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GOLDMANN WARNS AGAINST MAKING SYNAGOGUE THE CENTER OF JEWISH LIFE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The Zionist General Council began today an extended debate on proposals to broaden the base of the Zionist movement by admission of non-Zionist organizations into the World Zionist Organization. The debate followed submission of proposals by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, for amendment of the organization's constitution.

The 10-day session of the Council, supreme body of the Zionist movement when the World Zionist Congress is not in session, was opened by Dr. Goldmann last night with a somber review of the Jewish situation throughout the world and of the forces affecting the future of Israel. He warned that the situation demanded unity and maximum Jewish efforts in behalf of the State of Israel and termed proposals for widening the Zionist Organization a means of achieving these ends.

Dr. Goldmann told the Council that fund-raising in Jewish communities was losing its emergency character and was emerging as one of the main instruments of cooperation between the communities and Israel. He said the second welcome development in those relations was an increase in the number of younger leaders in fund-raising organizations and the third, the awakening in Jewish communities outside of Israel to the importance of Jewish education.

Warns of Concentration Around Synagogues

Apparently with specific reference to the United States, Dr. Goldmann warned of a "tendency to concentrate Jewish life around synagogues and to turn Judaism into synagogue worship." He called this "the Jewish version of the Christian churches" and charged that the leaders of synagogue organizations "were developing ambitions to turn synagogues into the center not only of religious life but also of secular matters. This may lead to a distortion of Judaism's true character."

He asserted that "making synagogues into the general basis of all Jewish life is the most dangerous form of collective assimilation."

He again rejected the identification of Zionism with Aliyah and said this was not true even when East Europe was the center of Zionism. He called Aliyah "a vital part of Zionism" but insisted that the entire movement "cannot be identical with halutzut or the movement would have to give up the task of mobilizing the support of the Jewish people for Israel."

Dr. Goldmann stressed that because of the "special character" of American life, it was the task of the Zionist movement, "particularly its religious components," to oppose tendencies of synagogue organizations to seek the center role in American Jewish life.

Sees New Dangers to Israel's Security

In his review of the world situation, Dr. Goldmann warned that present trends toward a thaw in East-West relations did not point automatically toward greater international security for Israel. He said that while Jews more than any other people were praying for an end to the cold war and for permanent peaceful coexistence, the trend was "full of dangers for us. The atmosphere of conciliation influences the attitude of both blocs toward Israel's enemies."

He said that the latest United Nations General Assembly resolution on the Arab refugees, which revived the 1948 Palestine Conciliation Commission, was "the worst of any adopted in recent years." He cited also the disregard of the Great Powers for the United Arab Republic blockade against Israel of the Suez Canal and the World Bank loan to the UAR as indicating that "possibly even greater difficulties are waiting ahead."

He argued that if the forthcoming summit meeting was successful, the Great Powers would try to stabilize the Middle East and that "in any such arrangement the Soviet Union would have a dominant influence. In view of Russia's great hostility toward Israel, it is difficult to predict how such Middle East settlements could be compatible with Israel's interests."

If the summit meeting should fail, he said, this would mean "not only a reversal of the previous situation but would also increase tension which might erupt in various places."

In his survey of the situation of world Jewry, Dr. Goldmann denounced Soviet policy, asserting that in Russia it was becoming "increasingly clear that the official policy evidently is the complete assimilation of the Jewish community within its surroundings."

"The Jewish people cannot accept such a situation and forget the existence of 2,000,000 Soviet Jews," he asserted. "Fortunately, there are indications that this discrimination only strengthens the Jewish consciousness of Soviet Jews. We as a people are obliged to raise this issue in its full gravity to mobilize world public opinion to help us." He rejected charges that such action constituted aiding the cold war.

The proposals to broaden the base of the Zionist Organization were strongly supported and equally strongly attacked during the debate which began today.

Dr. I. Schwartzbart, of the Confederation of General Zionists, hailed the proposals. Barnett Janner, president of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain, urged concentration on practical work rather than "undue emphasis" on constitutional questions. Dr. S. Levenberg said that the Poale Zion movement would support the Goldmann proposals.

Surprise was occasioned by the position taken by Rabbi Max Mirshblum of the Mirshachi, a member of the Jewish Agency executive. He urged retention of the status quo. Other speakers, including several Israeli members of the Council, called for greater vitality in the Zionist movement and urged intensified efforts to spread the Hebrew language and to develop immigration.

IRAQI PREMIER PROMISES ARMS TO PALESTINIAN ARABS

LONDON, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Premier Kassem of Iraq spoke yesterday for the third time this month about his hopes to "liberate Palestine" and promised Palestinian Arabs arms, men and money to help them, according to press reports from Baghdad.

Speaking at a military function held to celebrate his recovery from an assassination attempt, the Premier accused the United Nations of oppression in deciding the "destiny of the Palestinians and dividing their land without consulting them." He appealed to other Arab countries to endorse his proposal for a "Palestine Republic."

