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ACTIONS COMMITTEE DEBATES ZIONIST ISSUES; U.S. JEWRY SAID TO ISRAEL LAUDED

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- The Zionist Actions Committee, which opened its session here last night with a dramatic call by World Zionist Organization president Dr. Nahum Goldmann for a basic change in the relationship between Israel and Jewish communities abroad, began today a two-day general debate.

There was agreement among most of the speakers today that new life must be infused into the Zionist movement in order to revive a Jewish consciousness in communities in the Western countries. It was generally agreed that such consciousness must be instilled in the youth and that it can best be done by having young people spend some time living in Israel.

President Itzhak Ben Zvi of Israel, who spoke on "Sixty Years of Zionism," paid tribute to the aid given the Jewish State by Jews throughout the world. He singled out for special praise the largest Jewish community of the world, the American. The President insisted that the Zionist movement had not yet completed its mission that on the contrary with the establishment of the State of Israel the Zionist movement's responsibilities to world Jewry and to Israel have increased.

Joseph Sprinzak, chairman of the Actions Committee and Speaker of the Israel Parliament, charged that since the establishment of the State of Israel "the Zionist movement has not justified its existence." Of the movement's two tasks--establishment of a Jewish State and preparation of the Jewish people to return to Zion--the first was accomplished ten years ago, but the Zionist movement has failed to make real headway in its second mission, he insisted. "A whole generation of Jews is being brought up without Jewish consciousness, let alone Zionist consciousness," he charged.

A Jewish Agency budget submitted to the meeting today called for an expenditure of 211,000,000 pounds in the next fiscal year. Avraham Harman, member of the Agency executive, revealed that 120,000,000 pounds had been spent in the last six months of the current fiscal year.

Mr. Harman reported on the initiation of discussions between the Agency and representatives of non-Zionist American Jewish organizations for the setting up of an advisory council to the Agency. The organizations invited to participate in the advisory body are already engaged in work in behalf of Israel, though they are not Zionist in character, he said.

ISRAEL-JORDAN MT. SCOPUS AGREEMENT HITS SNAG; U.N. ENVOY FLIES TO ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., March 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Francisco Urrutia of Columbia, Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold's personal representative, is flying to Bogoto Friday and thence on to Tel Aviv Monday or Tuesday to take up again the deteriorating Mt. Scopus situation. Mr. Hammarskjold, who is flying to Moscow Friday, is expected to meet Dr. Urrutia in Israel toward the end of next week.

The agreement Dr. Urrutia negotiated between Jordan and Israel concerning demilitarization of the Mt. Scopus area, and allowing Israel to remove books and other equipment from Hadassah Hospital and Hebrew University, has become unstuck because of Jordan's refusal to permit Israeli convoys to carry out the removals.

Israel Not Informed of Decision to Send U.N. Aide to Jerusalem

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- Israel has received no official intimation of a decision to send Dr. Francisco Urrutia, aide of UN Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold, back to the Middle East to facilitate implementation of the Mt. Scopus agreement he negotiated between Israel and Jordan. These sources indicated the question had been raised with Jerusalem, but never finalized.

A number of hurdles have arisen in the path of the agreement, they stressed, but Israel had nothing to do with throwing up these obstacles. Meanwhile, Jerusalem Mayor Gershon Agron accompanied the regular fortnightly convoy to the height. There was no incident today and the guards were relieved and food and other supplies left.

MOSCOW AGAIN POSTPONES HEARING ON ISRAEL'S \$2, 000, 000 CLAIM

JERUSALEM, March 19. (JTA) -- A new postponement of the hearing before the Moscow Chamber of Commerce arbitration tribunal on Israel's suit for over \$2, 000, 000 in damages resulting from Soviet unilateral breaching of an oil delivery agreement, has raised the question whether the Soviet Union is again reversing its tactics. Soviet oil companies refused to make oil deliveries immediately after the Sinai operation in the fall of 1956.

