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## PRAGUE TRIAL THROWS JEWS IN COMMUNIST COUNTRIES INTO MORTAL FEAR

VIENNA, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- Jews in countries behind the "Iron Curtain" are reported to be in mortal fear of increased anti-Jewish propaganda as a result of the trial of 14 former Communist leader in Prague, which is looked upon by the non-Jewish population in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Rumania and other Soviet-dominated countries as official Soviet sanction of an outspoken anti-Jewish policy.

Reports reaching here from Soviet satellite countries all indicate that the Jewish populations in those countries are stunned by the sudden official outburst of anti-Semitism at the Prague trial where 12 of the 14 defendants are Jews. The general opinion expressed in these reports is that anti-Semitic elements in all Communist countries have received the green light to indulge in open anti-Jewish activities under the mask of defending Communism.

Newspapers received here from Czechoslovakia and other Soviet-dominated countries feature the news of the trial in a manner which fosters anti-Semitic feelings among the non-Jewish population. Radio stations in the Soviet satellite countries similarly inject strong anti-Jewish note in their broadcast reports of the Prague trial.

### Soviet Satellite Press and Radio Virulent Against Jews

The general tendency in the press and on the radio in Soviet-dominated countries is to discredit the Jews in the eyes of the local population by linking them with "Zionist conspirators" and "American agents." Testimony at the trial to this effect by Rudolf Slansky, Bendrich Geminder, Arthur London, Andre Simon and other defendants who "confessed" alleged ties with Israelis and American Jews, are quoted at great length.

Today, the Prague radio played up testimony by Andre Simon, former editor of the Czech Communist party newspaper "Rude Pravo," who was indicted as a Zionist and a spy. The broadcast quoted him as testifying yesterday that he collaborated with an American Jewish radio correspondent who told him that "it was the duty of every Jew to support the policy of the United States, even if he did not agree with it."

Czechoslovak newspapers reaching here today from Prague also drag in the Joint Distribution Committee by stating that the American Jewish relief organization "has developed espionage and sabotage activities." Other Jewish organizations are charged with allegedly training saboteurs and spies against the Soviet regime.

The Prague radio, reporting in detail the testimony this weekend of Mr. Slansky, former Secretary General of the Czech Communist Party, who "confessed"

that he was a "Jewish capitalist," an agent of "international Jewish conspiracy" and that he was protecting "Zionist conspirators," quotes him as stating in court:

"I deliberately shielded the Zionist conspirators by abusing the campaign against so-called anti-Semitism, by proposing that a campaign be waged against anti-Semitism, by magnifying the danger of anti-Semitism and by proposing various measures against anti-Semitism, such as the writing of articles, the publication of pamphlets, the holding of lectures and so forth.

"I criminally prevented the waging of a campaign against Zionism and the revelation of the hostile character of Zionist ideology and the unmasking of the hostile activity of Zionists and Zionist organizations. I deliberately shielded Zionism by publicly speaking out against the people who pointed to the hostile activities of Zionists and by describing these people as anti-Semites -- just as did my collaborators -- so that these people were in the end prosecuted and persecuted."

#### Former Israel Minister to Prague Cited in Indictment

Among those cited in the indictment at the Prague trial were Israel Premier David Ben Gurion, Israel Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, and Ehud Avrieli, former Israel Minister to Czechoslovakia. Mr. Avrieli, who is now director general of the Premier's Office in Israel, is described as "an American spy covered by the immunity of Israel diplomatic passports."

The allegations linking the State of Israel, the Zionist movement and Jewish leaders with "American imperialism" are based on the alleged confessions of two Israel nationals who have been under arrest in Czechoslovakia for many months. One of them is Mordecai Oren, a leader of the leftwing Mapam Party in Israel. The other is Shimson Orenstein, a former employee in the Israel legation in Prague.

The indictment quotes "testimony" by Orenstein on a "conspiratorial meeting" in 1947 attended by President Truman, Secretary of State Dean Acheson, Henry Morgenthau, former Secretary of the Treasury, and Mr. Ben Gurion and Mr. Sharett, at which agreement was reached on a new "Morgenthau Plan."