MRS. MEIR CONFERS WITH AMERICAN, CANADIAN ENVOYS ON SUEZ ISSUE

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Golda Meir conferred today with United States Ambassador Ogden R. Reid and, separately, with Canadian Ambassador Margaret Meagher. The conferences are believed to have been related to Israel's concern over the detention by the United Arab Republic of the Greek freighter Astypalea, which has been held at Port Said since December 17. The ship had been halted by Egyptian authorities who insist on removing from the vessel a cargo of cement purchased by French Somaliland consignees in Hafia.

It was understood that, in her conference with Ambassador Reid, Mrs. Meir also brought up Israel's long-pending request for a loan from the United States to help finance this country's Jordan River project. That loan had, reportedly, been promised by Washington which, however, has taken no action to implement the promise.

Mrs. Meir is leaving for Africa tomorrow for another tour of several African capitals, which she visited a year ago. She will attend the ceremonies marking the independence of the Cameroons, and will represent Israel at the inauguration of President Tubman of Liberia. After two weeks in Africa, Mrs. Meir will return home via Europe where, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said, "she will spend a day or two in Western European capitals."

ISRAEL MAY RATION WATER TO COPE WITH DROUGHT CONDITIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Water rationing throughout Israel, is being considered by the Ministry of Agriculture, it was learned here today. The season's rainfall has been far below normal, and water shortages are expected to be even more serious than those experienced during last year's drought. Under recently enacted legislation, the Agriculture Ministry has the power to impose regulations for conservation of the country's water resources.

WINES OF ISRAEL WILL BE KNOWN UNDER NEW HEBREW NAMES

GENEVA, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The International Wine Growers Association announced here that Israel-produced wines will no longer be identified by use of the general continental descriptions usually linked with geographical locations.

Israel champagne will, henceforth be labeled "Sassonia," from the Hebrew word for "bubbly." Israel port will be called "Partom," the name of a wine mentioned in the Books of Esther and Daniel and in Jewish religious lore. Sauternes will be known as "Lavan Atik" and sherry will be called "Shariar," a word of Aramaic origin. A rich red wine known as Pommard will hereafter be listed as "Nimrod."

BAN OF GERMAN PARTY WEIGHED AS FUROR RISES OVER COLOGNE INCIDENT

BONN, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- A spokesman for the West German Ministry of the Interior yesterday outlined the steps planned to determine whether the German Reichs Party was engaging in "subversive activity" in the Christmas Eve desecration of the Cologne synagogue, and subject to a ban.

He said a special commission has been named to make the investigation as to whether the basic law of the West German Republic has been violated. He said the Commission's findings would be presented to the Federal Cabinet, which would then decide whether the matter should be referred to the Federal Constitutional Court. That court, in 1952, banned the neo-Nazi Socialist Reich Party, many of whose leading members are now active in the German Reichs party.

(The London Daily Express reported from Bonn today that Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, who staked his political life on the premise that Nazism and anti-Semitism are dead in West Germany, was facing a political crisis because of the desecration of the synagogue at Cologne.)

The Ministry of the Interior of North Rhine-Westphalia ordered the arrest of several persons belonging to the Cologne chapter to which the two 25-year-old men arrested in the desecration belonged. Police meanwhile disclosed there was evidence that the Cologne party leadership knew in advance about the plan to desecrate the newly-rebuilt Cologne synagogue which was dedicated personally last October by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

The Bonn Interior Ministry spokesman said the action of Otto Wilhelm Meinberg in expelling the two synagogue desecrators was done to "disguise the anti-democratic and anti-Semitic ideology" of the party.

As the furor over the incident continued to grow, Will Richter, chairman of the German Trade Union, demanded in a telegram to Chancellor Adenauer that strong measures be taken against "rightist elements who seek to revive the criminal Nazi past."

The Christian Democratic Information Service yesterday severely condemned "all race hatred and violence," and called the synagogue desecration "an alarm signal to the German people to watch out against Nazi revivals."

Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Berlin Jewish Community, demanded that rightist organizations be investigated and prosecuted.

It was announced, meanwhile, that Wurnburg police had started a search for persons who, on Christmas night, desecrated a Protestant Church and a monument to Nazi victims in Heidingsfeld. A new anti-Semitic incident was reported in Seligstadt, in Hesse, where only one Jew lives. This man, Isaac Hamburger, received an unsigned letter which called all Jews gangsters, and said all Jews should be executed. The recipient, who is 85, lost all of his family in the Nazi murder camps.

The letter to him said that persecution of German Jews would start again when Chancellor Adenauer no longer was in power. The letter also contended that profanation of a Christian cemetery in Seligstadt was done by Jews.

DUSSELDORF NEWSPAPERS HINT NEO-NAZI TENDENCIES OF PARTY WERE KNOWN

DUSSELDORF, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- A right-wing West German newspaper commented yesterday that, while there might not be "an incurable general Hitlerism" in West Germany, the fact remained that the two Cologne men who confessed the Christmas Eve desecration of the Cologne synagogue were only 11 years old when Hitler's Third Reich was smashed.

