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Yom Kippur Issue

U. S. JEWS USHER IN YOM KIPPUR TONIGHT; TOLD OF JEWISH NEEDS IN OTHER LANDS

NEW YORK, Sept. 23. (JTA).-- Jews throughout the world will usher in Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement, at sundown today with prayers which will conclude tomorrow evening with the blowing of the Shofar, ending the ten-day period of repentance which began with Rosh Hashanah, the Jewish New Year of 5719.

Jewish military personnel in the United States and at 65 overseas points will take part in the Yom Kippur services through arrangements made by the National Jewish Welfare Board. Jewish chaplains will lead the services in military stations and veteran hospitals in this country as well as in Alaska, Hawaii, France, Japan, Germany, and other overseas points where American military forces are stationed.

Yom Kippur services will be held by United Hias here for several hundred recently arrived Jewish immigrants from Europe and North Africa. For many of the worshippers, the services will constitute the first observance of Yom Kippur in a free land in more than a decade. In a Yom Kippur message, Carlos L. Israels, president of United Hias, emphasized the humanitarian principles of Judaism which have motivated the global Jewish migration agency in the rescue of Jews from countries of oppression.

The United Jewish Appeal, in a special Yom Kippur message issued by Morris W. Berinstein, general chairman, called upon Jews throughout America to "join in a common vow to keep the road of life open for their less fortunate brothers" as an appropriate Day of Atonement resolve "when Jews throughout the world take their individual vows to avoid the path of death and evil and choose the way of life and good." He urged immediate support of the UJA's current drive to raise \$40,000,000 in "vitality needed cash on pledges to community campaigns" between now and the end of December.

"The acute situation," the message said, "has developed in Israel. Recent developments in the Middle East have forced Israel's people to make every possible resource of their own available for safety needs. This threatens a disastrous slowdown in the humanitarian work of integrating scores of thousands of newcomers into Israel's productive life. At this moment, only the Jews of America are in a position to keep the vast immigrant aid programs advancing."

He added that pressure to emigrate to Israel continues as "additional thousands of Jews seek a release from lands of distress and danger" and that UJA must provide for the transport and resettlement in Israel of these thousands while continuing to supply sorely needed aid to other hundreds of thousands of distressed and dependent Jewish men, women and children in 24 countries.

The New York Board of Rabbis, which includes 700 Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis, said in its message: "The ability to say 'I have made a mistake and am willing to rectify it' is the eternal message of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement. There can be no self-improvement without self-criticism." The character of a person, an organization, a people or a nation can be gauged, in great measure, by its willingness to admit past errors."

The Rabbinical Council of America which represents 750 Orthodox rabbis in the United States and Canada, called in its message for the spiritual regeneration of man in his collective as well as private endeavor. "We pray on this Yom Kippur for a world of universal peace, freedom from racial and religious bigotry and a clear conception of the roots of the moral issues concerning the atomic era," the message said. "We also pray for the ultimate redemption of our hard-pressed brethren languishing in the darkness behind the Iron Curtain and for the full evolution of the land of Israel into a viable religiously noble and economically independent and completely secure state."

Dr. Maurice H. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, emphasized in his Yom Kippur message that "our efforts to attain world peace are being impaired by the racial disturbances in the North and South." The Reform Jewish leader stated that our resistance to communist tyranny, efforts in the UN, and causes on behalf of human rights are, vitiated by the outburst of bigotry in too many sections of our country." He pointed out that, "those who have locked out pupils from our public schools do not represent the real voice of America."

The Farband, Labor Zionist Order, expressed hope in its Yom Kippur statement "that the year 5719 will bring a solution to the many problems that beset the free world today. We

hope, particularly, that the United States will help bring peace and stability to the Middle East, by recognizing in the State of Israel a loyal and devoted partner in the cause of freedom and democracy.

"We pray that all people in the United States shall have the wisdom and strength to abide by the Constitution of the United States, as expounded by the Supreme Court, and put an end to the practice of school segregation which is a blot on our record in the free world," the Farband message said. The message was signed by Meyer L. Brown, president, and Louis Segal, general secretary of the organization.

