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JEWS ORGANIZATIONS LAUD EISENHOWER FOR HIS STAND ON IMMIGRATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Major national Jewish organizations and Jewish community councils in various parts of the country, commenting on President Eisenhower's State of the Union message, today hailed his appeal to the Congress for elimination in this session of inequities and discriminatory provisions in the immigration law.

They also applauded his declaration that in the continuing fight against Communist subversion, traditional American rights and liberties would be protected. They regretted the absence from his message of any recommendations for civil rights legislation, and expressed the hope that this would be rectified in later messages.

Their statement was released by the National Community Relations Advisory Council, joint policy-forming and planning body for the American Jewish Congress, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the United States, the national religious groups and regional and local Jewish community councils.

"The President's call upon Congress to revise in this session the inequitable and discriminatory McCarran-Walter Immigration Act is most gratifying," the statement says. "We hope that the President will use the great influence of his office to press for the complete overhaul of this law, which is so inconsistent with our nation's responsibilities in today's world and our national traditions of freedom and equality and of hospitality to people of all nations, races and creeds. If his demand for action in this session is to be met, legislative action must speedily be undertaken. We look for the immediate introduction of appropriate bills and for early hearings on them.

Urge Federal Law Against Discrimination in Employment

"We commend the President on his forthright declaration that American traditions and the basic rights of citizens will be carefully preserved as the feretting out and destruction of Communist subversion continues. It has been evident for a long time that thorough re-examination of the means by which these two purposes may be most effectively pursued is urgently needed. We call for such a re-examination now, under auspices free from partisan influences, so that we may have reliable guides to the preservation both of our security and our basic liberties.

"It is to be regretted that the President omitted altogether from his message all reference to the continuing need for Congressional action to insure the protection of our citizens in those equal rights and opportunities guaranteed to them in our Constitution, regardless of race, creed or color," the statement continues.

It concludes by stating that the Jewish organizations will "continue to call for the prohibition by Federal law of discrimination in employment and for the protection of other civil rights," and expresses the hope "that the omission from this message of a request for such laws will be rectified by the President in a message at a later date calling for a full legislative program on civil rights."

BEN GURION DISCUSSES TWO-PARTY SYSTEM WITH OTHER LEADERS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Former Premier David Ben Gurion, who is leading a campaign for a two-party electoral system in Israel, outlined his plans at meetings in his Tel Aviv home this week-end with Benjannin Mintz and Rabbi Kalman Kahana, leaders of the Agudah Workers party, and the four General Zionist members of the Cabinet.

In his meeting with the Cabinet Ministers, Mr. Ben Gurion pressed for adoption of the Mapai plan for an election system based on regional representation. The Ministers--Dr. Peretz Bernstein, Israel Rokach, Joseph Serlin and Joseph Saphir--favored a system combining proportional and regional representation.

Mr. Ben Gurion suggested that the Mapai and the General Zionists set up a bi-party committee to discuss a satisfactory election system. In his talks with the Agudah Laborites, he expressed the hope that a new electoral system would be in effect by the time a third Parliament is chosen.

A meeting of the central committee of the Agudah Workers today welcomed the initiative taken by Orthodox circles in the United States to re-establish the Religious Bloc in the Israel Parliament. The Agudist group pledged its assistance to the plan.

ZIONIST FEDERATION OF FRANCE FACING LEADERSHIP CRISIS

PARIS, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- A serious crisis in the leadership of the Zionist Federation of France has been created by the submission to Marc Jarblum, president of the federation, of a letter of resignation by Andre Blumel, its secretary general.

Although the text of the letter has not been released, news of its existence leaked out this week-end. The news of the resignation is considered in Zionist circles as premature and that the conflict will be settled within the executive family.

It is known that the resignation grew out of the controversy and criticism in Zionist circles and in the press last month of M. Blumel's presidency of the Jewish Committee for Action Against German Rearmament, which arranged a mass meeting to protest against ratification by the French National Assembly of the Paris accords for re-arming Bonn. Delegations from the East European countries were invited by the committee, but were refused entry visas by the French Government.

Meanwhile, it was learned that M. Jarblum has sent M. Blumel a letter rejecting the resignation as "unjustified." Leaders of various Zionist groups from the left to the right have expressed the opinion that they would not like to see M. Blumel resign, and have indicated that the matter is not yet closed.