Under this plan, according to the indictment, the terms of American aid to Israel were fixed. One of the conditions was that the Zionist organization should be exploited "for espionage activities and revolutionary acts in popular democracies to help the American imperialistic aim -- world domination."

#### Ben Gurion Called "Servant of American Imperialism"

In accordance with this plan, the indictment asserts, Mr. Avrieli played the chief role in Prague. On his arrival in Prague, it asserts, he made contact with two of the defendants, Mr. Slansky Communist Party chief, and Bendrich Geminder, Slansky's deputy, "and tried to cooperate with them to execute this criminal and mad plan -- that of Truman and Ben Gurion who is the servant of American imperialism."

The Oren "confession" is cited to prove links between Slansky and Yugoslav Titoists. It states that Mr. Oren made contact with Slansky for the Titoists through Avrieli. Oren, who is described in the indictment as "a distinguished Zionist swindler," also "confessed" to activities carried out jointly with two other defendants, Rudolph Margolius, former official in the Foreign Trade Ministry, and Dr. Evzen Loebl, former Deputy Foreign Trade Minister, to help Israel and damage the Czechoslovak economy. It is expected here that Mr. Oren will appear in court as a witness.

ISRAEL CABINET DISCUSSES SLURS AT "PURGE" TRIAL IN PRAGUE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet today discussed the implications of the Prague trial of 14 ex-Communist and Czechoslovak Government leaders in which the prosecution has linked the defendants with the Zionist movement in a series of charges of "treason" and "espionage" in behalf of the "American imperialism."

Asked whether Dr. I. Kubowi, Israeli Minister to Prague, would be recalled as a result of the slurs at the trial against Premier David Ben Gurion, Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett and former Israel Minister to Prague Ehud Avriel, a government spokesman today stated that there was no intention of recalling Dr. Kubowi. However, the spokesman added, after the trial the Minister would probably be asked to return to Israel to report to the Cabinet on the trial. A government spokesman is scheduled to make a statement on the trial before the Israel Parliament tomorrow.

Meanwhile, Foreign Office officials here ridiculed the "confessions" of several of the defendants and alleged confessions of Israeli nationals that Ben Gurion and Sharett met with President Truman, Secretary of State Dean Acheson and former Secretary of the Treasury Henry Morgenthau, Jr., in Washington in 1947 and agreed to the Zionist movement's acting as agents for the American Government in Communist countries in Eastern Europe in return for aid to the Jewish State.

These officials pointed out: 1. that in 1947 Gen. George C. Marshall and not Mr. Acheson was Secretary of State; 2. that Ben Gurion did not visit the United States in 1947; 3. that Mr. Ben Gurion first met the President in 1951; 4. that Mr. Sharett never met the President until 1952.

The government radio, Kol Israel, last night declared that it was necessary to go back to the books of Hitler and Alfred Rosenberg, Nazi "theoretician," and to "evidence" concocted by the Czarist Russian authorities to find precedent for the conspiracies, machinations and crimes pinned on the Jews and on Zionist leaders and representatives of the Israel Government.

In a statement to the press, Mr. Avriel, who was named in a "confession" by Mordechai Oren, Israel Mapam leader arrested in Prague over a year ago, said that it "was below my dignity to come in contact with secret agents." He added that he had never met with Mr. Oren while the two were in Prague because Mr. Oren, on Mapam Party business, avoided the Israel legation. He said that in his capacity as an Israel Government representative, he was in contact with some of the defendants who at that time represented the Czechoslovak Government, but who now "proclaim themselves outcasts, traitors and criminals."

All the Tel Aviv newspapers, including the Mapam Party paper Al Hamishmar, but excluding the Communist Kol Haam, today devoted their lead editorial to the Prague trial. The Mapam newspaper denied all charges against Mr. Oren and once again demanded his release. It stated that during his visit to Prague, Yugoslavia and elsewhere he acted on his party's behalf and did nothing to undermine Czechoslovak security. He went to Eastern European countries to muster support for the establishment of the Jewish State, a project fought for by the Soviet Union, Al Hamishmar said.

Other newspapers, including Haaretz, Haboker and the Jerusalem Post, recalled the assistance given Israel in its early days by Czechoslovakia, but denounced the "anti-Semitic line and attitude marking the trial's proceedings."

