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THREE "ZIONIST TERRORISTS" SENTENCED TO DEATH IN LEBANON

LONDON, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- Three alleged members of a "Zionist terrorist" group were sentenced yesterday to death in Lebanon by a military tribunal, it was reported here today from Beirut. The report said that two of them were sentenced in absentia, and that one of these two is now in Israel.

Twenty-seven others were sentenced to terms of imprisonment varying from two to twenty years. Seven of them were sentenced in absentia. They were among the more than 30 persons who had been arrested some months ago on charges that they had plans to blow up the Iraq embassy in Beirut, and that they threw bombs into the premises of the Arab Higher Committee.

At the time of the arrests it was understood that the group was composed of Communist elements. During the trial yesterday, it was stated that the "gang" was made up mainly of Arab refugees from Palestine. The defendants were charged with transporting explosives and time bombs to Beirut last July.

SIX JEWS ARRESTED IN EGYPT ON CHARGE OF "ESPIONAGE FOR ISRAEL"

LONDON, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- Egyptian police announced today they have arrested five men and one woman, all Jews, on charges of "Communist activities and espionage for Israel," a report from Cairo says.

The Egyptian Government announcement said the accused were "Communists" employed by Israel. It alleged that the accused helped Jews come from Arab countries into Israel, where they were allegedly trained in espionage and returned to Arab states in the capacity of "Communist propagandists and spies."

This most obvious attempt of the Egyptian Government to link Israel with Communism is being looked upon in British circles here as another maneuver on the part of Egypt to fortify its stand on the trial of the 13 Jews now being charged in Cairo with "Zionist espionage." The trial, which provoked much criticism, is considered a crude move on the part of the Egyptian authorities to misdirect the dissatisfaction of the population by shifting attention to the Israel issue.

Simultaneously, with receipt of the report about the six arrests, word came here today from Cairo that an Egyptian "People's Tribunal" has sentenced five Egyptian army officers and enlisted men to death by a firing squad. The death sentences were reportedly imposed upon the men for their part in the Moslem Brotherhood plot against the government. Cairo messages received here also report that about 200 members of the Moslem Brotherhood have been jailed since the recent attempt upon the life of Premier Nasser.

AUSTRIAN CABINET DELAYS ACTION ON RENEWAL OF TALKS ON JEWISH CLAIMS

VIENNA, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- The Austrian Cabinet does not intend to take any action in the direction of renewing negotiations with Jewish organizations on payments for heirless Jewish property until after the present vacation, it was indicated today by a government spokesman. No preparations for the renewal of such talks have been made so far, he added.

The Austrian press is still commenting on the effect of Jewish protests against Austria for refusing to settle the claims advanced by world Jewish organizations. Some newspapers openly admit that these protests have put Austria in an unfavorable light before public opinion in various countries, especially in the United States.

U.S. COMMISSIONER ASKED TO INTERCEDE FOR NAZI VICTIMS IN GERMANY

BONN, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- A protest against the delays, which Nazi victims experience in the processing of their documentation requests by the International Tracing Service archives in Arolsen, has been addressed to Dr. James B. Conant, U.S. High Commissioner, by Professor Robert M.W. Kempner, former chief prosecutor at the Nuremberg war-crimes trials.

All applications for compensation from concentration camp prisoners were checked by the German authorities with Arolsen, where millions of concentration camp records found after the war have been deposited and catalogued. Postwar DP records accumulated by UNRRA and IRO are also stacked there.

Prof. Kempner points out that Nazi victims have to wait more than six months for verification of their applications by the Arolsen archives which, although no resident official of the Allied High Commission remains there, is still under its supervision. For that reason, he asks Mr. Conant's immediate intercession.

U.N. BODY TO DISCUSS RACIAL HOSTILITY, PROTECTION OF MINORITIES

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Dec. 28. (JTA) -- After an interval of one year without meeting, the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities will convene for its seventh session at UN headquarters here next Tuesday, it was announced here today. The Subcommittee is composed of 12 persons who are elected by the Subcommittee's parent body, the Commission on Human Rights.

The forthcoming session is scheduled to last until January 28. The main subjects to be discussed include discrimination in education, employment and other fields, as well as measures to be taken for the protection of minorities. Last year, the Subcommittee laid the groundwork for the first global investigation of discriminatory practices in schools and in access to education.

Also last year, the Subcommittee entrusted the task of surveying discriminatory practices in employment and occupation to the International Labor Organization, as the body best equipped for this work. In a brief memorandum, the ILO now informs the Subcommittee that the study is under preparation and that it will be considered further by the ILO governing body at its May, 1955 session.

Proposals on the procedure to be followed in carrying out another series of studies will also be examined by the Subcommittee. Hernan Santa Cruz of Chile will suggest ways for investigating discrimination in the exercise of the political rights proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; Judge Philip Hapern of the United States will indicate means of investigating discrimination in religious rights and practices; and Jose Ingles of the Philippines will outline methods to study discrimination in emigration, immigration and travel.