An urgent meeting of the executive bureau of the Zionist federation is scheduled to be held tonight to examine the situation created by the resignation and by the fact that M. Blumel has not yet replied to M. Jarblum's letter.

EBAN TENDERS LUNCHEON IN HONOR OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY BYROADE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban tendered a farewell luncheon at the Statler Hotel in honor of Henry A. Byroade, Ambassador-designate to Egypt and outgoing Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs.

The luncheon was attended by high-ranking diplomatic and Federal officials as well as leaders of Jewish organizations. Ambassador Eban paid tribute to Mr. Byroade for the latter's performance of duties as Assistant Secretary of State.

GOV. HERTER WANTS ISRAEL INCLUDED IN MID-EAST DEFENSE ALLIANCE

BOSTON, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Expressing confidence in the stability and the future of the State of Israel, Governor Christian A. Herter of Massachusetts called today for the inclusion of Israel in a Middle East defense alliance.

The need for peace in that area, Governor Herter said, is imperative. He urged that the Arabs and Israelis meet at the conference table for "peaceful cooperation, for both development and defense," which he declared is "the most effective way to strengthen the Middle East against Communist subversion and aggression."

The governor also urged the Arab States to accept Israel as a partner in the development of the entire region and added that the shipment of arms by the United States to the area "is not the answer to the establishment of peaceful relations."

Governor Herter was one of the principal speakers at the New England regional conference of the American Zionist Council. Held at the Bradford Hotel, it was attended by more than 500 Jewish leaders from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut and Rhode Island. Among the other prominent speakers were Berl Locker, chairman of the Jewish Agency in Jerusalem, and Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, which consists of all the Zionist organizations in the United States.

Asserting that the creation of the State of Israel received the support of both political parties in the United States, Gov. Herter expressed the hope that it will always receive the support of both Republicans and Democrats. "Israel," he said, "is here to stay, and only peace between the Arabs and the State of Israel will bring stability and lasting benefit to all the peoples of the Middle East."

Emphasizing that the shipment of arms to the Middle East "is not the answer to the establishment of peaceful relations" between Israel and the Arab states, Mr. Herter added that "it is a source of deep regret that the Middle East has not yet been granted peace."

Locker Says Israel Must Be Watchful

Mr. Locker, who recently arrived in the United States, declared that Israel must be prepared for all contingencies so long as the Arab States refuse to recognize the need for peace and so long as they receive arms from the Western powers. He added that there are some individuals even in the Arab lands who would like peace with their neighbor. "But these persons and groups are afraid to speak out lest they incur the wrath of the mob, incited by the present rulers," he said.

Rabbi Miller praised the United States for its opposition, in the Security Council, to the blockade of the Suez Canal by Egypt to Israel shipping. Adding, however, that Egypt and Israel both receive economic aid from this country, Rabbi Miller stated that the value of this aid is "completely negated, if one beneficiary, as in the case of Egypt, attempts to maintain a stranglehold on its neighbor's lifeline with half the world." What is required, he said, is not only a "verbal chastisement" of Egypt but a "constant, vigilant and dynamic American policy in the Middle East, working towards peaceful settlement of disputes."

"Quite apart from the folly of supplying weapons of war to Egypt and other Arab States which continue to threaten renewed war against Israel," Rabbi Miller said, "surely there is no logic in the provision of economic aid to countries which discriminate against their neighbors and make impossible the free flow of commerce across frontiers."

At a workshop session which preceded the formal addresses, the delegates discussed vital Zionist problems as well as methods to combat the increase of anti-Israel, pro-Arab propaganda in this country. Rabbi Jerome Unger, executive director of the American Zionist Council, as well as the heads of various departments in the Council described its many activities, including its role in Jewish education and culture; its youth activities' program; and organizational problems.

ISRAEL BONDS TALLING \$40,522,950 SOLD IN UNITED STATES DURING 1954

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- A total of \$40,522,950 was realized through the sale of Israel Bonds during 1954, Julian B. Venezky, chairman of the executive committee of the Israel Bond Organization, reported today to a meeting of the board of governors of the Israel Bond drive at the Savoy Plaza Hotel here.

