

EDITORIALS IN THE HEBREW PRESS

The contents of this review, whether in direct quotation or not, reflect only the opinions of the newspapers quoted, and not those of the Government Press Office, Wednesday, 17 July, 1966

NEW ALLIANCES IN THE ARAB WORLD

HATZOFEH (National Religious Party), heading its editorial "Warring Blocs in the Arab World," writes: "The recent talks between the Turkish and Iraqi heads of Government... seem to transcend their officially declared framework and provide an opening for closer relations between the two neighbouring countries and cooperation even in certain aspects of foreign policy. Moreover, this bilateral cooperation will probably be expanded in the near future and become a tripartite alliance with Iran... This new bloc that is taking shape seems to be clearly directed against the 'socialist revolutionary' bloc of Cairo and Damascus, especially after the latest pro-Nasserist revolt in Iraq, the strings of which led directly to Cairo."

THE HARRY TRUMAN PEACE CENTRE

SHE'ARIM (Poalei Agudat Israel) welcomes the foundation of the Harry Truman Peace Centre as "a praiseworthy effort to create a centre of studies, on a world-wide scale, which will concentrate all thoughts, lectures, debates and discussions on the magic word - peace." The paper categorically rejects the opposition voiced by certain leftist circles to the naming of the Centre after Harry Truman, on the ground that he was allegedly linked with acts of war and aggression. "It is true that President Truman stood up, at the time, as a brave fighter against the aggressors who endangered world peace," the paper says. "But his very capacity to sturdily oppose the warmongers without flinching gives him the right to carry with pride the good tidings of peace," She'arim declares.

THE GERMAN AMBASSADOR'S SPEECH

KOL HA'AM (Communist) takes Mr. Asher Ben-Nathan, Israel's Ambassador in West Germany, to task for stepping out in defence of Dr. Pauls's "anti-Israeli statements" at the Trade Fair. "Ben Nathan's statements, extolling Bonn and defending its disgraceful representative are too serious to be passed over in silence by the Israeli public and Government," Kol Ha'am declares. "Mr. Ben Nathan believes that 'Israel's interests might suffer' from any criticism of Bonn on our part and from a firmer approach on behalf of Israel's interests and honour," the paper goes on to say. "Any Government with any self-respect... should condemn Dr. Pauls's provocative speech and also put Ambassador Ben-Nathan in his place."

HA'ARETZ (non-party) declares that the Government's bill to amend the Hours of Work and Rest Law are a violation of the principle of the status quo in matters of religion. In a second editorial Ha'aretz discusses China's opposition to the convening of the Geneva conference on Vietnam.

DAVAR (Histadrut) calls for the gradual reform of the Tenants Protection Law on the lines of the Ravah Committee's recommendations.

LAMBEHAV (Achdut Ha'avoda) calls for stricter safety regulations for tractors.

HAYOM (independent) objects to the establishment of factions within the Herut movement. In a second editorial, the paper discusses the failure of the effort to hold a public debate between East and West German representatives.

HILMODIA (Agudat Israel) discusses the election of the religious councils and other problems of religious legislation.

AL HAMISHMAR (Mapam) severely criticizes the Government regulation forbidding the publication of details about the meetings of the Cabinet Defence Committee. OMER (Histadrut) welcomes the plans for mutual assistance by youth and calls for their extension to include efforts to improve relations between Jewish and Arab youth.

