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ISRAEL PREMIER REJECTS SOVIET ALLEGATIONS IN SPEECH AT KNESSET

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion today told the Israel Parliament that the Israel Government "rejects with all the emphasis at its command" the allegation made by the Soviet Government that the bombing of the Soviet Legation in Tel Aviv took place with the connivance of Israel police.

Speaking in a crowded and heavily guarded chamber, the Premier pointed out that numerous attacks have taken place of Soviet diplomats in foreign countries as well as on foreign diplomats in the Soviet Union, nevertheless the Moscow government did not break off diplomatic relations in retaliation of these acts as was the case now with regard to Israel.

The Israel Government, Premier Ben Gurion said, learned of the Soviet decision to break off relations "with amazement and grave concern." It could find no justification for this "astounding step" since the reasons for the severance of relations indicated in the Soviet note "have no basis in fact and the practice of the Soviet Union itself in international affairs is not in keeping with them."

Mr. Ben Gurion, in his statement to the Parliament, emphasized that the Israel Foreign Ministry had offered police guard for the Soviet Legation some time ago but the offer was rejected by the Legation. He noted that not even the Soviet police were always able to prevent crimes and referred to the murder of a foreign ambassador in Moscow for which the Soviet Government did not blame the police.

Says Moscow is Conducting Defamatory Campaign Against Israel

"To our regret," Mr. Ben Gurion declared, "we can not help seeing in the note delivered by the Soviet Government to our Minister in Moscow one more step in the campaign of defamatory propaganda against the State of Israel, the Zionist movement and world Jewry - a campaign which has been proceeding for a long time in the Moscow press and which became an official campaign of hostility during the Slansky trial in Prague and in slandering allegations published in Moscow."

The Premier emphasized that while the Israel Government "will maintain a firm and resolute stand against the flood of slanders and hostility against Jewry, Zionism and the State of Israel," it is prepared in the future "to cooperate with any country in the world which is loyal to international peace, no matter what its internal regime may be." At the same time, he said, Israel is prepared to defend "as the apple of its eye" its democratic regime and its Zionist mission.

The Premier concluded his statement with a warning that the Israel Government will "resolutely suppress" any manufacture or carrying of bombs and any attempt at burning bookshops, or forcible interference with freedom of speech in the same way as it will suppress any injury to the security of the state or any support to anti-Jewish incitement "in any form whatsoever," or collaboration with enemies of Israel and the Jewish people.

HUGE NEW YORK PROTEST RALLY ASKS MOSCOW TO PERMIT JEWS TO EMIGRATE

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- A resolution calling upon the Soviet Government to "open the gates so that their Jewish victims may find liberty and justice elsewhere" and pledging the cooperation of the Jews of the world in effecting the mass transfer of Russia's Jews to the State of Israel, was unanimously adopted tonight at a mass protest rally sponsored jointly by 31 national Jewish organizations at Manhattan Center, representing 3,000,000 members.

First mass demonstration of its kind since major Jewish groups banded together to fight anti-Jewish terror in Nazi Germany, the meeting charged the Soviet Union and its satellites "with pursuing a policy of defamation of the Jewish people and of the State of Israel to provide a scapegoat for internal disaffection; and of using anti-Semitism as a political instrument in their cold war against the democratic world."

"We declare it to be our firm conviction that the Iron Curtain policy against the Jews is evidence of the steady moral decay of the Government's pursuing it, of their savage and utter disregard of the dignity and rights of man and of their determination to stamp out Catholic, Protestant and all racial minorities who cherish the right to conduct themselves in accordance with the dictates of their conscience," the resolution stated.

"If the rulers of Soviet Russia persist in exposing their Jewish citizens to humiliation, degradation and vilification, if they regard them as expendable members of their regimented society, let them lift the bars and open the gates so that their victims may find liberty and security elsewhere," the resolution continued.

"The State of Israel, which has provided new life for the survivors of Nazism, has declared its readiness to welcome the victims of this new attack on the Jewish people; and the Jews of the world have pledged their cooperation to Israel in meeting its added heavy responsibilities. Regarding ourselves as our brothers' keepers, we therefore demand that they let our people go," the resolution concluded.