Israel Bond sales during 1954, Mr. Venezky indicated, represent an increase of \$3,661,800 over the total of \$36,861,150 in sales during 1953. The total sales of Israel Bonds since they were first offered for sale in May, 1951 reached \$177,552,450 as of the end of 1954, Mr. Venezky added. The impact of these Israel Bond dollars on Israel's economy, Mr. Venezky noted, has been "an incomparable force for economic strength and development."

The board of governors pledged its "maximum effort during the coming year" in a message cabled to Israel Prime Minister Moshe Sharett from the meeting of the board. Describing the Israel Bond Organization as "an instrument of strength upon which the Government of Israel may surely count," the cable to Mr. Sharett expressed the board's determination "to mobilize the largest possible resources to speed the economic expansion of Israel."

In a special announcement at the board's meeting, Samuel Rothberg, national chairman of the Israel Bond Organization, reported that Israel Bond campaigns are now being conducted in 27 countries in North and South America and Western Europe.

Mr. Rothberg reported that the 1955 issue of Israel Development Bonds will have the same advantageous features as the bonds offered for sale during 1954. These include the following provisions:

1. An interest rate of 4 percent per annum on Coupon Bonds, which mature on January 1, 1969;
2. An increase of 50 percent in the value of Savings Bonds during the ten-year period before they mature;
3. Convertibility into Israel pounds at any time for tourist expenses while in Israel, or for investment in approved Israel enterprises;
4. Immediate redeemability in dollars on the death of the registered owner.

Mrs. Michael A. Stavitsky, of East Orange, New Jersey, accepted the post of national chairman of the Women's Division of the Israel Bond Organization, at the board's meeting. She succeeds Mrs. Alexander Lowenthal of Pittsburgh, who served as national chairman for two years. A silver Bible, hand-wrought in Israel, was presented to Mrs. Lowenthal for her "outstanding service in mobilizing women throughout America to advance the cause of Israel's economic freedom."

WARBURG ELECTED TRUSTEE OF INSTITUTE OF INTERNATIONAL EDUCATION

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Edward M. M. Warburg was elected a trustee of the Institute of International Education this week-end. The Institute administers exchange programs for private and public agencies in this country and abroad. During 1954 it helped 4,000 persons in 80 countries study in countries other than their own.

Senator Herbert H. Lehman will lead more than 1,000 nationally prominent Jewish communal figures in a tribute to Mr. Warburg, president of the United Jewish Appeal, at a testimonial dinner to be given January 22 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel. It was announced today by Jack D. Weller, a national campaign chairman of the UJA.

Senator Lehman, who will act as toastmaster, will cite Mr. Warburg for his general chairmanship of the United Jewish Appeal over the past four years and for his role since 1939 in helping the UJA to raise close to \$1,000,000 to aid victims of war and oppression.

SECRETARY BENSON URGED TO APOLOGIZE TO LADEJINSKY, OR RESIGN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota demanded yesterday that Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson either apologize to Wolf Ladejinsky for what the Senator called "cruel and inhuman treatment" of the government agronomist, or resign from office.

Sen. Humphrey, in a statement issued here, demanded that President Eisenhower "put his official house in order" and protect Mr. Ladejinsky and other civil servants from "this kind of capricious action." He was referring to Mr. Ladejinsky's dismissal by the Agriculture Department on the grounds that he was a "security risk." Mr. Ladejinsky has subsequently been hired by the Foreign Operations Administration to work on land reform in South Viet Nam.

Revealing that he has written to President Eisenhower directly about the case, Sen. Humphrey declared that Mr. Ladejinsky "is being persecuted, he is being abused, and he is being asked to take a very important assignment in a critical area of the world while a Cabinet officer of this government continues to harass him and question his loyalty and fitness."

Meanwhile, George N. Vitt, the release of whose anti-Semitic letter to the Agriculture Department attacking Mr. Ladejinsky created a furor which helped Mr. Ladejinsky win reconsideration and vindication by another government department, resigned this week-end from his job as editor of a New York trade magazine.

Mr. Vitt, who denied that he was anti-Semitic although his letter had impugned the loyalty of American Jews of Russian origin, said that the release of his letter by Milan D. Smith, executive assistant to Secretary Benson, had resulted in a wave of publicity which had "upset" him.

