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JEWS DELEGATION VISITS STATE DEPT.; COMPLAINS AGAINST AUSTRIA

WASHINGTON, Nov. 21. (JTA) -- A delegation of American Jewish leaders met here this week-end with State Department officials and leading members of the Senate and placed before them the facts about the Austrian Government's "lamentable failure to solve one of the most poignant legacies of the Nazi rule--the claims of Jewish victims of Nazi persecution in Austria."

The meeting took place on the eve of the scheduled arrival here today of Dr. Julius Raab, Chancellor of Austria, on an official visit to this country. He will be received this week by President Eisenhower and Secretary of State John Foster Dulles. Dr. Raab left Vienna by air yesterday without having achieved any settlement of the claims presented to the Austrian Government by Jewish organizations.

Emphasizing that "under the present circumstances," - the attitude of the Austrian Government - there is no basis on which the Jewish groups can continue their negotiations with the authorities in Vienna, the Jewish delegation told Deputy Under-secretary of State Robert Murphy of the current status of these negotiations, which started about a year and a half ago. It is presumed that the State Department will discuss the subject of Jewish claims during talks with Dr. Raab here.

The delegation was led by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chief negotiator of the German-Israel reparations pact and chairman of the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria, which speaks for the Jews still living in Austria and for the major Jewish organizations throughout the world. The delegation conferred with Senator Alexander Wiley, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, and Sen. Walter F. George, ranking Democratic member of this committee. Sen. Wiley expressed sympathy, the delegation reported. He expressed the hope that there would be a prompt and equitable settlement of the long-pending claims.

Austrian Govt. Charged with Sabotaging Jewish Claims Talks

In a statement released after these meetings, Dr. Goldmann detailed the history of the negotiations with Austria, which were begun in June, 1953, and were suspended twice by the Austrian Government. Throughout these negotiations, Dr. Goldmann charged, progress was "hampered by Austrian insistence on details and legal objections which could have easily been overcome."

He referred to recent reports of an impending new Austrian offer and said that "the terms, as reported in the press and through semi-official channels, are totally unacceptable." In the absence of an Austrian proposal "which meets minimal requirements which have long since been made known to the Austrian Government," Dr. Goldmann said, "we can see no basis for continuation of the negotiations. The record is clear. The conclusions to be drawn are self-evident."

The Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria seeks the passage of the kind of legislation that has been in effect in Western Germany for several years providing minimum compensation to the tens of thousands of victims of Nazi persecution

wherever they may now reside and whatever their present nationality may be. Of the 90,000 Jewish survivors of Nazi persecution in Austria, some 50,000 reside in the United States and some 7,000 in Austria.

The Committee also seeks a settlement for the property belonging to Austrian Jews who perished under the Nazis and left no heirs or claimants. The Committee asks for \$12,000,000 and an advance payment of \$6,000,000 to be used for the relief of victims of Nazism. This claim obviously is "not measured by the actual losses." The Committee also requests special measures for the small remnant of Jews still residing in Austria.

While deferring these claims, the Austrian Government has periodically introduced legislation for the benefit of convicted Nazis. According to recent reports, Austria has circumvented Allied vetoes by means of administrative measures, the delegation stated. "We cannot fail to note the striking difference between West Germany and Austria in negotiating Jewish claims," Dr. Goldmann said.

Other members of the delegation were: Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee; Frank Goldman, honorary president of B'nai B'rith; Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the American Jewish Congress; Adolph Held, president of the Jewish Labor Committee; Seymour Rubin, counsel, and Saul Kagan, secretary to the Committee.

Austria's "Unjust Policy" on Jewish Claims Protested in London

LONDON, Nov. 21. (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews appealed to the British Government today to "bring its influence to bear" on the Austrian Government to change its present "harsh and unjust policy" on the claims for restitution and indemnification advanced by the Committee for Jewish Claims on Austria.

In a statement adopted at a meeting here, the Board protested the Austrian treatment of the "very moderate measure of compensation" for Jewish victims of the Nazis asked by the world Jewish groups, which the claims committee represents. It underlined that the assets taken from Jews, and still remaining within the Austrian economy, was far greater than the compensation requested. The Board stressed the very favorable position of the Austrian economy and appealed to Britain, which had given Austria so much political and economic assistance, to intervene with the latter.