Yesterday, it was announced that one of the hearing commissioners, Ramzaytsev, was ill again. It was on the excuse of Mr. Ramzaytsev's illness that the hearings were repeatedly postponed since last December. It was suspected that this was an attempt by Moscow to let the case drop from public view through a series of delays.

However, when the world trade press began to pay more attention to the case, rather than less, Mr. Ramzaytsev's recovery was announced and the hearings resumed at a rapid pace, apparently in an attempt to close the matter. So rapid, in fact, that Israeli attorneys were forced to stall at one point to organize their final presentation. This last summing up was almost complete when the most recent postponement due to illness was announced. In the recent phases of the case, numerous Western correspondents have attended the arbitration tribunal sessions.

ISRAEL REJECTS SAUDI EXTENSION OF TERRITORIAL RIGHTS IN AKABA GULF

GENEVA, March 19. (JTA) -- Israel rejected today an extension of Arab territorial rights in the Gulf of Akaba, as claimed by Saudi Arabia which holds that its jurisdiction extends 12 miles beyond the coastline. Israel's action was taken at an international maritime conference here attended by the representatives of 87 nations.

Israeli delegate Michael Comay called any such extension attempt by the Arabs a violation of international law. Israel's announcement that it would fight to protect its shipping interests constituted a reply to the Saudi Arabian claim that the gulf was an "inland Arab waterway."

Participating in the debate for the first time, Egyptian delegate Dr. Omar Loutfi of Egypt also demanded recognition of the 12 mile rule. True to the Arab line, Dr. Loutfi argued that the law of the sea was valid only in peacetime and not during a state of war. He added with specific reference to the Gulf of Akaba that "not a single aspect of the Palestinian problem is settled."

\$10, 000 IN REWARDS POSTED FOR FINDING NASHVILLE SYNAGOGUE BOMBERS

NASHVILLE, Tenn., March 19. (JTA) -- Rewards totalling \$10, 000 have been posted for information leading to the arrest of the person or persons responsible for the dynamiting of the Jewish Community Center of this city. Meanwhile, two new threats against the life of Rabbi William Silverman and against The Temple, a Reform synagogue of which he is the spiritual leader, have been reported.

The rewards reached \$10, 000 when the center itself announced today a \$3, 000 offer. Previously, the State of Tennessee had posted \$5, 000--the maximum under state law--the city had offered \$1, 000 and a private source had put up \$1, 000.

The new threats against Rabbi Silverman and The Temple were made by telephone. An anonymous caller, unable to get Rabbi Silverman by telephone, insulted and threatened a Negro porter at the synagogue and warned him to leave the building because it would be blasted. The porter communicated with the Rabbi, who advised him to turn on the parking lights around the building and leave. Before the porter had completed this mission he received another call from the same terrorist again threatening his life and the synagogue. After turning on the lights, the porter left.

City police were guarding all Jewish institutions in Nashville today and private police guards were posted around The Temple and at Rabbi Silverman's home.

When he posted the new reward, Sheppard Schwartz, president of the Jewish Community Center, thanked fellow citizens of all faiths for their expressions of sympathy and outrage over the bombing. "We know that our fellow citizens recognize that what has happened was an attack upon the ideals of all American citizens. We join with the whole community in its determination that lawlessness and violence shall not be tolerated in Nashville," he said.

President of Bombed Miami Synagogue Appeals to U.S. Senators

MIAMI, Fla., March 19. (JTA) -- The president of the bombed Miami synagogue today appealed to Senators Holland and Smathers of Florida to seek a Justice Deptment investigation of the explosion. "As long as no one ever is punished for these outrages, they will continue," said Sidney H. Palmer, president of Beth El Congregation.

Meanwhile, Rep. Isidore Dollinger, New York Democrat, today sent a communication to Attorney General William P. Rogers urging Federal authorities to take "initiative and leadership" in bringing to justice those who bombed Jewish centers in Nashville and Miami.

