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U.S. JEWS WARNED TO IGNORE FALSE RUMORS AGAINST NIXON AND KENNEDY

NEW YORK, Sept. 2. (JTA) -- A warning to American Jews to ignore "unsubstantiated rumors" concerning the attitudes toward any minority group by Vice President Nixon and Senator John F. Kennedy, the two major Presidential candidates, was issued here today by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

"We believe both men to be wholly free of anti-Semitic bias," the ADL statement said. "Nor is there any question that the two Vice Presidential candidates are free of such prejudice." The statement emphasized that it is "a major disservice to the nation to raise false charges of bigotry against a candidate so as to gain political advantage with some minority group."

(The New York Times reported today that "strategists of both major parties are worried over the marked apathy of what they call 'the Jewish vote' in New York." The report said that, at this early stage of the election campaign, some Jewish voters regard both Vice President Nixon and Senator Kennedy "with varying degrees of distrust." It pointed out that New York is a "crucial state" in a Presidential election, and that it has a Jewish population exceeding 2,400,000, nearly 15 percent of the total population.)

The statement issued by the Anti-Defamation League, through its national chairman, Henry Edward Schultz, read:

"An unhappy phenomenon of Presidential election campaigns in our time is the unsubstantiated rumor circulated concerning the attitudes of the principal candidates toward one minority group or another. The Anti-Defamation League believes it to be a major disservice to the nation to raise false charges of bigotry against a candidate so as to gain political advantage with some minority group. This kind of defamation has victimized both parties.

"Questions have been raised with the League, and are likely to continue to be raised, about the attitude toward Jews of Vice President Nixon and Senator Kennedy. We believe both men to be wholly free of anti-Semitic bias. Nor is there any question that the two Vice Presidential candidates are free of such prejudice.

"Our responsibility over nearly half-a-century of public service has been to expose bigotry and anti-Semitism. We believe it equally important to denounce charges of anti-Semitism that are false. We find it necessary to do so at this time in order to check the rising tide of false rumors that may divert the electorate from the legitimate issues of the Presidential campaign."

Republican, Democratic Leaders Sign Pledge Against Religious Bias

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Republican and Democratic national chairmen today signed a fair campaign practices code, pledging avoidance of offensive anti-religious propaganda, and received a report that various religious issues were emerging "all over the country."

Charles P. Taft, chairman of the Fair Campaign Practices Committee, revealed the injection of religious bias. He said the committee had brought together a group of Jewish, Catholic, and Protestant leaders for a frank discussion. Subsequently, said Mr. Taft, the group received mounting evidence that offensive religious propaganda was being injected into various campaigns.

Senators Thruston B. Morton, Republican of Kentucky, and Henry M. Jackson, Democrat of Washington State, affixed their signatures to the Committee's code for 1960. Some 1,200 candidates for office will be asked to sign the anti-bias pledge. Senator Jackson said issues should not be clouded by "campaigning that comes from the sewers."

ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF SAYS COUNTRY MUST NOW BE ON THE ALERT

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Israel's need to be on the alert was emphasized here today by General Haim Laskov, Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces, following the anti-Israel resolutions adopted this week at the Arab League conference in Lebanon, and the assassination of the Premier of Jordan in Amman. He spoke at the commencement exercises of the latest class of officer trainees.

ISRAEL TRANSFERS OPERATION OF CRUDE OIL PIPELINE TO ROTHSCHILD GROUP

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- The operation of Israel's new 264-mile, 16-inch oil pipeline was formally handed over yesterday to a group of international financiers headed by Baron Edmond de Rothschild of Paris.

The transfer was made in a contract-signing ceremony at which Finance Minister Levi Eshkol signed for Israel and Baron de Rothschild for his company, Tri-Continental Pipeline, Ltd. The contract gave the company a 49-year concession on the pipeline, which runs from Eilat at Israel's southern tip on the Gulf of Akaba through Beersheba and Ashdod, to Haifa on the Mediterranean coast.

At a luncheon tendered by the Finance Minister after the signing, he hailed the investment by the Rothschild group. He said that, until recently, Rothschild's name had been connected with philanthropy, while now it was linked with enterprises important to Israel's economy. He urged Rothschild to include Jerusalem in his future plans for investments. Baron de Rothschild thanked all who had helped to build the line which will become "a lifeline for Israel's economy."

The 16-inch line, for the time being, will transport crude oil at the rate of 1,500,000 tons annually from Eilat to Haifa for domestic use. Two 46,400-ton tankers have been obtained from Japan to haul oil to Eilat. Israel hopes eventually to develop the trans-Israel line as an alternative route to the Suez Canal for transit of crude oil to Europe.

ESHKOL LEAVES FOR EUROPE; WILL DISCUSS FINANCES IN PARIS AND LONDON

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Finance Minister Levi Eshkol left today for a tour of Europe and America, which will include a visit to Mexico where he will represent Israel at the Mexican Independence Anniversary celebrations.

Mr. Eshkol's first stop will be Paris, where he will meet with officials of the French Finance Ministry and prospective investors. Similar meetings have been arranged for him in London.

David Horowitz, Governor of the Israel State Bank, left here today, for Washington, where he and Mr. Eshkol will attend the annual meeting of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and of the International Monetary Fund. Israel is a member of both bodies.

