Israel, has signed cultural and scientific agreements with eight Central and South American countries. Israel has had bilateral exchange agreements with most of Latin America for years; however, few of the called-for conditions have been implemented.

Perceiving the inroads that Arab propaganda and economic pressure have made with traditional friends of Israel during the past year, the Israeli government felt that the expansion of intercultural agreements would be a strong step forward towards reversing these trends. Gefen amplified this view when he said that "If you succeed in creating a positive image of Israel it can help you in a situation when political relations are difficult, especially because "in my field the contact is with the people, not the regime."

With this aim in mind, Gefen, a veteran of 25 years of service with the Foreign Ministry, left Israel on Jan. 18 for the first leg of his Latin

American trip. He arrived in Mexico City two days after the major American Jewish organizations lifted their boycott of Mexico in reaction to its vote in the United Nations for the resolution labeling Zionism a form of racism. For this reason, the arrival of a high Israeli official was greeted with a large amount of publicity.

At Gefen's press conference at the airport a Mexican reporter asked, "Is Israel a Zionist country?" "Of course," Gefen replied, "Is Zionism a form of racism?" "Certainly not, that's ridiculous!" "Then why have you come to Mexico which two months ago voted for the resolution labeling Zionism as a racist movement?" "Because nothing should or could destroy the long term friendship between our countries," Gefen declared.

Popular reaction to his remarks, carried by most Mexican papers, radio and television stations, was extremely favorable. In the atmosphere of goodwill that had been created, Gefen was shortly thereafter able to conclude a new cultural agreement, including an implementation schedule, with his Mexican counterparts.

Elements Of Accord With Ecuador

From there he travelled to the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Honduras, Costa Rica, Panama, Colombia and finally Ecuador. In each one of these countries a cultural agreement and exchange program was initiated that covers the next two-three year period. The document, signed on Feb. 23 with the Director-General of the Ecuadorian Ministry of Foreign Affairs is similar in content to those signed with the preceding seven nations. It is divided into three main parts, education, science and technology, and culture.

In the area of education, Israel and Ecuador will increase contact and exchange between their respective institutions by:

- * Promoting each nations language and culture at the university level.
- * Establishing a chair in the Hebrew language at the University of Quito. In exchange, Israel will provide a scholarship each year for a post-graduate student to continue studying in Israel.
- * Exchanging of textbooks to ensure that each country will realistically portray the other's society, history and culture.

Relations between Israeli and Ecuadorian scientific institutions will be developed by: the reciprocal exchange of one professor to meet in conference, transmit information and give seminars for up to 14 days; holding joint symposiums; providing the opportunity for young scientists to meet their Israeli counterparts; and having an Ecuadorian expert, in a field of interest to the government, come to Israel for up to 21 days per year for consultations.

Both Israel and Ecuador will assist in the diffusion of each other's culture by:

- * Exchanges in the fields of music, theater and dance. Each country will participate in the international conferences, congresses and festivals of the other.
- * Translating and publishing books, exchanging basic reference materials and sponsoring visits of groups of young people and sports teams.
- * Cooperation between radio and television authorities.
- * Journalistic visits back and forth with the purpose of better understanding the affairs of the other nation.
- * Setting up a joint working group to prepare

a study of the Jewish community in Ecuador.

Upon the completion of his mission in Ecuador, Gefen summed up his trip by saying, "We are interested in cultural and scientific exchanges because we believe in the growth of common international relations."

ALLON: ECONOMICALLY STRONG ISRAEL IS VITAL TO ATTAINMENT OF PEACE

MIAMI, Feb. 29 (JTA)--An economically strong Israel is vital to the attainment of peace in the Middle East, Yigal Allon, Deputy Premier and Foreign Minister of Israel, declared here last night as he called for wider economic aid to Israel from Jews in the United States and Canada.

"We shall be in a much stronger position at the negotiating table if our economy, as well as our defense, is sound and impregnable," he said. "An economically and socially strong Israel will improve its military posture and political bargaining position," he said. Allon officially launched the 1976 International Inaugural Conference of State of Israel Bonds attended by more than 1000 Jewish leaders from the U.S. and Canada.

