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RULER OF TRANSJORDAN HESITATES TO INITIATE DIRECT ARMISTICE TALKS WITH ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21. (JTA)--It is doubtful that high level political talks between Israeli and Transjordan representatives will take place in the near future following the Israeli rejection today of a request by the Arabs for further discussions on truce matters for Jerusalem, informed political circles here believe.

At a meeting between Col. Moshe Dayan, Israeli commander in Jerusalem, and Lt. Col. Abdullah el Tol, his Arab Legion counterpart, Dayan stated that he was not empowered to discuss any other problem until Transjordan replies to his request of last week that talks be begun on an armistice and, later, a peace settlement.

It is learned here that Transjordan's King Abdullah is not ready to conduct direct, decisive negotiations because of the internal situation in his country. His cabinet resigned yesterday, reportedly in protest at his readiness to negotiate with the Israelis and his heir apparent, Emir Talal, is said to be under house arrest for similar opposition to Abdullah's will.

(King Abdullah has announced the appointment of a new Mufti of Jerusalem as a rival to Haj Amin el Husseini, the ex-Mufti who is Abdullah's political arch-enemy, Reuters announced in a dispatch from Amman. The new Mufti, Shaikh Hussan Meddin Jarallah, is former chief justice of the Moslem religious courts in Palestine and a long-time opponent of the Husseini.)

At Haifa last night, United Nations truce headquarters announced that U.N. chief of staff American Brig. Gen. William Riley yesterday met with Egyptian Defense Minister Mohamed Hader Pasha to continue talks initiated by acting mediator Ralph Bunche, who has since returned to the United States in advance of his being supplanted by the U.N. Conciliation Commission. Hader Pasha reaffirmed Egypt's statement that she was prepared to negotiate for an armistice as ordered by the Security Council last November 16.

OVERHEAD TELEPHONIC COMMUNICATION BETWEEN JERUSALEM AND REST OF ISRAEL RESTORED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21. (JTA)--Overhead telephonic communication between Jerusalem and the rest of Israel was restored today.

Special arrangements for Christmas for Christians throughout Israel were announced here tonight. The Israeli authorities are assisting church dignitaries to reach Bethlehem and Nazareth from areas within Israeli territory.

The government-controlled Voice of Israel radio will broadcast the midnight mass services Christmas Eve. The curfew and blackouts in effect in Christian Arab areas in Israel will be lifted Christmas Eve, while special rations have been authorized for all Christians and free sweets and fruit will be distributed to the children. Christian volunteers in the Israeli forces will be given extra holiday leave to attend a feast in their honor.

ISRAELI INDUSTRIALISTS PRESENT DEMANDS TO GOVERNMENT; SEEK REVISION OF CUSTOMS DUTY

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The Israeli Manufacturers Association, whose meeting here concluded today, adopted a number of resolutions outlining the demands of businessmen on the government.

Primarily, the Association decided to call on the government to revise the present customs schedule. The government will also be asked to halt the importation of goods which are also manufactured in Israel. The Association, which called on the government to organize labor exchanges, agreed to peg prices on the condition that wages, transportation and other costs to the manufacturers also be frozen.

It was learned today in high governmental circles that Israel will purchase between \$200,000,000 and \$240,000,000 worth of supplies abroad during 1949. It was emphasized in these same circles that Israel's trade would not be linked with either the western or eastern blocs. It was pointed out that since Israel is short on foreign exchange it will seek barter arrangements with all nations which will enter into such agreements and which have goods which Israel needs.

Meanwhile, in a move to improve world-wide trade contacts for Israel, the government has appointed commercial counsellors to its legations and consulates. Commercial contacts are being maintained even with nations which do not recognize or may be hostile to Israel politically, including Britain and Greece. Israel is anxious not to mix business with politics, government circles said. They added that the government's representatives abroad as well as the various Jewish Agency offices are prepared to offer all assistance to all prospective investors in Israel's economy.

A new settlement -- "Bustan Hagalil" -- has been established in western Galilee by the Jewish Agency's private enterprises department, it was announced here today. Some 80 families, the majority of whom are immigrants from Rumania who spent some time in the Cyprus detention camps, will cultivate orange groves and vegetable gardens. When the settlement reaches its full planned development, some 500 acres of land will be under cultivation.

