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GERMAN POLICE OPEN SWEEPING PROBE OF COLOGNE SYNAGOGUE INCIDENT

COLOGNE, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- The German police launched a sweeping inquiry today into the Christmas Eve desecration of the Cologne synagogue by two young neo-Nazis, members of the German Reichs Party. The scope of the investigation and the vigor with which it was apparently being pressed indicated that the German authorities were inclined to regard the development as something more than an isolated incident.

The possibility of action against the German Reichs Party, an extreme rightist group, loomed strongly as the North Rhine-Westphalian Minister of the Interior, Joseph Dufhues, in a television broadcast last night, attacked the party leaders as former "top Nazis" who were probably to blame for the anti-Semitic indoctrination of the two young hoodlums.

Otto Wilhelm Meinberg, national chairman of the rightist party, denied that his group was responsible. He denounced the two synagogue desecrators as "poor criminal fools" who were not incited by old Nazis but were "the product of our time and Dr. Adenauer's policies." He ordered their expulsion from the party and dissolved the Cologne branch of about 30 members because it was "basically anti-Semitic." His action followed the arrest of the head of the Cologne unit and the detention of other members for questioning.

The German authorities, noting the many messages of sympathy received by the Cologne Jewish community from all parts of West Germany, interpreted the reaction as a sign that "there is no anti-Semitism in Germany; there are only a few anti-Semites."

British Press Sees West Germany's Prestige Hurt

LONDON, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- British newspapers agreed today that the defacement of a synagogue in Cologne on Christmas Eve had harmed the standing of the West German Government abroad and was a blow to its prestige.

The London Daily Telegraph said that "the desecration could not have been better timed to harm West Germany's standing abroad. There is very little serious anti-Semitism, as the Jewish community regularly points out."

The London Daily Express said that Sunday night's arrests showed that Chancellor Konrad Adenauer "is extremely worried not only by the possibility of a serious neo-Nazi movement in Germany but also by the shock which the anti-Jewish action in Cologne will have given the rest of the world."

The Manchester Guardian pointed out that the Cologne incident was the second jolt administered recently to German-Jewish relations. The first, it noted, was a statement by the West German Foreign Office spokesman that the Federal Republic would not risk a deterioration of relations with the Arab world by exchanging ambassadors with Israel.

"In the past," the paper commented, "it has been the State of Israel which has shown reluctance to open direct relations with Bonn because of the possible effects on Israeli public opinion."

The spokesman's statement, according to the West German News Agency, was in reply to an appeal by Karl Marx, editor of the Jewish weekly, Allgemeine Wochenzeitung, of Dusseldorf, who had pleaded for an early establishment of diplomatic ties between West Germany and Israel.

ZIONIST COUNCIL GETS PROPOSALS TO AMEND ZIONIST ORGANIZATION CHARTER

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- Proposals for amendment of the constitution of the World Zionist Organization were placed before the Zionist General Council today by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the world body. The Council (Actions Committee) is the supreme body of the World Zionist movement when the World Zionist Movement is not in session.

Dr. Goldmann said the proposed amendments would permit non-Zionist organizations to join the world Zionist body and he expressed the belief that the amended constitution would enable the World Zionist Organization to become representative of a greater part of the Jewish people. The amendments will be debated by the Council which opened today and will remain in session until January 4.

Dr. Pinchas Rosen, Minister of Justice, greeted the Council in the name of the Israel Government and transmitted Premier David Ben-Gurion's regrets that his doctors had not permitted him to attend. He said the government whole-heartedly supported Dr. Goldmann's efforts to expand membership of the WZO to include non-Zionist bodies.

CABINET-AGENCY COORDINATION BODY TO FORMULATE 1960 IMMIGRATION PLANS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28, (JTA) -- Premier David Ben-Gurion and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the Jewish-Agency, agreed this week-end to convene a meeting of the Government-Agency coordination committee for further discussion of the division of work in the absorption of immigrants and the allocation of costs during the coming year. The decision was reached at a meeting of the two to discuss Government-Agency cooperation during the coming year.

