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PRAGUE TRIAL CONCLUDES; 11 SENTENCED TO DEATH, THREE TO LIFE TERMS

VIENNA, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- The Prague "purge" trial, which was conducted with strongly anti-Semitic overtones, concluded today with 11 defendants -- nine of them Jews -- sentenced to death by hanging on charges of "treason and sabotage" and "plotting against the state in the interests of the West and of Israel." The other three were sentenced to life imprisonment. They included two Jews -- Arthur London and Evzen Loebl, Czech Deputy Ministers of Foreign Affairs and Trade, respectively.

In demanding the death sentence for the accused ex-Communist leaders, the prosecutor told the court: "It is no accident that of the fourteen accused eleven are the product of Zionist organizations. The danger of Zionism has increased with the foundation of the State of Israel by the Americans. Zionism and Jewish bourgeois nationalism are two sides of the same coin, which was minted in Wall Street."

Reports reaching here today from Czechoslovakia reveal that the anti-Jewish propaganda which marked the trial has inspired anti-Semitic elements throughout the country to start open incitement against Jews. In Bratislava Jewish houses were marked with chalked inscriptions "Jews Live Here," "Down with Capitalist Jews," or just the word "Jew." Frightened leaders of the local Jewish community, one report said, appealed to the authorities but were told that they need not remove the inscriptions since they have nothing to fear.

Official Communist Organ Asks Destruction of Zionism

For the first time since the "treason" trial opened, the Prague Communist organ, Rude Pravo, sought to distinguish between Zionism and the Jewish people and to argue that while the Czech Communist Party opposes Zionism, it is, however, "consistently internationalist" and as such opposes anti-Semitism. The newspaper said that the Communists "must destroy Zionism."

In a vicious attack on the Zionist movement, the paper said that among "the scum which has linked itself with United States imperialism to destroy the achievements of our people, to liquidate the people's democratic order, to restore capitalism in our country and to bring it under the yoke of the imperialists," a foremost place was held by the Zionists, "a reliable agency of United States imperialism."

(In Tel Aviv today the Israeli police guard around the Czechoslovak legation was strengthened after an unidentified person threw a stone at the building and smashed a window, following the announcement of the verdict at the Prague trial.)

PRAGUE JEWISH COMMUNITY LEADER AND WIFE COMMIT SUICIDE

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- Erich Cohn, secretary of the Prague Jewish Community, and his wife, took their lives yesterday in the Czech capital, it was reliably reported here today. Previously, Rudolph Bistricky, former Czech envoy to London, and Tibor Kovac, a prominent Jewish Communist, had been reported suicides.

Another victim of the Communist inquisition was the Czech housekeeper of the Israel Minister in Prague, it was learned today. The woman had recently been summoned to secret police headquarters in Prague it was learned, and questioned there. She left police headquarters in a depressed state of mind and took her life shortly after.

KNESSET ACTS ON PRAGUE SLURS; ISRAEL ENVOY SUMMONED HOME

JERUSALEM, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- Dr. I. Kubowy, Israel Minister to Prague, has been instructed by the Israel Government to return to Tel Aviv immediately after the conclusion of the Prague "purge" trial at which Israel was vilified, it was revealed here today.

The Israel Parliament last night gave an overwhelming vote of confidence to the Israel Government position on the Prague trial as stated by Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett Monday. At that time the Minister accused the Czech authorities of plotting anti-Semitism in "the spirit of Nazism."

The vote was taken twice. The first time the Communists and Mapam voted against, and the Herut abstained. The Herut then introduced a motion demanding that the government ask the United Nations to consider the Prague trial a crime against humanity. When the rightwing party was reassured that its motion would be considered by the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee, it joined the majority in a second vote of confidence.

Earlier, the Knesset adopted a resolution condemning the anti-Jewish and anti-Zionist tendencies expressed at the trial. It also expressed the body's "shock" at the trial which it called "an affront to the Jewish nation." The resolution added that the trial "attempts to besmirch the good name of the State of Israel, undermines the traditional friendship between the Czech and Jewish nations, and tries to smear the Zionist movement -- the Jewish people's movement of liberation -- using the fact that the defendants are Jews as an instrument of dangerous and foul propaganda."

