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JEWS IN HAVANA FEAR VIOLENCE; SEEK REASSURANCE FROM CASTRO REGIME

MIAMI, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Jewish stores in Havana were attacked today by mobs following the fall of the Batista government, while leaders of the Jewish community there were seeking reassurances from representatives of the new regime which brought Fidel Castro into power.

A number of Havana Jewish families, including children, arrived by air in Miami this morning. They reported that the atmosphere in Havana was tense when they left the city, and that the Jews there are afraid that hot-headed Castro partisans might rise violently in the streets against segments of the population whom they have in the past charged with backing the Batista regime. A number of prominent Havana Jews were among those against whom such charges were voiced.

Representatives of the Castro forces who have been active in Miami soliciting aid for Castro, and are known to be friendly to Jews, left for Havana today by plane. They expected the Castro forces to enter Havana at any time during the day. It was hoped that these representatives would act to check any anti-Jewish action on the part of uncontrolled elements during the transitional chaotic period.

It was known here that Castro supporters in Havana had sought contributions from leading Jews in Havana during the civil war and received no response. In the chaos that was expected to prevail until the city returned to a normal life, some of these supporters--it was feared--would incite the mobs against Jews under the pretext that the latter refused to help finance the Castro revolution.

HAMMARSKJOLD DISCUSSES ARAB-ISRAEL ISSUES WITH BEN GURION AT SDEH BOKER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- United Nations Secretary General Dag Hammarskjold arrived this afternoon in Sdeh Boker, the kibbutz retreat of Prime Minister David Ben Gurion, for talks on Israel-Arab problems.

The two statesmen, meeting entirely by themselves, were scheduled to discuss Article VIII of the Jordan-Israel Armistice Pact, which deals with access to Jordan-held old Jerusalem in which the beleaguered Hadassah hospital and Hebrew University buildings are situated.

The Prime Minister was expected to reiterate Israel's demands that the Jordanians reopen free access to Mt. Scopus. During meetings this morning in Jerusalem with other Israel officials, Mr. Hammarskjold indicated he was willing to discuss Article VIII. The situation on Israel's borders also was touched upon but it was understood that a full review of these and other issues had been reserved for the sessions at Sdeh Boker.

Before going to the kibbutz, Mr. Hammarskjold was taken for a tour of the new Hebrew University campus and for a visit to the Weizmann Institute at Rehovot. He also made a brief visit to the Institute of Research on Arid Zones at Beersheba.

The UN Secretary General was expected to remain overnight at Sdeh Boker, where Mrs. Ben Gurion had prepared a room for him as well as arrangements for his first meal in the communal dining room with the kibbutz members. He will be taken by helicopter tomorrow morning to Jerusalem where he may meet with Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, before leaving Israel for Amman, the capital of Jordan.

Maximum Security Measures Taken to Protect Hammarskjold

Mr. Hammarskjold's arrival in Jerusalem yesterday and his visit to Sdeh Boker today were marked by maximum security arrangements. Police with submachine guns guarded every angle at every place where the UN statesman stopped. Some police were assigned to trees and rooftops of adjoining houses and others were deployed along the routes on which his heavily-escorted car passed.

Mrs. Meir took part in the talks in Jerusalem, the two conferring for an hour. A luncheon given in Mr. Hammarskjold's honor by the Prime Minister lasted two hours. Participating in the Jerusalem talks were a number of high United Nations and Israel officials.

HISTADRUT REQUESTS BEN GURION TO CHECK DAYAN; PROTESTS HIS SPEECHES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Pinhas Lavon, Secretary General of the Histadrut, served an ultimatum last night on Prime Minister David Ben Gurion to order former Army Chief of Staff Moshe Dayan to stop making political speeches which have enraged labor officials and left-wing parties in the coalition government.

The demand was made at a six-hour meeting of top Mapai leaders in Ben Gurion's office. Lavon reportedly told the meeting that if Gen. Dayan continued to advocate publicly a wage freeze and "efficiency dismissals" in the government and in Histadrut, it would be necessary to postpone the scheduled Histadrut elections.