The Cabinet yesterday named the government members of the coordination committee. They are Mr. Ben-Gurion, Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, Labor Minister Giora Josephthal, Health Minister Israel Barzilai, Transport Minister Yitzhak Ben-Aharon, Justice Minister Pinchas Rosen, Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro and Minister Without Portfolio Abba Eban. Members of the committee representing the Jewish Agency are Zalman Shazar, Eliahu Dobkin, S. Z. Shragai, Zvi Lurie, Yehuda Braginski, Moshe Kol, Meir Grossman and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, ex-officio when in Israel.

TOLEDANO DROPS CONTROVERSIAL PROPOSALS ON CHIEF RABBINATE ELECTION

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28, (JTA) -- A new ministerial committee for religious affairs will deal with regulations for the coming elections to the posts of Chief Rabbi, it was learned here today. The new committee will be one of the Cabinet's give standing committees and will deal with all religious issues before they are referred to the Cabinet for final approval.

Rabbi Jacob Toledano, Israel Minister of Religions, was understood to have dropped proposals that the chairman of the committee to nominate a successor to the late Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi, Dr. Isaac Herzog, be named by his Ministry and another proposal that the chairman have a double vote.

The other changes--that the Chief Rabbi be an Israel citizen and that rabbis over 70 cannot be candidates--were sure of Cabinet approval.

LAST IMMIGRANTS OF 1959 ARRIVE IN ISRAEL; GROUP INCLUDES TWO NON-JEWS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 28, (JTA) -- Thirty immigrants from Britain, who landed at Haifa late yesterday from the liner Herzl, composed the last group of settlers expected by Israel in 1959. The total for the calendar year was estimated today to be well over 24,000.

Among the new arrivals were a horticultural expert, a travelling salesman who wants to settle in a kibbutz and two non-Jewish coal-miners who served in mandated Palestine during the war and married Jewish girls. Both families will live in Eilat and both men have jobs to go to in the Timneh copper mines.

ITALIAN AGENCY REPORTS GROWING RAPPROCHEMENT BETWEEN VATICAN, ISRAEL

ROME, Dec. 28, (JTA) -- The Vatican's recent appointment of a Bishop to the post of Auxiliary Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, and the designation of Israeli Jerusalem as the Bishop's headquarters, "is one of the many recent events that mark a rapprochement between the Vatican and Israel," according to a report disseminated here by the Italia news agency. The agency is considered the official organ of the Christian Democrats, dominant party in the Italian Government. The agency attributed its interpretation of the recent developments regarding Vatican-Israeli relations to "competent sources."

Msrgr. Pier Giorgio Chiappero reached Jerusalem last month and established his new headquarters in the Israeli capital. Until now, the news agency noted, the Latin Catholic community in Israel was under the jurisdiction of the Latin Patriarch and the Vatican's Apostolic Delegate in the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem.

(Another Italian news agency, Agenzia Diplomatica, reported today from Amman that the Jordanian Government had officially asked the Vatican for "clarification" of the Vatican's alleged intention to recognize Israel formally. According to the Amman dispatch, Jordan was "assured" that the Vatican had no intention "for the time being" of recognizing the State of Israel.)

Italia pointed out that "the progressive rapprochement between the Church and the Jewish world" was illustrated during 1959 by two decrees issued by the Holy See, modifying two traditional prayers which were deemed offensive to Jews.

The agency declared that "on their side, Israel authorities have manifested their good will toward the Vatican by compensating Catholic congregations in Israel, some of whose buildings were destroyed or damaged" in 1948. The agency saw further signs of rapprochement in the recent formation at Tel Aviv of a committee for religious understanding, noting that both Christians and Jews participated.

PALESTINE ELECTRIC CORPORATION TO BUY GENERATOR FROM WEST GERMANY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28, (JTA) -- The Palestine Electric Corporation has completed negotiations for the purchase of a 75,000-kilowatt generator from West Germany, it was learned today. The equipment purchase is being financed by long-term credits. It represents the first major industrial purchase by Israel in West Germany outside the framework of the reparations agreement.

FRENCH PREMIER CITES AID TO JEWS TO JUSTIFY SUBSIDY TO CHURCH SCHOOLS

PARIS, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- Premier Michel Debre, fighting for Parliamentary approval of a bill permitting the government to subsidize private schools in France without assuming control over their curriculum, cited the fact that "Jews and Freemasons" had found a haven in the private schools during the Nazi occupation of France as an argument in support of the proposal.

