MOSCOW ADVISES SOVIET JEWS TO ASSIMILATE; PUBLISHES BOOK ON ISRAEL

LONDON, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- Jews in the Soviet Union are advised to assimilate completely and disappear as a separate entity "in accordance with Lenin's theories," in a book just published in Moscow, it was reported here today.


(Adlai Stevenson, in an article this week-end on his visit in the Soviet Union--distributed by North American Newspaper Alliance--reported that many Jews in Russia would like to emigrate to Israel but are not allowed to go. He said that an apparent reason for the Soviet policy was that "if Jews were permitted to leave, non-Jews might start wondering about life outside the Iron Curtain.")

TEL AVIV CHIEF RABBI NAMED CABINET MEMBER; VACANT CABINET POSTS FILLED

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- Tel Aviv's Sephardic Chief Rabbi Jacob M. Toledano was today named Minister of Religious Affairs in the Ben Gurion coalition government. Rabbi Toledano had been under pressure from at home and abroad not to accept the post.

The appointment of a non-party personality breaks a ten-year tradition which called for the Religions portfolio to be held by a member of the National Religious Party. Rabbi Toledano became the second Sephardic leader in the Cabinet; the other is Minister of Police Bechor Shitreet.

Born at Tiberias, the 78 year-old Rabbi Toledano has served the rabbinites of Tangiers, Cairo and Alexandria, before returning to his homeland. He fills the post vacated by Dr. Moshe Shapira, who, together with Dr. Joseph Burg, resigned from the Cabinet in the dispute over the right of an individual to identify himself as a Jew without recourse to rabbinical authority.

The Ministry of Posts and Telegraph portfolio vacated by Dr. Burg was handed to Dr. Burg to Ministry of Posts.

LONDON ACQUIRES BRITISH INTERESTS IN HAIFA OIL REFINERIES

LONDON, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- British Petroleum and the Shell Company have reached agreement with the Isaac Wolfson-controlled Paz Company on acquisition by Paz of the Haifa refineries, sources close to British Petroleum reported today. They added that the Israeli Government has given approval for the transaction.

It was also reported here that the Haifa-Tel Aviv oil pipeline, a six-inch line with an initial capacity of 570,000 tons annually, will go into operation in December. It will carry oil and kerosene from the Haifa refineries to central Israel.

The same sources also reported that Israel plans to convert the Elath-Beersheba crude oil pipeline to 16 inches soon, an expansion which would permit full use of the refineries.

SAND STORM CAUSES SERIOUS DAMAGE TO CROPS IN ISRAEL; POPULATION WARNED

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- A fine grey layer of sand, blown from the northeast this week-end, has already caused a million pounds ($550,000) worth of damage to crops and forests and endangered the lives and health of many Israelis.

An unusually cold sand storm has destroyed crops and fanned small brush and forest fires into major blazes. Doctors have issued warnings to asthmatics and others suffering from respiratory difficulties and persons with skin sensitivities to stay indoors and avoid contact with the fine powder. The major burden of the storm and subsequent damage has fallen on the Negev, though the north and central regions have also been hit.

CABINET BODY BLAMES ISRAEL COMMANDER FOR SHOOTING CURFEW VIOLATORS

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- An Israeli Cabinet committee investigating the tragic slaying of 43 Arab villagers at Kafr Kassem in 1956, on the eve of the Sinai jump-off, today reported, in effect, that the area commander, Col. Issachar Shadmi, must bear the blame for the drastic orders to shoot all curfew violators.
JEWS CONGRESS ATTACKS "PANIC PROPOSALS" ON SYNAGOGUE BOMBINGS

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 23. (JTA) — "Panic proposals" to combat vandalism and hate literature were attacked today by the American Jewish Congress as ineffective and a threat to civil liberties. Concluding a two-day meeting here the national administrative committee of the AJC warned in a resolution against attempts to curb bigotry and bombings by group libel legislation, postal censorship or Congressional investigations.