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FILE Asher
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Al Hamishmer Mapam
Davar Histadrut
Haaretz Independent
Hamodia Agudat Israel
Hatzofeh Mizrah
Hayom Independent-Gahal
Kol Haam Communist
Lamerhav Leahdut Ha'avodah
Maariv Independent (Afternoon)
She'arim Poalei Agudat Israel
Yediot Aharont Independent (Afternoon)

LOCAL

Ben-Nathan protests against one-sided criticism
Abba Eban's reference to Paul's speech - editorials

BEN-NATHAN PROTESTS AGAINST ONE-SIDED CRITICISM

Amos Illin, HAARETZ correspondent, reports that Israel's Ambassador to Bonn, Mr. Arthur Ben-Nathan, who is at present in Israel on a private visit, yesterday vigorously protested against unfair, one-sided criticism levelled in Israel against West Germany, against the uncompromising attitude of wide circles, and against the readiness to see only the negative sides of Germany while ignoring many positive sides. The Ambassador claimed that those phenomena, although understandable against the background of the past, show a measure of injustice against those Germans who prove by their deeds that they are worthy of belonging to cultural mankind. Moreover, the Ambassador believes — and he apparently reported to the Government to that effect — that if such one-sided criticism continues and if continuous intolerance is shown towards everything German merely because it is German, it will eventually harm the moral credit which Israel is enjoying in Germany and will damage essential national interests in the economic and political sphere. The Ambassador referred in particular to various expressions of public opinion, articles in the press, the refusal of Israeli students to get in contact with German students, the prohibition of showing certain German films, and even to certain "official expressions".

ABBA EBAN'S REFERENCE TO PAULS' SPEECH

The HAARETZ Political correspondent writes that what Foreign Minister Abba Eban said at the Government session about the style of the press criticizing Germany was said with reference to one particular publication in one particular paper, political circles explained yesterday. The subject matter in question is a proposal, made by Haim Hefer, that the West German Ambassador should go to the devil," published in YEDIOT. The LAMERHAV editorial is surprised at the unprecedented criticism of the Israeli press by the Foreign Minister. It is the privilege of the Government to react mildly or not at all to Pauls' speech at the Tel Aviv Fair, which was broadcast by the German Television. However, the Government has no right to interfere with the freedom of the press. "Representatives of certain countries, with which our relations are less complicated than those with Germany, have learned to understand that the Government of Israel is not responsible for what is written in the Israeli press, and cannot dictate its views or opinions."

The HAARETZ editorial, writing about the developments inside the Herut party, says that the opposition leaders achieved much more than they had hoped for. The "court revolution" had not been directed so much against Begin as against a number of veteran functionaries who had been leading the party for years without ever bringing it to the regime. The power struggle has delivered the party an internal shock, and it is not yet clear whether the party will be able to overcome it. While Ben Eliezer, Landau and Schofman — the original targets of the uprising — announced that they were not prepared to serve in the new executive, anymore than Mr. Begin himself, Mr. Meridor promised to invite Shmuel Tamir to join it, whom Begin had only two days before called "a spoiled child, having tantrums, who ought to be taught a lesson." These dramatic events testify to the crises that befall all traditional party frameworks in Israel and that did not spare Herut.

A heavy ideological mortgage is making it tough for Herut to find its way to the electorate. Anachronisms are like iron fetters around its ankles preventing a merger with the Liberals or Rafi, and are arousing deep suspicions among the general public in the spheres of internal and external politics, religions and economics. The extremism of Herut on the German question not only repels many voters who are afraid to lose their compensation; it is also no practical basis for a rational policy.

The adherence of Herut to the principle of the integrity of the homeland arouses among the public the apprehension that the leaders of Herut, if and when they do come to power, would endanger the existing achievements for the sake of

of an adventurous campaign in Trans-Jordan. Are Messrs Tamir, Shostak and Tayer ready to prepare the ground inside Herut for an ideological revision, similar to that which made the British Conservatives give up the Empire or which induced the German Social-Democrats to forego Marxism. Their task will not be an easy one.

