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STALIN'S ILLNESS RAISES DISCUSSION OF AIM OF ZURICH JEWISH PARLEY

JERUSALEM, March 4. (JTA) -- The question of whether the international conference of Jewish organizations to protest the Soviet anti-Jewish drive should or should not be postponed in view of the new situation in Moscow arising from Stalin's grave illness was discussed here today by leaders of various groups, including the Mapai Party. Some have suggested the cancellation of the conference which is scheduled to open in Zurich next Tuesday.

In the meantime, the executive of the Jewish Agency today decided to name ten members of the Israel Parliament to represent the Israel community at the Zurich conference, which is being arranged by the Agency. The delegation of ten is expected to leave for Zurich by plane Sunday. It includes four Mapai deputies, two General Zionists, one Progressive Zionist and others. The left-wing Mapam Party is split on the subject of participation in the Zurich parley and doubt was expressed here today whether any of its leaders will proceed to Zurich.

(In New York, two members of the Jewish Agency executive--Dr. Emanuel Neumann and Benjamin Browdy--today left for Zurich to participate in the conference. Other members of the Jewish Agency and leaders of other Jewish organizations in America left for Zurich earlier in the week.)

Agudah Wants Parley Postponed; Other Groups Decide to Attend

LONDON, March 4. (JTA) -- The European executive of the Agudas Israel Organization today cabled the organizers of the Zurich conference of Jewish groups asking that the parley be postponed to await further developments in Moscow in view of Premier Stalin's serious illness. Earlier, the Agudah had announced that it would not be represented at the Zurich conference.

The Anglo-Jewish Association, which had been hesitant about participating in the Zurich conference, last night decided to join the other Jewish groups participating in the conference and to send two representatives to it. The AJA Council voted 18 to five to participate. The delegates who were appointed on condition that they would have full rights to dissent or abstain on any issue and that their votes would be recorded by the conference, were instructed to seek the formation of a conference steering committee consisting of the representatives of five non-governmental groups and the Jewish Agency.

BEN GURION PROMISES DEBATE IN KNESSET ON GERMAN SHIPS ISSUE

JERUSALEM, March 4. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion today promised Parliament that the question of permitting German ships to bring reparations goods to Israel would be debated in the Parliamentary Foreign Affairs Committee before final action on the issue is taken.

ISRAEL GRATIFIED BY WASHINGTON'S ASSURANCES OF FRIENDSHIP

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA) -- "The Government of Israel has been gratified by the assurances it had received in recent weeks from leading figures in the United States Government that the friendship between the United States and Israel would be maintained and strengthened," Ambassador Abba Eban of Israel declared today.

Mr. Eban, who spoke on the situation in the Middle East before a large audience at Town Hall, referred to press reports on increased American aid to the Arab states and commented: "International friendship is not a physical material limited in bulk. If it is bestowed in one place, that does not mean that there is any less of it to be bestowed elsewhere."

Re-emphasizing Israel's readiness for peace with its Arab neighbors, "a peace which should and could solve all the outstanding disputes between us and which must be based on mutual recognition by each of us of each other's needs and existence," Ambassador Eban stated that peace inside the Middle East was the central objective which would have to be attained before the Middle East area could organize itself for social and economic progress and its mutual defense. "It is on the attainment of that peace settlement that statesmanship should now focus its entire vision, for it alone would open the way to the broad objective of effective regional cooperation in all spheres," he declared.

KNESSET DISCUSSES PUNISHMENT FOR "MALICIOUS PROPAGANDA" IN ARMY

JERUSALEM, March 4. (JTA) -- The Israel Parliament today began debate on an amendment to the military code which would increase the punishment for a series of military offenses.

The amendment would give commanders greater disciplinary power over members of the armed forces who commit "malicious propaganda liable to undermine the army's morale." For the theft of military equipment the punishment would be increased from a maximum of two years in jail to three. At the same time, the amendment differentiates between theft and use of military property for non-military purposes, which will constitute a separate offense and for which lighter sentences would be imposed.

BRITISH TROOPS EVACUATE JEWISH COMMUNITY BUILDING IN WEST BERLIN

BERLIN, March 4. (JTA) -- British troops now occupying a former Jewish old age home in West Berlin will evacuate the building this summer and return it to the Jewish community, it was revealed here today. The valuable piece of property has some 200 rooms and would be able to accommodate many refugees.

At the request of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, the Hesse provincial government has returned the famed Darmstadt Haggadah to the provincial state library here where it will once again be available to students for research purposes. During the Nazi regime the Haggadah, one of the oldest in existence, was removed from Darmstadt and placed in a leather museum in Offenbach.

