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U. J. A. PARLEY CLOSES WITH APPEAL TO AID EMIGRATION OF RUMANIAN JEWS

MIAMI BEACH, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The United Jewish Appeal conference, launching the 21st annual campaign of the UJA, concluded here today following strong appeals to American Jewry to provide maximum funds in the shortest possible time to meet the mass immigration crisis confronting Israel in connection with the movement of Jews from Rumania and other East European countries. More than 1,500 Jewish communal leaders from all parts of the country attended the parley.

A message to the gathering from Israel Premier David Ben Gurion expressed the hope that American Jews would "share with us both the great opportunities and the immense challenge posed by this fateful immigration trend." The Premier said that "immigration has soared in the last few months and will go even higher." He added, "our people are hard-pressed but fully determined to keep their pledge to welcome any and all Jews to our shores."

An immediate response to Mr. Ben Gurion's message and to the speakers at the conference came from leaders in attendance at a dinner last night who announced their own 1959 contributions and other large gifts already secured in their home communities. A highlight of the evening was the presentation of special awards to Israel Ambassador Abba Eban and to the noted comedian, Jack Benny. Both were guests of honor at the gathering. They were cited for their humanitarian services in behalf of immigrants to Israel and Jews in need overseas.

In their pleas, Ambassador Eban, Morris W. Berinstein, UJA general chairman, and Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA executive vice chairman, speaking at the dinner, told American Jews that it will be their duty this year to help 100,000 Jews leave East European countries for permanent settlement in Israel where they must be given a chance to start a new life. Mr. Berinstein told the audience "the 2,000,000 people of Israel are ready to give the newcomers the greatest gift anyone can give--their homes. We are only asked to give the more modest gift of our dollars but we must give them quickly and more generously than ever."

Mr. Eban said Israel was rising "in strong heart and buoyant purpose" to meet "its most exalting challenge--the integration of our kinsfolk now streaming towards us from Europe." He emphasized that Israel "with a new potentiality of industry, commerce, immigration, science and technology" could sustain a larger population than now. "This blessed increase will bring nothing but welfare and benefits to our nation within the framework of its abiding fidelity to international peace, justice and law," he stated.

Rabbi Friedman warned that "the figure of 100,000 Jews from Eastern Europe; particularly from Rumania, could be an under-estimate." He said "there is evidence that more than that number are already registered for immigration." The 1959 nationwide United Jewish Appeal seeks a \$100,000,000 special fund this year to aid the 100,000 immigrants expected to pour into Israel from Eastern Europe. This special fund is sought "over and above UJA's regular 1959 goal of \$105,000,000."

Israel Can Absorb the New European Immigrants, Eban Says

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban tonight asserted that as a result of Israel's consolidation in the past ten years the absorption into Israel of the new influx of European Jews "is fully within Israel's capacity, if these are augmented, as they should be, by the responsible solidarity of our fellow Jews abroad."

Mr. Eban spoke before some 1,200 persons, including leaders in all walks of Jewish life assembled at the 51st annual dinner of the Bnai Zion, American fraternal Zionist organization, held tonight in the Grand Ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in his honor. The dinner marked the dedication by the Bnai Zion of a forest in Israel named for Ambassador Eban.

Nathaniel S. Rothenberg, grandmaster of the Order, presented to the Ambassador a sterling tray together with a parchment certifying that a forest comprised of 30,000 trees has been dedicated in the name of Ambassador Eban, located on Jewish National Fund land in the Adullam area between Jerusalem and Transjordan. Addresses of tribute were delivered by Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, Dr. Harris J. Levine, president of the JNF of America, Congressman Abraham Multer, and others.

EMIGRATION IS RUMANIA'S METHOD OF SOLVING JEWISH PROBLEM, GOLDMANN SAYS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The release of Rumanian Jews who wish to go to Israel is a "natural development" springing from the fact that the East European countries have developed a non-Jewish intellectual and professional class for whom they desire to make room by replacing the Jewish professionals and intelligentsia, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Jewish Agency, told a press conference here today. The method chosen by the Communist states to solve their Jewish question, he added, was to grant permission to emigrate.