Activities in Israel Stopped for Yom Kippur; Communication Halted

TEL AVIV, Sept. 23. (JTA) -- Five hundred synagogues, and halls converted to temporary houses of prayer, were readied this morning for the anticipated 1,000,000 worshippers who will take part in the Kol Nidre services which mark the beginning of Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

All activities throughout the nation are scheduled to come to a halt late this afternoon and even Israel's international airport at Lydda will be closed until the end of Yom Kippur tomorrow evening. Bus companies are cancelling all schedules between this afternoon and tomorrow evening, while the early railroad trains were crowded with tens of thousands of Israelis crossing the country to stay with families for the holiday.

Special religious services have been arranged in all army encampments and military kitchens will remain closed throughout the holiday.

The non-Orthodox Reconstructionist Prayer Book will be used publicly for the first time in Israel this Yom Kippur by groups in Tel Aviv, Jerusalem and Haifa sponsored by the Circle for the Renaissance of Religious Life. In Jerusalem, 70 worshippers attended Rosh Hashanah services at Progressive Party headquarters, where worship began for the first time with recorded organ music. There was no separation of men and women and both men and women were called to the Torah.

BRITAIN AND FRANCE REPORTED TO BE MAJOR SUPPLIERS OF ARMS TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Sept. 23. (JTA) -- Britain and France are the major suppliers of defensive arms to Israel, the New York Times reported today in a Washington dispatch which drew on diplomatic informants for its sources.

The United States is providing Israel with a lesser supply of weapons, the Times said, describing Washington's sales to Jerusalem as "the smallest part of the flow of supplies." While Washington has neither agreed to nor rejected an Israel "shopping list" of \$75,000,000 worth of military supplies submitted late in 1955, "this country encouraged Britain, France and Canada to sell the Israelis such major weapons as tanks and jets," the Times report said. Canada was pictured as not selling Israel arms at this time.

United States supplies to Israel were said to consist "for the most part" of anti-tank guns, "including recoilless rifles. This was said to have pleased the Israelis because previous U.S. sales have consisted mainly of semi-military supplies like trucks, half-tracks, other vehicles and spare parts.

The limited American arms sales grew out of an exchange of letters between Israeli Premier David Ben Gurion and President Eisenhower after the Iraqi coup last July. Initiated by Mr. Ben Gurion, who pointed out that this development had caused Israel concern, the correspondence led to an exchange of meetings between Secretary of State John Foster Dulles and Israel Ambassador Abba Eban.

APPREHENSION AMONG JEWS IN VIRGINIA MOUNTING; JEWS REPORTED "NERVOUS"

WASHINGTON, Sept. 23. (JTA) -- Apprehension among Virginia's Jews is mounting as additional schools are closed and racial tension heightened by Gov. J. Lindsay Almond's "massive resistance" against U.S. Supreme Court rulings. The 35 Jewish families residing in Charlottesville, Va., where two schools were closed, were reported "very nervous."

A rise in anti-Semitism was reported in some of the Virginia schools which are open. In one instance the principal of a junior high school exhibited anti-Semitic prejudice, in another it was an athletic coach. Teachers were involved in other cases. But such bias was deplored generally by school boards and administrators who do not wish Virginia accused of religious bigotry.

In Portsmouth, Va., an eleven-year-old Jewish girl was called "Jew-face," tormented by classmates, and beaten. She was the only Jewish pupil in the the class. The school's principal sternly reprimanded the 13-year-old non-Jewish girl who attacked and struck the Jewish child. He threatened her with expulsion.

Printed propaganda distributed in Norfolk and other cities was traced in instances to the state-wide segregationist front, the so-called "Defenders of State Sovereignty and Individual Liberties." One hate sheet distributed widely is the slick bi-monthly, the "Virginian," printed in Newport News.

NUMBER OF JEWS IN COMMUNIST CHINA DECREASING RAPIDLY, REPORT SHOWS

NEW YORK, Sept. 23. (JTA) -- Within one year the Jewish community in Communist China has decreased by about 25 percent, according to a report here today by the World Jewish Congress. One community organization, in Tientsin, has ceased to function, although a small number of Jews still remain in that city, the report said.

