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JEWS OF WORLD CELEBRATE PASSOVER, FEAST OF LIBERATION

NEW YORK, April 22. (JTA) -- At sundown, today, Jewry throughout the world reconsecrated itself to the theme of freedom from oppression. At millions of seders, Jews ate and pointed to the unleavened bread, the matzoth, "the bread of affliction." The ancient "four questions" were asked, and the answers came from the traditional Haggadah, the old narrative that tells of the liberation of the ancient Hebrews from bondage in Egypt. Passover was here. Joy and solemnity, commemoration and rededication comprised the theme of Passover 5719.

From Adak in the Arctic Aleutians to Karachi in Pakistan, from Prague and Wroclaw behind the Iron Curtain to the newest immigrant settlement in Israel, the spirit of Passover reigned, and the paraphernalia of Passover observance was on hand--from bitter herbs to sacramental wine, from memories of persecutions to hopes for brighter future. Young and old, civilian and servicemen celebrated.

Jewish men and women in the armed services of the United States participated in special Passover services, in many cases conducted by circuit-riding Jewish chaplains, all the way from Anchorage, Alaska, to Tripoli, Libya, in camps in continental America and bases in the Caribbean, Hawaii and Greece. The National Jewish Welfare Board's "Operation Pass-over" embraced military installations in the United States and in 72 countries overseas, enlisting for the task 370 full-time and part-time Jewish chaplains, a staff of 25 USO-JWB field workers, aided by 10,000 volunteers around the globe.

Israeli naval personnel undergoing submarine training at Britain's base in Portsmouth, England, were guests at a seder conducted for them by their country's Ambassador to the Court of St. James, Eliahu Elath.

Holiday Observed in Soviet Bloc, Far-Flung Communities

Even in the Soviet bloc, Passover was celebrated. In Communist countries where a more liberal attitude prevails toward Jews--as in Czechoslovakia and Poland--matzoth had been baked, often in state bakeries, wines had been issued from state cellars, synagogues usually deserted were crowded with holiday worshippers, seders were conducted in communal halls and in many homes.

Where religion is sharply suppressed, as in the Soviet Union, Jews were believed to have tuned in short-wave radios--some of them listening surreptitiously and at considerable risk--to catch the strains of Passover celebration broadcast from giant transmitters in Europe over facilities of Radio Liberation.

In eleven other far-flung countries, in small communities where seldom a Jewish traveler visits the forlorn remnants, Passover celebrations were made possible through the Joint Distribution Committee's advance planning. A quarter of a million tons of matzoth, and many other Passover supplies had been distributed to those communities by the JDC.

Radio played a part in Passover celebrations elsewhere, besides the Soviet Union. There were special programs on the air in the United States and in Latin American countries, in Israel and in Britain, in France and in Algeria. In the latter area, the Grand Rabbinate had arranged a special program, parts of which had been pre-transcribed in Israel.

Many Tourists Make Pilgrimages to Israel

Jews from all over the world, many of them from the United States and Canada, made the traditional pilgrimage to Israel on Passover. Israeli tourist officials reported in Tel Aviv, that the tourist influx in the 48 hours preceding the first seder was "unprecedented." Regular and chartered planes landed one after another at Lydda airport while ships were advancing their schedules to arrive in Haifa in time to permit passengers to participate fully in the holiday.

Internal tourist traffic also reached a peak several hours before the Seder. Public Transport facilities mobilized every moveable vehicle to bring thousands of celebrants to their destinations.

Markets were jammed with all holiday merchandise and foodstuffs, with only fresh fish lacking, raising the certainty that many celebrants would have to do without gefilte fish.

JEWSH LEADERS STRESS SPECIAL RESPONSIBILITIES OF AMERICAN JEWRY

NEW YORK, April 22: (JTA) -- Jewish leaders throughout the free world joined today in greeting their co-religionists on the occasion of the Passover. Israel's two principal spiritual leaders, Ashkenazic Chief Rabbi Itzhak Halevi Herzog and Sephardic Chief Rabbi Itzhak Nissim, issued special holiday messages addressed to Jews in the Diaspora as well as in Israel.