STERNIST LEADER SWEARS IN COURT THAT HE DOES NOT KNOW WHO ASSASSINATED BERNADOTTE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Sternist chief Nathan Friedman-Yellin has sworn that he never issued an order to assassinate the late Count Folke Bernadotte nor does he know of any Sternist meeting ever even discussing such a possibility. His dramatic statement was made before a military court in Acre which is now trying him as leader of an illegal terrorist organization.

During the testimony the Sternist leader said that while Bernadotte's death may have done the country military harm, he was "sorrider for every child killed in Jerusalem because the Holy City was starved and shelled because of Bernadotte who was the chief of a very partial truce commission and imperialism's agent." Asked about Sternist courts which condemned "traitors" to death and about the fact that the Sternists publicly labelled Premier David Ben Gurion and other ministers as "traitors," Friedman-Yellin said that in this case sentence was never carried out.

341 JEWS SAIL FROM VENICE FOR ISRAEL; MAJORITY ARE DP'S WHO JUST ARRIVED IN ITALY

ROME, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- A total of 341 Jewish displaced persons sailed from Venice for Israel today aboard the Italian steamer, S.S. Campidoglio.

Among the Israel-bound immigrants are 152 Jews from Czechoslovakia, 91 from Austria and 18 from Hungary who arrived from their respective countries this morning and immediately transhipped for Israel. The contingent also includes 80 DP's who have resided in Italy for some time.

POLISH GOVERNMENT ORDERS LIQUIDATION OF JEWISH AGENCY MIGRATION OFFICE IN WARSAW

WARSAW, Dec. 21. (JTA)--The Polish Government today ordered the closing down of Palamt, the emigration office of the Jewish Agency in Poland. In issuing this order, the Polish Ministry of Interior stated that the existence of Palamt is no longer necessary since its functions are similar to those performed by the Israeli consulate here.

The work of Palamt consisted chiefly of selecting candidates for emigration to Israel, arranging the necessary visas for them and organizing their transportation. These functions will now be taken over by the Israeli consulate which will also be given the Palamt files.

An agreement was announced here between Israel and Poland under which Israel will send citrus products to Poland in exchange for wooden fruit boxes. Before the war, Poland provided Palestine with all the wooden crates needed for the export of its total citrus crop. Dr. I. Gruenstein, Israeli commercial attache here, is also conducting negotiations with the Polish Government for a general commercial treaty between the two countries.

RUMANIA TO OPEN KOSHER BUTCHER SHOPS TO SELL MEAT AT OFFICIAL GOVERNMENT PRICES

BUCHAREST, Dec. 21. (JTA)--Special butcher shops will be established soon to sell kosher meat at official prices, it was announced here today by the Rumanian Ministry of Supply.

The stores will be placed under the supervision of the rabbinate, the announcement said, and all persons wishing to purchase kosher meat will be able to do so with their regular ration cards. Hitherto, kosher meat was available only on the free market.

ISRAELI OFFICIAL NEGOTIATES WITH EIRE FOR SHIPPING KOSHER MEAT TO ISRAEL

LONDON, Dec. 21. (JTA)--Eire is interested in increasing its purchases from Israel, it was announced here today by Dr. Joseph Fisch, Israeli trade commissioner to the United Kingdom and Eire, on his return from his first official visit to Dublin. Last year Eire bought half a million pounds' worth of goods in Palestine.

Dr. Fisch said he met the Irish Minister of Agriculture, James M. Dillon, and high officials of his Ministry, as well as of the Ministry of Industry and Commerce. He also met representatives of the Federation of Irish Manufacturers and of the Camers Association, discussing with them the possibilities of Eire's supplying Israel with food, especially canned kosher meat. The Irish press welcomed the arrival of the first Israeli official in Eire.

DECREASE IN ANTI-SEMITISM IN ARGENTINA REPORTED AT JEWISH MEETING IN BUENOS AIRES

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 21. (JTA)--Anti-Semitic activities decreased in Argentina this year as compared with previous years, Dr. Ricardo Dubrovsky, president of the DAIA, central representative body of Argentine Jewry, reported here at the General Assembly of the organization. He praised the present attitude of President Peron towards Jewish problems.

Leaders of all Zionist groups in Argentina decided today to establish an advisory committee to the South American regional office of the Jewish Agency. Zionist problems were discussed here at a session of the Council of the Confederation of General Zionists in Latin America attended by delegates from Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Uruguay and Bolivia.

HUNGARIAN JEWS CROSS INTO AUSTRIA; WALK 40 MILES IN DEEP SNOW TO REACH FRONTIER

VIENNA, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- After making their way through snow-covered fields and frozen rivers, a group of about 50 Hungarian Jews reached the Austrian frontier today. Some of them crossed into the British zone while others proceeded to Vienna.