JEWISH AGENCY DENIES "WITH CONTEMPT" CHARGES AT PRAGUE TRIAL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency today denied "with contempt" the charges that Zionist leaders and the Zionist movement were linked with espionage rings in the Soviet satellite nations of East Europe, which were contained in "confessions" of defendants at the Prague trial of 14 ex-Communist leaders, 12 of whom have been identified as Jews. The statement read:

"We have heard with profound shock of the trial proceedings in Prague. It is the first time in such a trial that both the indictment and the evidence project allegations against the Zionist movement, the Jewish Agency and the Israel Government, and that a note of hostility has been introduced against the defendants as Jews that is bound to fan ominous anti-Semitic instincts.

"Particularly shocking is the testimony, without basis in fact, that has been extracted from Mordecai Oren, obviously through force. All reasonable, fairminded people are well aware that these libels have neither factual nor moral foundation. The Zionist movement refutes, with the utmost contempt, the fabric of falsehoods presented by the authors of the trial in Prague."

U.S. Jewish Groups Condemn Anti-Jewish Character of Trial

NEW YORK, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- American Jewish organizations and leading American newspapers today sharply condemned the anti-Semitic tactics at the Prague trial. The Jewish War Veterans of the United States issued a call to its members to boycott goods produced in the Soviet Union or in Soviet-dominated countries.

The American Jewish Committee said in a statement: "The trial of Rudolph Slansky, renegade Jew and his colleagues, who betrayed Judaism in serving the Communist cause, should awaken everyone to the fact that anti-Semitism has become an open instrument of Communist policy. It is ironical that these men who deserted Judaism, which is inimical to Communism, are now being used as an excuse for the Communist-anti-Semitic campaign."

The New York Times said in an editorial that the anti-Jewish allegations at the Prague trial are a "Stalinist version" of the notorious Protocols of the Elders of Zion. It points out that the groundwork for this version "was laid four years ago in Soviet Russia's own campaign against 'cosmopolitanism,' a campaign whose victims were predominantly Jews." The paper said that the Prague trial "may well mark the beginning of a major tragedy as the Kremlin swings further and further toward anti-Semitism marked as anti-Zionism," adding that "this latest evidence that Stalin can emulate Hitler bodes ill indeed" for well over 2,000,000 Jews living in "Stalin's empire."

The New York Herald Tribune editorially comments in a similar vein. The Yiddish newspapers also consider the anti-Jewish trend at the Prague trial as an "open manifestation of Communist anti-Semitism" and as a danger to the several hundred thousand Jews who still reside in "Iron Curtain" countries. The removal of these Jews from Communist countries should become "Problem No. 1" of American Jewry, the Jewish press urges.

RABBI USIEL REGRETS SIGNING ROSENBERG PLEA; HERZOG REFUSED TO SIGN

TEL AVIV, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- Rabbi Ben Zion Usiel, Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel, today confirmed that he was among the 20 Israeli rabbis who signed a plea for clemency for Ethel and Julius Rosenberg, sentenced to be executed in New York as atomic spies. Askenasic Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog denied that he had signed the plea. Rabbi Usiel added that he regrets signing the petition.

JERUSALEM PARLEY AGREES ON EXPANSION OF AMERICAN ZIONIST COUNCIL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- The consultations between Premier David Ben Ben Gurion and leaders of the American Zionist movement, which started last night, concluded today with an "amicable agreement which opens the doors wide for agreement among all Zionist parties in the United States," it was reported here this afternoon. An official statement on the meeting read:

"Following a full discussion, it was unanimously agreed to recommend to the respective organizations the adoption of a program which proposes the strengthening of the American Zionist Council both nationally and locally to include the following spheres of activity:

"1. Public relations; 2. Coordination of Zionist participation in communal fund-raising for Israel; 3. Strengthening of Jewish and Hebrew education; 4. Youth work and Chalutzit; 5. Deepening of Zionist interest and participation in Jewish community life."

The participants agreed to consider the calling of an assembly of American Zionists. The definitive program as well as the structure of the American Zionist Council was left for discussion and decision by Zionist groups in the United States.