Calling attention to "the spectacular proliferation" of Arab wealth in recent years, Allon stressed that "it represented a thrust of the greatest magnitude to the economic stability of Israel." Israel's troubled economy may become "a weak link in our chain of defense against the political warfare of the Arab world," he warned.

Danger Of Unemployment Hike

Israel faces "the danger of a marked rise in unemployment for the first time in many years," Allon said. But he emphasized that it was the result of drastic measures taken by the Israel government to reduce inflation and increase exports. In 1975 Israel's balance of payments deficit amounted to \$3.9 billion, the highest in its history.

Allon noted that increased unemployment would be a "serious threat" to the country's capacity to provide jobs for new immigrants. In this connection, he said, while Israel continues to give its "vigorous support to the right of Soviet Jews and Jews in Syria and other Arab lands to emigrate, it would be a very sad state of affairs if we failed to have the economic means to give jobs to those who might be permitted to come to Israel in larger numbers in the near future."

Brussels II Must Be Supplemented

Sam Rothberg, general chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, who presided, declared that the recent Brussels World Conference on Soviet Jewry "must be supplemented with concrete action through the Israel Bond campaign to create jobs in Israel for those Jews who would be permitted to leave Soviet Russia for Israel in the coming year."

Rothberg called for a wider mobilization of American and Canadian Jews for the sale of Israel Bonds "to provide the largest possible share of Israel's development budget of \$1 billion this year." He said "the example of sacrifice has been set for us in Israel's new budget which has placed numerous additional burdens and hardships on its citizens."

REPORT 1600 CHRONIC DRUG ADDICTS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 29 (JTA)--Attorney General Aharon Barak told the Cabinet today that according to estimates by the Health Ministry there are about 1600 chronic drug addicts in Israel and about 100,000 persons use drugs, mainly hashish, but are not categorized as addicts. He also noted that Is-

rael has no facilities for curing drug addiction, except in mental hospitals and many persons desiring a cure refuse to be placed in mental institutions.

Barak appeared before the Cabinet to elaborate on his recent report on drug use and abuse in Israel, a subject that made the headlines recently when the use of drugs by high school students was revealed. The public was shocked to learn that the drug users came from affluent homes as well as from poverty families and that drug "pushers" were active at many schools.

Barak stressed that the figures contained in his report were only estimates. But he noted that they were not static. He estimated that the number of chronic drug users increases by about 150 persons a year. The Attorney General called for a clear national policy to deal with the problem and recommended the establishment of a central narcotics bureau to formulate policy and combat the use of narcotics, especially "hard" drugs.

He also urged the establishment of drug clinics where addicts could seek cures without the stigma of being committed to a mental institution. Barak noted that drug use rose sharply in Israel after the 1967 Six-Day War when the West Bank became a conduit for drugs originating in Jordan. He said that according to police, one of the chief centers of the flourishing drug market in Israel is East Jerusalem.

CABINET TO AUTHORIZE REQUISITION OF 5000 ACRES OF LAND IN GALILEE FOR HOUSING PROJECT AIMED AT INCREASING JEWISH POPULATION IN THE AREA

By David Landau and Yitzhak Shargil

JERUSALEM, Feb. 29 (JTA)--The Cabinet decided without opposition today to authorize the requisition of 5000 acres of land in Galilee--half of it from Arab owners--for housing projects aimed at increasing the Jewish population of the region. The decision is expected to stir serious opposition among Arab landowners even though they would be "handsomely" compensated. Some Jewish landowners affected by the decision are also expected to object.

Housing Minister Avraham Ofer and Shmuel Toledano, the government's advisor on Arab affairs, said the 5000 acres was the minimum area feasible for the projected new development. They recalled that original plans called for the requisition of much larger areas and that the Arab land in question was presently neither cultivated nor built upon.

Government sources said that compensation rates would not be based on the present condition of the land--described as "scrubland"--but on its potential value as housing sites. They said that "wherever possible" the Arab owners would be compensated with alternate land elsewhere but not far from their present holdings. There was no intention on the government's part to evict Arabs from settled land, the sources insisted.