Information from the Council of the Jewish Community in Shanghai puts the total number of Jews in China registered with the Council at 294 as of June 30, 1958. Exactly one year ago the total was 397. The new report states that there are 84 Jews in Shanghai, 32 in Tientsin and 178 in Harbin. Comparative 1957 figures for these three centers were: 109, 55 and 229. Last year four Jews were listed as living in Dalny and Mukden. There is no reference to these towns in the 1958 survey.

In Tientsin, which once had a Jewish population of 2,000, the local Hebrew Association has ceased to function after more than 50 years of activity. The gradual diminution of the community made the liquidation of the Association necessary and steps in this direction were initiated late in 1957. The furniture, fixtures and other items belonging to the Association were sold by public auction, and the civil authorities were notified of the Association's intention to close. The one remaining Sefer Torah was transferred to Israel, and in January of this year, the Tientsin community's central body was totally liquidated.

The welfare of those Jews remaining in Tientsin is now the responsibility of the Shanghai Jewish Council. This body finds itself increasingly concerned with the plight of its own dwindling community, almost 25 percent of whom have to be supplied with free meals. A shelter house and a camp provide accommodation for about 20 needy members of the community. More than 50 percent of the Jews of Shanghai receive medical care at the expense of the Council.

Very recently the Chinese authorities informed the Jewish Council in Shanghai that no further burials should be made in any of the existing four Jewish cemeteries. This was followed by allocation to the Council of a separate plot in the public cemetery and by a request that the Wei Ming Lu Cemetery, established in 1917, and the Hwang pe Lu Cemetery, established in 1862, be removed to new sites outside the city. Between them the two cemeteries house 2,000 graves.

JEWS CLAIMS CONFERENCE GETS PLAN TO BUILD NETWORK OF CENTERS

PARIS, Sept. 23. (JTA) -- A three-year plan for the erection of a network of Jewish community centers in 20 French cities at an estimated cost of \$2,200,000 was today submitted to the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany by the Fonds Social Juifs Unifies, largest Jewish philanthropic organization in France.

The FSJU has asked the Claims Conference to meet half the cost of the centers network with funds obtained as reparations from Germany. The centers, it was stated, will contribute immensely to intensifying Jewish social and cultural life in France and will unify the Jews of France.

LAST WEEK TO REGISTER CLAIMS AGAINST GERMANY BY BELGIAN EX-RESIDENTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 23. (JTA) -- Former Belgian residents now in the United States were advised today that they have only one week left to register their claims with competent Jewish organizations in Belgium against the German Government for movable property confiscated during the Nazi occupation of Belgium. The deadline is September 30, 1958.

The West German Federal Restitution Law of 1957 applies to such confiscations provided that the property was carried off to the area of the Federal Republic of Germany or to Berlin, both East and West. Claimants in this category should contact the Aide Aux Israelites Victimes de la Guerre 121a chaussee de Charleroi, Bruxelles, from whom the forms necessary for filing claims may be obtained at a cost of three dollars. This organization will provide necessary evidence and assist claimants in prosecuting their cases. The deadline set by Bonn for receiving such claims is December 31, 1958.

RABBIS PROTEST FORCING POST OFFICE EMPLOYEES TO WORK ON SATURDAYS

NEW YORK, Sept. 23. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Council of America, organization of 750 Orthodox rabbis in the United States, has threatened to go to court to seek reversal of an order by the New York Post Office requiring prospective postal employees to agree to work on Saturdays, Sundays and holidays. First, RCA president Rabbi Emanuel Rackman will seek an appointment with the Postmaster General of the United States, Arthur E. Summerfield, to ask for recall of the order.

In a letter to New York Postmaster Robert K. Christenberry, Rabbi Emanuel Holzer, chairman of the RCA legislative committee, pointed out that the requirement would deny observant Jews employment because they would not work on the Sabbath or on religious holidays. In reply, Mr. Christenberry noted that the week-end volume of mail is very heavy and requires the presence of virtually all employees Friday night and through the week-end, and said he would not rescind the order.

