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KHRUSHCHEV ANNOYED BY QUESTION ON PERMITTING EMIGRATION OF RELATIVES

ROME, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Nikita Khrushchev, Soviet Premier, evaded giving a clear answer to the Rome correspondent of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency as to whether it could be expected that in the near future Soviet citizens would be permitted to leave the USSR and join their families living abroad.

The correspondent, Tullia Zevi, who escorted President Giovanni Gronchi of Italy on his recent official visit to the Soviet Union, posed this question to Premier Khrushchev during a reception in the Kremlin in honor of the Italian President. Mr. Khrushchev, indicating annoyance with the question, said:

"Soviet citizens are already allowed to leave the country and will be even more so allowed in the future. But going abroad requires accumulation of wealth and the availability of cash. We are rich in natural resources, yet individually we are poor."

Experts in population and Jewish problems in the Soviet Union told the JTA correspondent regarding the census data published this month in Moscow that they doubt whether the figure of 2,268,000 given in the census as the total Jewish population in the USSR is correct. They estimated that there must be at least 3,000,000 Jews in the Soviet Union today.

Authoritative sources expressed the opinion that the number of Jews in the census figures is smaller than the actual Jewish population because a substantial number of Soviet Jews defined themselves in the census as Russians, or members of another Soviet nationality, since the census regulations did not threaten any punishment for those who attempted to switch from one nationality to another. The false declarations by Jews of their nationality were made apparently because of fear that as Jews they may face discrimination.

In giving the total number of Jews in the USSR as 2,268,000, the official census data indicated that 20.8 percent of them declared Yiddish as their mother tongue. It subdivided the number of Jews and their percentage of the total population as follows: In the Russian Soviet Federation, including Biro-Bidjan, 875,000 (0.7 percent); in Soviet Ukraine, 840,000 (2 percent); in Byelorussia, 150,000 (1.9 percent); in Uzbekistan, 94,000 (1.2 percent); in Bessarabia, 95,000 (3.3 percent); in Georgia, 52,000 (1.3 percent); in Lithuania, 25,000 (0.9 percent); in Latvia, 37,000 (1.7 percent) and in Estonia, 5,000 (0.5 percent).

ISRAEL'S ARMY CHIEF REPORTS TO CABINET MEETING ON SYRIAN SHOOTINGS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Major General Chaim Laskov, chief of staff of Israel's defense forces, today reported to the entire Cabinet the events of the weekend, during which Syrians opened fire twice against Israeli patrols in the northern demilitarized zone, killing two men and injuring at least one other man seriously.

Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and Mrs. Golda Meir, the Foreign Minister, also discussed the new outbreaks with the Cabinet. The first of the weekend attacks took place near Dardara, the second a few hundred yards away, at Ashmora. The firing came from Syrian military positions overlooking the Huleh area and the narrow demilitarized zone.

In both instances, the Israelis demanded of the Israeli-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission that a cease-fire be effected at once, but the Syrians continued shooting. After felling the Israeli border patrolmen, the Syrians followed through with machinegun fire.

Following the reports on the shootings, the Cabinet heard today from Mr. Ben-Gurion the outline of an address he expects to make in the Knesset (Parliament) tomorrow, rejecting motions by members of opposition parties who demand that military controls be lifted in Israeli areas inhabited by Arabs.

The Prime Minister will tell Parliament that the military restrictions cannot be relaxed now because Egyptian agents have been increasing their subversive activities in the Arab-populated areas. Mr. Ben-Gurion will point out that, in the last year, some 400 to 500 Arab youths had left Israeli territory clandestinely, to go over into Arab-held areas across the borders. However, he will recall that Arabs inside Israel have recently been given greater freedom of movement during daylight hours.

JERUSALEM, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Finance Minister Levi Eshkol will present the 1960-61 budget estimates to the Knesset (Parliament) tomorrow, calling for estimated expenditures, during the next fiscal year, of 1,600,000,000 Israeli pounds (\$893,000,000).

Good news was seen here for Israelis in the Finance Ministry's plans to call for no increase in taxes next year. Instead, more efficient methods of collecting taxes is expected to show, during the coming fiscal year, an increase in revenue, totaling about 120,000,000 pounds (\$67,290,000).