 Jewish and Non-Jewish Speakers Attack Red Anti-Semitism

Speakers at the rally included Governor Thomas E. Dewey of New York, who addressed the meeting by special telephone hook-up from Albany; Father George B. Ford, of the Corpus Christi Roman Catholic Church in New York; Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress; Berl Locker of Jerusalem, chairman of the Jewish Agency; Dr. Walter Van Kirk, executive director of the Department of International Justice and Goodwill of the National Council of Churches of Christ; Matthew Wohl, vice-president of the American Federation of Labor; Louis Lipsky, chairman of the American Zionist Council.

Louis Lipsky, who presided, told the meeting that "the horrible apparition of genocide has appeared on the horizon of the civilized world" and warned that Soviet anti-Semitism foreshadows the beginning of World War III.

The anti-Semitic campaign of Soviet Russia "is not the vital concern only of the Jews of the world and the Jews of the State of Israel," Mr. Lipsky said. "It concerns all free people. It is a vital interest of the democratic world. The attack upon the Jews goes hand in hand - in less odious forms - with the persecution of the Christian world, and of all minorities, and with the defense of democracy against its implacable enemy. The State of Israel is the outpost of democracy in the Middle East. Its resistance to totalitarian pressures is indispensable for the region of which it is a part."

Dr. Van Kirk stressed that "this anti-Semitic madness has implications of disaster for the entire human race." He pointed out that "wherever and whenever the

rights of Jews are assaulted by dictators and despots, the rights and freedoms of all men everywhere are imperilled. No Iron Curtain can shut out the voice of those who cry out against this manifestation of anti-Semitism. The God of history will see to that," he declared.

Locker Says Soviets Aiming at Complete Destruction of Jews

Berl Locker, of Jerusalem, co-chairman of the Jewish Agency who is now on a brief visit to the United States, warned that the Soviet campaign against Jews "provides no alternative - allows no exit and permits no escape." Pointing out that from its very beginning the Soviet Union had granted "rights to the individual Jew only at the expense of his group survival," Mr. Locker said:

"In recent months, the Kremlin has completely renounced the principles of emigration for a price. Even the avenue of assimilation has been cut off. For surely Rudolf Slansky had long ago renounced his Jewish affiliation and yet was tried as a Jew. Historically, this adds up to one stark reality - the Jew must vanish. That is the latest dictum from the Kremlin."

Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress, declared: "The protection and support of Israel, the only democracy in the Middle East, is an imperative obligation upon the Western powers for the sake of maintaining peace and stability in that part of the world. Israel has demonstrated its democratic character again and again. Yet it is a tiny country, surrounded by hostile Arab neighbors who are threatening to destroy it."

"If the Soviet rulers have any vestige of a moral sense they should let Jews emigrate to countries which will offer them refuge - Israel and other lands," he concluded, emphasizing that "the poisoned arrows" hurled at Israel by Soviet Russia and its satellites point up the Jewish State's credentials as a democracy.

Other speakers included Rep. Emanuel Celler; Rabbi Simon Kramér, president of the Synagogue Council of America; Benjamin Tabachinsky, national campaign director of the Jewish Labor Committee. (By the time the Bulletin went to press, the text of Gov. Dewey's speech was not yet available.)

In a message to the conference, Senator Herbert H. Lehman said: "The events of recent days, including the Soviet rupture of relations with Israel, must show us that grave developments may be in store for all the free world. Against these developments we must brace ourselves. We must prepare to aid in whatever way we can, the victims actual and potential, of the Soviet terror. We must be prepared to assist the little Republic of Israel against the threats which may soon confront her. In this and many other ways we must show our positive will to preserve not only the security of the free world, but the very cause of freedom."

ITALY INDICATES WILLINGNESS TO MEDIATE BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ARABS

ROME, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The Italian Government would be willing to act as mediator between Israel and the Arab states in an attempt to establish peace in the Middle East, Italian official sources indicated today to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

The statement was made after the return from Egypt of Italian Defense Minister Rinaldo Ossola. These sources suggested that an appropriate time for Italian mediation might be after the solution of the current Anglo-Egyptian difficulties. Ellsworth Bunker, retiring American Ambassador to Rome, has indicated that the U.S. would favor such Italian attempts at promoting a Middle East peace.

STEVENSON DISCUSSES SOVIET POLICY WITH EBAN; WILL VISIT ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Soviet policy in the Near East was discussed yesterday by Adlai Stevenson with Israel Ambassador Abba Eban when Mr. Stevenson called at the Ambassador's residence here to talk about arrangements for a visit to Israel. Mr. Stevenson and Ambassador Eban also talked about American-Israel relations and the general situation in the Near East.