Such proposals, the resolution said, were dangerous because: 1. They treat the symptoms rather than the causes of recent violence and defamation; 2. They engender fear and hysteria; and 3. They threaten basic American freedoms.

The resolution said that recent anti-Semitic outbreaks must be considered as part of the general breakdown of respect for law in the South following the 1954 Supreme Court decision on school segregation. Responsibility for this lawlessness, the resolution stated, rests with Governors, Senators and other public officials who have expressed defiance of the Constitution.

The resolution emphasized that anti-Jewish defamation, vandalism and terror constitute a serious problem that should not be underestimated, but it scored exaggerations of the extent of the problem as tending to incite panic or hysteria. Hate mongering and anti-Jewish vandalism operate in cycles, the AJC statement declared. While the volume is high today, there is no reason to believe it will not again fall to lower levels. It urged that anti-Semitic attacks be placed in their proper perspective.

One of the most regrettable consequences of the fear rising out of exaggerated accounts of race hate publications and anti-Semitic violence, the AJC resolution stated, is that in the effort to suppress lawlessness, lawless measures should be urged. "We oppose the enactment of legislation that would make it a penal offense to defame racial or religious groups, the resolution said. "The same group libel statute that might be used to jail or silence hate mongers today can be used tomorrow to silence unpopular minorities whose views merit great public consideration. Freedom to express unpopular opinions is essential to our democratic tradition." Another threat to civil liberties was seen in proposals that would give postal authorities the power to exclude from the mails publications libeling racial or religious groups.

The American Jewish Congress statement proposed: 1. A Federal law to make the transportation of explosives across state lines with the intent to use them against communal buildings business places or dwellings a Federal offense; 2. Vigorous enforcement by the Department of Justice of present laws making it a Federal offense to conspire to deprive persons of federally secured rights; 3. A probe by the Department of Justice and the Federal Commission on Civil Rights of the denial of voting rights in the South; and 4. Acceptance of "full responsibility" by the Executive and Legislative Branches to implement the mandate of equality of education laid down by the Supreme Court.

Dr. Goldmann, Rabbi Prinz Call for Consolidation of Jewish Forces

Addressing the 300 leaders of the American Jewish Congress from all parts of the country, Dr. Joachim Prinz, national president of the American Jewish Congress, called for consolidation of all forces in American Jewish life committed to preserving Jewish peoplehood, strengthening Jewish identity and building a partnership with the people of Israel. Dr. Prinz urged a realignment of Zionist and other bodies in the United States that share a belief in the unity of the Jewish people around the world and in a common Jewish destiny.

He urged that these forces reorganize to meet the following main tasks: 1. Fulfillment of the American dream of full equality in a free society; 2. Acceptance of the concept of Jewish identification and Jewish peoplehood; 3. Creation of a meaningful, two-way relationship with the people of Israel.

Recalling that the American Jewish Congress was established 40 years ago as the representative and central organization of American Jewry, Dr. Prinz asked if it is not now appropriate to re-group those like-minded forces in American Jewish life for the achievement of common objectives. He said the AJC is the natural gathering place for the process of realignment and consolidation necessary to offer a "total program" for the contemporary American Jew who is determined to work toward a fuller democracy in America and yet who will not permit himself to deny or dilute his identity with the Jewish people both here and in the world.

Included in this identity with the Jewish people, Dr. Prinz said, must be the establishment of a "firm and free partnership with the people of Israel." He warned that the concept of Jewish identity and Jewish peoplehood is "by no means" accepted by the majority of American Jewry. Much missionary and educational work will have to be done in order to re-educate the new generation he cautioned.

Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress and of the Jewish Agency for Israel, told the audience that "the lack of a common platform where the great problems and policies of the American Jewish community could be aired is
preventing American Jewry from effectively playing its leading role in world Jewish affairs."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Dr. Israel Goldstein, former president of the American Jewish Congress. He said that there was a need for the American Jewish community to have "a representative, democratically constituted" organization to act as its spokesman.