The land which the government intends to requisition is located near Nazareth and Illith (Upper Nazareth) and at Carmiel. Ofer said the plans called for the development of Carmiel from a village of 8000 to a township with a population of 35,000. New housing for Arabs in Maker village near Acre is included in the development plan. About 2500 dunams (625 acres) will be requisitioned for that purpose.

Another 4000 dunams (1000 acres) of land--

belonging to Jews on the outskirts of Safad will be taken over for new housing projects. The Safad Jews are expected to object as vociferously as the Arabs, government sources said.

Bound To Have Political Repercussions

The Cabinet approved the plans without a vote since the requisition of land is within the statutory authority of the Finance Minister. Mapam ministers raised certain "technical" objections to the timing of the decision. But Mapam sources supported the plan since the party is interested in the development of Galilee and its kibbutz movement has established new settlements there recently.

Nevertheless, the requisition of land in Galilee, the region where most of Israel's Arab population lives, is bound to have political repercussions and is expected to be used by Israel's enemies as an example of alleged mistreatment of Israeli Arabs.

Countering such claims, Toledano told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the Cabinet's latest decision should be viewed in the context of a series of decisions taken this week which represent a trend toward a more enlightened and liberalized treatment of Arabs in Israel. He mentioned among those decisions the army's agreement to restrict its training programs in "Zone nine," a 4500-dunam region farmed by local Arabs who do not possess ownership rights.

Other examples, he said, were Kfar Kassem, an Arab village near Petach Tikva and Mailiye, a village near the northern border. Local Arabs there were offered alternative lands even though they have no proven ownership rights to the lands they have been cultivating. But because of local opposition, the authorities agreed to set up an appeals board, Toledano said.

In the northern Negev, a 1.5 million dunam (37,500 acres) tract of scrubland claimed by Bedouin tribes will be taken over. The Bedouins, who have no ownership rights, will be compensated at half the rate they would be entitled to if they actually held title to the land, government officials said.

MARK FEBRUARY 1941 STRIKE

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 29 (JTA)--The 35th anniversary of the February 1941 strike, when a large portion of the population of Amsterdam and neighboring towns went on strike to protest the Nazi deportation of the 400 Dutch-Jewish youths to concentration camps, was marked here last week. As has happened every year since the end of World War II, the gesture of popular resistance to Nazi brutality was commemorated by a parade headed by the Mayor and Aldermen of Amsterdam.

They placed a wreath at the statue of "The Stevedor," symbolic of the strike in this port city. The statue is located in Jonas Daniel Meyer Square which was the center of Amsterdam's Jewish quarter before the war and where the 400 deportees were rounded up.

They were the first Dutch Jews sent to their death by the German occupiers of Holland. The deportation was in reprisal for an attack on a group of Dutch Nazis. The strike, which occurred on Feb. 25-26, 1941, was a failure insofar as it did not prevent the deportation and led to even more vicious anti-Jewish measures. But it served as a symbol of Dutch resistance. Among the thousands who filed past "The Stevedor" monument and placed wreaths were members of the Moroccan Workers Committee in Holland.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES**DANIEL SCHORR AND OTHER WELL-KNOWN JOURNALISTS AND AUTHORS ARE JTA ALUMNI**

By John Kayston, JTA General Manager

NEW YORK, Feb. 29 (JTA)--Daniel L. Schorr, the CBS newsmen who is making headlines today in connection with the leaking of the House Intelligence Committee Report, wrote headlines and news stories for the JTA Daily News Bulletin back in the 1930s.

--I met Danny on April 17, 1936 when I started to work for JTA. He was assistant editor and worked under Hy Wishengrad, then Editor of JTA. We became quite friendly. This young man from the Bronx, 19 years old, who went to City College at night, was of tremendous help to me learning the English language and getting acclimatized to my new surroundings, having arrived only several months earlier as a refugee from Hitler Germany.

I vividly recall several mass meetings we covered together of the German American Bund under Fritz Kuhn in Yorkville, the German section of New York. And the one occasion when we were thrown out of the meeting hall by Kuhn's stormtroopers when we tried to interview him.