ISRAEL MINISTER CONFERS WITH AUSTRIAN CHANCELLOR IN VIENNA

VIENNA, March 4. (JTA) -- Israeli Minister Joseph Burg today conferred with Austrian Chancellor Leopold Figl, Vice Chancellor Adolph Schaerf and Foreign Minister Karl Gruber on matters of mutual interest. Dr. Burg, who was accompanied by Arie Eshel, Israel consul in Vienna, will depart tomorrow for Stockholm where he will inaugurate the United Israel Appeal.

SOVIET CONFIDENTIAL ORDERS AGAINST JEWS REVEALED; DATED 1952

BOSTON, March 4. (JTA) -- Confidential circulars requesting incriminating data on leading members of the Jewish communities in the Soviet Union were sent out by the Kremlin to internal security authorities throughout the country as early as January 1952; refugees from Soviet Russia revealed in testimony upon reaching West German territory, the Christian Science Monitor reports today from Munich.

The report, sent by Edmund Stevens, who received the Pulitzer Prize in 1950 for uncensored articles on Russia, says that within a month after the confidential instructions were issued, in the Moscow region alone dossiers had been collected on about 400 Jews in administrative and managerial positions. All these persons gradually were eliminated under varying charges of bribery, embezzlement, and nepotism. Parenthetically, under the Soviet system it is possible to build up cases of this kind against almost anyone in a position of responsibility.

The central security authorities in Moscow used reports accumulated throughout the country in response to the circulars to document a general "Jewish plot," the report says. This then served as pretext for a nationwide purge of Jews in administrative and managerial jobs.

Prominent Jewish Communists Arrested; Many Lawyers Purged

In Moscow, the report continues, practically everyone, Jew or Gentile, known to have had some contact with the Israeli Legation, and especially with Mrs. Golda Meyerson, former Israeli Minister, either was arrested or hauled in for questioning. Those interrogated included persons who on Soviet and Communist Party orders had discussed with Israeli representatives plans for forming a Society for Soviet-Israeli Friendship and establishing a branch of VOKS (Society for Cultural Relations) in Israel. In the big Ukrainian city of Kharkov a number of prominent Jewish members of the Communist Party were accused of being in touch with the Israeli representatives in Moscow.

Following this initial spadework by the security authorities, the anti-Jewish campaign began to snowball in typical Soviet purge fashion. The first victims were forced to divulge the names and addresses of their relations and close friends. Many of these were arrested later and, in turn, charged with implication in the over-all "Jewish plot" in addition to the usual petty crimes.

Among the first hit were Jews in the legal profession. Several Jewish members of the legislative drafting commission of the Supreme Soviet in Moscow have reportedly been arrested. The so-called International Association of Democratic Lawyers and the Moscow Collegium of Lawyers have been subjected to thorough screenings. Numerous Jewish members of both organizations are believed to have been disbarred, several of them arrested.

Last June 60 Jewish employees of the legal department of the Ministry of Railways, including the department chief, Erlich, were accused of falsifying accounts. Similar purge operations were reportedly carried out in other government ministries and throughout the entire civil service.

Moreover, government personnel departments proceeded to revise their lists of pensioners, depriving many disabled Jewish employees of their pensions on the grounds that their medical certificates contained false statements. Such charges also

served as the point of departure for widespread accusations against Jewish members of the medical profession. The doctors recently accused of killing Politburo members Alexander Scherbakov and Andrei Zhdanov actually were arrested last June.

Jews in Journalism Investigated; Jewish Editors Accused

Simultaneously Jews in journalism were subjected to thorough investigation. The staff of Tass, the official news agency, was carefully screened. The purgers also concentrated on the field of literature. All books written by Jewish authors in the 1948-52 period were subjected to microscopic scrutiny in an effort to discover traces of "anti-Soviet feelings and ideological deviations." There was even talk of some form of literary conspiracy involving Jewish writers in Kiev.

In Kharkov, second city of the Ukraine, a number of prominent Jewish members of the Communist Party, including writers and editors, were accused of secret contacts with the Israeli Legation in Moscow.

Mass deportations of Jews according to the familiar Soviet deportation pattern began early last summer. Most of the deportees were shipped to the so-called Jewish Autonomous Region of Birobidjan in eastern Siberia, near the Manchurian frontier. A large part of the area is given over to forced labor camps whose inmates are entirely Jewish. But even those Jews who are nominally free cannot leave their place of residence for more than 24 hours. The managers of all enterprises, including collective and state farms, are Russians.

