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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE, B'NAI B'RITH SECEDE FROM NCRAC

NEW YORK, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee and the B'nai B'rith, parent body of the Anti-Defamation League, tonight officially announced their withdrawal from the National Community Relations Advisory Council. Their action followed adoption by the national plenary conference of the NCRAC earlier this month of a plan for reorganization of work in the community relations field. Both organizations had strenuously opposed the plan, adoption of which was inspired by the MacIver Report on Jewish community relations.

Jacob Blaustein, president of the American Jewish Committee, and Frank Goldman, president of B'nai B'rith, made the formal statements announcing secession by their organizations from the eight-year-old agency.

Mr. Blaustein declared that "the fundamental basis for the American Jewish Committee's withdrawal from the NCRAC is our rejection of a regulatory body with compulsory powers to which national agencies are subordinated. No central body," he asserted, "can presume to have a mandate to speak as the 'official' voice of American Jewry."

He declared that the resolution adopted at the Atlantic City session of the NCRAC "purported to be a compromise but was no compromise because it advanced the same proposition for centralized control which we had been steadfastly rejecting. The essence of that resolution would be to prevent American Jews from having the determining voice over the policies and purposes of the organizations of their choice."

Plan Would 'Fragmentize' Veteran Agencies

To accept this, he said, "would have committed the American Jewish Committee to abandon its founding principles; yield its autonomy; ignore its responsibilities to its members, and jeopardize the methods of combatting anti-Semitism and all forms of prejudice and discrimination which we have laboriously evolved through nearly 50 years of experience."

Mr. Goldman, in his statement, charged that the reorganization plan "holds out the prospect of fragmentizing agencies with the longest and greatest record of service." He said it would "throttle voluntarism and injuriously dismantle the defense structure." The B'nai B'rith's executive committee voted the action unanimously; it was announced.

Mr. Goldman warned that "to accept the terms of dismemberment and control would debase the ideals of freedom and voluntarism which we hold dear. We are certain that as an inevitable consequence of such acceptance, the Jewish community of America would suffer grievously. We are convinced that the fight against anti-Semitism, which is of transcendent importance, would be weakened irreparably."

GOLDMANN SEES SPEEDY ACTION BY BONN PARLIAMENT ON AGREEMENTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- Early ratification by the Bonn Parliament of the German reparations agreements under which the State of Israel and the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany will receive a total of \$822,000,000 in goods, was forecast by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency and of the claims conference, on his return here.

Dr. Goldmann, chief negotiator with German Chancellor Dr. Konrad Adenauer, will report on Wednesday to a meeting of the conference's policy committee. He told the press that "the agreements with Germany represent a material settlement" and that "the formidable moral implications of the Nazi wrongs cannot be cancelled by agreements.

"Nonetheless," he added, "the documents signed in Luxemburg definitely indicate moral awareness by the West German Government of the dreadful misdeeds committed by the Nazis. Chancellor Adenauer and the late Kurt Schumacher, leader of the German Social Democratic Party, contributed greatly to the successful conclusion of the negotiations. The implementation of the agreements also is a complex procedure which, I am confident, will be executed in the same spirit in which the agreements were negotiated.

"The governments and press of the United States, Britain and France helped facilitate a successful conclusion of the negotiations by clearly stating their keen interest in the matter," Dr. Goldmann declared. He pointed out that "the payments by Germany in settlement of Jewish Material Claims will undoubtedly have far-reaching effects on the Israel economy and contribute immeasurably to the new State's industrial and agricultural development. Although benefits from the settlement will be felt immediately, the over-all gains will not be fully realized for at least another decade, until full payment is made.

"Meantime," he warned, "Israel will still require in the years ahead the assistance of the American people. This assistance shall come, as it has in the past, through the United Jewish Appeal, the Israel bond drive, U.S. Government aid, and private investment. The field of private investments has not yet been sufficiently exploited by American friends of Israel."