The issue, one of the most controversial and bitterly fought internal issues in France in many years, brought about the resignation of the Minister of Education who opposed the use of Government funds to support private religious schools unless the Government were given authority over the educational curriculum of the schools.

The Jewish community has not taken any public position on the school issue. Most Jewish leaders, however, are known to oppose increased government support of private schools as tending to decrease separation of Church and State and as being at the expense of the public school system.

FRENCH COURT SAYS COMMUNITY CANNOT BAR NON-JEWISH BURIALS IN CEMETERY

PARIS, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- The decision of a French court that persons who have purchased plots in Jewish cemeteries must be buried there even if they later adopted another religion was under study today by the Jewish communal leaders.

The Marseilles Jewish community has been ordered to pay costs and damages to a Jewish family which owned a plot in the Jewish cemetery but which had been refused permission by the Marseilles rabbinate to bury a relative who had become a Catholic.

The Central Jewish Consistory here has been advising local Jewish communities to change the contracts for purchase of cemetery plots to avoid this difficulty in the future. It was considered doubtful, however, that such stipulations would have any effect in situations where the Jewish cemetery is a section of a municipal cemetery, which is often the case.

BRITISH PAPER ASSAILS KRUPP COMPENSATION AGREEMENT ON SLAVE LABOR

LONDON, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- One of England's most widely circulated newspapers, the London Sunday Dispatch, one of the Rothermere chain of papers, has condemned the agreement under which the Krupp firm of West Germany will pay compensation to Jews who worked as slave laborers in the Krupp plants during World War II.

In an editorial yesterday, the paper asserted that Alfred Krupp von Bohlen und Halbach, owner of the industrial empire, has a fortune "reared on the blood and misery and starvation of 12,000 Jewish slaves who worked for him during the war." The paper said the Krupp offer was "mean-spirited" and "tawdry" and termed it the "most grasping, clutching, derisory 'gift' in recent memory."

Under the agreement reached between Krupp and the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, Krupp agreed to pay about \$1,190 to each former slave laborer who could prove that he worked in a Krupp plant during the war. Compensation would be paid regardless of the length of time served and heirs of laborers would also be compensated.

WARSAW YIDDISH PAPER TELLS LEADERS TO FIGHT 'ANTI-SOCIAL' JEWS

VIENNA, Dec. 28. (JTA) -- The leadership of Poland's National Union of Jewish Cultural Organizations has been sharply attacked in the Polish-Yiddish press for failing to fight against Jews engaging in various "anti-social, criminal, immoral and unethical acts." The attack appeared in the latest issue of Die Folksstimme, the Yiddish-language newspaper published in Warsaw, copies of which were received here.

In a long article written by Sh. Tepper, it was charged that some individual Jews were "dealing in tombstones" stolen from the Jewish cemetery in Wroclaw; that other Jews "deal" in public housing in Lignicz, Wroclaw, Lodz and Zharz; and in Lignicz, pupils in "the largest Yiddish folk school in the country" were engaging in vandalism.

"The excuse is heard," the writer said, "that the cultural organizations cannot do anything about these acts 'because Jews are involved.'" The cultural organizations busy themselves with arranging lectures on general political problems, on literature, and on science. But they neglect to take a stand on the living issues. Thus the organizational activities are reduced to nothing but curtains hiding the realities."

The Folksstimme writer demanded that the cultural organizations bring out in the open the "unhealthy, anti-social and unsocialistic acts of the criminal individuals, even if they are Jews." The article reported that, in some of the cities where individuals had been "dealing" in tombstones and public housing, criminal proceedings have been begun by the public prosecutor. "But that is not enough," said the writer. "It is up to the leadership of the cultural organization to expose these criminal activities, to isolate the evil-doers and to condemn them openly. We must not shield them merely because they happen to be Jews."

NEW 'NAZI PARTY' FLOODS WASHINGTON WITH ANTI-SEMITIC PROPAGANDA MATTER

WASHINGTON, Dec. 28, (JTA) -- A new organization, the "American Nazi Party," flooded the nation's capital area with propaganda over the Christmas week-end threatening American Jews with "the gas chamber" and calling for enlistment of American Nazis to fight the Jews.