Der Mittag, of Dusseldorf, said that the anti-Semitism displayed by the two arrested men, Paul Schonen and Arnold Strunk, must therefore have come "from second-hand sources." Noting that the right-wing Deutsches Reichs party had expelled the two men as soon as they confessed, Der Mittag said that anyone acquainted with the "political harangues" and the customary practices of the DRP at meetings would hardly be surprised by the desecration acts of its two members.

"The fact that the DRP repudiates all this says little," Der Mittag added. "Only a year ago, in Cologne, the DRP did not dissociate itself from demonstrations against the showing of Charlie Chaplin's 'The Great Dictator.'"

The Neue Rhein Zeitung, a left-wing paper here, commented editorially that, more important than the widespread revulsion displayed over the vandalism, was "the long overdue but ever-postponed self-examination" by the German people. The newspaper stated: "Everybody says these vandals are isolated individuals, mad men. But can any Minister deny knowing that the DRP is a neo-Nazi organization? Yet nothing has been done against it."

The paper noted similar vandalism at the Dusseldorf synagogue in January 1957, and added that "the Communists were blamed and nothing more."

LABOR GROUP ASKS UNITED STATES TO INVESTIGATE 'AMERICAN NAZI PARTY'

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- The Jewish Labor Committee called upon Attorney General William P. Rogers today to investigate the activities of George Lincoln Rockwell of Arlington, Va., self-styled leader of the "American Nazi Party," which distributed anti-Jewish hate literature in Washington last week.

In a telegram to Attorney General Rogers, Adolph Heid, national chairman of the JLC, noted that Rockwell was a reservist officer in the U.S. Navy and declared: "We are certain that one cannot wear the uniform of our country and of a Nazi at the same time."

BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY HOLDS FIRST COMMENCEMENT SERVICES

RAMAT GAN, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- A full-scale academic ceremony marked the award last night of degrees to the first graduates of Bar-Ilan University, the American Orthodox-sponsored institution.

The degree of Honorary Fellow was conferred in person on Ogden R. Reid, American Ambassador to Israel, and in absentia on Rabbi Judah L. Maimon, Israel's first Minister of Religions. Rabbi Joseph H. Lookstein of New York, president of the University's board of trustees, presided.

Twenty-seven students were graduated from the University's four departments: five in Judaism, four in literature and languages, four in philosophy and 14 in natural science and mathematics. A majority of the graduates--18 of the 27--were girls.

In his address to the convocation, Rabbi Lookstein urged a synthesis between the Judaic way of life and modern science which he said the University symbolized. In conferring the fellowship on Ambassador Reid, Rabbi Lookstein said it was a token of appreciation of goodwill and friendship to Israel and to the University expressed by the envoy.

KATHARINE CORNELL CHAIR IS ESTABLISHED AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Katharine Cornell, American actress, received the 1959 "Woman of the Year" Award of the Women's Division of the American Friends of the Hebrew University today at the seventh annual luncheon of the organization, held at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel.

Creation of the Katharine Cornell Chair in Comparative Literature at the School of Fine Arts of the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was announced by Mrs. Louis S. Gimbel, Jr., national chairman of the Women's Division. Philip M. Klutznick, president of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, described this as "an assurance of further cultural inter-action between the people of Israel and ourselves."

Mr. Klutznick said the Katharine Cornell Chair "is ideally suited to the geography of Israel and to the historic role which Israel is now performing as a cultural bridge between the Orient and the Occident. Situated at the crossroads of three continents, with a population drawn from every part of the earth, Israel is proving that 'the twain shall meet.' The Hebrew University of Jerusalem affords perhaps the best--and surely the most inspiring--demonstration of this process."

Other speakers at the event included Sir Cedric Hardwicke and John Shubert, who represented the theater world; Mrs. Abraham F. Wechsler, New York State chairman of the Women's Division; and Mrs. John Shubert, the luncheon chairman. All paid tribute to Miss Cornell.

LEGION OF MERIT AWARDED CHAPLAIN GOLDBERG ON RETIREMENT FROM NAVY

NEW YORK, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Captain Joshua L. Goldberg, Chaplain Corps, U.S. Navy, Third Naval District Chaplain, who is retiring from active naval service, was presented today with the Legion of Merit by Vice Admiral Thomas S. Combs, Commandant of the Third Naval District, in a ceremony at the headquarters.

The award was made in recognition of "exceptionally meritorious conduct in the performance of outstanding services as District Chaplain, Third Naval District, from August 1949 to January 1960."

The citation noted that "in his role as a special representative of the Chief of Naval Operations on a trip to Israel concerning matters of a delicate nature and important implications in the field of international relations, Chaplain Goldberg succeeded in achieving an understanding whereby a Naval Attache was assigned to Tel Aviv, and problems regarding visits by units of the Sixth Fleet to Israeli ports were amicably resolved."

ADOLF L. HAMBURGER, ISRAEL BOND DRIVE LEADER, DIES IN BALTIMORE

BALTIMORE, Dec. 29. (JTA) -- Adolf L. Hamburger, Baltimore investment counselor and a leader of the Israel Bond Organization, died here yesterday. He was 61 years old. Mr. Hamburger had served as president of the Baltimore Board of Jewish Education, and as vice chairman of the Associated Jewish Charities Campaign and Welfare Fund.