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SOVIET GOVERNMENT DISSEMINATES STATEMENT ON JEWS IN U. S. S. R.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y. July 17. (JTA) - For the first time since the establishment of the United Nations, the Soviet delegation here disseminated to the press today a statement on Jewish religious life in the Soviet Union. The statement did not touch upon the liquidation of Jewish cultural institutions in the USSR, nor did it make any mention of the fate of "missing" Jewish writers in Russia, or about the conditions of life in Biro-Bidjan which was proclaimed a Jewish autonomous region more than 25 years ago.

The statement, which attracted attention in United Nations circles, was written by M. Rabinowitz who was not identified by the Soviet delegation, and whose name has never before appeared in public. The text of the statement reads:

"Citizens of the Jewish nationality are found among the inhabitants of cities and villages in different regions of the Soviet Union. Religious Jews attend prayers at the synagogues and observe the rituals prescribed by their religion. Synagogues are always well attended on Passover, Shevuoth, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, Succoth and other religious holidays and at Yizkor.

Claims Jewish Religion Enjoys Same Rights as Russian Church

"In the Soviet Union, the Jewish faith enjoys the same rights as the Russian Orthodox Church and other churches and religions. Adherents of the Jewish faith in the USSR have their religious societies or communities. Synagogues or prayer buildings have been placed at the disposal of these communities by the local administrations and they have all the necessary facilities for prayers and for the performance of rituals. If a Jewish religious society has been organized in a district where no special building is available for a synagogue, the society may apply to the local authorities for a special building for a synagogue, or for a land allotment for the construction of a synagogue, this allotment being provided free of charge.

"The religious society has the right to lease premises for a synagogue from the local authorities or from private owners. The only condition required for the organization of a Jewish, or any other religious society in the USSR is that there be no less than twenty members. The Jewish religious societies have their own shochtim, mikvahs etc. Before Passover the state designates special bakeries in places with a large Jewish religious population for baking matzohs for sale. Especially appointed religious observers are required to sanction the use of the matzohs as ritual bread. Those who desire may bake matzohs at home.

"Foreign visitors interested in the status of the Jewish religion in the USSR usually visit the synagogues. No one in the Soviet Union interferes with religious Jews in performance of the rituals prescribed by the dogmas and traditions of their faith. The right of Soviet citizens to profess any religion, or none at all is guaranteed by Soviet legislation.

"The Jewish religious societies in the Soviet Union have no central governing body. Nor was there any before the revolution. Each society conducts its activities independently under the leadership of an elected executive board, auditing committee and rabbi. In practice, however, the rabbis of neighboring synagogues, get together to discuss religious questions of general significance.

Names Rabbis of Largest Jewish Communities in USSR

"All the leaders of the Jewish religious communities in the Soviet Union, rabbis and religious Jews take part in the nationwide movement for peace. Prayers for peace are offered in the synagogue. In their sermons the rabbis urge the congregations to conduct an active struggle for peace. The rabbis of the biggest Jewish religious communities in the Soviet Union--Rabbis S. M. Schleifer of Moscow, Rabbi Panich of Kiev, Rabbi Diment of Odessa, Rabbi M. Masliansky of Riga, Haham K. V. Yeliashvili of Kutaisi, Rabbi Berger of Minsk, Rabbi I. Rabinovich of Vilna and Rabbi Vorkul of Kovno--published an appeal in the press urging Jews the world over to join with millions of people who protest against the threatened use of atomic and hydrogen weapons.

"Rabbi S. M. Schleifer of the Grand Synagogue of Moscow, attended the fifth USSR Peace Conference in Moscow, as the delegate of the Jewish religious communities of the capital," the statement declares.

SHARETT CLARIFIES ISRAEL'S STAND TOWARD RUSSIA AND U.S.

TEL AVIV, July 17. (JTA) -- Israel is striving for full mutual understanding and strengthening of contact with the Soviet Union, Prime Minister Moshe Sharett declared at an election meeting in Haifa today. He said that a shipping agreement with the USSR would be signed within the next few days.