The number of non-Jews fleeing from Hungary has also been increasing during the last few days. Most of the Jewish and non-Jewish refugees report that they made about forty miles on foot in deep snow, helped by professional guides to whom they paid large sums of money to bring them to the Austrian border.

CHINESE NATIONALIST SOLDIERS LOOT HOMES OF DISPLACED PERSONS IN SHANGHAI

SHANGHAI, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Nationalist soldiers here yesterday looted homes of displaced persons in this city. Troops, who were watched by military police who made no attempt to halt them, first wrecked a cafe and then broke into premises where the refugees live and stole money, clothing and other valuables.

The fear that a pogrom will occur in Shanghai in the interval following the Chinese Nationalists' withdrawal and the restoration of order by the pursuing armed forces of the Chinese Communists is growing among the Jewish refugees here. The transition period is said to hold very dangerous possibilities for Jewish and other displaced persons in the city.

AUSTRIAN JEWISH LEADERS PROTEST AGAINST CHARGES MADE BY INTERIOR MINISTER

VIENNA, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- Austrian Jewish leaders today lodged a formal protest against charges made yesterday by Interior Minister Oskar Helmer that displaced persons in Austria using funds allegedly derived from black market operations have been purchasing arms and sending them to Israel under the protection of Soviet occupation authorities.

Following a meeting of all Austrian Jewish organizations, including the Zionist Federation of Austria, a delegation went to the office of the Interior Minister to protest against the "insinuation, whose obvious anti-Semitic tendency is causing alarm among the Jewish population in Austria."

Leaders of the Austrian Jewish community asserted today that no Jewish group in the country had purchased arms to be smuggled into Israel. Israeli representative to Austria Kurt Lewin is expected to arrive here shortly to confer with Helmer on the entire situation.

JEWISH STATE THEATRE OPENED IN BUCHAREST; GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS ATTEND CEREMONY

BUCHAREST, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- A Jewish State Theatre -- maintained by the government -- was officially opened here with representatives from the Ministry of Arts and Information in attendance.

JEWISH COLONIZATION ASSOCIATION ACQUIRES LAND IN CANADA; WILL SETTLE DISPLACED JEWS

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- A group of displaced Jewish families will be brought from Germany to Canada to be settled by the Jewish Colonization Association on farms acquired by the J.C.A. during the recent visit of its general manager, Louis Ungere, it was announced here today. All necessary preparations for the settlement of the 12 families have been completed following Mr. Ungere's negotiations with the Canadian authorities, the announcement said.

BRITAIN WILL NOT EASE CYPRUS DP SITUATION DESPITE MORGENTHAU PLEA TO ATTLEE, CHURCHILL

LONDON, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The British Government has no intention of relaxing at present its practices governing the release of Jewish refugees interned on Cyprus, it was learned today in quarters close to the Foreign Office. These quarters were commenting on the appeal by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, to Prime Minister Clement R. Attlee and former Prime Minister Winston Churchill in behalf of the Cyprus refugees.

The Foreign Office itself refused to comment on the appeal, asserting that it was made by a private individual to two statesmen in their private capacity. The unofficial sources stated that the government would not define new categories of refugees who may be permitted to leave the island before a political settlement of the Palestine problem is found.

They insisted that it was up to each country to draw its own interpretation of the Security Council's truce conditions, independently of the views of the U.N. mediator. Finally, they denied that the Cyprus DP's were suffering any particular hardships.

LESSING ROSENWALD WANTS U.S. TO STIPULATE CONDITIONS OF FRIENDSHIP TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The Government of the United States ought to insist, as a condition of American friendship, that Israel concentrate on building not a "Jewish" nationalism but rather an "Israeli nationalism," confined to its own borders and inclusive of its own Christian, Moslem and Jewish population, Lessing J. Rosenwald, president of the American Council for Judaism, today told a meeting of some 200 clerical, professional and business men of the Quill Club of New York.

"We contend that the political representatives and institutions of Israel can speak for its own citizens only and can in no way speak for or represent us, who are Americans of Jewish faith," Rosenwald said. He stressed that he was not referring to legitimate expectations of humanitarian assistance such as that American Jews would help finance the immigration of Jews from Europe's displaced persons camps to Israel, or contribute to the emergency aid which these immigrants will need after their arrival in Israel in order to find places in the economy of their new homeland.