A plaque was presented to Samuel Daroff of Philadelphia in recognition of his work as a member of the AJC and as a leader of the Jewish community here. The plaque signified that a room in his honor had been dedicated at the Stephen Wise Congress House, congress national headquarters in New York.

MIZRACHI CONVENTION ASKS FOR FEDERAL ACTION ON SYNAGOGUE BOMBINGS

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J., Nov. 23. (JTA) -- A resolution asking the United States Government to enact legislation making it a Federal offense to bomb schools, houses of worship and places of public assembly anywhere in the country, was adopted here today at the closing session of the national convention of the Religious Zionists of America. The organization was formed a year ago with the merger of the Mizrachi and Hapoel Mizrachi Organizations. Rabbi Isaac Stollman of Detroit was re-elected national president.

The 800 delegates also urged the government to ban from the mails all racial and religious hate literature. The President was asked to make use of the services of the FBI in investigating violence against schools, churches and synagogues.

In an appeal to the Government of the Soviet Union, the convention asked that it grant full religious liberties and unrestricted cultural freedom to its 3,000,000 Jewish citizens. The USSR was also asked to allow Jews who wished to emigrate to Israel to do so.

The United States was called upon to include Israel in the general NATO structure, in another international resolution. On the domestic scene, American Jews were urged to support worthwhile Israeli fund-raising campaigns including the United Jewish Appeal Israel Fund Organization and the Jewish National Fund.

All states were asked to adopt "fair Sabbath" legislation to relieve the hardship of observant Jewish businessmen and merchants. Civil service commissions on the state, city and Federal levels were urged to end the practice of scheduling competitive examinations on the Sabbath.

Addressing the convention last night, Moshe Shapiro, former Minister of Education in Israel, charged the Israeli Cabinet with "isolating the Israeli Government from Jewish communities the world over because of its efforts to instil secular practices in Israel." Mr. Shapiro declared that Premier David Ben-Gurion had "made a deplorable error" in his effort to issue an edict which was designed "to give a secular definition of what constitutes a member of the Jewish people." The question "who is a Jew" precipitated a Cabinet crisis in Israel last June and resulted in the resignation of Mr. Shapiro from his post.

"The question of Jewishness has always been determined by our rabbinical authorities who have been guided by the precepts of our religious teachings," Mr. Shapiro said. He charged that Mr. Ben-Gurion and members of his coalition government "wished to usurp this precious authority and convert it into a civil and secular matter in utter disregard of religious teachings." He pointed out that his resignation from the Israeli Cabinet was "not a matter of caprice."

"We cannot," he continued, "possibly consider returning to the Cabinet unless the question of Jewish identity is once again restored to the authority to which it fully belongs, namely, the Chief Rabbinate of Israel. Despite his criticism, Mr. Shapiro made a strong appeal for the support of Israel to "safeguard its economic and democratic way of life."

JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE TO HOLD ANNUAL MEETING IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- The annual meeting of the Joint Distribution Committee will be held on December 11 at the Statler Hilton Hotel in New York. It was announced today by Edward M.M. Warburg, JDC chairman. Leaders of Jewish communities from coast to coast will attend the meeting to elect officers for the coming year and to adopt a budget for JDC activities during 1959 on behalf of some 200,000 needy Jews throughout the world.

A principal speaker at the dinner climaxing the meeting will be Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice-chairman, who returned last week from a four-month survey of world refugee problems and Jewish needs that took him to Japan, southeast Asia, India, Pakistan, Australia, Iran, Israel and Europe.

The delegates will also hear a report on JDC's overseas activities by Charles H. Jordan, JDC director-general. Also reporting will be Lou Horwitz, JDC director in Israel, and Samuel Haber, former director in Morocco, who is now with JDC headquarters in Geneva.
ATLANTA RABBIS JOIN CLERGYMEN IN APPEAL TO ACCEPT DESEGREGATION

ATLANTA, Ga., Nov. 23. (JTA) -- Rabbis of all branches of Judaism joined Protestant clergymen here this week-end in a statement calling upon the South to accept desegregation of the public school system in line with the Supreme Court's decision.

