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CASTRO REGIME DETERMINED TO PROTECT JEWISH RIGHTS; SEPHARDIC YOUTHS IN CASTRO TROOPS

HAVANA, Cuba, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Officials of the new Castro regime today indicated a clear disposition to protect all Jewish rights and interests and made it obvious that they would not tolerate looting of stores belonging to Jews or to any other elements of the population.

A survey made here by a special correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency established that no damage was done to Jewish institutions or synagogues during the few days of chaos that prevailed in Havana, nor were any Jewish civilians injured. Many Jewish-owned shops were damaged and looted during those days, but the attacks were carried out by criminal elements who exploited the chaos, and not by Castro's forces. Patrols of revolutionary groups are now protecting business firms which are reopening as life in the city returns to normal.

Informed sources told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency correspondent that the new Castro government includes intellectuals known for their friendship with Jewish religious leaders, as well as for their friendship to Israel. The prevailing opinion among Jews in Havana is that Israel should be among the first states to extend diplomatic recognition to the new regime. Israel Consul S.M. Kaplan, a local Jew, today expressed the hope of an early extension of recognition by Israel. The feeling here is that such recognition would strengthen Israel's relations throughout the Latin American countries.

Among the Castro troops marching into Havana are Sephardic Jewish youths from Santiago. They wear the "mezuzah" proudly on their chests. In Havana, the leader of an important group of university youths bearing arms in the Castro forces is Max Lesnick, a Jew. In Santiago, Jews have for many years been friends of the Castro family.

Most Havana Jews sought to avoid taking sides in the highly volatile situation, the JTA correspondent established. They avoided involvement in the political strife. But the youths of many Havana Jewish families joined the Castro university movement which was a source of the revolution's strength. Some officials of the fallen Batista regime had used extortionist methods against businessmen, although Batista himself apparently gave orders to avoid anti-Semitic appearances because of his concern for tourism from the United States.

BEN GURION PROPOSES THREE-MONTH "TRUCE" TO OTHER SOCIALIST GROUPS IN CABINET

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion today met with leaders of the Mapam and Achdut Avodah parties and proposed a three-month "truce" during which the three Socialist parties in the coalition government would refrain from attacking each other.

In the event this "trial" proves successful, the Premier suggested, it would be extended to the general election campaign later this year. If accepted, the "truce" would extend to public addresses by party representatives and articles in the various party newspapers.

Preparations for the general election campaign are in full swing among all major political parties in Israel and smear tactics are already in evidence in the party newspapers. There is also extensive speculation on possible party mergers.

ITALIAN PREMIER FANFANI TO MAKE SPECIAL VISIT TO ISRAEL; IS NOW VISITING NASSER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Italian Premier Amintore Fanfani is expected to come to Israel within the next two months, redeeming a promise made earlier, it was reported here today.

The Premier, who leaves today for a four-day visit to Cairo, has postponed the remainder of his scheduled tour of the Middle East. He will return to Rome from Cairo and make his way to Israel later on, in a special journey.

EGYPT REFUSES FRESH WATER TO NORWEGIAN SHIP WHICH CARRIED CARGO TO ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The Norwegian ship S.S. Sekvig, which had been refused fresh supplies of water at Port Sudan and prohibited from loading cargo for Europe because she plied the Israel trade, returned to Elath today. The Norwegian vessel will take on adequate water supplies at the Israeli port and will return home without cargo.

ISRAEL ALARMED OVER DROP IN LEVEL OF DEAD SEA; EXPERTS TO INVESTIGATE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- A team of Haifa Technion experts was called to begin an investigation of an "alarming" drop in the level of the Dead Sea, it was announced today.

Officials said that while there has been a constant drop in the water level of the inland sea, the decline this year was the sharpest ever recorded. Some authorities blamed the current drought, noting that the Dead Sea gets its waters from rivers emptying into it.

The Potash Company said today that the benefits from the drought for its operations in the Dead Sea were mixed. By increasing the concentration of chemicals in the Dead Sea waters, the drought has helped boost production of potash, but the concentration also makes necessary more fresh water to purify the potash.

The problem revived possible consideration of Prof. Walter Lowdermilk's proposal to bring water in an open canal from the Mediterranean Sea to the Dead Sea in replacement for fresh water being diverted from the Jordan River for irrigation.

ISRAEL TO HAVE ATOMIC REACTOR THIS YEAR; COOPERATES WITH FRANCE, BRITAIN

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Israel's first atomic reactor will be completed by the end of this year, the evening press reported today. The report said the reactor, which will be a small one, will serve for study of the uses of atomic energy for peaceful purposes.

The Israel Atomic Energy Commission, it was stated, has already circulated a letter to scientific institutes in Israel asking them to indicate fields in which the reactor might serve them.

Israel also was reported to be widening her cooperation with foreign countries in nuclear research. In addition to France, with which Israel has had such ties for several years, Israel is now cooperating with Britain and the Scandinavian countries, it was reported.