Ben Gurion Tells Knesset His Views On Prague Trial

During the debate which preceded the voting, Premier David Ben Gurion said that the trial had raised four problems: the human-judicial aspects; the international implications; the fate of the 2,500,000 Jews in the Soviet Union and the satellite states; and, the significance for Israel.

"We are not a factor which can change the trial," he pointed out, "but we are a factor here and our reaction counts," he stated. He attacked the leftwing Mapam Party, accusing its members of hypocrisy and of having neither a true Communist nor a true Zionist position. He also accused the Mapam of deceiving both Communism and Zionism.

He insisted that the trial had brought forth nothing new in Communist-Zionist relations. "Communism" he said, "has always been hostile to Zionism. The Soviet

Encyclopedia called Weizmann an imperialist leader of an oppressive movement. In this trial Jews are blamed for their Jewishness, and Jews are not concerned whether discrimination is labelled anti-Semitism or cosmopolitanism." The Premier pointed out. "It would be happy to be sure that the entire matter would end with this trial, but I am afraid that it will lead to something tragic and awful," he concluded.

Pro-Soviet Mapam Party Rejects Sharett's Statement

The Mapam, in a prepared statement read by one of its deputies, said that it was "astounded by the attempt to link Zionism with the charges made at the Prague trial." The statement said that the Mapam rejects the accusations against Zionism, but also rejects Sharett's statement. "The Mapam sees itself as an inseparable part of the forces of tomorrow and will unyieldingly stand by the side of the defenders of Socialism against attackers from within and without," the statement declared.

"Israel was established with Russia's decisive help and Russia inscribed a glorious chapter in the history of the establishment of Israel, but this does not justify the linking of Zionism with reactionary forces. The Mapam reassures that to the best of its knowledge Mordecai Oren is innocent," the statement added, concluding with the hope that he will be cleared of all charges.

Dr. Fritz Bernstein, General Zionist leader, said that the trial came about as a result of Czechoslovakia's economic situation and the fact that the Czech authorities, faced with responsibility for that situation, sought to transfer the onus to "Jewish scapegoats." He voiced anxiety for the fate of the Jews of Eastern Europe and said that this situation underlines the need for national unity.

Mordecai Namir, secretary general of the Histadrut and one-time Israel Minister to Moscow, attacked the Mapam and accused it of "preparing the ground for such anti-Zionist outbreaks" by describing Israel as a "stronghold of reaction, a scab of the west." He told the leftists that "we will hold you directly responsible for what goes on at the Prague trial."

Mansheim Beigin, Herut leader, explained the "confessions" of the Prague defendants by stating that during his experiences in the Soviet Union early in the second World War he learned of the "inhuman methods of interrogation" used by the Communists. He also called on the Israel Government to reduce the status of its legation in Prague to the position of Czechoslovakia's in Israel since the last Czech Minister, Dr. Edouard Goldstucker, was recalled and never replaced.

Communist deputy Meir Wilner denied that the Prague trial was anti-Semitic. Foale Mizrahi leader Itzhak Raphael called for national unity and adherence to Jewish tradition in this situation; A Progressive deputy called Soviet and Nazi justice similar. Agudah and Foale Agudah deputies stated that the trend toward state education in Israel was leading to Communism.

U.S. JEWISH GROUPS CONDEMN ANTI-SEMITISM AT PRAGUE TRIAL

NEW YORK, Nov. 27. (JTA) — American Jewish groups today issued statements condemning the anti-Semitic tone of the Prague "purge trial," and urging the United States to place on the agenda of the United Nations the threat to safety and human rights of the Jews in Czechoslovakia arising from the trial.

One of the protests was from the American Zionist Council which represents all Zionist groups in this country. The Anti-Defamation League of the B'nai B'rith sent a telegram to Secretary of State Dean Acheson declaring that the Prague trial was "a deliberate attempt to arouse popular resentment against Jews." A protest resolution was also adopted by Hadassah.

MAPAI NAMES BEN ZVI CANDIDATE FOR PRESIDENCY OF ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- Itzhak Ben Zvi, former president of the Jewish National Council of Palestine which was replaced by the Israel Parliament at the establishment of the Jewish State, was today unanimously nominated as candidate for President of Israel by the central committee of the Mapai, Israel's main party.