On another occasion, in November 1938, we went to the Washington Heights section of New York where most of the Jewish refugees from Germany lived, to interview some of them in connection with Hitler's "Crystal Night" when all synagogues in Germany were burnt down and most Jews thrown into concentration camps. We found most of the refugees in Western Union offices sending cables to Germany inquiring about the fate of their relatives and making efforts to get them out.

Other Famous Journalists

Schorr is not the only well-known JTA alumni. There is Theodore White, well-known author of the series of books on "The Making of the President," who was a correspondent in Europe in the early 1940s for the Overseas News Agency, JTA's outlet to the general press. And Meyer Levin who, as war correspondent for ONA, captured a German General in 1945. The General, who was Hitler's personal battlefield artist, actually surrendered to Levin and turned over to him some twenty drawings of the battlefield which we released to the American press.

David Schoenbrunn, well-known newscaster and lecturer, was our Paris correspondent after the liberation of France. Elie Abel, now dean of the Columbia University School of Journalism, worked in the New York office as assistant editor. And, of course, Willy Brandt, head of the German Social Democratic Party and former Chancellor, worked for ONA in the early forties as correspondent in the Scandinavian countries.

More recently, Milton Friedman, senior speech writer for President Ford who several weeks ago was promoted by the President to be a special assistant, served as Washington correspondent for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency from 1949 to 1970.

MAURICE SAMUELSON APPOINTED**UK CORRESPONDENT FOR THE JTA**

NEW YORK, Feb. 29 (JTA)--William M. Landau, president of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, announced today the appointment of Maurice Samuelson as the United Kingdom correspondent of the JTA. Samuelson, 40, now a journalist on the Financial Times, was the editor of the London

Jewish Observer and Middle East Review from 1967 to 1974. He has worked for the BBC and is a contributor to leading British periodicals on the Middle East and Israel. Samuelson was born in Australia but grew up in Manchester, England. He is a graduate of Oxford University. He is married, with three children. Samuelson succeeds Mark Segal in this post effective March 7.

AJCONGRESS RAPS NY STATE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSIONER FOR LAXITY IN PROMULGATING ANTI-BOYCOTT LAW

NEW YORK, Feb. 29 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress has criticized New York State Human Rights Commissioner Werner Kramarsky for failing to advise the State's business community of the implications of the anti-boycott law enacted by the State Legislature six months ago. The AJCongress charged that the failure of the Commission to issue guidelines has deterred the filing of complaints, and as a result has undermined effective administration of the law.

In a letter to Kramarsky, Phil Baum, AJCongress associate executive director, and Lois Waldman, associate director of the Commission on Law, Social Action and Urban Affairs said: "Surely after six months corporations and individuals subject to the jurisdiction of the State of New York are entitled to some guidance as to how the new law impacts on the most common business practices effectuating the Arab boycott."

The AJCongress officials pointed out that when previous legislation affecting the State Human Rights Law was enacted, the State Division of Human Rights promptly issued publications describing the newly created rights, obligations and remedies.

The AJCongress spokesmen emphasized that the Division has had enough time "to study the provisions of the law and to reach conclusions as to its applicability to the major types of business practices involving compliance with the Arab boycott. We believe that publication of these conclusions is not only mandated by law but is sorely needed by the New York State business community."

In urging affirmative administrative action, the AJCongress said that it would "be happy to join any advisory committee to assist the Division in formulation of such guidelines and to band together with other concerned community organizations to assure the widest dissemination of any explanatory material."

CARDINAL PRAISES STATE OF HOLY SITES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 29 (JTA)--An Italian Cardinal who headed a visiting group of pilgrims here last week publicly praised the state in which the Christian holy places are maintained and stressed that he appreciated the full freedom of worship accorded to Holy Land Christians. Cardinal Cursi of Naples led a group of forty pilgrims and churchmen from southern Italy. At a lunch hosted by Tourism Minister Moshe Kol, the Cardinal said there is "no doubt in my heart" that more Christian pilgrims could and should be encouraged to visit Israel.

JERUSALEM (JTA)--A new moshav shituf (collective settlement) called Elazar has been established by professionals who immigrated from the U.S. and Canada. The settlement, located in Gush Etzion, was set up with the help of the Jewish Agency's settlement department.