U.S. AND EUROPEAN INVESTORS TO PROVIDE \$25,000,000 FOR ISRAEL PIPELINE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The disclosure yesterday by Finance Minister Levi Eshkol that the eight-inch Elath pipeline will be replaced with a 16-inch line was seen today as an indication of the success of secret talks in the United States and Europe to raise \$25,000,000 for the larger pipeline.

Lord Rothschild and the Rothschild family were reported to have been instrumental in bringing together the American and European investors for the project. They included AMPAL, the American Bank, the Israel Discount Bank and its connected group in Switzerland and the Rothschild Bank as well.

The Beersheba to Haifa section is already 16 inches, experts noted, adding that with completion of the 16-inch line from Elath to Haifa, Israel will become a serious alternative to the Suez Canal for oil transport. The experts said that the full 16-inch line, expected to be completed in about 18 months, will fill all of Israel's needs and permit the export of 3,000,000 tons of oil through Haifa annually.

ISRAEL WANTS TO EMULATE THREE ASPECTS OF U.S. LIFE, BEN GURION SAYS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben Gurion said today that there were three aspects of American life which Israel wanted to emulate. He described these as technical and scientific know-how, the two-party system and the program of free high school education.

The Prime Minister made the comment at a reception for a group of Ohio leaders, including James Rhodes, Ohio state auditor, Alexander D. Mairibus, chairman of the Cayuhoga county Republican committee, and Elmer Keller, Columbus deputy auditor. The visitors, who are in Israel as guests of the Israel Bond campaign, later set out on a tour of Israel.

TWO ARABS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR KILLING OF ISRAELI

JERUSALEM, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Life sentences were imposed yesterday on two Gaza Arabs convicted of the murder of Roy Rothberg of the Nahal Oz kibbutz. The two were seized seven months after the crime during Israel's occupation of the Gaza Strip in the Sinai campaign.

The Jerusalem district court passed the sentences after hearing testimony that the defendants, one a farmer and the other a police sergeant, accompanied by an Egyptian officer, crossed into Israel territory, seized Rothberg and dragged him across the border where he was brutally murdered in April, 1956.

VIENNA, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The Communist-led Jewish cultural organizations of Poland have intensified their drive, aimed at convincing Jews in Poland that they should cease emigrating to Israel. Evidences of this stepping-up of a campaign that has been increasing in vigor in the last few months piled up here today after receipt of several reports about meetings held by the Communist-led organization in various Jewish centers in Poland.

Meetings of the local Jewish organizations were held in Wroclaw, Stettin and Lignicz. In all three of these large Jewish centers, the agendas contained the problem of "convincing the Jewish masses that emigration is not the best solution." All of the meetings also had high praise for the vocational training activities being conducted by ORT, but pointed to those activities as "proof" that emigration was not necessary, claiming that job potentials for Polish Jews have been bettered because of ORT's work.

At Wroclaw, the local meeting was told that, in the last few months, about 150 Jewish families have surrendered their emigration permits because they "became convinced" that they would be better off in Poland than "in other countries." The Wroclaw meeting was told by one speaker that former Jewish emigres in Israel, Canada, Australia and Uruguay have written "bitter" letters about their disillusionment and desires to return "home to Poland."

In Stettin, as in Wroclaw, the Jews were told "their place is in Poland." The Stettin meeting further declared: "In this land, where socialism is being built, the Jewish masses must be told that their position would be worsened, not improved, by emigration." The Jewish organization at Lignicz decreed more vigorous implementation of recent Communist Party decisions opposing emigration.

SAXONY TO COMPENSATE JEWS FOR COMMUNAL PROPERTY DESTROYED BY NAZIS

BONN, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The Federal Government of West Germany and the provincial government of Lower Saxony signed an agreement yesterday to pay Jewish organizations the equivalent of \$2,250,000 for Jewish communal property damaged or destroyed in Saxony during the Nazi regime.

Under the terms of the agreement, the state and Federal governments will each pay half of the settlement. Most of the damage occurred on Crystal Night, Nov. 9-10, 1938, when Nazi gangs rampaged through Jewish communities across Germany smashing Jewish homes, stores, synagogues and communal institutions.

NAZI COMMANDER TO FACE TRIAL FOR KILLING DUTCH JEWS AT MAUTHAUSEN

ANSBACH, Bavaria, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- One of the most important trials of ex-Nazis in the post-World War II period will get under way here shortly when Karl Chmielewski, one-time commander of a subsidiary camp of the Mauthausen concentration camp, and one of his former guards, Herbert Junge, will answer charges of having murdered thousands of Jews and other prisoners at the Nazi death camp.

Specifically, Chmielewski is charged with having ordered the murder of 389 Dutch Jews at the camp, near Linz, Austria, during 1941. In many of these cases Chmielewski ordered the "death bath," a torture he had devised himself. In the dead of winter, the prisoners were lined up near a pool and squirted with water hoses until they froze into a solid mass and then, tumbling into the basin, were drowned.

Ironically, Junge, who is now serving a prison term for robbery, came to the attention of the authorities during his earlier difficulties, while Chmielewski was uncovered as a fugitive from justice when he was brought to trial two years ago on charges of bigamy.