Mr. Ben Zvi, who this week celebrated his 59th birthday, is well known in the United States where he recruited volunteers for the Jewish Legion during World War I. He was one of the founders of the Histadrut, Israel's Federation of Labor, and is the author of a great many publications mainly on archeology.

The Avizrachi Laborites today announced that their candidate for the Presidency will be Dr. Achaon Baidt, noted lawyer. The left-wing Mapam Party has named Dr. Chaim Greenbaum, veteran Zionist leader of Poland, as its candidate.

Meyer Weizgal, chairman of the executive committee of the Weizmann Institute of Science, today left for the United States with plans for the establishment of a "Living memorial" to the late President Weizmann. The plans, which will be presented at the Weizmann memorial dinner at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York on Dec. 17, provide for the creation of an institute of Zionist studies, the establishment of 25 post-doctorate fellowships and the expansion of the Weizmann Institute.

ZIONIST COMMITTEE APPROVES \$118,300,000 BUDGET FOR JEWISH AGENCY

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- A budget of 84,500,000 pounds (\$118,300,000) for the work of the Jewish Agency in 1953 was approved yesterday by the finance commission of the Zionist Actions Committee, supreme organ of the Zionist movement between sessions of the World Zionist Congress.

The body's immigration commission voted today to abandon the principle of "selective" immigration in favor of "productive" immigration and to raise the age limit for free entry from 35 to 40 years. This will principally affect immigration from South Africa.

The Actions Committee wound up its general debate in plenary sessions today and moved into the committee stage of its deliberations. The entire participation in the session today proceeded to Rehovoth for ceremonies at the grave of Dr. Chaim Weizmann, where a wreath was placed in the name of the committee.

Speaking at a joint meeting of delegates of Hadassah, American women's Zionist organization, and the Women's International Zionist Organization (WIZO), Mrs. Rose Kaplan, of New York, warmly endorsed suggestions that American Zionists should play a greater role in the life of the American Jewish community. "Hadassah has exceeded all other American Zionist groups in its membership precisely because of its participation in a large variety of American Jewish communal activities," she said.

TEL AVIV, NOVEMBER 27. (JTA) -- STREET CLASHES BROKE OUT HERE NEAR SPECIAL STANDS TO OBSTRUCT PETITIONS TO HUNGARY

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- Street clashes broke out here near special stands where signatures are being solicited for petitions appealing to the Hungarian Government to permit Jewish emigration. Members of Mapam and the Communist Parties tried to prevent passers-by from signing the petitions, and police had to be called to restore order. Thousands of Israelis are reported to be signing the petitions, which will be handed to the Hungarian legation.

U. N. GETS SIX-POWER RESOLUTION ASKING ISRAEL-ARAB DIRECT TALKS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 27. (JTA) -- Six "neutral powers" yesterday introduced in the United Nations General Assembly's Special Political Committee a resolution calling on both Israel and the Arab States to enter into direct negotiations immediately for settlement of their differences.

The resolution, introduced by Finn Moe of Norway, was sponsored by Canada, Denmark, Ecuador, the Netherlands, Norway and Uruguay. It has the support of the Israel delegation, whose chief, Abba Eban, earlier this week urged the United Nations to make every effort to bring the two sides together. Western Powers support of the resolution is expected.

The six-power resolution asks all parties to "desist from any further acts of hostility" and urges the governments concerned to enter into direct negotiations for settlement of their outstanding differences. It proposes that the services of the U. N. Palestine Conciliation Commission should be available for this purpose, if desired.

Ahmed Shukeiri of Syria, the only Arab representative to speak before the committee adjourned its session until Friday, described Mr. Moe's speech appealing for peace negotiations as a "noble appeal," but added that Israel would have to prove her peaceful intentions. He stressed the Arabs' "desire for peace" and their "conciliatory" attitude contrasting it with charges that mediation and conciliation attempts had failed because of the Israelis.

He stated that the Arabs would not "resist" direct talks, provided they were based on the principles and obligations of the U. N. Charter. He said that the Arabs accepted the Norwegian peace appeal and were prepared to abide by Assembly resolutions, but doubted that Israel would do so outside the halls of the General Assembly.