The budget will call for smaller expenditures than in the past for development projects, due to the fact that higher sums will have to be spent during 1960-61 for security, education and social welfare.

'Receipts from German reparations are expected to remain at the same level as last year. Income from other foreign sources, including United States agricultural surplus and counterpart funds, are expected to decrease.

A supplementary budget will be presented by the Finance Ministry during the year. The added budget will draw on funds expected to be obtained from a World Bank loan, now pending, as well as from flotation of foreign loans for housing and shipping.

WASHINGTON POLICE ORDERED TO PROTECT NAZIS INCITING AGAINST JEWS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- The District of Columbia commissioners today received a ruling that they are not empowered to halt distribution of pro-Nazi, anti-Semitic hate literature on downtown streets.

The ruling came from the District of Columbia Corporation Counsel Chester H. Gray. It pertained to inflammatory anti-Jewish handbills handed out here by George Lincoln Rockwell's "American Nazi Party." Mr. Gray said that while the Nazi literature is offensive, insulting and abusive, it is not obscene and does not violate District of Columbia libel laws. The Rockwell literature urges "the gas chamber" for American Jews.

The Nazi party serves printed notice that it intends to "establish an International Jewish Control Authority... to make a long-term scientific study to determine if the Jewish virus is a matter of environment, and can be eliminated by education and training, or if some other method must be developed to render Jews harmless to society."

The Nazis also would "establish an international treason tribunal to investigate, try, and publicly hang, in front of the Capitol, all non-Jews who are convicted of having acted consciously as fronts for Jewish treason or subversion." Under the Nazi program, all debts owed to Jews by non-Jews would be "canceled." Adolf Hitler is hailed as "the gift of an inscrutable providence."

After studying such material, the District of Columbia legal authorities concluded it was not obscene. Orders have been issued to police to protect Rockwell's Nazis as they distribute the handbills. Police were told not to interfere with the "peaceful distribution of the pamphlets" unless they see "a clear and present threat to public disorder."

Lawrence Speiser, Washington spokesman for the American Civil Liberties Union, today said that District of Columbia legal authorities should be highly commended for permitting and protecting the distribution of the American Nazi Party's anti-Jewish handbills. He termed the attitude of the authorities "admirable" in the face of what he described as "intense pressures" to act against "free speech."

Ambassador of Chile to U.N. Forced to Give Hitler Salute at Gunpoint

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Ambassador Daniel Schweitzer, permanent Chilean representative to the United Nations, was held up at his home early last night, forced at gunpoint to say "Heil Hitler," and was robbed of \$200 in cash. Mr. Schweitzer is a Jew.

Mr. Schweitzer, a bachelor, lives alone in an apartment in New York. At 6:15 p. m., three men broke a window in the front entrance to the house, entered the study where the Ambassador sat reading, and held him up. After forcing him to say "Heil Hitler," they took his money and fled. He gave police authorities descriptions of the men.

Suspect in Bombing of Kansas City Synagogue Arrested

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Charles Bednarz, 47, formerly a patient at two mental hospitals here, was arrested and placed under psychiatric observation here this weekend in connection with the explosion of a bomb last month at the Kehillah Israel Synagogue here. According to police, Bednarz had told a friend, pointing to the synagogue, "this would be a good one to blow up." The friend informed authorities.

So. Rhodesian Youth Sentenced for Daubing Swastika on Synagogue

SALISBURY, So. Rhodesia, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- An 18-year-old youth was sentenced here to payment of a 50-pound fine or a 50-day jail term for daubing a swastika on the synagogue in Bulawayo. The sentence was the first one handed down for swastika daubing by a Southern Rhodesian court since the recent outbreak of anti-Semitic incidents.

The youth had also painted the slogan, "Yiddishe swine, Raus," on the synagogue building. In defense of his action, the youth claimed that he "felt bored" and thought it would be fun to paint a swastika on a synagogue.