JEWISH AGENCY LEADERS PRESENT REPORTS TO ACTIONS COMMITTEE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- The achievements of the Jewish Agency in the absorption of hundreds of thousands of immigrants in Israel were underlined here today by Golda Myerson, Labor Minister, addressing the current session of the Zionist Actions Committee. Mrs. Myerson also reported on the liquidation of the temporary immigrant work villages.

Gershon Agron, member of the Actions Committee, questioned why so few young immigrants came from the United States, Britain and South Africa, pointing out that only 224 youths came to Israel from the United States last year. He pleaded for a revival of the pioneering spirit of Zionism.

Itzhak Raphael, head of the immigration department of the Jewish Agency, reported that the gates of Rumania have been shut to Jewish emigration for the last eight months. At the same time, he emphasized that most of the Jews in Hungary are anxious to immigrate to Israel.

Dr. George Josephtal, Jewish Agency treasurer, speaking at the session, urged the speediest liquidation of the Maabarot, the temporary immigrant work villages, and the transfer of the inhabitants of these villages to productive employment.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, and Mrs. Rose Halprin, Agency executive members, reported on the possibilities of attracting foreign investment to Israel and emphasized that through joint efforts the Agency and the Israel Government can eliminate some of the difficulties which Israel now faces in stimulating the flow of private Jewish capital from abroad.

Levi Eshkol, head of the Agency's settlement department, said that Israel had made great strides towards self-sufficiency in foodstuffs. He pointed out that while the government allocated 60 million pounds for food imports, Israel's agricultural output is valued at almost 125 million pounds, besides the 20 million pounds in foreign currency earned from exports of citrus fruit.

Water-drilling programs, he reported would provide a total of 600 million cubic meters of water this year as compared to 215 million last year. Discovery

of new water sources between Beersheba and Elath, he said, "opens a new chapter in conquering and settling the Negev."

Mr. Eshkol proposed a five-year program to establish 60 new settlements annually, involving some 25,000 to 30,000 farming units and to consolidate some 350 existing settlements. This colonization plan, he said, would fit into the Government's plan to liquidate the immigrant villages in the next two to three years.

He estimated that these colonization plans would require 250 million pounds and said that "the Zionist movement must regard this settlement enterprise in its widest connotation as the principal anvil for its activities." He said the movement would have to devote the greater part of its resources, financial and human, to this task.

#### ISRAEL ENVOY HAILS APPOINTMENT OF DULLES AS SECRETARY OF STATE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 23. (JTA) -- The appointment of John Foster Dulles as United States Secretary of State was hailed this weekend by Israel Ambassador Abba S. Eban.

Mr. Eban described Mr. Dulles as "a formidable advocate of close American-Israel friendship." He added that "I have been privileged to have cordial contacts with him in the United Nations. In the United Nations session of 1948 he played an important and helpful role in the Israel-Arab controversy and a close relationship of mutual regard developed between him and our Foreign Minister, Mr. Sharett.

#### TWO ISRAEL AIR FORCE PILOTS KILLED IN PLANE CRASH

TEL AVIV, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- Two Israeli Air Force pilots were killed today while on a training flight when their plane developed engine trouble, a military spokesman announced tonight.

Arab infiltrators tonight penetrated Jerusalem proper and killed several guards in the Talbish quarter, near the center of the city. The guards, standing around a fire and warming themselves, were caught in a sudden crossfire of Sten guns. Police tracked the raiders to the Jordan border. Israel immediately lodged a strong protest with the Mixed Armistice Commission.

#### 15,000 ATTEND CEREMONY DEDICATING I. L. PERETZ SQUARE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- More than 15,000 people today participated in the dedication ceremony of a square here named after I. L. Peretz, noted Jewish writer who died in Poland in 1915. A Peretz monument will be erected on the square by the World Congress for Jewish Culture.

The ceremony marked the climax of the centennial commemoration of the birth of I. L. Peretz, who was known as "the father of modern Yiddish literature." Prominent civic, labor and cultural leaders spoke at the ceremony. Their speeches were beamed by the Voice of America to various parts of the world. A message of greetings from Mayor Vincent Impellitteri of New York was read at the ceremony.