EFFORTS OF ANTI-SEMITES IN RECENT ELECTIONS FAILED, SURVEY SHOWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Efforts by anti-Semites to exploit religion as an issue in the 1954 campaign were nullified by the voters, a post-election survey conducted by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, revealed today.

The ADL described a dozen incidents in as many states where anti-Semitism, in one form or another, was injected into the races for Governor, United States Senator, Congressman, or State or local offices. The states included Connecticut, New York, Massachusetts, New Jersey, California, Texas, Oregon, Colorado, Georgia, Florida, Maine and Illinois.

***BILLS IN NEW YORK STATE LEGISLATURE SEEK TO CHECK DISCRIMINATION**

ALBANY, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Two identical bills have been introduced in the New York State Legislature calling for an investigation into racial and religious discrimination in housing in the state. The legislation is in line with Gov. Averill Harriman's speech to the Legislature last week asking broader powers in the housing field for the State Commission Against Discrimination.

HADASSAH TO HOLD FOUR-DAY CONFERENCE TO SET POLICY

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- A four-day mid-winter conference of Hadassah, will open here January 30 to formulate Hadassah's program both in Israel and in this country for the next six months, the organization announced today. Leaders from some 1,200 groups and chapters of Hadassah in all parts of the United States will attend the parley and hear reports on political, economic, social and educational problems confronting Israel.

EISENHOWER GREET'S B'NAI JESHURUN CONGREGATION ON 130TH ANNIVERSARY

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower sent a message of congratulations to Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, oldest Conservative synagogue in the United States, which this week-end marked its 130th anniversary. The message, sent to Dr. Israel Goldstein, spiritual leader of the congregation, read:

"On the occasion of the 130th anniversary of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, I send my greetings to all its members. Since 1825, when its very establishment reflected the central American principle of religious freedom, your Congregation has had an impressive record not only of religious activity but of philanthropic and educational service as well. On sharing in this accomplishment I congratulate all of you, and I wish you every success in such endeavors in the years ahead."

DR. SYNGALOWSKI LAUDS J.D.C. COOPERATION; RETURNS TO SWITZERLAND

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Dr. Aron Syngalowski, chairman of the World ORT Union, returned to Switzerland today following the conclusion of the 1955 agreement between the Joint Distribution Committee and the ORT, under which the latter will receive from the JDC the sum of \$1,390,000 for its world-wide vocational training activities among Jews.

Prior to his departure, Dr. Syngalowski issued a statement lauding the JDC and emphasizing that as a result of the renewed JDC-ORT agreement the World ORT Union will extend its program in Israel and North Africa. He also praised the work of the American ORT Federation and the activities of the American ORT Women's Organization. During his visit to the United States, Dr. Syngalowski addressed a Jewish community meeting in Detroit where he emphasized the role of the United Jewish Appeal in helping needy Jews throughout the world.

DR. WAKSMAN HONORED; RECEIVES TAMIMENT AWARD FOR HIS BOOK

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Dr. Selman Waksman, Nobel Prize winner, and Elmer Davis, noted news commentator, were honored here yesterday with Tamiment awards for books which they wrote in the last year.

Dr. Waksman, discoverer of streptomycin, was honored for his autobiography, "My Life with the Microbes," while Mr. Davis received his award for his volume "But We Were Born Free." Alexander Kahn, manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, presided at the luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel where the awards were presented.

The Tamiment Institute, donor of the award, was founded in 1935 "to support the ideals of free culture, and to resist and expose totalitarianism in any and all of its manifestations." Ben Josephson, director of the Institute, said: "Implicit in this credo is the concept that the freedom to create without conformity and to inquire without fear is of paramount importance in the continuing struggle against tyranny."

JEWS THANK LATIN AMERICAN DIPLOMATS FOR INTERVENTION AT U. N.

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- The Confederation of Jewish Institutions of Brazil, central Jewish body in this country, and the central committee of the United Zionist Organization have addressed a telegram to Dr. Jose Vicente Trujillo, head of the Ecuadorean delegation at the United Nations, for his intervention with Egypt in behalf of the 12 Jews on trial in Cairo on charges of "espionage."

Dr. Trujillo met with the Egyptian delegate at the UN in his own behalf and in behalf of the representatives of the 20 Latin American governments. A copy of the wire to Dr. Trujillo was handed to the Ecuadorean Ambassador in Brazil.