Chief Rabbi Herzog declared: "The premise that every Jew must regard himself as having been in the exodus from Egypt, and must endeavor to evaluate his experiences in the light of the great Divine manifestation during the Exodus era, was never more appropriate than it is today."

Chief Rabbi Nissim stated: "The great miracle of the Exodus from Egypt, one of the critical and important events in our history, has become the Column of Light which marched and hovered before the Nation ever since it was created, and has operated as inspiration to our spirit and to our consciousness in the search for liberty and national freedom."

Ben Gurion Appeals on Behalf of New Immigrants

Israel's Prime Minister David Ben Gurion sent a special Passover message to Morris W. Berinstein, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, declaring: "The approach of our historic season of liberation with its message of emancipation must make us even more aware of our great mutual obligations to the thousands who wait for the moment when they can journey to a new life of freedom on Israel's soil. Let it inspire us all to provide increased aid both for those who wait and for the more than twenty thousand who have come in recent months."

On behalf of the UJA, Mr. Berinstein emphasized the Appeal's concern for the transportation to Israel, and the absorption and resettlement in Israel, of the many immigrants coming into that country from many parts of the world. The arrival of these Jews in Israel, said Mr. Berinstein, "is not the whole story. In some vital ways, he declared, they are not "entirely" at home. His message continued:

"To be home, they must have dwellings--decent but modest housing. They must have welfare services, educational facilities, guidance. They must have jobs. All these essentials go into the rebuilding of new lives and this is the great hope and the gleaming promise of life in Israel for its thousands of newcomer families."

On the same theme, Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, acting chairman of the Jewish Agency in New York, stated: "Our justified pride in what has been achieved is marred by anxiety concerning the tasks we face in the months ahead. While the integration of tens of thousands of Israel's new citizens is still far from complete, reports from various tension areas indicate a continued pressure for emigration to Israel. As we approach this Passover holiday we hope and pray that we may be able at all times to answer the call of those who depend on us for their sole chance to build a new life of freedom for themselves and their children."

Ira Guilden, national campaign chairman of the Israel bond drive, noted that through bond purchases, Americans are participating "in the reconstruction of Israel." He warned that "if we do not want new immigrants to wander in the wilderness of temporary tin huts and shelters, with their skills unused through unemployment, then we must accept the challenge of history by investing more of our means in State of Israel Bonds. These are the vital financial resources required to assure newcomers a future of productivity in Israel."

Religious Leaders Call for Rededication

A plea for rededication to the spirit of freedom and peace was issued on behalf of the Synagogue Council of America by its president, Rabbi Theodore L. Adams. Pointing out that, "once again, the way of life of freedom and justice is undergoing a mortal testing," Dr. Adams declared:

"The peril, we pray, is not of mutual thermonuclear destruction. Rather it is that of a slow attrition of our determination to stand steadfast, the danger of decay of our dedication to the philosophy against which the modern Pharaoh has assembled his forces."

Separate statements were also issued on behalf of the three major wings of organized religious Jewry in America--by Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, Orthodox; by Bernath L. Jacobs, president of the United Synagogue of America, Conservative; and by Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Reform.

A special message was issued by Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the "Lubavitch Rebbe," who has his headquarters in Brooklyn.

Heads of American Zionist organizations issued special messages on the occasion. Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman in a statement on behalf of the American Zionist Council, stressed the "special responsibility" of American Jewry. Other messages were issued by Mrs. Halprin and Dr. Israel Goldstein, co-chairmen of the World Confederation of General Zionists; Rabbi Isaac Stollman, president, Religious Zionists of America- Mizrahi Hapoel Hamizrahi; Joseph Schlossberg, national chairman of the National Committee for Labor Israel; Dr. Miriam K. Freund, national president of Hadassah; Dr. Harris J. Levine, president, Jewish National Fund of America.

ECONOMIC AID, MIDDLE EAST AFFAIRS DISCUSSED BY EBAN, SECRETARY HERTER

WASHINGTON, April 22. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Abba Eban said today after a meeting with Secretary of State Christian Herter that the exchange "touched generally on economic aid." The Ambassador was to hold more detailed discussions on the aid issue later in the day with C. Douglas Dillon, Deputy Undersecretary of State for Economic Affairs, and Dempster McIntosh, managing director of the Development Loan Fund.