Mapam and Achdut Avodah, Mapai's two left-wing partners in the coalition, oppose both proposals. While most Mapai leaders agree in principle with Gen. Dayan's ideas, they were understood to consider it unwise to say so publicly.

The anger of Mapai veterans reached a climax when Gen. Dayan publicly criticized "those who for 20 years had been sitting on the fifth floor," a reference to the site of the executives' offices at Histadrut headquarters.

It was reported that Gen. Dayan promised at last night's meeting that he would avoid making such deprecatory remarks. He insisted, however, that he would continue to discuss publicly all controversial issues even if that proved to be unpleasant for Mapai.

Mapai branches all over the country have protested against Dayan's attitude. In at least one instance, at the Mapai branch of Ramat Gan, a bitter dispute has broken out among the younger members and the veterans, necessitating intervention by the Mapai Party's own control department.

Histadrut's daily newspaper Davar, yesterday printed a cartoon showing Dayan as a small boy throwing stones against the windows of Histadrut. The cartoon labelled him "naughty boy." The paper said that the General's charges could only help to deepen the gap between the younger generation and the older and between the public and its elected representatives.

Ben Gurion Reported Seeking Joint Labor Front for Elections

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- A third attempt to create a joint list of Israel's three labor parties for the next elections to Knesset was seen today in an invitation from Prime Minister David Ben Gurion to representatives of Mapai, Achdut Avodah and Mapam to meet him in his office next Tuesday.

While the Prime Minister's invitation indicated specifically that the purpose of the meeting would be to "declare a three-month truce in inter-party strife and defamation," Mr. Ben Gurion added that if the proposed truce could be maintained for the three months, he would suggest it be extended for an additional year.

Political sources here suggested that the meeting might pave the way for renewed efforts to prepare a joint labor election list against any possibility of a General Zionist-Herut merger which has been discussed sporadically in the past. The first two labor party unity attempts failed, once because of a leak by Achdut Avodah of plans to send an emissary to West Germany, and the second time over the case of Aharon Cohen, the Mapam leader suspected of espionage.

It was learned from reliable sources that despite failures of merger efforts of the General Zionists and the right wing Herut, and despite the exchanges of charges between the two parties, they had privately approached a Hebrew University faculty member to mediate their differences. The General Zionists' support of Ben Gurion's proposal Sunday for direct elections of mayors, however, widened still further the gap with Herut.

RABBINICAL COUNCIL IN ISRAEL DEFIES SUPREME COURT; CONFLICT DEVELOPS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- A new conflict between religious and secular authority in Israel developed today when the Rabbinical Council declared that no outside agency could compel a supervising rabbi to grant kosher endorsements. The Rabbinical Council added that not even a rabbinical court could compel the rabbi to give a Kashrut endorsement to a person he did not trust.

The statement was viewed as a challenge to the Israel Supreme Court which issued an order yesterday to the Jerusalem Religious Council to show cause why it had refused endorsement of Kashrut to the President Hotel. The owner of the hotel has charged that the Council has withheld endorsement because the hotel initiated the mixed pool project which caused world-wide Jewish disputes.

A hearing on the show-cause order was scheduled for next week before the Supreme Court.

Histadrut Protests to Ben Gurion Against Chief Rabbi

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Pinhas Lavon, secretary-general of Histadrut, the Israel Federation of Labor, today lodged a complaint with Prime Minister David Ben Gurion against Chief Rabbi Itzhak Nissim, whom he charged with "insulting" the Histadrut's chief chaplain, Rabbi Brandwein. Both rabbis reverently attended the dedication of a new synagogue at Eilat. According to Mr. Lavon, Rabbi Nissim walked out when Rabbi Brandwein took the podium to deliver an official greeting.