PROBLEMS OF INTERMARRIAGE DISCUSSED AT TWO-DAY JEWISH PARLEY IN N.Y.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- "More than 2,000 non-Jews are being converted to Judaism in the United States each year," Dr. David M. Eichhorn, of the new chaplaincy commission of the National Jewish Welfare Board, today stated at a two-day conference on intermarriage convened by the Theodor Herzl Institute here. He noted that rabbis agree that "most of these converts are at least as good Jews as born Jews and in many cases much better Jews." He termed the converts "a precious spiritual asset."

Rabbi Ralph M. Weissberger, of Smithtown, Long Island, reported that more Jewish men than women intermarry and that "very frequently the non-Jewish wife converts to Judaism and becomes active in Jewish communal affairs." He asserted that there was no recent increase in intermarriage and that despite common interdating, intermarriage in the small community was likely to be decreasing.

In a similar vein, Mr. Isaac N. Trainin, advisor for religious affairs of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, noted that the anonymity of the large city encouraged intermarriage while in the small town, despite the very limited number of potential males, social pressures militate against intermarriage. He called upon Jewish federations and welfare funds to make available the means for a thorough study of the problem.

Dr. Werner Gahnman, of the department of sociology of Yeshiva University, stressed that "the idea that Judaism is not a missionizing religion is historically incorrect and out of tune with a democratic society which is based on the principle of voluntary association. He proposed a halachic ruling allowing children of non-Jewish mothers and Jewish fathers to be considered as Jews.

Rabbi Richard L. Rubinstein, director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation at the University of Pittsburgh declared that intermarriage seems to be increasing markedly among students at American colleges and universities. He revealed that the greatest single reason why students sought his advice and counseling was to find guidance in problems of intermarriage.

"Intermarriage is most likely to occur at the graduate and professional school level," he declared. He noted that social mobility and growing estrangement from middle class background were important factors in the increased rate of intermarriage among college and university students.

A. J. C. REPORTS RISE IN COURT CASES AFFECTING CHURCH-STATE ISSUE

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- A marked increase in court cases affecting religious liberty and separation of Church and State during 1959 was noted by the American Jewish Congress today in the annual report of its Commission on Law and Social Action. During the year under review, the commission was involved in most of the litigation affecting Sunday-closing laws, religious practices in the public schools and religious tests for public office, the report stated.

This litigation resulted in several decisions favorable to "broad interpretation" of the constitutional guarantee of religious freedom and separation of Church and State, it was noted. Among them was a decision by a three-judge Federal court in Massachusetts barring the enforcement of the state Sunday-closing law against persons who observe a day other than Sunday as their religious day of rest.

Another decision described as a "significant court victory," was handed down by a Federal district court in Pennsylvania, prohibiting the daily reading of the Bible in the state's public schools. In another case in which the American Jewish Congress participated, the Missouri Supreme Court invalidated a zoning ordinance in a St. Louis suburb which barred the building of a synagogue in a residential area.

A number of successes were achieved through representations to administrative bodies without resorting to the courts, the report stressed. These included: discontinuance of the practice of saying grace in a number of New Jersey public schools; and termination of sectarian baccalaureate services in a high school in Berkley, Mich.

UNITED HIAS AIDED 12,000 PERSONS LAST YEAR; 5,000 WERE RESETTLED

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- The United Hias Service helped in 1959 more than 12,000 Jewish men, women and children, of whom close to 5,000 were enabled to establish new homes in the United States, Latin America, Australia, Canada and elsewhere, it was reported here today at the 76th annual meeting of the organization. The immigrants aided during the past year came from Eastern and Western Europe, Egypt, North Africa and the Far and Middle East.

The United Hias services in 1959, the report stated, included migration, resettlement, location of friends and relatives who had lost contact with each other, legal aid and assistance for alien registration.

Speakers at the meeting included Marcus Daly, director of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration; Carlos L. Israels, president of the United Hias Service; James Rice, executive director of the organization and Mrs. Morris Berger, president of the Women's Division of Hias.