Mr. Eban described the meeting as a general review of American-Israel relations and matters in the Middle East. He added that the talk could be characterized as a friendly discussion of matters of mutual interest.

ISRAEL SEEKS MEMBERSHIP IN GATT AND CUSTOMS PARITY IN EUROPE

JERUSALEM, April 22. (JTA) -- Israel has applied officially for membership in the General Agreement on Traffic and Trade (GATT) and the application will be considered at the 14th annual meeting of GATT in Geneva on May 11, an Israel Foreign Ministry spokesman said today.

The 37 GATT Members accord each other most-favored nation status and bar trade discrimination in imports and exports with provision for arbitration of trade disputes. Israel hopes GATT membership will help to expand trade relations.

(A three-man delegation composed of Peretz Bernstein and David Livschitz, Knesset members, and Maurice Fischer, assistant director of the Foreign Ministry, will attend the Council of Europe meeting at Strasbourg as observers and will press Israel's case for customs equality with the six members of the European Common Market.)

FIRST WATER DE-SALTING PLANT ENTERS OPERATION AT BEERSHEBA

TEL AVIV, April 22. (JTA) -- The first pilot plant for saline water research in Israel, financed by a 200,000-pound grant from the United States, was opened yesterday afternoon at the Arid Zone Institute in Beersheba.

The plant produces fresh water from underground brackish water by an electrical process.

HOODLUMS ATTACK BUENOS AIRES JEWISH CLUB IN ANTI-GOVERNMENT RIOT

BUENOS AIRES, April 22. (JTA) -- For the first time in more than a decade, the Sociedad Hebraica Argentina, the largest Jewish club in South America, was attacked by stone-throwing juvenile nationalists Monday night.

Chanting "Death to the Jews," and "Down with Blejer," the 30 hoodlums smashed club windows on the first two floors. The second chant referred to David Blejer, Argentine Labor Minister, who is a Jew. Members of the club charged into the street and captured about 10 of the hooligans and pulled them back into the club where they called police. The prisoners were turned over to the authorities.

A second attempt by the juveniles to attack the club was frustrated by the club members. Major Argentina newspapers gave wide publicity to the incident which was one of a series of disorders in Buenos Aires and other Argentine cities following widespread labor unrest.

WEST GERMANY TO COMPENSATE FRENCH JEWS FOR NAZI 'M ACTION'

PARIS, April 22. (JTA) -- The West German Government has agreed to indemnify Jews of France whose household goods and furnishings were seized by the Nazis during World War II in the notorious "M Action" when thousands of apartments were stripped and their contents shipped to Germany, it was disclosed today.

Agreement has been reached on virtually all points between representatives of the West German Republic and of the Fonds Social Juif Unifie here.

The agreement provides that West Germany will pay 80 percent of the value of the seized properties without requiring proof by applicants that "M Action" spoils actually arrived in Germany. This was considered a key provision since otherwise, claimants would have the difficult task of proving that the spoils actually were taken to Germany.

Officials estimated that some 10,000 persons have filed indemnification applications with the FSJU and an estimated 10,000 others have made demands directly on the West German Government.

CAMPAIGN TO DEEPEN INTEREST IN JEWISH CULTURE UNDER WAY IN FRANCE

PARIS, April 22. (JTA) -- The French Jewish community is undergoing its first experience with "Jewish Book Fortnight"--a two-week campaign aimed at increasing interest in Jewish culture. The campaign is being led by Henri Milstein, director of the Jewish Youth Center here, and is being supported by the Joint Distribution Committee, the local branch of "Keren Hasefer," and the Community Service Organization. The cultural attache of the Israel Embassy has supplied a panel of exhibits describing the history of the Hebrew alphabet as well as various religious objects.