Jewish Groups Confer With Austrian Cabinet Minister on Claims

NEW YORK, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- Outstanding questions involving Austrian restitution and indemnification problems were discussed here last week at a meeting between Dr. Reinhard Kamitz, the Austrian Minister of Finance, and a delegation representing major Jewish organizations, the JTA learned today.

Participating in the discussions with Dr. Kamitz during his brief visit here were Dr. Israel Goldstein, representing the Jewish Agency; Col. Harold Reigelman, American Jewish Committee; Dr. Nehemiah Robinson, World Jewish Congress, and Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, Joint Distribution Committee.

Arab Delegation to Protest to Bonn on Israel Pacts

BONN, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- A three-man Arab delegation is expected here soon to protest to the West German Government against the reparations agreements it recently concluded with the State of Israel and world Jewish organizations, it was learned today. The delegation will also open commercial negotiations with German firms.

The delegation will be composed of Adly Andros, former Egyptian Minister to Athens, who will be in charge of the Egyptian legation here, Ramzi Anafi of Syria and Dr. Ali es-Safi of Iraq.

WJC REPRESENTATIVE CONFERS WITH U.S. COMMISSIONER FOR GERMANY

FRANKFURT, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- Dr. Saul Sokol, World Jewish Congress representative in Germany, conferred here with Walter J. Donnelly, newly-appointed American High Commissioner for Germany, on a wide range "of pressing Jewish problems."

Dr. Sokol said the discussions took place in "a most cordial" atmosphere and that Commissioner Donnelly displayed "much understanding" of the Jewish problem.

He also expressed the appreciation of the W. J. C. for the support given by the United States in helping to obtain material compensation claims from West Germany for the victims of Nazism.

BAVARIAN GOVT. TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES AGAINST AUERBACH JUDGE

MUNICH, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- The Bavarian Ministry of Justice said today that it had informed the New York Committee for Fair Play for Auerbach that the committee's criticisms of Dr. Muelzer, presiding judge at the trial of the late Philip Auerbach, are being investigated.

Muelzer was one of three former Nazis sitting on the five-man bench which found the former head of the Bavarian State Restitution Office guilty of fraud and other crimes. The Ministry said the investigation had been delayed because of Muelzer's absence on leave.

JEWS ACCUSE AUSTRIAN PRESS OF USING NAZI METHODS

VIENNA, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- A memorandum accusing sections of the Austrian press of using Nazi methods to attack and discredit the Jews here and abroad was submitted to the Austrian Government today by the newly formed federal organization of Austrian Jewish communities.

The memorandum charged that several of the Austrian newspapers gave evidence of an active, Nazi-type anti-Semitism and called on the government for measures to protect the Jewish community against libel and slander.

DROP DESECRATION CHARGES AGAINST FORMER NAZI OFFICIAL

HANNOVER, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- Proceedings against Paul Eckstein, one-time mayor of Imbhausen, on charges of desecrating the Jewish cemetery at Imbhausen during the Nazi regime have been dropped by the state prosecutor at Goettingen. The Jewish community council of Lower Saxony has protested the decision to drop the case.

Eckstein was accused of using tombstones from the Jewish cemetery as building materials for his home. The prosecutor said that he could take no legal action against Eckstein because the cemetery had not been cared for at the time the stones were removed, the last burial having taken place in 1908.

PRAYER BOOK FOR JEWISH BLIND PUBLISHED IN SWITZERLAND

ZURICH, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- A prayer book for the Jewish blind has been published here and the local Jewish community council is distributing the book among blind Jews. The Braille volume, containing the major prayers for week-days, the Sabbath and the holidays, was published in German and Hebrew.