The "save the schools" plan was endorsed by a total of 312 Atlanta clergymen. A 1957 statement on desegregation issued by Atlanta clergymen as individuals was not signed by the rabbis. In all, 17 denominations were represented in the latest statement. Though no Roman Catholic priests signed the statement, the Bishop of Atlanta praised the document.

Among the practical steps suggested by the signers were: the drafting of a public school operating plan in keeping with the law of the land; appointment of bi-racial citizens' committees to help maintain interracial peace on the local and statewide level; free discussion of the issues in church and synagogue.

CANADIAN POLICE CLAIM ISRAELIS OBTAIN ILLEGAL RESIDENCE IN CANADA

OTTAWA, Ont., Nov. 23. (JTA) -- The Department of Justice announced the designation of a Montreal attorney to assist the Royal Canadian Mounted Police to investigate the alleged illegal admission of residents of Israel into Canada. The authorities are said to have been aware of the situation for over a year.

Under Canadian immigration regulations, Israelis are admitted for residence in Canada only if they are close relatives of Canadian residents. Students are allowed to remain in Canada to pursue their studies but must leave the country upon completion of their courses. The present investigation, it was learned, involves Israelis who have been admitted as students but whose passports were illegally stamped "landed immigrant." Reportedly some 20 students are involved.

In Montreal, Israeli Consul General Michael Simon said: "We do not encourage emigration from Israel. And we most certainly do not encourage any improper means through which Israeli citizens obtain immigration into a friendly country using illegal pretences."

MIAII JEW ESTABLISHES $25,000 FUND FOR YIDDISH STUDY IN HIGH SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- A $25,000 fund to encourage the study of Yiddish in Yiddish clubs established earlier this year in the high schools of New York City, with the approval of the New York Board of Education, was announced today by Abraham Bergman, a Miami Beach businessman.

The fund will be known as "The Abraham and Addie Bergman Fund for the Encouragement of the Yiddish Language." It will be administered by a special committee in which the Committee for Yiddish in High Schools and the two Yiddish-language dailies, the Forward and the Day-Morning Journal, will be represented. The $25,000 will be made available to the committee at the rate of $2,500 a year for 10 years.

"ZIONIST RECORD" OF JOHANNESBURG CELEBRATES ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

JOHANNESBURG, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- The 50th anniversary of the "Zionist Record" was celebrated here today with the publication of a special edition of the weekly reviewing the record of Zionist progress in the last half century, Jewish communal development and the history of the paper. The "Zionist Record" was launched as a monthly in 1908 and has since functioned as the official organ of the Zionist movement of South Africa. C. Gershater is editor of the publication.

BEN TOUSTER RE-ELECTED TREASURER OF "CARE"; ACTIVE IN JEWISH AFFAIRS

NEW YORK, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- Ben Touster, New York leader in Jewish philanthropies, was re-elected as treasurer of CARE at the annual meeting of the non-profit overseas aid agency, it was announced here today. Mr. Touster is president of the Hias Immigrant Bank and a former president of United Hias Service. He was instrumental in bringing about the affiliation of United Hias as one of the 25 member agencies of CARE in 1952, and has represented that organization ever since on the CARE board. He is a director and member of the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee, the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and other Jewish organizations.

REMAINS OF MOSES HESS TO BE TRANSFERRED FROM GERMANY TO ISRAEL

COLOGNE, Nov. 23. (JTA) -- The remains of Moses Hess, one of the first Jews in the last century to project the idea of a Jewish national home in Palestine, will be exhumed from the Cologne Jewish cemetery and transferred to Israel for reinterment. He presented his idea in a volume entitled "Rome and Jerusalem," which was published in 1862.