"But what we are on guard against," Rosenwald pointed out, "is that present efforts do not exceed humanitarian support of this character. Pressures for an international loan, more favorable boundaries, de jure recognition, and arms and munitions of war go beyond the bounds of humanitarian services." They are problems which are "the inevitable and legitimate" concern of the State of Israel, its government, and its citizens, he said, adding that "American citizens have no more right to participate in the political life of the State of Israel than of any other foreign state, except through the proper agencies and procedures of the government of this country."

ELECTIONS WILL BRING LITTLE CHANGE IN COMPOSITION OF ISRAELI GOVT., PINES SAYS

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The prediction that after the nation's elections in Israel, the Jewish state will have "just about the same government it has now" was made at a press luncheon here today by Don Pines, member of the executive council of the Histadrut, who returned here yesterday from Paris, where he acted as a Histadrut observer at the United Nations sessions.

The attitude of the American and British Governments toward the Palestine problem may have a considerable influence on the elections in Israel, scheduled for Jan. 23, he said. He expressed the opinion, however, that the first popularly elected Israeli parliament and government will be dominated by the labor groups of which the Histadrut is composed. Pines came to the United States in connection with the \$10,000,000 drive now being conducted by the National Committee for Labor Israel.

LEADERS OF SOUTH AMERICAN COMMUNITIES TO Meet IN MONTEVIDEO ON UNITED ISRAEL DRIVE

SAO PAULO, Dec. 21. (JTA)--A conference of leaders of all South American Jewish communities will be held in Montevideo in April for the purpose of launching a united campaign for Israel in all South American countries, it was revealed here today by Eliah Dobkin, immigration director for the Jewish Agency.

Dobkin, who is now on a visit in Brazil, has spent the past five days conferring with Jewish leaders here and in Rio de Janeiro. He has also addressed numerous public meetings.

SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONIST FEDERATION CELEBRATES 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS FOUNDING

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 21. (JTA) -- The South African Zionist Federation this week celebrates its 50th anniversary. A special edition of the Zionist Record, organ of the Federation, which is celebrating its 40th anniversary, appeared here today.

Included among the Record's many special features and articles are messages from President Chaim Weizmann of Israel, Premier David Ben Gurion and Jewish National Fund director Dr. Abraham Granovsky. Asserting that the South African Zionists' "enthusiasm and judgment have been a tower of strength" to the leaders of Zionism, Dr. Weizmann added: "Only those possessing intimate knowledge of the history of the last 30 years know of the yeoman service rendered by your Federation during the most critical phases of our movement."

Ben Gurion's message stated that "we in Israel are proud of the role that South African Jewry has played in helping to make the Jewish state a reality." He pointed out that in fund raising the South African Jewish community has done more proportionately than any other country except Israel, but called for a renewed effort to send greater numbers of chalutzim to the Jewish state. A special tribute is paid in the Zionist Record to the heroic role played by Field Marshal Jan Christian Smuts in behalf of Zionism.

100 AMERICAN ARTISTS DONATE PAINTINGS TO ISRAELI MUSEUMS; EXHIBIT THEM IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA)--An "American Artists for Israel Exhibit," arranged by the American Fund for Palestinian Institutions, opened here this evening at the Jewish Museum. The exhibit includes the works of over 100 American artists donated to the Tel Aviv Museum, the Bezalel Museum in Jerusalem, and the Ein Harod Museum.

Israeli Consul-General Arthur Lourie, Edward A. Norman, president of the American Fund, Elias Newman, chairman of American Artists for Israel and Rabbi Bernard Segal participated in the opening ceremonies.

BELGIN RETURNS TO ISRAEL; HOPES UNITED STATES WILL GIVE ISRAEL ALL POSSIBLE AID

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA)--Menachem Poigin, former Irgun Zvai Leumi commander in Israel, whose return to Tel Aviv last night by air was delayed because of inclement weather, expressed the hope in a farewell statement that Israel will be given all possible aid by the United States. He emphasized that his visit to this country convinced him that "the truth of our war of liberation has been deeply inscribed in the hearts of the American people, Jews and non-Jews alike."

CONGRESSMAN CELLER NAMED CHAIRMAN OF AMERICAN RED MOGON DOVID MEMBERSHIP CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Dec. 21. (JTA)--Representative Emanuel Celler was today named chairman of the American Red Mogen Dovid's drive to enroll 250,000 new members. He has served as chairman of the organization's board of sponsors for the past six years.

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