George Lincoln Rockwell of Arlington, Va., openly identified himself a Nazi and leader of the "party." The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith voiced concern today at the Navy's attitude in retaining Rockwell as a full-fledged officer in the U. S. Naval Reserve after knowledge of his Nazi activities. The Navy indicated that Rockwell, as a reservist, was permitted "free speech" on "political" matters. But the issue was described by the ADL as one of mental stability and reckless fanaticism.

Members of the Washington Jewish community could not understand why the District of Columbia authorities had permitted the flooding of downtown streets and residential neighborhoods with thousands of Nazi leaflets. The ADL asked the District Commissioners to intervene.

District ordinances technically forbid distribution of leaflets that may precipitate a breach of peace. The Nazi leaflets also requested financial contributions and such solicitation is unlawful without license. But it appeared that the District authorities would not act because of devotion to "free speech" considerations.

Herman Edlesberg, Washington ADL director, described the Rockwell leaflets as "the most vicious and insulting seen in many a day." The material was headlined to exploit white fears of Negro "domination" of the District of Columbia. Alleging a growing Negro majority, handbills said: "White Man! Are You Going To Be Run Out Of Your Nation's Capital Without A Fight?" But it was stressed that the real enemy was the Jew who was accused of responsibility for Negro integration efforts.

In 1958, Rockwell was charged with having been in contact with elements under suspicion in the bombing of The Temple in Atlanta, Ga. His activities also brought him into collision with the Virginia police but a court ruled that Rockwell's anti-Jewish agitation was obnoxious but not legally actionable.

CANADIAN JEWISH LEADERS TO SURVEY ISRAEL'S NEEDS FOR 1960

MONTREAL, Dec. 28, (JTA) -- Forty-eight leaders of Canadian Jewry are going to Israel for a 10-day survey of Israel's current social and economic problems, preparatory to formulation of Canadian Jewry's program of 1960 activities in aid of "meeting the tremendous backlog of unmet human needs" in Israel, according to an announcement today by the co-chairmen of the group. The joint chairmen are Lawrence Freiman, president of the Zionist Organization of Canada; and Samuel Bronfman, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

The party will leave New York International Airport on January 6, in a specially-chartered El Al plane.

ISRAEL BOND DRIVE PLANNERS TO HOLD NATIONAL PARLEY ON 1960 DRIVE

NEW YORK, Dec. 28, (JTA) -- Campaign plans for the sale of Israel bonds in 1960, the tenth year of the Israel bond drive, will be adopted at a three-day National Planning Conference in New York of the board of governors and executive committee of the Israel Bond Organization opening January 15 at the Biltmore Hotel, it was announced today by Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president.

"In Israel's first decade, the foundation was laid for a sound economic structure with the aid of Israel bonds," Dr. Schwartz declared. "It is our responsibility, through our activity in the beginning of the year 1960, to enable Israel to achieve full economic independence before she completes her second decade. In order to provide more employment opportunities for new immigrants, Israel must finance the development of new industries and the expansion of existing ones; the creation of new irrigation networks, and a great increase in food production. Israel bonds must also stimulate the exploitation of natural resources, and provide for the construction of some 32,000 housing units per year for at least the next five years.

Dr. Schwartz said the bond drive had already enrolled more than 1,000,000 investors, and had become "firmly established as the most important single instrument in Israel's economic development."

ISRAELIS PAY TRIBUTE TO ZALMAN SHAZAR ON HIS 70TH BIRTHDAY

JERUSALEM, Dec. 28, (JTA) -- Several hundred Israelis joined last night to honor Zalman Shazar, member of the Jewish Agency executive, on the occasion of his 70th birthday. The dinner was addressed by Abba S. Eban, Minister without Portfolio, and Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the Jewish Agency, both of whom lauded Mr. Shazar's contributions to Zionism and to Hebrew culture.

AMSTERDAM TO NAME STREETS FOR DECEASED JEWISH WRITER, ARTIST

AMSTERDAM, Dec. 28, (JTA) -- The Amsterdam City Council has voted to name a city street for the late Jewish journalist and banker, S. F. van Oss, of The Hague. Streets will also be named for the Jewish artists Louis Davids and Edward and David Bamberg.