Reporting various aspects of his recent conversations with West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and members of the Bonn Cabinet, Dr. Goldmann said that he found Bonn "understanding" of the problems of Jews in the East European countries, particularly those in Rumania, who had been prevented from claiming indemnification for damages suffered at the hands of the Nazis. He raised the question specifically of Jews who left the Soviet bloc states in the past five years, too late to file under the provisions of the L. nn 1952 law.

The world Jewish leader said he had made recommendations to the Germans for speeding the processing of claims for individual restitution within Germany, particularly in the province of Rhine-Pfalz which handles the majority of claims from Jews who are Israeli nationals or stateless persons. This province, he noted, had a backlog of 500,000 claim applications which would require 12 years to process at the present pace. The law only allows four years. He estimated that because of the slow processing only about 60 percent of the available funds were being paid out for individual restitution.

Commenting on the wave of anti-Semitism in Germany, he expressed the opinion that it was basically the work of former Nazis and "not serious." But he had warned the German leaders that Nazi anti-Semitism also had had "small" beginnings. He characterized as very serious the fact that a German judge--found to have been a former Nazi--had acquitted the distributors of anti-Semitic literature.

Reports on Germany's Action to End Anti-Semitic Manifestations

He said that the Bonn Government was greatly disturbed by the anti-Semitic manifestations and was pressing for strong legislation to end them. He reported that he had told the German leaders that the problem could not be solved by legislation alone, but would also require an educational program among the youth.

On the question of caring for Jewish cemeteries, mass graves and memorials to Nazi victims, he said that an international Jewish committee would have to be established to carry out such a function. He reported that an agreement in principle had been reached with France regarding the removal of the remains of Jewish victims at Bergen-Belsen, following Jewish religious protests against the opening of graves. Under the pact, only graves which would soon revert to the control of the German military establishment would be opened, because in such cases the Jews were concerned about transferring Jewish remains from areas to be controlled by the German armed services.

In other remarks, Dr. Goldmann said the Austrian Government's attitude toward compensation to Jewish victims of the Nazis was unsatisfactory. He also expressed the hope that a large delegation of Soviet Jews would be permitted to attend the forthcoming World Jewish Congress meeting in Stockholm.

ISRAEL OFFICER MAY BE COURT-MARTIALED FOR GAZA BORDER INCIDENT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The Israeli officer who commanded the four-man patrol which crossed the Gaza Strip border in pursuit of an Arab gang which had fired on them may be court-martialed, an Israeli Army spokesman said today. He revealed that the army prosecutor's office was investigating the circumstances of the case.

Giving the Israeli version of the case, the spokesman said that the Israeli unit had been stopped by two different United Nations Emergency Force patrols while inside Egyptian-controlled territory. The first UNEF patrol saw the Israelis being fired upon by the Arabs, the second did not, he said. He expressed surprise that the UN version of the affair had failed to mention that the firing which started the incident came from Egyptians.

The Israeli unit found footprints and discarded plastic parts which led them to believe an Egyptian party had planted landmines, the spokesman said. So it followed the track toward the border where it was fired upon. The Israeli officer commanded his men to return the fire and then set out in pursuit of the attackers, despite the fact that they were more numerous than his patrol. When the officer found himself and his unit inside Egyptian territory, he ordered a cease-fire and retreat toward Israel. It was then that the two UNEF patrols, at separate times, intercepted the patrol.

The spokesman said that the commander was right in deciding to strike back at the attackers, but wrong in firing across the border and in crossing the border. He would be court-martialed for the last two actions. (United Arab Republic Legate Dr. Omar Loutfi filed a complaint over the incident with the UN Security Council this week-end. His letter asked that the complaint be circulated to Council members and noted that the UAR reserves its right to future action in this matter.)

RETIRED TURKISH ARMY OFFICER CONVICTED OF ESPIONAGE IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Shahap Tan, a retired Turkish Army major, was convicted today of espionage charges in behalf of the United Arab Republic. Maj. Tan's convictions in Tel Aviv District Court followed a plea of guilty to charges of having collected information and photos for Egyptian intelligence agents with whom he was in contact.