Turning to Israel's relations with the United States, Mr. Sharett stressed that despite past, or possible future, misunderstandings, Israel would maintain and cherish her friendship with the United States. Referring to the continued hostile attitude of the Arab countries, the Prime Minister said that Israel was not a warmonger. He cautioned that Israel must carefully consider the limits of necessity in using force, since her chief goal is the attainment of peace as soon as possible.

GENEVA PARLEY URGED TO ISSUE DECLARATION ON MIDDLE EAST PEACE

NEW YORK, July 17. (JTA) -- On the eve of the opening of the Big Four conference in Geneva tomorrow, the American Zionist Council issued today an appeal to the leaders of the Big Powers to issue a declaration "affirming Israel's right to existence as a sovereign and free nation and guaranteeing its territorial integrity." The appeal was signed by Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the Council, which represents the entire Zionist movement in the United States.

Asserting that the Middle East "represents a vital factor in the attainment of the peace objectives of the Geneva Conference," Rabbi Miller emphasized the the "increasingly menacing impact of the Arab-Israel conflict upon the world in general and the Middle East in particular makes an equitable solution of this problem a vital key-stone in the arch of better understanding and world peace."

The statement points to the repeated efforts of the State of Israel to negotiate peace with the Arab states. "From its very inception on May 14, 1948, the young State of Israel has been dedicated to its own prophetic vision of brotherhood and peace," Rabbi Miller declared. "Even while its men and women were giving their lives in a war of liberation forced upon it by the neighboring Arab countries, the State of Israel extended the hand of peace to its neighbors and their peoples, inviting them to cooperate with her for the common good of the entire region."

The Zionist leader recalled that the United Nations resolution of November 29, 1947, which was the legal basis for the declaration of the State of Israel, represented on the part of the nations of the world an act of historic atonement to the Jewish people for 2,000 years of exile and persecution, culminating in the Nazi holocaust which destroyed six million Jews. At the same time he noted that Soviet Russia joined the majority of the nations in voting for this resolution.

Calling for a forthright declaration in guaranteeing Israel's territorial integrity, Rabbi Miller said that "such a declaration would go a long way toward dissolving the present atmosphere of tension in that part of the world." He further maintained that "such a declaration would be the logical basis for a solemn appeal by the Big Four to the Arab leaders to sit down at a peace table with the State of Israel for direct negotiations."

Synagogues Offer Prayers for Success of "Big Four" Talks in Geneva

NEW YORK, July 17. (JTA) -- Synagogues throughout the country, from New York to Los Angeles and from Maine to Texas, offered prayers for peace this week-end in response to President Eisenhower's plea, on the eve of the Geneva conference, for the prayers of all Americans for the success of the Big Four talks.

The Synagogue Council of America, in which are represented the three major sections of religious Judaism, issued a call to all congregations to join in the prayers for the success of the "summit" talks, which open tomorrow. In this, the Synagogue Council, and the synagogues joined the appeals and prayers of the major Protestant and Catholic denominations and the millions of Americans of the Christian faith who also prayed for peace this week-end.

ISRAEL-EGYPTIAN AGREEMENT ON BORDER SECURITY EXPECTED THIS WEEK

JERUSALEM, July 17. (JTA) -- A joint communique issued by Israel and Egypt on the talks for the easing of tension on the Gaza strip border said the points remaining to be settled have been reduced to a very limited number. The communique made reference to further discussions "for arrangements for the maintenance of security along the demarcation line," and added that during the period preceding the next meeting, scheduled for July 20, various alternatives would be considered by the parties and that it is hoped that a final draft of the document will be achieved by the next meeting.

BOMBS EXPLODE AT TWO GENERAL ZIONIST MEETINGS IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, July 17. (JTA) -- A bomb exploded at a General Zionist election meeting in the Bet Haam hall here this week-end, but no one was injured. The meeting was being addressed by Israel Rokach, former Mayor of Tel Aviv and former Minister of the Interior. Police immediately began an intensive investigation of the incident.