A State Department spokesman announced today that Mr. Stevenson will meet with Henry A. Byroade, assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, at the Department tomorrow for the purpose of discussing problems relating to Israel and the Near East. Mr. Stevenson made known today that he expects to visit Israel and various Arab capitals in May.

SENATE TO ACT ON RESOLUTION CONDEMNING SOVIET ANTI-JEWISH POLICY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Senate Republican leader Robert A. Taft today promised rapid action on a Senate resolution condemning Soviet anti-Semitism. Meanwhile, he blocked efforts to bring such a resolution to an immediate vote on the grounds that the proposed version was too weak.

Sen. Taft had the resolution sent to the Foreign Relations Committee, of which he is a member, and promised it would be reported back on the floor of the Senate before the end of the week. The resolution calls for American Government protests against the Soviet Union. Sen. Irving M. Ives announced that he would add an appeal for United Nations action on anti-Semitism behind the Iron Curtain.

The original resolution was introduced by Sen. Tom Murray, of Montana, in a form that expresses "a sense of shock" at anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union. The resolution called on the United States to ask the Kremlin to "remove all causes for the fears that have arisen throughout the world concerning the future security of the Jewish people now residing within the borders of the U.S.S.R."

Sen. Ives said he had received expressions of concern from Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and United Nations delegate Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr. Sen. Guy M. Gillette, a member of the Foreign Relations Committee, said the Soviet Union's break with Israel should not stop the United States determination to build a Middle East defense organization. He characterized Russia's anti-Israel move as an attempt to win the Arab world away from the west.

B'nai B'rith Urges Congress to Act on Soviet Anti-Semitism

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Russia's severance of diplomatic relations with Israel "is another step taken pursuant to the Communist purpose of political conquest, at the very least, of the Arab Middle East," Frank Goldman, president of B'nai B'rith, said in a statement issued here today.

"Arab favor and Arab oil are attractive goals in the war which the Communist countries are waging against decency and freedom and against the countries which uphold these concepts," the statement declared. "The hostile Soviet action underscores the importance to the free world of a strong and free democratic State of Israel in the Middle East."

Mr. Goldman called upon the President and Congress and freedom-loving organizations in the United States and abroad to protest against "the persecution of Jews within Communist borders" and urged that the United Nations General Assembly, when it reconvenes on February 24, should consider the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry to investigate that persecution.

TWO-DAY PARLEY IN WASHINGTON WILL INAUGURATE 1953 ISRAEL BOND DRIVE

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- A two-day National Leadership Conference to speed Israel's economic development will open at the Mayflower Hotel in Washington on March 7th, it was announced today by Rudolf G. Sonneborn, president of the State of Israel Bond drive. The Conference, which will be attended by Jewish leaders from communities throughout the United States, will mark the official opening of the 1953 campaign for the sale of Israel Independence Bonds.

Dr. Dov Joseph, Israel Cabinet Minister, is coming to the United States to participate in the sessions. In outlining the purposes of the Conference, Mr. Sonneborn referred to the grave danger confronting millions of Jews as a result of increasing anti-Semitism in Russia and other countries. "Because of this challenge," Mr. Sonneborn stressed, "it is essential that in 1953 the Jews of America give renewed and enlarged evidence of their deep concern for the economic stability of the State of Israel."

U.S. STEEL COMPANY SIGNS PACT WITH ISRAEL FOR 100,000 TONS OF STEEL

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Representatives of the Israel Government and the United States Steel Company have signed an agreement under which the company will supply Israel with a total of 100,000 tons of steel during the next three years, it was announced here today. The steel will supply 40 percent of Israel's steel needs for the three-year period.

The steel will be fabricated in Israel, chiefly for use in water pipes for major irrigation projects. It will go to three Israeli steel plants at Migdal-Askelon, Sarafand and Acre. The plant at Migdal-Askelon will devote most of its products to a project for bringing Yaarkon River water to the Negev.

INTERMARRIAGE AMONG JEWS IN CANADA REPORTED ON THE INCREASE

MONTREAL, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Intermarriage among Jews in Canada is on the increase, according to figures released by the Research Department of the Canadian Jewish Congress. During the period 1926-1930, mixed marriages averaged 4.9 percent of all marriages in which one or both partners to the marriage were Jewish. The corresponding figure for the year 1944 was 11 percent and in 1950 10.1 per 1,000.