Birobidjan is virtually isolated from the rest of the Soviet Union, as well as from the outside world. No one may enter or leave the region without special authorization. Newspapers and periodicals from other Soviet areas may not be introduced. The local press, published in both Russian and Yiddish, cannot be taken out of Birobidjan. According to estimates, about 30,000 deportees, mostly Jewish, have been brought to Birobidjan since 1949, the report concludes.

ISRAEL MINISTER HOPES MOSCOW WILL PERMIT EMIGRATION OF JEWS

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA) -- "We earnestly hope that the appeal which we addressed to the Soviet Government will be supported by the free world and that a substantial number of Jews will be allowed to go to Israel," Dr. Dov Joseph, Israel Minister of State, declared today at a press conference held at the Israel Consulate here.

"From the very first days of the establishment of the State of Israel we have been greatly concerned over the fate of the 2,500,000 Jews in Soviet Russia who were cut off from normal relations with us and other Jewish communities," Dr. Joseph stated. "Throughout this period we have entertained the hope that the Soviet Government would relax its ban on emigration and permit those Jews who want to leave, to find a new home in our midst in Israel."

The Israel Minister emphasized that the purpose of his visit to the United States is "to convey to our American friends the urgency of the need for more investment dollars to enable us to exploit the opportunities for greater economic development." He said that some people in Israel are now unemployed and that Israel's large development projects are not in a position to work at their full capacity because of the shortage of investment capital.

"During the past year we have had an opportunity to embark on a program of economic consolidation," he stated. "But this program is now at a crucial turning point. Our future is bound up with our economic timetable. And our economic timetable is geared in a great measure to the success of the Israel Bond drive in the United States."

VATICAN SELLS MONASTERY BUILDING IN JERUSALEM TO HIAS

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA) -- The Hebrew Immigrant Aid Society has purchased from the Vatican a partly completed monastery in Jerusalem for the use of women medical and nursing students at the Hebrew University, it was announced here yesterday.

Upon its completion in 1953, the building will be used as a dormitory for some 100 women, most of whom are recent immigrants to the Jewish State. The structure, whose total cost upon completion will be in the neighborhood of \$200,000, is located in the Katamon quarter of the city.

Ben Touster, president of HIAS, reported that the society became interested in the project last Fall when it learned that expansion of the curriculum and student body of the University was hampered by a lack of housing facilities for students. Many of the University's immigrant students are currently living at shelters in Israel maintained by HIAS, he pointed out.

JOB DISCRIMINATION IN PENNSYLVANIA REPORTED BY GOVERNOR

HARRISBURG, Pa., March 4. (JTA) -- Gov. John S. Fine yesterday released a report by a special committee charging that there is widespread job discrimination against minority groups throughout Pennsylvania. At the same time, the Governor called on the legislature to pass a "sound and effective" fair employment practices bill. Such a measure is expected to be introduced next week.

The 14-member investigating committee, appointed by Gov. Fine and headed by Samuel H. Daroff, Jewish communal leader, said it had surveyed 1,229 diversified companies, employing nearly a million workers, in arriving at its conclusions. The report asserted that 90 percent of employers were "unfair" toward at least one minority group in hiring, promoting or restricting apprenticeship opportunities. Only 10 percent were listed as "totally free" of discriminatory employment practices.

BRITISH COLUMBIA LEGISLATURE GETS BILL AGAINST DISCRIMINATION

VANCOUVER, B. C., March 4. (JTA) -- A "bill of rights" for British Columbia which would guarantee freedom of belief, speech and association and the right to employment, housing, public service and education without discrimination because of race, creed, color or ethnic or national origin, has been introduced in the British Columbia Legislature by Harold Winch, leader of the CCF. This is the third time that the CCF leader has presented this measure for consideration.

ITALY DECORATES POTOFSKY FOR UNION AID TO ITALIAN TOWN

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA) -- Jacob S. Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, today received the Star of Italian Solidarity medal from the Italian Government, in recognition of his union's gift of a factory to an Italian town two years ago.

REMAINS OF "HATIKVAH" AUTHOR TO BE SHIPPED TODAY TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA) -- The remains of Naphthali Herz Imber, poet and author of "Hatikvah," the State of Israel's national anthem, will be shipped to Israel tomorrow on the American-Israeli Line's S. S. Tel Aviv for re-interment in the Tel Aviv National Cemetery, burial site of many Zionist immortals. Mr. Imber, who died in 1909, is buried in the Mt. Zion Cemetery of Long Island. He was born in 1856 in the small Galician town of Zlotchev, and came to America in 1892.