Before the Norwegian representative spoke, Pierre Ordonneau, French chairman of the Conciliation Commission, made a statement in which he praised Israel for its agreement to release blocked Arab funds. He said the formula accepted by Israel would settle the majority of these accounts. He admitted that the Commission had been unable to find a "new approach" to the peace problem and therefore concentrated on technical problems such as compensation for the Arab refugees.

Israel has signed two agreements with the United Nations under which additional technical assistance will be provided by the world organization. Under the terms of the two pacts and past agreements, Israel will receive the help of 26 experts to advise the government in technical fields during the next two years.

TWO ISRAEL VESSELS WITH 15 ABOARD REPORTED MISSING IN STORM

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- Two Israeli vessels with 15 members of the Navy aboard were today listed missing after a storm. The vessels, which went adrift at the height of the gale, are the object of a widespread hunt by Israel naval and air force units.

Meanwhile, the Lebanese delegation to the Mixed Armistice Commission reported that one boat and eight men drifted into Lebanese waters and was interned last Monday. The men will be released shortly. No news has yet been received of the second vessel.

BOMB EXPLODES IN OFFICE OF ISRAEL PUBLICATION; ONE WOUNDED

TEL AVIV, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- A bomb exploded last night in the editorial office of the Hebrew weekly "Olan Haze" (This World). A member of the staff was wounded. The police started an investigation.

JUNIOR HADASSAH CONVENTION OPENS; CONDEMNS MCCARRAN ACT

NEW YORK, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- The four-day 29th annual convention of the Junior Hadassah opened here today with 500 delegates from all parts of the country attending. A resolution condemning the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act and asking for its appeal was adopted at the opening session.

President Truman, in a message to the convention, lauded the activities of the young women on behalf of Hadassah both in this country and in Israel. "The generosity and warmth of feeling which have moved so many Americans to interest themselves in aiding refugees and advancing the welfare of Israel, exemplify the highest ideals both of Judaism and of the American spirit," President Truman said in his message.

Dr. David Petegorsky, executive director of the American Jewish Congress, addressing the delegates, attacked the State Department regulations that permit Nazis to enter the United States under the McCarran-Walter Immigration Law. Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, national director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, who delivered the keynote address, emphasized that in the pressure of immediate needs, Jews in America and Israel were prone to neglect a major problem they face in common.

"That problem," Rabbi Lelyveld said, "is the potential decline of the intensity with which we hold fast to that portion of our Jewish inheritance which may be called spiritual. The trend in the modern world toward the emergence of the 'mass man' and toward emptying distinctive content and values out of our lives effects Israeli society just as it affects American society."

REAR ADMIRAL STRAUSS RECEIVES DISTINGUISHED SERVICE MEDAL

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- Rear Admiral Lewis L. Strauss yesterday received the Distinguished Service Medal for his services to the Navy and other government departments during the war and subsequently. Navy Secretary Dan Kimball made the presentation in the Pentagon.

Admiral Strauss was cited particularly for his meritorious service as former special assistant to the Secretary of the Navy, as a member of the Army-Navy Munitions Board and a member of the Army-Navy board on training in industrial mobilization. He also served as a member of the Atomic Energy Commission.

ISRAELI ARTIST OPENS EXHIBITION AT AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS HOUSE

NEW YORK, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- An exhibition of paintings by Moshe Castel, one of Israel's outstanding artists, opened yesterday at Stephen Wise Congress House, headquarters of the American Jewish Congress.

The opening of the exhibition was marked by a reception sponsored by Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress, James G. McDonald, former United States Ambassador to Israel, and James N. Rosenberg of New York, noted painter and art patron. The works will be on view until December 31. Mr. Castel was born in Jerusalem in 1909. He studied in Paris and first exhibited his work in Paris in 1929.

TRUMAN NAMES ELIOT KAPLAN TO HEAD FEDERAL PENSION STUDY

WASHINGTON, Nov. 27. (JTA) -- President Truman has announced the appointment of A. Eliot Kaplan, of New York, to head a study of Federal employees retirement systems. Mr. Kaplan is a private consultant on pension plans and a former executive director of the National Civil Service League.