Still another bomb was exploded a day later at another meeting of the General Zionists. This meeting was held at ZOA House here, and the bomb was exploded just after the completion of an address by Tel Aviv's Mayor Chaim Levanon. Again there were no casualties, both explosions having been caused by what were described as "scare bombs."

This second bombing of a General Zionist meeting within twenty-four hours aroused a great deal of anxiety on the part of General Zionist leaders. They were said to regard the use of such methods as a grave danger to the entire concept of a free election campaign.

ISRAEL ACQUIRES TWO DESTROYERS FROM BRITAIN; NAVY STRENGTHENED

CARDIFF, Wales, July 17. (JTA) -- The Israel Navy received powerful reinforcements this week-end when two British destroyers, the Zealous and the Zodiac, were transferred under the blazing sun of this Welsh seaport. The destroyers were renamed Elath and Yaffo--names selected by Minister of Defense David Ben Gurion.

The short formal transfer ceremony took place here in 80 degree temperature. A small British naval detachment was up on the foredeck of H. M. S. Zealous. Shortly afterwards, the commanders of the South Wales and Plymouth reserve fleets, accompanied by Captain J. Fitzroy and L. Forbes of the Admiralty, were piped aboard. They were joined by three officers of the Israel Navy--Lt. Cmdr. Y. Shapiro, Lt. Cmdr. A. Barak and Lt. Y. Margalit.

Watched from the jetty by the commander-in-chief of the Israel Navy, Capt. S. Tana, the director general of the Israel Defense Ministry F. Peres and the members of his staff, and Israel Embassy officials, headed by charge d'affaires Gershon Abner--two petty officers aboard the Zealous lowered the British ensign to the accompaniment of more bosun's pipes, while shore and jetty parties stood at attention.

The British party then took leave of the ship to another blast of the pipes, the last senior officer carrying with him the ship's nameplate. The three Israel officers left on board then took up positions forward, and at a signal from the pipes, Lt. Cmdr. Shapiro raised the blue and white ensign of the Israel Navy.

British Navy Undertook to Train Israelis to Man the Destroyers

Capt. Tana then went aboard, where he was greeted by Lt. Cmdr. Shapiro with the words: "Israel naval ship at your command, sir." Capt. Tana then unveiled the ships new nameplate--Elath--and invited the British and Israel groups on the jetty to join him. For nearly an hour afterwards the British officers conducted the Israelis on a tour of the Elath, which was built in 1944 and has never seen active service. After refitting, the Elath and the Yaffo, which lies at the nearby Penarth dockyard, will be taken to their home ports by Israel sailors. At present, their weapons and other equipment are in protective cocoons.

Earlier, the Israelis had entertained the British naval officers at a luncheon here, where toasts were proposed to the Queen, by Mr. Abner, and the President of Israel, by Capt. Fitzroy. Today's ceremony was seen by Mr. Peres as a contribution to strengthening friendly relations between Britain and Israel. He thanked British Minister of State Selwyn Lloyd and Foreign Undersecretary Evelyn Shuckburgh for their cooperation, revealing that, together Israel Ambassador Elishu Elath, he had been discussing with them the whole question--political and technical--of British arms supplies to Israel.

In a statement to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Mr. Peres said that insofar as the two destroyers were concerned he felt Israel had had a fair deal. The ships were in good shape, the price paid was a fair one and naval cooperation had been excellent. As an example, he cited the fact that the British Navy had undertaken to train an Israel complement to man the ship.

GOVERNOR HARRIMAN ARRIVES IN ISRAEL; IS GUEST OF GOVERNMENT

TEL AVIV, July 17. (JTA) -- Gov. W. Averill Harriman of New York arrived in Israel today for a short visit as a guest of the Israel Government. Upon arrival, he said that the greatest task facing the Middle East was peace and expressed the hope that the United States "will act in this direction." He expressed satisfaction with his ability to come to Israel and see the "miracle" of Jewish statehood.