TWO-DAY CONFERENCE DISCUSSES RAISING STANDARDS FOR JEWISH EDUCATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Problems concerning the raising of standards for Jewish education were discussed by 1,000 teachers and principals in Jewish schools in the New York area at a two-day conference which concluded here today. The conference was convened by the Jewish Education Committee of New York which serves more than 700 Jewish schools in the city.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Oscar Janowsky, professor of history at the College of the City of New York. He headed a recent nationwide survey of Jewish education in the United States. Other speakers were Dr. Ariel Eisenberg, executive vice-president of the Jewish Education Committee; Dr. Judah Pilch, executive director of the American Association for Jewish Education; and Nathan A. Levine, president of the JEC.

AMERICAN SUPPORT FOR ISRAEL IS NOT DETERIORATING, ZIONIST LEADER SAYS

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- "American public opinion stands as firmly as ever behind the efforts of Israel to build a strong democratic state in the Middle East," Ezra Shapiro, president of the American Jewish League for Israel, reported at a meeting of the League's executive held here.

At the same time Mr. Shapiro regretted the fact that, in dealing with the Arab boycott against Israel, our government "has shown a tendency to temporize and equivocate where firmness in principle and in action is needed."

Mr. Shapiro deplored the criticism leveled at Israeli leaders by American Zionist leaders who "have tried to persuade themselves that American support for Israel was deteriorating and used their self-serving claims as an excuse to criticize Israeli leadership." His remarks were viewed as an answer to recent statements made by Abraham Redelheim, president of the Zionist Organization of America, alleging that criticism of the Zionist movement by Israeli officials has resulted in the deterioration of American public support for Israel.

ZIONIST LEADER CRITICIZES WASHINGTON FOR BOWING TO NASSER

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- President Eisenhower and his administration were charged here today with "compromising America's moral position by bowing to Nasser and the Arab bloc" in the blockade of the Suez Canal against Israel. The charge was voiced by Dr. Israel Goldstein addressing the annual Tu-Bishvat (Arbor Day) celebration by the Pioneer Women's organization.

Recalling that, in 1957, President Eisenhower pledged that further United Arab Republic defiance of United Nations resolutions regarding freedom of passage through the Suez Canal would be dealt with "firmly by the society nations," Dr. Goldstein asked what Mr. Eisenhower is proposing to do now that Nasser has again violated the UN resolutions. The fact that Nasser is receiving "substantial help" from the World Bank now, said Dr. Goldstein, "is a serious moral blemish on our nation and its leaders."

HERZL CENTENNIAL SABBEATH OBSERVED IN 700 CONGREGATIONS IN U.S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 14. (JTA) -- More than 700 congregations throughout the country representing all branches of Judaism observed Herzl Centennial Sabbath yesterday, commemorating the 100th anniversary of the birth of Dr. Theodor Herzl, founder of Zionism.

The observances were marked by sermons and special programs devoted to the life and works of Dr. Herzl. In their sermons the rabbis emphasized the importance of strengthening the Zionist movement today as a bulwark against the inroads of assimilation as a major instrumentality for safeguarding the security of the State of Israel.

BARNEY MEDINTZ, NATIONAL JEWISH LEADER, DIES IN ATLANTA; WAS 50

ATLANTA, Ga., Feb. 14. (JTA) -- Barney Medintz, national Jewish leader long active in local and national Jewish organizations, died here in a private hospital after 10 days of illness. He was 50 years old.

He was one of the national leaders of the United Jewish Appeal and the Israel Bond Organization. He was also vice-president of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, vice-president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds and a former member of the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee. Locally he was president of the Atlanta Jewish Community Center and past president of the Atlanta Jewish Community Council and the Atlanta Bureau of Jewish Education. He was also president of the Southeast Regional Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds.

Born in London, Mr. Medintz was brought to the American Middle West when he was a year old. He moved to Atlanta in 1934 after his graduation from Northwestern University at Evanston, Ill. He went to Israel in 1954 as a member of the United Jewish Appeal overseas study mission and conferred there with David Ben-Gurion and with Moshe Sharett who was at that time Israel's Prime Minister. In 1957 he was honored by the Israel Bond Organization at a testimonial dinner for his efforts in behalf of the Israel bond campaign. He is survived by his wife Dorothy, a son, a daughter, a sister and a brother, all of Atlanta.