ISRAEL DROUGHT REACHES ALARMING STAGE; WATER RATIONING CONSIDERED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Israel's prolonged drought produced a new series of alarming reports to the Ministry of Agriculture from various parts of the country, appealing for immediate help and the import of fodder for livestock.

It was reported today that the water level in most wells has dropped to the danger point and that municipalities were considering imposition of restrictions on the use of water by their inhabitants.

Weather forecasting experts indicated there was no hope whatsoever for rain in the immediate future. A "minyach" of sages of Safed, bearing lulavs and shofars, made their way early today to the tomb of Simon Bar Yochai, at Meron, and circled the tomb seven times, praying for rain.

The sages will go tomorrow to the tomb of Honi Ha-Magel, who, according to legends, warned the Lord that he would not step out of a circle he had made with his stick until the rains came. There the Kabbalists will again pray for rain.

PROTESTS AGAINST GERMAN FILMS PREVENT SHOWING OF BEST FILM ON ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- A German film about Israel, judged by the few here who have seen it as "possibly the very best ever made about Israel," is going to be kept off the Israel cinema market due to the many protests voiced in this country recently against the showing of German-made movies.

The film which had its second screening here last night--behind closed doors, to a select audience--is called "Paradise and Pressure Cooker." It is a documentary running an hour. The film will have its first public showing in Germany. Due to the opposition to German films here, the producers have cancelled plans to dub the film in Hebrew for showing in Israel.

RELIGIOUS MINORITIES IN ITALY DEPLORE COURT PREFERENCE FOR CATHOLICISM

ROME, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Italy's religious minority leaders expressed disappointment today over a decision of the Italian Constitutional court which upheld a clause of the Italian penal code imposing heavier penalties for insults against Catholicism than for those against non-Catholic religious groups.

A lower court had asked for a ruling on whether the clause, Article 724, should not be considered obsolete because the Italian constitution establishes the equality of all religious groups without affirmation that any one of them is a state religion. Article 724 provides fines of 800 to 24,000 lire for anyone found guilty of publicly cursing or "pronouncing outrageous words against the divinity or the symbols and persons venerated by the religion of the state."

The constitutional court ruled yesterday that the term "religion of the state" did not have the judicial meaning implied by the lower court. The constitutional court declared that article 724, like other penal code articles establishing punishments for offenses against religions, with lesser fines for non-Catholic religions, "merely acknowledges the fact that Catholicism is the religion of the overwhelming majority of Italians."

The ruling held that for this reason, Catholicism was entitled to stronger penal protection because of the "greater intensity of social reactions" evoked by offenses against the Catholic religion.

NEW BOMB THREAT ON FLORIDA SYNAGOGUE; POLICE PREVENT EXPLOSION

WEST PALM BEACH, Fla., Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Police continued their search today for the perpetrators of the latest bomb threat yesterday against a southern synagogue in which a shoebox crammed with railroad flares was found after a telephone call. One of the flares was marked with a Ku Klux Klan emblem.

The anonymous call was made to a newspaper reporter, Harold Flagg. The caller said: "Listen carefully. I have just placed four sticks of TNT alongside the synagogue on Flagler Street. It is set to go off in exactly 11 minutes. This is not a hoax."

Before the 11 minutes were up, police arrived at the synagogue and found the box, connected by a wire to a battery. Detective E. J. McCann said that "there was care taken in the assembly of the thing." The shoebox and its contents were to be shipped to the FBI laboratory in Washington for analysis, Detective McCann said. He added that it would not be known definitely whether the flares would have ignited until the tests in Washington were completed.

(The American Jewish Congress, in advancing proposals to halt bombings of Jewish institutions, said today that recent anti-Semitic attacks and Southern synagogue bombings are "symptoms of the general outbreak of lawlessness in the South since the Supreme Court desegregation decision." It emphasized that all approaches to the problem must be sought within the framework of constitutional limitations.)