The court agreed to postpone imposing a sentence until a physician had had an opportunity to testify to Major Tan's mental condition. The defense claimed that he had been hurt in Turkish Army maneuvers and the injury still affected his mental condition.

JEW WHOM EGYPT DEPRIVED OF \$50,000,000 FORTUNE LIVES IN POVERTY

LONDON, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Joseph Smouha, 81-year-old British Jew who became a refugee from Egypt in the aftermath of the Sinai-Suez campaign after spending most of his life building a fortune reputed to be in the vicinity of \$50,000,000 was reported today to be ill with the flu in an unheated Paris flat. His financial situation was described as "desperate" and his wife told correspondents that they had lost everything when they fled Egypt.

The claims of the Smouha family, some 55 descendants of Joseph Smouha, reportedly exceeding 16 million pounds, for a large tract of land on which are located residential, business and recreational property, are believed holding up the signing of the recently negotiated Anglo-United Arab Republic pact. The Egyptians listed the Smouha holdings as "agricultural property" valued at about \$300 an acre when the pact was drawn, but the British subsequently discovered that it was developed land worth in excess of \$56,000 an acre. The Smouhas were the richest British Jewish family in Egypt.

Meanwhile, Mr. Smouha's eldest son declared here last night that "The British Government has not consulted us about our property. We had no say in this matter. I am trying to get information as to what is happening from the Foreign Office."

BEN GURION TERMS "DR. ZHIVAGO" A MOST DESPICABLE BOOK ABOUT JEWS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion this week-end labelled Boris Pasternak's novel "Dr. Zhivago" one of the most despicable books about Jews ever written by a man of Jewish origin. He added that it was "a pity that such a book should come from a man who had the courage to defy his own government."

The Premier said that in "Dr. Zhivago" a man who has been a Jew and has been "converted to Christianity dared ask why the Jews are unassimilated." He added that this man "became the torch bearer of Christendom with Christ's appearance."

GERMANY'S UPPER HOUSE PASSES BILL AIMED AT CHECKING ANTI-SEMITISM

BONN, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The Upper House of the West German Parliament yesterday approved a bill sponsored by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer's Cabinet imposing fines and penalties for defamation of national, religious and racial groups.

The measure now goes to the Lower House. If it is approved in that chamber, it will then be sent back for a second and final approval by the Upper House. The bill, providing stiff penalties for attacks on racial and religious groups, was introduced by the government following the recent waves of anti-Semitism throughout Germany.

TWO NAZI CAMP GUARDS SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT; KILLED JEWS

BONN, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Gustav Sorge and Wilhelm Schubert, former S.S. guards at the Sachsenhausen concentration camp, were convicted this week-end of dozens of murders of Jews and other prisoners at the death camp. Each drew a life sentence, the maximum allowable under West German law for the crime of murder.

Both men admitted a number of killings, using as their excuse that they were obeying orders from superiors. In addition, Sorge admitted a number of brutalities, while Schubert pleaded that he regretted now his past actions.

Even as the sentences were announced, the West Berlin police force suspended 16 policemen pending investigation of their service in World War II in a Gestapo battalion which carried out mass executions of Jews, Russians and Poles.

GERMAN PAPER DISCHARGES EDITOR AND WRITER FOR ANTI-JEWISH ARTICLE

NUREMBERG, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- The Central Council of Jews in Germany withdrew this week-end its charges of slander against the newspaper "8-Uhr Blatt" for publishing a fraudulent Jewish ritual murder story.

The Central Council's action followed disclosure that the newspaper had discharged the editor and the writer of the article and, further, had made a voluntary contribution of 3,000 marks (approximately \$750) to the Bavarian Red Cross in restitution for publication of the article.

ARGENTINE JEW NAMED MEMBER OF CABINET; BECOMES MINISTER OF LABOR

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- David Blejer, Under Secretary in the Ministry of Interior since Dr. Arturo Frondizi was elected President of Argentina, will be sworn in as Minister of Labor and Social Security on Wednesday.