BONN MINISTER REBUKED FOR CAMPAIGNING AGAINST RESTITUTION PAYMENTS

MUNICH, March 19. (JTA) -- A sharp criticism of the anti-restitution campaign of Fritz Schaeffer, Bonn Justice Minister, was made today by Dr. Franz Boehm, a member of the West German Parliamentary Compensation Committee, in an address before the Congress for the Society of Christians and Jews of Munich.

"Mr. Schaeffer knows our budget quite well," Dr. Boehm declared. "Why does he again and again pick out our compensation program for criticism?" Asserting that there were "other examples" to be used to demonstrate misuse of German laws, Dr. Boehm said that Schaeffer seemed to believe he could win the approval and votes of West Germans by continuing to attack the compensation law.

He said high legal fees were paid not by the West German Government but by the compensation applicants themselves. He asserted it was "sheer nonsense" to say that 30 percent of the estimated 18,000,000 marks to be paid in compensation claims would be taken by lawyers.

He said there seemed to be a "number of politicians" in the West German Federal republic who were convinced that compensation payments were unjustifiable but, he added, they should not be permitted to stir up new anti-Semitism in their opposition.

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT ASKED TO INDEMNIFY JEWISH VICTIMS OF NAZISM

LONDON, March 19. (JTA) -- A plea for Austrian Government recognition of its responsibility toward Jewish victims of the Nazis was voiced here today by Barnett Janner, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, at a meeting of the board.

He noted that 20 years after the "Anschluss" of Nazi Germany and Austria, when the Austrian population had welcomed and cooperated with the Nazis, nothing had been done to "remedy the wrongs inflicted upon the Jews." He pointed out that the German Government claimed it was not responsible for Nazi doings in Austria, while the Austrian Government conveniently forgot the popular Austrian acceptance of the Nazi regime.

The Council of Jews from Austria in Britain today condemned the Austrian Parliament for its failure in 13 years to pass "any comprehensive law to indemnify Jews from Austria" for wrongs suffered during the Nazi regime in that country.

Acting on the twentieth anniversary of the establishment of the Nazi regime in Austria, the organization declared that "a considerable proportion of the Austrian people, by reason of its conduct before, during and after" the Nazi regime, was "responsible for it and for the ensuing persecution of Austrian Jews."

The resolution also emphasized that provisions for Nazi victims in the Austrian state treaty of June 1955 had not been put "into effect and that measures taken so far by the Austrian Government, 'welcome as they are, represent an entirely insufficient beginning of a solution.'" The resolution urged the Austrian Federal Republic to grant Jews from Austria the same measure of indemnification as the West German Republic has given to Jews from Germany.

CONGRESS URGED NOT TO APPROVE PAYMENTS FOR FORMER NAZI ASSETS IN U.S.

WASHINGTON, March 19. (JTA) -- National commander Benjamin H. Chasin of the Jewish War Veterans today assailed an Administration plan for action by Congress that would make American taxpayers assume double liability for former Nazi assets valued at over one-half billion dollars.

Commander Chasin pointed out that the German Government agreed by treaty to reimburse its own nationals in return for America's agreement not to ask for either reparations or repayment of sums advanced before the 1952 Bonn treaty. He said it was unthinkable "that representatives of the American people would favorably consider such legislation, or for the Administration to introduce it."

The American taxpayer would reimburse German businessmen who supported Hitler. The JMW leader said if the Administration bill is passed Americans would be paying Germany out of their own pockets for having started World War II.

JEWS IN POLAND ADVISED NOT TO CONCENTRATE IN SILESIAN TOWNS

VIENNA, March 19. (JTA) -- A campaign against the tendency of Jews in Poland to concentrate in certain towns in Siberia was started by Jewish leaders in Warsaw. The Jewish press reaching here today from Poland says that the repatriated Jews from the USSR have shown a special preference for settling down in the Silesian city of Lignitz.

This gregariousness, the press explains, is a result of the recent experiences of the repatriates who now prefer to live with Jews about them. It asserts that there are equally attractive cities with better opportunities for the repatriates.