150,000 JEWISH SOLDIERS CELEBRATE ROSH HASHANAH AROUND WORLD

NEW YORK, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- Rosh Hashanah services were held at 24 overseas points and at hundreds of military installations and veterans hospitals in the United States for an estimated 150,000 Jewish service personnel in the U. S. armed forces, the National Jewish Welfare Board announced here today. Arrangements for the holiday services were made by the JWB in its 36th "Operation Rosh Hashanah"

The sound of the Shofar was heard in all areas of Korea held by the U. N. forces and services were read in front-line bunkers, open fields and in tents where soldiers and Marines carried their carbines to the services. In Heidelberg American Jewish troops participated in New Year's services in former Nazi clubs and even at the university. Thousands of Jewish servicemen on leave in Paris found holiday arrangements awaiting them at the JWB center in that city.

Aboard the USS Wisconsin, only U. S. battleship in the NATO naval exercises off Scandinavia, a seaman conducted services for Jewish personnel. Services were also held in such widely scattered points as Britain, Italy, Austria, North Africa, the Philippines, Guam, Alaska, Iceland and the Caribbean - with prayer books, shawls, caps and kosher food sent by the JWB months in advance.

ISRAELIS PUT ASIDE AUSTERITY FOR HOLIDAY PERIOD

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- The people of Israel celebrated the Jewish New Year of 5713 undeterred by food shortages, austerity and the manifold problems which have weighed upon this small state during the past twelve months.

Thousands of residents of Jerusalem, Tel Aviv and Haifa abandoned the cities for a long week-end with friends or relatives in the agricultural settlements throughout the country. But tens of thousands flocked into the cities and hotels in all three major cities were filled to capacity.

The Israel National Railway's new Diesel locomotives, just acquired from Belgium, were put into operation to help move the holiday traffic and an almost endless stream of double-decked buses moved out of Tel Aviv's Central Station, carrying holiday-makers to the countryside.

Synagogues here and in Tel Aviv were filled to capacity and thousands worshipped in improvised synagogues. Special services were arranged in Army camps throughout the country.

As one result of the Government's new economic policy, which witnessed drastic revision of exchange rates earlier this year, retail shops reported a much lower holiday merchandise turnover than in previous years, but florists and gift shops reported a booming trade.

MALAN PAYS TRIBUTE TO JEWS IN ROSH HASHANAH GREETING

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- Dr. D.F. Malan, Premier of South Africa, in a message of greeting on the occasion of the Jewish New Year, today paid tribute to "the magnificent success of the combined efforts of the Jews to rebuild their national home in Israel."

This effort, he said, "commands the admiration of the whole world and proves conclusively to what extent the same spirit of cooperation and devotion can and will be an asset to any country in which they are settled."

WEST GERMAN SOCIALISTS GREET JEWS ON ROSH HASHANAH

BONN, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- The executive committee of the Social Democratic Party of West Germany today issued a special message greeting the Jews of Germany on the occasion of the Jewish New Year and pledging a continued fight against anti-Semitism.

"We know quite well that the wounds inflicted on the Jewish people by the Nazis have not yet healed," the message stated. "It is understood that the shame inflicted not only on Jewry but also on the German nation is not to be forgotten, and everything has been done to bring about understanding between the German nation and Jewry by material and moral reparations.

"Everything within the power of our party will be done to fight anti-Semitism, which is the most barbaric and at the same time the most stupid offspring of nationalism," the Social Democratic message read. "We feel at one with all well meaning powers in Germany, and know that all of these (anti-Semitic) elements have to be opposed more energetically than ever before for fear that the few who will not learn may gain ground for reasons which may be outside our control."

ISRAEL SEEKS FACTS ON REPORTED EAST GERMAN PARLEY BID

JERUSALEM, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- The Israeli Foreign Ministry is investigating a reported statement by East German Minister of Agriculture Ernst Goldenbaum to the effect that his government has no basic objections to discussions with the Israel Government over compensation to victims of the Nazi regime, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

(The statement was reportedly made in Bonn this week-end when Goldenbaum, a member of the East German delegation, was questioned by newsmen. He was quoted as saying that nothing was done by his government on this issue because the Israel Government had made no concrete requests.)

The Israeli spokesman stated that if, upon investigation, it appeared that Goldenbaum's statement was factual and was the official position of his government--not merely his own private opinion--further diplomatic steps would be taken to open negotiations.