GERMANY WITHHOLDING INDEMNIFICATION PAYMENTS FROM NAZI VICTIMS

MUNICH, Nov. 21. (JTA) -- The Bavarian State Radio and the Munich newspaper Sueddeutsche Zeitung charged this week-end that German officials are systematically withholding payment of compensation and indemnification to victims of the Nazis while granting former Nazi officials and their families pensions and jobs.

It was charged that of some 500,000 claims already filed for compensation in the United States zone of Germany only 136,000 have been settled. It was underlined that with more than 300,000 new claims expected, there probably will be some 700,000 claims outstanding in 1962 when the indemnification act expires.

Many officials, discriminating against the victims of the Nazis, place impossible requirements of "evidence" in the path of claimants. Another reason for the delay, it was noted, was that there is insufficient personnel with the required training available for processing the claims. Instances of discrimination against victims and in favor of the Nazis were cited on the radio and in the newspaper. It was also pointed out that many of the victims claiming damages were older people and would not live to see their claims honored.

EGYPT APPEALS AGAINST DECISION TO RELEASE BAT GALIM AND CREW

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21. (JTA) -- The Egyptian Government has appealed to Maj. Gen. E. L. M. Burns, United Nations truce supervisor, against the decision of the Israel-Egyptian Mixed Armistice Commission throwing out Egypt's complaint against the crew of the Israel vessel Bat Galim and demanding the release of the vessel and the freeing of the crew, Radio Cairo announced last night.

The Cairo broadcast said that the Egyptian Government had rejected the MAC's findings and had asked Gen. Burns to give the matter another hearing before a special committee under his chairmanship. The Israel crew members will be kept in prison, the radio said.

The MAC decision Friday termed "unfounded" the Egyptian charge that the Bat Galim, seized by Egypt on September 28, had opened fire on and sunk an Egyptian fishing boat near the Suez Canal and that two Egyptian fishermen had been killed in the incident. On this complaint the UN chairman of the MAC, Danish Col. Carl Bartholdy, voted with the Israelis. This vote adopted an Israel-sponsored resolution rejecting the Egyptian charge and calling for the release of the 10 Israel crew members.

On the Egyptian charge that Israel had violated the armistice agreement by sending one of its vessels into "Egyptian territorial" waters--the Suez Canal--the chairman abstained and the resolution failed of passage. The Suez Convention of 1888 recognizes the canal as an international waterway.

Explaining his vote on the Egyptian complaint, Col. Bartholdy said that the armistice agreement did not cover the claim made by Egypt that sending of a ship through the canal was a violation. He noted that the two countries did have an agreement calling for return of each other's ships when they entered the territorial waters of the other state.

In Jerusalem, official circles interpreted the MAC's action as meaning that Egypt must release the Bat Galim's crew without further negotiation. Continued detention meant further violation of the armistice pact and further contempt for the UN's processes, these circles said.

ISRAEL SCIENTIST REPORTS PROGRESS ON URANIUM EXTRACTION

JERUSALEM, Nov. 21. (JTA) -- The revelation that Israel had made "considerable progress" in the extraction of uranium from low grade phosphates found in the Negev and that refining methods had been worked out which made it possible to extract uranium from these and other types of ores at a commercially feasible cost, was made here this week-end by Dr. David Bergman, head of Israel's atomic energy commission.

In a radio broadcast, Dr. Bergman announced the development of a new way of producing "heavy water" by Israel scientists. He noted that future research along these lines would have to be done in cooperation with the scientists of other nations and reported that France was cooperating with Israel in this respect. He revealed that a number of Israel scientists had already done research work in France.

Dr. Bergman praised the young Israel scientists responsible for the great advances in these fields. He reserved special praise for former Premier David Ben Gurion for his "vision and perseverance" in pressing the program which brought Israel these successes.

ISRAEL AND FRANCE SIGN NEW PACT FOR INCREASED TRADE

PARIS, Nov. 21. (JTA) -- The current Franco-Israel trade pact was extended here last night for another year with the signature of a new agreement. The negotiations for the pact lasted about 10 days. The new treaty calls for France to purchase some 30 percent more Israel citrus fruit. It also provides for greater shipment of French machinery and manufactured goods to Israel during the coming year.

CJFWF ASSEMBLY OPPOSES SENDING OF AMERICAN ARMS TO ARABS,

ATLANTIC CITY, Nov. 21. (JTA) -- Resolutions opposing supply of arms to the Arab states and calling on the President and Congress to develop new immigration legislation to eliminate the discriminatory provisions of the McCarran-Walter Immigration and Nationality Act were adopted here today at the closing session of the 23rd annual General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

The Assembly, which was attended by more than 500 Jewish community leaders from all parts of the country, endorsed the statement on Middle East peace submitted to the Secretary of State on October 25 by 16 national Jewish organizations and said "it forthrightly reflects the views of this Assembly in the interests of our country and our communities." The statement requested the government to refrain from arming the Arab states without prior peace guarantees, to preserve the prevailing balance of strength in the Middle East and to offer Israel the same regional defense agreements offered to the Arab states.