The DAVAR editorial, though admitting the need to curtail occasionally the freedom of the press by prohibiting the publication of information which, in the interest of the security of the State, is best kept secret, takes exception to a permanent curtailment of that freedom. It is well known that there is censorship in Israel, which is authorized to prevent the publication of certain news. As a rule, what the censor has not prohibited, may be published. According to the new regulation, however, any publication of news relating to "consultations, decisions and sessions of the Ministerial Committee for Security Matters" is prohibited, unless its publication is explicitly permitted by the competent authority. This is not just a change of wording. There is a profound difference between the conception that the citizen is permitted to do everything that has not been explicitly prohibited, and the conception that he is not allowed to do anything that has not been explicitly permitted. The new regulation creates the impression that it is trying to prevent harm to the security of the State without undue administrative exertion. The onus of responsibility has been shifted from the censor to the publisher. There is no justification in suppressing the freedom of the press indefinitely for administrative exigencies. If there are complaints throughout the country about leakages from sessions of the Government and its committees, they had better be stopped at the source, instead of putting the blame for "espionage," punishable by 15 years of imprisonment, on the publisher.

GROWING NUMBER OF SYRIAN INFILTRATIONS INTO ISRAEL TERRITORY

The Military Correspondent of HAARETZ reports that the number of infiltrations into Israel territory along the Israel-Syria border by Syrian soldiers and civilians has lately increased. Although on the whole a marked easing of tension has recently been felt to be prevailing among the Syrian Units stationed along the border, the number of infiltrations by Syrians into Israel territory has substantially increased. On the one hand it seems that the new regime in Damascus is doing everything in order not to get involved along the border with Israel. The possibility cannot be ruled out that this attitude derives partly from advice given (to the Syrians) by the Soviets, who are apprehensive that a Syrian involvement might topple the new regime, with whose assistance the Russians hope to penetrate deeper into the Middle East. This attitude was recently felt in a clear manner, when for the first time in years the Syrians did not open fire on Israeli agricultural workers who worked the parts of land known as "booster." As a result of this attitude, Israel has also eased its stand, but it seems that Israel's readiness to ease the tension is misunderstood by the Syrians, especially along the border. It is assumed that the increasing number of infiltrations are the result of this situation.

DIVERSION WORK CONTINUES

In the meantime the Syrian work along the diversion line of the Jordan is being continued according to plan and even a certain intensification is being felt in comparison with the work carried out a few months ago. Whereas a few months ago the only two to three Syrian tractors worked along the diversion line, six to eight tractors can now be seen in that area. These work in the sector southeast of Kurazim.

AFTERNOON PRESS

" YEDIOT reports that Assistant Secretary of State, Mr. Joseph Sisco, is expected to arrive for a short visit to Israel on Thursday. During that visit he is scheduled to meet with Mr. Abba Eban and other senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

* MAARIV reports that the Foreign Office in Jerusalem said that until yesterday nothing had been known about any correspondence between Mr. Harry Truman and Mr. Habib Bourguiba. The matter started with the initiative of Mr. Truman and the sponsors of the Peace Center.

YEDIOT reports that the news editor of "KOL ISRAEL," Mr. Vardi Ben Yaacov, demands a clarification from the Administration of the Broadcasting Service, after the alleged pressure that was brought to bear on him by the Foreign Ministry. The news about Bourguiba's message of good wishes to Mr. Harry Truman (published in today's JERUSALEM POST) was broadcast in the 7 p.m. news bulletin by "KOL ISRAEL". When the editor wanted to repeat the broadcast at 8:30 an official from the Foreign Ministry phoned him and asked him to omit the news because the broadcast is likely to "harm Mr. Bourguiba." The news item was eventually suppressed by the decision of Dr. Hoffman, Acting Director of the Broadcasting Service, and Mr. Ben Yaacov has lodged a complaint, saying: "There is no point in returning to the days of fear and hysteria, which disturbed the work and caused embarrassment to those doing their faithful duty and harm to the State." Mr. Ben Yaacov will also demand a clarification of the affair in the Journalists' Association of Israel.

YEDIOT reports that the resignation of Isser Harel from his post as Adviser to the Prime Minister will apparently be brought up at today's session of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Security Committee. One of the Gahal representatives will ask Mr. Eshkol, who will take part at the session, for clarification. The Prime Minister is expected to reply very briefly, but it is not anticipated that Mr. Harel will be requested to appear before the committee.