JEWISH CONGRESS FILES LEGAL BRIEF AGAINST ARAMCO'S REFUSAL TO HIRE JEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress yesterday submitted a legal brief in its appeal against the dismissal of its complaint charging the Arabian American Oil Company, Aramco, with refusal to hire Jews.

The brief, filed with Charles Abrams, chairman of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination, supports the AJC oral application of November 25, which requested reconsideration of the finding by Elmer A. Carter, one of five members of the State Commission, that Aramco could continue to screen out Jews for employment in Saudi Arabia.

In his decision as investigating commissioner assigned to the case, Mr. Carter upheld Aramco mainly on the ground that State Department officials in Washington had advised him that a ruling against Aramco would "prejudice the company's operations" in Saudi Arabia and would "probably adversely affect other United States interests there as well."

Commissioner Carter, the AJC brief notes, apparently based his decision exempting Aramco from the operation of New York State's Law Against Discrimination, on the rule that Federal treaties and international agreements supersede inconsistent State legislation. But, the AJC points out in rebuttal, this rule applies "only in cases of treaties and executive agreements and not to informal statements by State Department officials."

The AJC brief goes on to note that Commissioner Carter, in his decision, cites no international compact between the U.S. and Saudi Arabia relating to the entry of Jews in the latter country. The only agreement referred to by Mr. Carter is the contract between Aramco and Saudi Arabia. This, the Congress contends, is "in no sense an international compact and has no legal effect whatsoever. Certainly the desire of a private oil company to realize profits, irrespective of all other considerations, cannot overrule the law and settled policy of New York State against racial and religious discrimination."

AMERICAN COMMUNITY BUILDERS GROUP GIVES \$100,000 TO HEBREW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- A gift of \$100,000 for the Hebrew University of Jerusalem, upon behalf of the principals of the American Community Builders of Park Forest, Illinois, was announced here today by Philip M. Klutznick, chairman of the firm's board.

Mr. Klutznick, who is international president of B'nai B'rith and also chairman of the board of directors of the American Friends of Hebrew University, disclosed that the donation is being earmarked for the establishment of a Chair of Clinical Psychology at the Jerusalem university of which he is a governor. The Chair will be named after Mr. and Mrs. Sam Beber. Mr. Beber is a principal of the development firm whose other members include Nathan Manilow and Jerrold Loebel.

In announcing the gift, Mr. Klutznick said that his associates particularly welcome the opportunity of contributing to the establishment of a Chair in Clinical Psychology at the Hebrew University. "This modest endowment," he said, "will enable the University to maintain and enlarge its research in a field which has unlimited possibilities for the future."

CHAIRMAN OF R. K. O. THEATERS CORP. PURCHASES \$100,000 IN ISRAEL BONDS

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Albert A. List, chairman of the board of RKO Theaters Corporation, has purchased \$100,000 in State of Israel bonds, it was announced today by Ira Guilden, national campaign chairman of the Israel bond drive. Mr. List also indicated his intention of buying an additional \$100,000 in Israel bonds in the near future.

In announcing Mr. List's purchase, Mr. Guilden said: "This large investment in Israel bonds by one of America's leading industrialists demonstrates not only Mr. List's faith in the future of the State of Israel, but also the fact that Israel is increasingly enlisting the economic cooperation of outstanding American businessmen. This Israel bond purchase will be a powerful stimulus to purchases by other Americans interested in strengthening the economy of this young democratic nation."

AMERICAN JEWS URGED TO TAKE ACTIVE INTEREST IN AFRICAN ISSUES

DETROIT, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The United Arab Republic of Gamal Adel Nasser is "the beachhead for the Communist movement in Africa and for this reason, among others, the American Jews should take a more active interest in African issues," Rep. Charles C. Diggs, Jr., Michigan Democrat, told The Jewish News here today on his return from the All-African Peoples Conference.

Citing the good relations between Israel and Ghana, the Congressman said that he had been "heartened" by those relations. He said the UAR had sent a large delegation to the conference but had been thwarted in its chief purpose, which was "to dominate the conference and project Nasser's personality."