POLICE RAID HOME OF WOULD-BE U.S. HITLER, SEIZE ARMS, SWASTIKAS

ARLINGTON, Va., April 22. (JTA) -- Virginia police last night raided the home of George Lincoln Rockwell, founder of a Nazi-type anti-Jewish organization, and seized firearms, swastikas and anti-Semitic material.

Police squads acted after a Virginia grand jury returned a presentment charging Rockwell with maintaining a public nuisance and action indicating he advocated in Virginia the Nazi policies of Hitler. Commonwealth Attorney William J. Hassan led a squad of police and said they confiscated evidence to support charges against Rockwell.

Sources in Richmond, the state capitol, said the police action was in consonance with a statement by Gov. J. Lindsay Almond last year to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency in which the Governor pledged that Virginia would not tolerate any anti-Semitic extremism.

The grand jury charged Rockwell with producing and distributing "un-American hate literature designed to incite riots... and create a breach of the peace." He was also charged with carrying and displaying firearms in a "threatening manner" and permitting his associates to do the same. He was further accused of displaying in his front yard a Nazi swastika and appearing in "storm trooper" uniforms with his aides wearing swastika arm bands and thereby indicating that he "advocates the principles and policies of Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich of Germany."

Another charge was that he stopped and illegally searched vehicles traveling on Williamsburg Boulevard in Arlington, impeding the flow of public traffic, and creating a condition which "gravely endangers the health, safety and well-being of all citizens of this community."

CANADIAN BODY IS TOLD PRE-SHECHITAH HANDLING OF ANIMALS IS 'BARBAROUS'

OTTAWA, April 22. (JTA) -- The House Committee on Agriculture, which is conducting hearings on humane slaughter, was told yesterday that preparation of animals for Shechitah, the Jewish religious method of slaughtering, was barbarous, disgraceful and prompted by consideration of dollars and cents.

The attack on Shechitah, the most violent anti-Jewish expression before a public body in Canada in years, was made by the Humane Society of Toronto in a statement read to the committee. The statement asserted that "Canadians will not tolerate cruelty by a section of its population, even on pseudo-religious grounds." It added that the organization would urge, "with all the emphasis at our command," that "humane treatment" prior to slaughter be made mandatory by law.

The organization's statement evoked a sharp rebuke from Leon Crestohl, only Jewish member of the House committee. He termed the society's brief "a most monstrous piece of effontery and an insult to this committee's intelligence."

GOVERNOR GENERAL OF CANADA PAYS VISIT TO TEMPLE IN MONTREAL

MONTREAL, April 22. (JTA) -- The Right Hon. Vincent Massey, Governor General of Canada, visited Temple Emanuel here yesterday to inspect the work rebuilding the sanctuary which was destroyed by fire in 1957. The old temple, founded in 1882, was one of the landmarks of Montreal.

The Governor General was received at the Temple by Dr. Harry J. Stern, the rabbi, and Hyman Grover, president of the congregation. He was shown the plans for the new edifice and was presented with a copy of the Hebrew Bible. Temple Emanuel is the mother congregation of Reform Jewry in Canada.

EMERGENCY PARLEY CALLS ON WASHINGTON JEWRY FOR 'MAXIMUM UJA SUPPORT'

WASHINGTON, April 22. (JTA) -- An urgent appeal to the Jews of metropolitan Washington to help Israel absorb the large number of Jewish immigrants who have arrived there in recent months was issued here by an emergency conference of 16 Greater Washington Jewish organizations. The parley called for "maximum support" of the 1959 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal.

Chief Justice Simon E. Sobeloff of the Third Federal District Court of Appeals, who presided, urged "a total response... a personal, individual commitment on the part of every Jew in America." He described Israel's record of the past ten years as "a record of human ingathering we Jews can be proud of as long as the human experience endures."

Philip M. Klutznick, president of B'nai B'rith, called on Washington Jewry to "speed the vital aid the thousands of Israel newcomers need--by mustering here in this community every resource possible in behalf of the UJA's campaign." He characterized 1959 as "Israel's year of economic crisis" and appealed for an "accelerated tempo of giving to UJA if American Jewry is to meet its emergency obligations abroad and maintain the expansion of its own community institutions."