Mr. Blejer, a Jew, steps into one of the most difficult posts in the Cabinet at a time when labor relations and Peronist political intrigues around them have become one of the government's most pressing problems. With strikes increasing in number and the problem of wages in an inflationary situation continuously in the forefront, the appointment of Mr. Blejer is seen here as an indication that the government--supported by the military--is taking tighter control of the labor situation and adopting a cooler position toward the Peronists.

\$1,000,000 RAISED AT NATIONAL HISTADRUT CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Cash gifts amounting to \$850,000 were presented today and an additional \$200,000 was pledged by delegates from 75 communities throughout the United States at the mid-winter roll call conference of the National Committee for Labor Israel here. The thousand delegates also adopted a resolution calling for all-out aid to the special emergency campaign of the 1959 United Jewish Appeal, the Israel bond drive and the Israel Histadrut campaign.

Mayor Gershon Agron of Jerusalem, who was one of the principal speakers at the conference, stressed the significance of organized labor in Israel which, he said, has not only contributed to the economic and social progress of the young democracy, "but serves to bridge the small nation with the great, but underdeveloped, free states of Asia and Africa." Lauding the "cooperative and venturesome spirit of Histadrut," he said the Histadrut has brought new industrial life, as well as numerous medical institutions, to Jerusalem, where half the population of 160,000 are affiliated with the labor federation.

Other speakers included Simcha Pratt, Israel Consul General in New York; Dr. Dov Biegun, national secretary of the Histadrut campaign; Louis Segal, executive member of the Jewish Agency; Alexander Kahn, general manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, and others. The resolution greeted "with enthusiasm" the reports from Israel that the rate of immigration to that country has once again been accelerated and promises to reach the highest levels since the establishment of the state.

"This renewed immigration, from many lands," the resolution continued, "will bring to Israel large numbers of Jews who have long dreamed of this opportunity to reconstitute their lives as free, dignified citizens of an independent Jewish State. The responsibility of transporting the immigrants and their initial absorption, which requires staggering amounts of money, is primarily that of the United Jewish Appeal, which also shares with the Government of Israel the task of housing the newcomers. The sale of Israel bonds provides the means for economic development that creates work for the newcomers."

A memorial service for Joseph Sprinzak, Speaker of the Knesset, was conducted at the opening of the afternoon session. Anshel Reis, representative of the World Federation of Labor Zionists in Tel Aviv, delivered the eulogy for the 74-year-old Israeli statesman who had been a founder and former secretary-general of Histadrut. "Mr. Sprinzak was a man of universal interests who was responsive to all matters affecting the fate of the Jewish people," Mr. Reis stated.

"SHOLEM ALEICHEM WEEK" PROCLAIMED BY NEW YORK MAYOR

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Mayor Robert Wagner yesterday proclaimed a "Sholem Aleichem Week" for New York City in honor of the famous Jewish writer whose 100th birthday anniversary is this year being celebrated throughout the world. In Israel and in the Soviet Union special postage stamps have been issued marking this anniversary.

The first anniversary celebration in the United States was held tonight at Hunter College here. The celebration was arranged by the Farband-Labor Zionist Order. Prominent Jewish actors participated in presentations of Sholem Aleichem characters.

JAPAN TONAME NEW MINISTER TO ISRAEL; SERVED IN POST AT THE VATICAN

TOKYO, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Shiro Haga, counsellor of the Japanese Embassy in the Vatican, will be named minister to Israel shortly in a general reshuffling of Japanese envoys, Foreign Minister Aichihiro Fujiyama announced. Mr. Haga was head of the foreign affairs section of the parliamentary library before he became counsellor of the Japanese Embassy in the Vatican in 1954. He is 48 years old.

NISSIM TEUBAL, ARGENTINE JEWISH LEADER, DEAD; WAS ACTIVE ZIONIST

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 8. (JTA) -- Nissim Teubal, industrialist, philanthropist and communal leader, died here today at the age of 64. Mr. Teubal, together with his brother, Ezra and Elias, came to Argentina from Syria and founded a large textile manufacturing business. In common with his brothers, Mr. Teubal had been active in Zionist circles, various Jewish groups and had been an important contributor to the United Israel Campaign.