The Assembly also "strongly reaffirmed" its resolution of last year condemning the McCarran-Walter Immigration Act and called upon the President and Congress to develop new immigration legislation which, "while continuing all proper protection to our country, will accord with the American philosophy of welcome to the despairing, the persecuting and the oppressed regardless of race, religion or nationality; restore the equality of all citizens before the law, and bring back into the administration of our immigration code the concept of justice tempered with mercy and of due process of law."

Another resolution adopted by the Assembly called for continuing study of the question of independent campaigns to assure "a long-range orderly program for obtaining the necessary funds which must be raised by American Jewry to meet its responsibilities, local, national and overseas." Other resolutions voiced recognition of the "growing importance of women's leadership in our organized communities" and called for greater participation by women in the central community organizations. Programs for recruitment, training and retention of new leadership for the communities were also welcomed in a further resolution on organizational matters.

Julian Freeman of Indianapolis was re-elected president of the CJFWF for 1955. The board of directors also elected Philip Bernstein the new executive director of the Council. He succeeds H. L. Lurie who served in that post since 1932. Mr. Bernstein joined the Council in 1943 and has been associate director since 1947. Mr. Lurie, now on leave of absence, will continue to serve the Council as a part-time consultant.

Jewish Philanthropic Needs for 1955 Discussed; Problems Outlined

American Jewry's responsibility to meet "continuing and tremendous" philanthropic needs at home and overseas in 1955 demands greater emphasis upon the primacy of central Jewish community organization campaigns, Mr. Freeman told the General Assembly. He said that the global health and welfare needs met by community fund raising campaigns were "complementary, not competitive."

Mr. Freeman and Herbert R. Abeles, chairman of the Council's Committee on National-Local Relations, outlined the problems faced by Jewish community organizations. Following their addresses, the delegates met in seven concurrent workshops to formulate positive programs for strengthening central Jewish community organizations, increasing fund raising results in 1955, training of communal leadership, and reinforcing sound budgeting and planning procedures.

Mr. Freeman's address was set against the background of reports to the Assembly outlining "vast changes" which have taken place in health and welfare needs over the past several years. It was pointed out that the number of aged people in this country are increasing. Similarly, there are increasing numbers of children with difficult behavior and emotional problems. Family welfare agencies, too, it was reported, are re-examining their services to meet the needs of families torn by

tensions and threatened breakups. To meet social welfare needs supported by Jewish philanthropy, Mr. Freeman called for a "reassessment of fund-raising processes and organization" of Jewish community campaigns.

\$1,000,000,000 Raised by U.S. Jews in Seven Years, Sobeloff Says

Isidore Sobeloff, executive director of the Jewish Welfare Federation of Detroit, speaking at the Assembly dinner last night, said that the growth of voluntary Jewish organizations in this country had resulted in the raising of \$1,000,000,000 in the last seven years for Jewish needs at home and overseas.

"Community organizations act on the basic premise that overseas needs and domestic programs are interdependent, rather than competitive," he stated. He emphasized that "a strong American Jewry is needed in meeting overseas problems, and that there can be no secure American Jewry if persecution and second-class citizenship are the lot of Jews elsewhere."

While the concept of a "rational, scientific approach to humanitarian needs and programs, and to the use of fact-finding research and planning has gained acceptance," Mr. Sobeloff declared, "year-round, intensive planning is only beginning to emerge in a number of cities." He predicted that, as the Jewish population becomes more stabilized, "the hoopla of campaign probably will level off, and we shall examine more objectively and more calmly the needs at home and abroad."

Speaking at the same session, Dr. Abram L. Sachar, president of Brandeis University, said that the Jewish people belonged in the forefront of those forces protecting the democratic ideal and principle against all attackers. He expressed opposition to a point of view which he laid to some Jewish leaders, that when controversial issues arise, they want to stand on the sidelines. He noted that attacks on democracy "usually are followed by assault on minority groups of which the Jews are one."