At the request of the Commission on Human Rights, the experts will also consider again the whole question of protection of minorities, including the definition of the term "minority," and possibly make recommendations concerning the application of special measures for the protection of minorities.

OIL DISCOVERY WOULD REVOLUTIONIZE ISRAEL'S ECONOMY, MINISTER SAYS

NEW YORK, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- Emphasizing that oil search in Israel has moved from the preliminary stage of purely exploratory geological and geophysical work to actual test **drilling**, Levi Eshkol, Israel's Finance Minister, said that "the discovery of oil would revolutionize" the economy of the Jewish State, hastening immediately its achievements of a self-supporting status.

The statement made by Mr. Eshkol was released today by the Israel Consulate here following the departure of Mr. Eshkol for Jerusalem. "Cheap oil power," the statement stresses, "would enhance the successful exploitation of the Dead Sea chemical treasures, would enlarge the irrigable area of the country, and would lay the foundation for a petro-chemical industry."

Israel's oil legislation and regulations are patterned after the oil laws of the United States, Mr. Eshkol pointed out. "Acting upon the report of the late Max W. Ball, one of the deans of American petroleum geology, which stated that Israel had distinct oil possibilities, the Israel Government adopted a series of laws dividing the country into four prospecting districts, each of which was subdivided into a number of zones," Mr. Eshkol stated.

According to Mr. Ball, each of the eight geologic provinces into which the country is divided by structural differences has oil possibilities differing in character and degree, Mr. Eshkol said. Test wells are being drilled by a number of private companies, including Lapidoth, Pan-Israel Oil Company, Inc., Israel Mediterranean Petroleum, Inc., Israel-American Oil Co. and Israel Continental Oil Co.

"The quest for oil in Israel is not a new phenomenon," the Israel Minister explained. "Before the outbreak of the Israel-Arab hostilities, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Iraq Petroleum constructed a \$500,000 road to proposed drilling sites in what is now southern Israel. We trust that the local and foreign companies that are exploring for oil will succeed in giving Israel's oil potentialities the fair and thoroughgoing test which they require," Mr. Eshkol concluded.

ISRAEL SCIENTIST DISCOVERS NEW HEAVY PARTICLE IN COSMIC RAYS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- Evidence of the existence of a new heavy particle in cosmic rays was presented here today by Dr. Y. Eisenberg, of the Weizmann Institute of Science, discoverer of the particle.

Dr. Eisenberg presented his findings in a paper read to a joint symposium on cosmic rays held by the Hebrew University and the Israel Physical Society. Among the participating scientists was Dr. H. Blacket, Nobel Prize winner and member of the British Imperial College of Science.

The Hebrew University virus laboratory will serve as the regional poliomyelitis laboratory for the World Health Organization in the Middle East, according to an agreement just concluded between the world health unit and the Israel Ministry of Health, it was announced here today.

ISRAEL MISSION LEAVES FOR BURMA; TO HELP IN TECHNICAL EDUCATION

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- An Israel technical-educational mission left here today for Burma to help the Asian state organize its technical education program.

The group, invited by Rangoon, consisted of Assistant Dean Prof. A. Ratner of the Israel Institute of Technology, M. Anreich, an engineer, and Dr. L. Eisner and P. Harnurger, educational advisors.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY TO BESTOW DEGREES ON NINE U.S. JEWISH LEADERS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- Nine Americans will be the first to receive the Hebrew University's new honorary degree, "Honorary Fellow," at a special ceremony to be held at Hunter College in New York on January 16, according to an announcement by the university today.

The recipients of the new awards, as listed here, will be: Joseph Mazor, James Marshall, Daniel Ross and Louis Rabinowitz, of New York; Maxwell Abbell and Samuel Katzin of Chicago; Harry Kangesser of Cleveland; Charles Brown, of Los Angeles; and Benjamin Swig, of San Francisco.

ORTHODOX RABBIS PROCLAIM BAN ON CONSERVATIVE RABBINICAL COURT

NEW YORK, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- More than 200 members of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada unanimously adopted a resolution today proclaiming the prohibition of the Beth Din (Rabbinical Court) of the Conservative Rabbinate and of the latter's newly-revised Jewish marriage contract.

The Union of Orthodox Rabbis, with a membership of close to 700, issued a statement in which American Jews were cautioned not to "consult the so-called Beth Din of the Conservative Rabbinate on any matters pertaining to marriage or divorce, or on any other religious question."

The Rabbinical convocation, in its resolution, asserted that "in view of the fact that the Conservative Rabbinate of America has in recent years rendered various decisions which engaged in diverse practices which sanction mutations of and departures from Jewish law, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada herewith notifies the Jewish public that the Conservative Rabbinate is pursuing a course of heresy, contrary to the essential doctrines and fundamental principles of our Torah and faith."