NAZI GUARD ADMITS AT TRIAL HE MIGHT HAVE KILLED JEWS IN CAMP

BONN, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- A written confession signed by Wilhelm Schubert, in which the former Sachsenhausen camp guard admitted he might have been guilty of the murders of Jewish and political prisoners, created a minor sensation yesterday when it was read at the trial of Schubert and his fellow-guard, Gustav Sorge.

Prior to the reading of the confession, Schubert had emphatically and consistently denied prosecution witness testimony that he had beaten and killed camp inmates. In the confession, the former guard admitted that "things might have happened the way the prosecution claims," but added that he could not "remember actual details."

He also said, in the confession, that he had called prosecution witnesses "liars" and "Jewish conspirators" because he felt "ashamed" of the acts he did remember committing.

SCIENTISTS LAUD I. L. O. ACTION TO BAR DISCRIMINATION IN EMPLOYMENT

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Recent International Labor Organization action to bar discrimination in employment in countries throughout the world was praised highly here today by social scientists attending the annual session of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

JEWISH GROUPS URGED TO ASK NEW CONGRESS TO IMPROVE IMMIGRATION, NATURALIZATION LAWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Jewish organizations were urged today to appeal to the 86th Congress, which opens tomorrow, to enact immigration legislation which would "correct the deficiencies" of the present immigration laws. The call was issued by the National Community Relations Advisory Council, the coordinating body of six national Jewish organizations and a number of local Jewish councils.

"The 85th Congress," the NCRAC said, "enacted emergency measures to provide for the admission of refugee escapees from Communism and from the Middle East, and to regularize the status of the Hungarian parolees. These laws are commendable as humanitarian measures, but reflect a patchwork approach which is no substitute for the basic overhaul of the immigration code, which President Eisenhower and the platforms of both major parties have called for.

"The McCarran-Walter Law continues the racist national origins quota system for admitting immigrants, contains unnecessarily harsh deportation provisions, unfair distinctions between native-born and naturalized citizens, and inadequate review procedures. It continues to do irreparable harm to the foreign policy and to the domestic welfare of our nation.

"We call upon the members of our community organizations to urge the 86th Congress promptly after it convenes in January 1959, to enact legislation to correct these deficiencies, especially to adopt a substitute non-discriminatory formula, sufficiently flexible to cope with emergency refugee needs as they may arise," the statement declared.

New Congress Will Not Transfer Jurisdiction Over Immigration

WASHINGTON, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Rep. Sam Rayburn, Speaker of the House, killed yesterday the likelihood that jurisdiction over immigration and passport legislation would be transferred from the House Judiciary Committee to a reconstituted Committee on Un-American Activities to be known as the Committee on Internal Security. Addressing his first press conference of the current Congressional session, Mr. Rayburn said simply: "We're not going to do that."

With these words he turned thumbs down on a proposal by Rep. Francis Walters, co-author of the highly controversial McCarran-Walter Immigration and Naturalization Act. Rep. Walter, who is chairman of the House Un-American Activities Committee, is chairman of the Judiciary's units Immigration Subcommittee. In that capacity he and Rep. Emanuel Celler, Judiciary Committee chairman, have clashed frequently.

Since Rep. Walter voiced his proposal last week, opposition has been heard in many quarters including the Central Conference of American Rabbis and former Sen. Herbert H. Lehman who pointed out that such a transfer of jurisdiction would place the loyalty of every immigrant, in effect, under suspicion.

CHURCH SYNOD IN SOUTH AFRICA ASSURES IT HAS NO ANTI-JEWISH INTENTIONS, LEADER SAYS

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Dr. L.V. Rex, member of the Dutch Reform Church synod in the Transvaal, denied today that the synod's recent statement that its members should judge a candidate for public office on whether or not he is of "good Christian character" was a plea not to support Jewish candidates.

In an interview with the newspaper Die Volksblad, in which he commented on the decision of the South African Board of Deputies to seek clarification of the synod's position, Dr. Rex declared:

"I can well understand that the statement could be interpreted in the way the Deputies think. But I want to give an assurance that it is not aimed against Jews at all. The matter of the candidate's faith was not questioned at all." He added that the synod's proposal was aimed at the "behavior and character" of a candidate, not his religious faith.

UNITED STATES EDUCATOR BECOMES ADVISER TO JEWISH STUDENTS IN SOUTH AFRICA

JOHANNESBURG, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- Leo Schwartz, American educator, writer and lecturer, arrived here today to assume the post of adviser to the South African Board of Deputies on problems of Jewish students attending universities.

Mr. Schwartz, who arrived here for an 18-month assignment through the cooperation of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, immediately began consultations with leaders of the Board of Deputies, Zionist Federation and other organizations concerned with student problems. He also plans to attend a student camp seminar this week-end and consult with student leaders.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY PUBLISHES HISTORY OF JEWS IN UTICA BY RABBI KOHN

NEW YORK, Jan. 6. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Historical Society announced today the publication of The Jewish Community of Utica, in its American Communal Histories Series, by Dr. S. Joshua Kohn, who served as rabbi of Temple Beth El in Utica from 1930 to 1946.