Canada is the only country in the English speaking world for which official statistics concerning intermarriage are available. In the quinquennial period 1926-30 there were 338 mixed marriages; 1931-35 there were 390 mixed marriages; 1936-40 there were 562 mixed marriages; 1941-45 there were 940 mixed marriages and 1,015 mixed marriages during the years 1946-50.

The research department of the Canadian Jewish Congress also released data on Jewish birth and death rates in Canada. The data indicates that the general trend of Jewish birth rates in Canada has been on the increase. The figure was 15.5 per 1,000 in 1926 and 19.9 per 1,000 in 1950; there was a period of decrease during the years 1930-1940, when the rate fell to an all-time low of 12.5 per 1,000 (in 1937).

The Jewish death rate has been increasing steadily, the figures show. It was 4.4 per 1,000 in 1925, and 7.9 per 1,000 in 1949. The death rate of the total population was 11.4 per 1,000 in 1926, and 8.9 per 1,000 in 1950. The rate of natural increase--excess of births over deaths--of Jewish population in Canada was 11.1 per 1,000 in 1926; 5.9 per 1,000 in 1937, and 12.4 per 1,000 in 1950. The corresponding figures for the total population were 10.7 per 1,000 in 1926; 9.5 per 1,000 in 1937, and 19.2 per 1,000 in 1947.

MEXICAN JEWRY TO CONDUCT A JOINT FUND-RAISING DRIVE THIS YEAR

MEXICO CITY, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- A united fund-raising drive for all Jewish causes will be conducted in Mexico in 1953 on the same basis as last year. It was announced here today. Last year's campaign resulted in the raising of 3,500,000 pesos, approximately \$400,000.

The announcement said that the leaders of the Keren Hayesod adopted the proposal of local Jewish institutions to conduct a joint drive this year. The campaign will be proclaimed in the near future. Josef Sprinzak, Speaker of the Israel Parliament, is expected to arrive here to address the meeting at which the campaign will be launched.

ISRAEL LEADER TO HELP CONDUCT UNITED JEWISH APPEAL IN CANADA

MONTREAL, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Gedalia Zakiff, Israeli Zionist leader, arrived in Canada today at the invitation of the Zionist Organization of Canada, to spend several months here as the representative of the Keren Hayesod and the Jewish Agency. He will assist in the campaigns for the United Israel Appeal and the United Jewish Appeal and will also be engaged in a program of Zionist educational activities.

Mr. Zakiff was a member of the high command of the Hagana in Palestine during World War II. After the war he went to China and India, representing the Zionist movement. From there he went back to Europe and worked on behalf of the Hagana in France, Belgium, Sweden, Norway and Denmark. The last five years of his career have been devoted entirely to South American Jewry.

TERCENTENARY COMMITTEE TO PUBLISH 10-VOLUME HISTORY OF JEWS IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Establishment of an 18-member Committee on Research and Publications to handle the scholarly and academic aspects of the celebration in 1954 of the 300th anniversary of Jewish settlement in America was announced today by Ralph E. Samuel, chairman of the American Jewish Tercentenary Committee. Prominent historians have accepted membership on the research committee, which is headed by Dr. Salo W. Baron, noted historian.

Dr. Baron said his committee now has under consideration a number of projects, among them a 10-volume documentary history of the Jews in the United States, "which will not only serve to provide essential scholarly background for the anniversary celebration, but will also constitute substantial contributions to American and Jewish history and be of great assistance to students and scholars for years to come in the general field of historical studies." A series of monographs in American Jewish history, as well as some publications of a more popular nature, are also contemplated.

DR. BARON ELECTED PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY

BOSTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Dr. Salo W. Baron, Professor of Jewish History at Columbia University, was elected president of the American Jewish Historical Society at the 51st annual meeting of the Society which took place here yesterday at the Boston Public Library. He succeeds Lee M. Friedman.

The meeting was devoted to the reading of a series of scholarly papers on American Jewish history, including several on Jews in Massachusetts history. In connection with the meeting, the Boston Public Library has prepared an exhibit of early American Hebraica and Judaica. Another exhibition of early American Jewish portraits and silver was opened at the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

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