EISENHOWER NAMES SIMON SOBELOFF TO U. S. COURT OF APPEALS

WASHINGTON, July 17. (JTA) -- Solicitor General Simon E. Sobeloff was nominated by President Eisenhower this week-end to the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Judicial Circuit which embraces Maryland and areas of West Virginia, Virginia, North Carolina and South Carolina. If the nomination is confirmed by the Senate, Mr. Sobeloff will succeed Judge Morris A. Soper, of Baltimore, who retired on June 2.

Mr. Sobeloff, 62, has served as Solicitor General since February, 1954. He prepared and argued in part of government's position in the historic segregation case in which the Supreme Court banned racial segregation in the public schools of this country. Before becoming Solicitor General, Mr. Sobeloff was Chief Judge of the Maryland Court of Appeals, the first Jew in the history of the state to hold its highest judicial post.

He has long been active in Jewish life. He has been president of the Baltimore Board of Jewish Education, president of the Baltimore Jewish Council, founder and president of the local American Jewish Congress chapter in Baltimore, a member of the board and legal counselor of the Associated Jewish Charities, and an active worker on behalf of Israel.

COMMUNITY DIRECTORS LEAVE FOR OVERSEAS STUDY OF U. J. A. PROGRAMS

NEW YORK, July 17. (JTA) -- Executive directors of fifteen community campaigns throughout the United States affiliated with the United Jewish Appeal left by El Al Israel Airlines today to carry out a four week overseas survey of UJA- financed migration, settlement, welfare and rehabilitation programs in Israel and Western Europe.

The survey group will go first to Israel where it will meet with President Itzhak Ben Zvi and other officials of the Israel Government. The group will also confer with Finance Minister Levi Eshkol who has played a leading role in the development of Israel's economy and Berl Locker, chairman of the Jewish Agency.

On July 19, their first day in Israel, the survey group will take part in the dedication ceremonies opening the giant, 66-mile Yarkon-Negev irrigation pipeline which has been constructed in large measure with funds contributed in the United States through the United Jewish Appeal and its main beneficiary, the United Israel Appeal. The pipeline will make possible the irrigation of an additional 50,000 acres of parched land, thereby increasing the total of irrigated land in Israel by 25 per cent.

On Friday, July 29, the group will leave Israel for a twelve day visit to France and Western Europe where they will see refugee, child care, old-age and rehabilitation centers administered by the Joint Distribution Committee.

STUDENTS FROM 17 U. S. COLLEGES LEAVE FOR STUDY AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, July 17. (JTA) -- A group of 22 students from 17 American colleges and universities left New York today for one year of study at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. They will take part in a program of study specifically designed for American college students who will receive credit towards their degrees from their home colleges for the work taken at the Hebrew University. This program was initiated by the American Friends of the Hebrew University.

At a reception given the students at Hebrew University House, they were welcomed by Dr. George S. Wise, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Hebrew University. Professor Oscar I. Janowsky, chairman of the academic council of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, who has guided the program, told the students that they were bringing to Israel what was best in American Jewry. By their devotion to studies, they would, on their return to their colleges and universities, be able to increase mutual feelings of esteem and good will between the students and faculties of the Hebrew University and those of their own academic institutions, Prof. Janowsky emphasized.

ABRAHAM GOODMAN NAMED CHAIRMAN OF Z. O. A. HOUSE IN TEL AVIV

NEW YORK, July 17. (JTA) -- Mortimer May, president of the Zionist Organization of America, announced today the appointment of Abraham Goodman of New York as chairman of the ZOA House in Tel Aviv. Mr. Goodman, who is chairman of the ZOA Inner Committee, has been closely associated with the activities and growth of the ZOA House since its inception.

It was also announced that Elias M. Epstein of Jerusalem, publicist, was named program director of the ZOA House succeeding Jacob M. Alkow who retired from this position due to pressures of a personal and business nature. Mr. Goodman assumed the chairmanship of the ZOA House at the request of Dr. Emanuel Neumann who held this position due to pressures of his other duties both as chairman of the national ZOA executive committee and as member of the executive of the Jewish Agency.