COMPROMISE BEING SOUGHT IN ISRAEL CABINET CRISIS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 19. (JTA) -- Israel's parliamentary crisis following the withdrawal of two of the religious parties from the government coalition, simmered through the Jewish High Holy Days.

The Government announced receipt of the resignations of Rabbi I. M. Lewin, Minister of Social Welfare, and of Rabbi Kalman Kahane, Deputy Minister of Education, members of the Agudath Israel and Agudath Workers parties respectively, but indicated that no immediate action would be taken on them.

Parliament is now in recess so the question of a parliamentary majority does not immediately arise and the Cabinet will not hold its regular weekly meeting tomorrow. A Government spokesman said the situation was not considered a "crisis" since the Government can muster 60 votes in the 120-man Parliament "while it is not certain that there will be 60 against us."

The remaining two components of the Religious Bloc, the Mizrahi and the Mizrahi Workers, have not yet determined their position and are continuing efforts to achieve a compromise between Premier David Ben Gurion and the Agudist factions.

NEW COST OF LIVING INCREASES GRANTED ISRAEL WORKERS

TEL AVIV, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- Israel faced new wage and price spirals today as the Manufacturers Association and the Histadruth, the Israel Labor Federation, signed a new cost of living agreement under which salaries will be raised 6.4 pounds (\$17.90) per month.

The manufacturers had refused to sign the new agreement without assurance that the Government would permit increases in the prices of manufactured goods. They signed, however, after receiving assurances from the Trade Ministry that prices of certain commodities could be raised if the manufacturers' demands for increases were found justified.

ACHESON AND EBAN CONFER ON U.S. ARMS AID TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Dean Acheson and Israel Ambassador Abba Eban today discussed arms aid for Israel and other topics when Mr. Eban called at the State Department prior to his departure for Israel. Mr. Eban will leave New York on Wednesday for consultations with his government on problems that are expected to arise at the forthcoming meeting of the United Nations General Assembly, and other issues.

The discussion covered the "whole range" of American-Israel affairs, the Ambassador said. Special emphasis was placed on the Middle Eastern and Arab-Israel relations. They explored possibilities of improving relations between Israel and the Arab states and talked about Israel issues and Middle Eastern questions affecting Israel which will appear on the agenda of the U.N. General Assembly session.

The two officials discussed arms aid for Israel under terms of the Mutual Security Act. Israel is now able to purchase certain categories of munitions here but free arms, provided in the act, have not yet been made available to the state.

Mr. Eban also met with Henry A. Byroade, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, and discussed economic and financial matters relating to the American aid program. The Israel Ambassador said he found the talks "satisfactory."

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL LAUNCHES EMERGENCY \$35,000,000 DRIVE

NEW YORK, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal today opened a nationwide emergency campaign to raise \$35,000,000 in cash in the next three months. Edward M. M. Warburg, general chairman of the U. J. A., announced that more than 1,500 local community campaigns would participate in the special drive, which was decided upon following reports of the critical shortage of hard currency in Israel.

Mr. Warburg said that Jack D. Weiler, of New York, a national U. J. A. leader and a chairman of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, would serve as chairman of the campaign, and would be aided by a 160-member National Cash Cabinet composed of Jewish community leaders in nearly every state in the Union.

Some 1,000 volunteer workers for the U. J. A. of Greater New York will attend the 13th anniversary dinner of the agency this Thursday evening at the Hotel Astor. Since the first campaign in 1939, the agency has raised \$300,000,000 from over one million New Yorkers of all faiths.

IRVING ENGEL TO REPRESENT U.S. AT PANAMA INAUGURATION

WASHINGTON, Sept. 22. (JTA) -- Irving Engel, chairman of the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee, was today appointed by President Truman as a member of an official delegation to represent the U. S. Government at the forthcoming inauguration of Col. Jose Antonio Remon as President of Panama.