The strongly-worded statement, which was introduced to the meeting, went on to say that "according to Jewish law, the Conservative Rabbinate does not have the status of a Rabbinate." The statement continued: "Its so-called Beth Din is utterly devoid of Rabbinical and religious authority, and its judgments and decisions have no validity. The very establishment of the Conservative Beth Din constitutes a breach and violation of Jewish law."

Forbid Use of Revised Marriage Contract

The resolution emphasized that, in accordance with Jewish law, the "use of the revised Jewish marriage contract established by the Conservative Rabbinate, is forbidden." It is also forbidden to "participate in a marriage rite," the statement said, "in which the revised Ketubah is used." This ban, it was noted, "applies especially to the bride and groom and their parents, participants in the marriage ritual, and witnesses."

The Convocation declared further that in accordance with Jewish law, a "Conservative rabbi cannot and should not perform a religious divorce, and that no person can remarry on the basis of a divorce performed by a Conservative Rabbi." The meeting reiterated that "only Orthodox rabbis are authorized to perform marriage rites."

In conclusion, the Union of Orthodox Rabbis cautioned the American Jewish community that the "functioning of the Beth Din of the Conservative Rabbinate and the use of its revised Ketubah will lead to the desecration of numerous Jewish families, or cast the shadow of illegitimacy upon their offspring, and will create a breach within the Jewish community."

The Union added that, if the Conservative Beth Din is permitted to function, then the members of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada will be compelled to "prohibit marriage into these families whose members were married in accordance with the instructions of the Conservative Beth Din, and will introduce into each community a special register in which the marriages of such families will be recorded."

ORT TO SPEND \$3, 600, 000 IN 1955, DR. SYNGALOWSKI REPORTS

NEW YORK, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- The World ORT Union will spend \$3, 600, 000 in 1955 for vocational training of Jewish youth in various countries, Dr. Aron Syngalowski, chairman of the world organization, announced here today at a luncheon tendered in his honor at the Hotel New Yorker by leaders of the Jewish labor movement in this country.

Dr. Syngalowski, who is now on a visit in the United States to negotiate the renewal of the agreement between the Joint Distribution Committee and ORT, said that ORT is active in 21 countries. He especially emphasized the work which his organization is conducting in Israel in training skilled workers there. During the last year, 18, 000 Jews received vocational education in 314 ORT establishments, Dr. Syngalowski reported.

One of the new plans now being proposed by Dr. Syngalowski is the establishment by the World ORT Union of traveling schools to fill the need for technical courses for Jews in provincial communities as well as in larger cities, especially in North Africa. Mobile schools were established by ORT some 30 years ago in Eastern Europe, and Dr. Syngalowski plans the establishment of such schools now in Italy, Tunis, Morocco and other countries.

U.S. JEWISH WOMEN INVESTED \$5, 500, 000 IN ISRAEL BONDS DURING 1954

NEW YORK, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- American Jewish women this year have bought more than \$5, 500, 000 worth of Israel Development Bonds. In addition to their own purchases, women volunteers have sold to the men in their families, to their friends and neighbors and to other Jewish and Christian members of their communities several million dollars' worth of Israel Bonds.

These and other major developments of 1954 were reviewed today by the chairman of the National Women's Division of the Israel Bond Organization, Mrs. Alexander Lowenthal of Pittsburgh, in a report to the organization's board of governors. Mrs. Lowenthal said that more than 17, 000 women took an active part in the year's campaign, many of them as members of the 38 permanent Women's Division units in cities from coast to coast. Since the flotation of the Israel Bond Issue early in 1954, more than 3, 000 women have made individual \$1, 000 purchases.

ANTI-ISRAEL PROPAGANDA BREEDS ANTI-SEMITISM, AMERICANS ARE TOLD

NEW YORK, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- A warning that anti-Israel propaganda in the United States is becoming a part of American anti-Semitism was voiced by Prof. James Luther Adams, professor of religious ethics at the Meadville Theological School of the University of Chicago Federated Theological Faculties, in an article in the Unitarian Christian Register. Prof. Adams, who returned from a visit to the Middle East, writes:

"We should be aware of the way in which an Anti-Israel position is increasingly being made a part of American anti-Semitism. We do not need to cite alone the activities of such fringe groups as Liberty Belles and the Minute Women. The anti-Israel and the anti-Semitic views of these and similar people in the United States can be as destructively nationalistic as anything in the nationalism of the Middle East. It feeds on the 100 percent American super-patriotism of the current hysteria. Thus whereas Arab anti-Israel sentiment helps oligarchic rule and Communism in the Middle East, American anti-Israel sentiment, especially when combined with anti-Semitism, nourishes racist crypto-Fascism in the United States."

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