POLISH AUTHORITIES COOPERATING WITH ORT SCHOOLS, DR. HABER REPORTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 23. (JTA) -- More than 30,000 students are expected to enroll in vocational schools of ORT, the Organization for Rehabilitation through Training, during the school year now beginning, according to a report today by Dr. William Haber, president of the American ORT Federation. ORT programs are located in 20 countries, chiefly in North Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

Dr. Haber, who has just returned from a survey of ORT activities in Israel, Iran, Poland and Switzerland, made his report to a meeting of the executive committee of his organization at Hotel Commodore. The Polish authorities, which invited ORT to establish training programs for Jewish repatriates, have thus far been cooperative, Dr. Haber stated. They have placed regular trade school facilities at ORT's disposal. During the nine months of its activities in Poland, ORT has set up classes for 2,000 persons in 18 cities.

Dr. Haber reported that vocational education in Israel was probably one of the fastest growing school programs in the world. In the ORT schools alone enrollment is increasing by one-third annually. Nevertheless, Israeli trade schools are not keeping up with the groundswell of youth seeking admission, nor with the requirements of industry for a steadily larger flow of trained personnel.

A two-front educational debate is shaping up in Israel, which could have far-reaching effects socially and economically, Dr. Haber told the committee. On the one hand is the effort by educators to raise school standards. On the other, is the threat that such standards tend to bar large numbers of youth, especially those from Oriental and North African immigrant families, who are most in need of social integration.

Dr. Haber urged a serious search for flexible educational forms and a far greater allocation of resources to all secondary education in Israel. A special program of vocational instruction for immigrant youngsters, tied-in to the state primary school system instituted by ORT a few weeks ago, has proven successful. Dr. Haber pointed to the new Syngalowski Vocational Center at Tel Aviv, built by Women's American ORT, in which the first classes are now opening as a "model for the future." He described it as "a new standard" for trade schools in Israel. It is the largest vocational school in the country.

George J. Mintzer, committee chairman, who presided at the meeting, announced that a bequest of \$25,000 had been received from the estate of the noted philanthropist and art collector, Wilhelm Weinberg. The gift will be used to purchase premises for an ORT school in Rome, Italy.

AMERICAN LEAGUE FOR ISRAEL PLANS CREDITS FOR SETTLERS FROM U. S.

NEW YORK, Sept. 23. (JTA) -- The creation of a special credit institution to aid Jewish settlers in Israel from the United States and Canada, was voted by the board of directors of the American Jewish League for Israel at a meeting in the Hotel Essex House, it was announced here today.

The motion was adopted following a report submitted by a committee which had been appointed to study the problem. The motion authorized Ezra Z. Shapiro of Cleveland, president of the League, to appoint a commission to draft a definitive plan for the proposed agency.

SO. AMERICAN ZIONISTS BACK MIDDLE CLASS IMMIGRANTS ON EXCHANGE RATE

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 23. (JTA) -- A demand that Israel Finance Minister Levi Eshkol reinstate a preferential exchange rate for middle class immigrants who bring capital with them to Israel was voted here today at a South American conference of General Zionists.

The parley, attended by 200 delegates from Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Colombia, Paraguay and Uruguay, warned that ending the preferential rate would adversely affect middle class immigration to Israel, a major portion of which comes from Latin America. The delegates decided to create special Latin American center for Zionist youth work and for organizing women into the General Zionist movement.

AREYH MANOR NAMED ISRAEL'S FINANCE MINISTER AT WASHINGTON EMBASSY

JERUSALEM, Sept. 23 (JTA) -- Areyh Manor, head of Israel's Purchasing Mission in New York, has been named Israel's new Minister for Financial and Economic Affairs at the Embassy in Washington, it was announced here today.

He succeeds Meir Sherman, who is returning to Israel to become director of the Pazz Oil Company, successor to the Israel Shell Oil Company.

A. B. POLINSKY RE-ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF REFORM FUND-RAISING DRIVE

NEW YORK, Sept. 23. (JTA) -- The re-election of A. B. Polinsky of Bethesda, Md., to his third successive term as general chairman of the Combined Campaign for American Reform Judaism was announced here today. The \$2,850,000 fund-raising appeal opened with the start of the Jewish New Year.