Many of the 11,000 people repatriated from the Soviet Union to Poland in the first two months of this year are Jews, according to a Polish press report. It is estimated that 100,000 Poles will be repatriated this year, a fair proportion of them Jews.

SO. AFRICAN JEWISH BODY URGES JEWS TO VOTE AS CITIZENS, NOT AS JEWS

JOHANNESBURG, March 19. (JTA) -- The 21st biennial congress of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies closed here last night with the adoption of a resolution reiterating, on the eve of South Africa's national elections, the Board's long-standing position that Jews in this country vote on political issues as citizens, not as Jews. Edel Horowitz was elected president of the Board, succeeding I. Maisels, who retired after three terms.

A unanimously adopted resolution declared: "Jews participate in South African public life as citizens of South Africa and have no collective attitude to political issues which the citizens are called upon to decide. Jews share with their fellow citizens of other faiths and origins a common responsibility for our country's affairs and participate according to their individual convictions. This congress deprecates appeals to Jews as Jews regarding political issues."

The resolution also dealt with the racial question, the most explosive issue in South African life. It expressed the belief that it is of "overriding importance in the national interest that the racial policies of our country be based in principles of tolerance, justice and respect."

The resolution urged "every Jew to play his part in his own sphere in furthering interracial and intergroup goodwill and harmony." It expressed "appreciation of the fact that the Board's activities continue to be directed towards the promotion of better understanding and goodwill between the Jewish community and other sections of the population."

Earlier, at a luncheon in his honor, the delegates hailed Gus Saron, the Board's general secretary, on the occasion of his completion of 21 years of service to the organization. Prof. Salo Baron of Columbia University, Jewish historian, addressed the final session of the congress.

PROPORTION OF AGED JEWS SHOWS SUBSTANTIAL INCREASE IN CANADA

MONTREAL, March 19. (JTA) -- The aging of the Jewish population of Canada has been highlighted in statistics compiled by Louis Rosenberg, well-known Jewish demographer on the research staff of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

In a study of the age of the Jewish population of the city of Montreal, Mr. Rosenberg has shown that in the past 25 years the number of persons above the age of 65 increased by 450 percent, though the general population has not quite doubled in the same period of time. The percentage of men and women aged 65 or more in the total Jewish population increased from 2.5 percent in 1931 to 6.4 percent in 1958.

The percentage of the aged in Montreal is not above the national total. Of the 204,800 Canadian Jews studied by the dominion census, 13,700 were over 65, constituting 6.7 percent of the total. (The proportion of Jews over 65 in the United States was recently reported as approximately 10 percent.)

JEWISH CONGRESS, PROTESTANTS RENEW APPEAL FOR FAIR SABBATH BILL

NEW YORK, March 19. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress today renewed its appeal to all members of the New York State Legislature to vote in favor of the Fair Sabbath bill which would permit Orthodox Jews who keep their stores closed on Saturdays to trade on Sundays.

Noting that the bill has the support of the entire Jewish community, the AJC appeal added that a number of civic organizations, including the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the Citizens Union, also favor passage.

The AJC appeal scored the present Sunday compulsory observance law as "a serious violation of the basic constitutional principle that each citizen is entitled to practice his religion without government interference." By designating Sunday as the religious day of rest for the entire community, the letter stated, the law compels those who observe Saturday as their Sabbath to abstain from business activity on two days during the week.

The Protestant Council of New York today addressed a statement to all members of the New York State Legislature supporting the Fair Sabbath bill. The statement said: "This is not a relaxation of Sunday observance, but an effort to give recognition to the rights of our fellow citizens of other faiths."

B'NAI B'RITH TO HONOR EBAN FOR CONTRIBUTING TO JEWISH ADVANCEMENT

WASHINGTON, March 19. (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith national headquarters announced the selection of Israel Ambassador Abba Eban to receive the B'nai B'rith Presidents Medal for "contributing to the welfare and advancement of the Jewish community." The Ambassador will receive the award from B'nai B'rith president Philip Klutznick on April 20 in Washington at a dinner marking the opening of Israel's 10th anniversary year.