In a symposium yesterday on the "Synagogue and the Community," Rabbi Albert I. Gordon, of Newton, Mass., said that "the synagogue has unquestionably lost its position of centrality in modern Jewish life." Saul Cherniak, president of the Winnipeg Jewish Welfare Fund, stressed that, although the synagogue is no longer the center for community planning, it still "plays a rightfully important role in the Jewish community." He voiced the hope that a major effort would be made to bring the synagogue into the community planning picture.

Dr. Oscar I. Janowsky, of New York, chairman of the Commission for the Study of Jewish Education, stressed the need for common responsibility for Jewish education. "We all recognize and accept ideological differences, but let us not rationalize disunity as a virtue," he said.

United Hias Service Gets Award; Norristown Center Honored

The Assembly concluded its four-day session with presentations of the William J. Shroder Memorial Awards for "superior initiative and achievement in the advancement of social welfare" to the United Hias Service of New York and the Jewish Community Center of Norristown, Pennsylvania. The United Hias Service was selected for the award for the successful consolidation of the services of three agencies in the migration field. Edwin Rosenberg of New York, chairman of the negotiations committee, and Ben Touster, president of the United Hias Service, received the bronze plaque award from Mortimer May of Nashville, a vice-president of the Council.

The Jewish Community Center of Norristown was honored for developing an integrated program of Jewish cultural and social services in a non-urban community with less than 1,000 Jewish population. William Rosenwald of New York, chairman of the awards committee, presided.

U.S. MIZRACHI CONVENTION OPPOSES CHANGES IN JEWISH MARRIAGE LAW

ATLANTIC CITY, Nov. 21. (JTA) -- The Mizrahi Organization of America today concluded its convention here with a call to all organizations of rabbis to "acquaint the Jewish public to the dangers" inherent in the recently announced decision of the Conservative movement to change the traditional Jewish marriage contract and have couples consult a special Jewish marriage court before seeking divorce.

The 800 delegates to the convention protested the "irresponsible" action of the Conservative movement and called it an "insult to traditional Judaism" which is likely to "undermine the fundamentals of Jewish religious law."

The delegates called upon the world Mizrahi executive in Jerusalem to convene a world conference early next year to discuss the merger of the Mizrahi and Labor Mizrahi movements. Another resolution opposed a proposal before the UN to reform the calendar and appealed to the Department of State and the President to have the U.S. delegation at the UN fight the plan. The American plan to arm the Arab states was opposed.

The convention adopted a budget of \$3,075,000 for 1955, the second budget in the organization's history to exceed \$3,000,000. Rabbi Mordecai Kirshblum was re-elected president.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY TO PROVIDE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR 1,549 STUDENTS

NEW YORK, Nov. 21. (JTA) -- Yeshiva University will spend \$448,700 during the academic year 1954-55 to provide scholarships for 1,549 students or 75 percent of its enrollment. Dr. Samuel Belkin, president, announced today. The financial aid is to be allocated in the form of tuition, dormitory, and maintenance scholarships for residents of 24 states, the District of Columbia, and 17 foreign countries.

The largest blocs of foreign students receiving aid come from Israel and Canada. Other foreign countries included are: Ireland, Morocco, Switzerland, Venezuela, Nicaragua, South Africa, Peru, Brazil, Iran, France, Denmark, Ethiopia, Belgium, Romania, and England.

38 AMERICAN JEWISH AUTHORS HONORED; BOOK MONTH INAUGURATED

NEW YORK, Nov. 21. (JTA) -- Thirty-eight Jewish authors were honored today at a reception marking the inauguration of Jewish Book Month, which this year is being observed from November 19 through December 18. The reception was held at Temple Emanu-El, here, in observance of the American Jewish Tercentenary.

The month is coordinated by the Jewish Book Council of America, which in turn is sponsored by the National Jewish Welfare Board. The authors were given citations for works which have made important contributions to American Jewish history.

JAMES N. ROSENBERG STARTS BROTHERHOOD FUND ON 80TH BIRTHDAY

NEW YORK, Nov. 21. (JTA) -- James N. Rosenberg, noted Jewish leader who was for many years active in the Joint Distribution Committee, the American Jewish Committee and other national Jewish organizations, celebrated his 80th birthday yesterday by giving \$5,000 toward his own birthday gift.

Mr. Rosenberg's birthday gift, suggested by his friends, will be a fund to be used to further the work of the World Brotherhood, an organization aiming to foster racial and religious tolerance. Specifically, it will be used "to bring together men and women of varying races, religions and countries of origin in the belief that a frank round-table discussion is the best way to relieve tensions and reduce prejudices."