Mr. Eshkol will also be one of the principal speakers at the tenth anniversary of the National Economic Planning Conference for Israel in Washington, which opens Sept. 18. The Washington conference will celebrate the tenth anniversary of the launching of the Israel Bond drive.

SCHOOLS REOPEN IN ISRAEL; 500,000 PUPILS RETURN FROM SUMMER VACATION

JERUSALEM, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- A half-million pupils returned to school in Israel today at the end of the summer vacations and some 50,000 entered school for the first time.

Substantial gains were recorded in the battle of school officials against overcrowding. The new school term opened with 450 "second shift" classes, which are held in the afternoon for lack of classroom space. There were 577 such classes last year and 789 in 1958. The progressive decrease was achieved despite population increases from natural growth and from immigration.

The current high school enrollment was reported at 73,000, compared with 61,000 in the previous year. Attendance at Arab schools also was increased, with 35,000 Arab children in elementary schools and 5,000 in state kindergartens. Vocational, agricultural and handicraft classes were marked by an 18 percent increase over 1959.

FACULTY OF JEWISH STUDIES AT BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY GETS RECOGNITION

TEL AVIV, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- The Council on Higher Education granted full recognition today to the faculty of Jewish studies of Bar-Ilan University, the institution sponsored by American Orthodox Jews, and named a committee to study recognition of the university's other faculties. The Council is headed by Education Minister Abba Eban.

Such recognition, which makes a school eligible for Government grants, also is being sought by Tel Aviv University following recommendations of a public commission headed by former Prime Minister Moshe Sharett. A decision on the request of the Tel Aviv University will be considered at a subsequent meeting of the Council.

FORMER NAZI AIDE DENIED RESTORATION OF AMERICAN CITIZENSHIP

NEW YORK, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- The United States Immigration and Naturalization Service today recommended that Professor Edward V. Sittler, former Nazi collaborator, be denied restoration of his American citizenship which he renounced to serve Hitler in World War II. U.S. authorities ruled he failed to prove he had been "attached to the Constitution and well disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States,"

ARGENTINE JEWISH COMMUNITIES VOTE TO JOIN WORLD ZIONIST ORGANIZATION

BUENOS AIRES, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- The Federation of Argentine Jewish Communities voted unanimously here today, at the conclusion of a three-day extraordinary congress, to apply for associate membership in the World Zionist Organization.

The resolution was favored by every one of the 240 delegates present, representing 50 Jewish communities in Argentina. Another resolution, also voted unanimously, decided that the Federation would send a delegation to the next World Zionist Congress, scheduled to be held at the end of this year in Jerusalem.

Present also at the Congress, in addition to the Argentine delegations, were representatives of the organized Jewish communities in Chile, Paraguay and Uruguay.

Another resolution expressed "serious worry" over recent Nazi "excesses" in this country. A fortnight ago, Jewish students at the Sarmiento National High School here were attacked by gangs of nationalist students from the high school and from a nearby Catholic university. The attackers injured a number of the Jewish students, shooting one of them who was seriously injured. Later, the Government condemned the attack while education authorities ordered an inquiry into the incident.

The Congress noted in a separate resolution that "dictatorial regimes always damage Jewry," and "deplored" the isolation of Soviet Jewry from the mainstream of world Jewry. Greetings to the Congress were sent by President Itzhak Ben-Zvi, of Israel; Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization; Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister; and other leading Jewish personalities around the world.

CZECHOSLOVAKIA AND HUNGARY EXPECT THEIR JEWISH COMMUNITIES TO FADE

NEW YORK, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Two New York rabbinical leaders, reporting on a seven-week tour in Europe, said today that the Communist regimes of Czechoslovakia and Hungary expect the Jewish communities of those countries to eventually disappear "because the state is convinced that religion cannot long endure in the climate of a society that vigorously pursues a policy of materialistic atheism."

Rabbi David I. Golovensky, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, and Rabbi Israel Moshowitz, chairman of the group's international Jewish Affairs commission, thus summed up their findings at a press conference here today.

They reported that the 18,000 Jews remaining out of a pre-Hitler population of 200,000 in Czechoslovakia were trying to develop a meaningful Jewish life "out of the chaos and void they inherited." The rabbis noted that the Czechoslovak regime provides financial support to churches and synagogues, paying the salaries of such functionaries as rabbis, cantors and sextons, but that this is being done not in approval of religion but rather because "the state is convinced that religion cannot endure" in a society committed to atheism.

They quoted a government official as telling them: "Why attempt to forcibly eradicate religion from the hearts of men and thereby create new social conflicts when in the near future it will die a natural and peaceful death?" The rabbis said that these factors, and the fact that cities with Jewish communities once numbering in the thousands now have two or three isolated Jewish families "leaves little ground for an optimistic prognosis."

During a ten-day visit to Hungary, the rabbis reported, they came to the conclusion that "considering the nature of Communist ideology and its opposition to religion," there was "a surprising degree of authentic and pulsating Jewish life." They said that there were in Budapest "three magnificent synagogues and a number of small prayer chapels serving the estimated 80,000 Jews." They reported visiting a yeshiva "and examined with satisfaction some of the 16 Talmudic students, 8 to 12 years of age."

Some Communist leaders, they found, believe that "with the gradual alienation of the youth from religion, materialism will emerge victorious. Many Jewish leaders, both rabbinic and lay, however, assured us that the Jews have the opportunity and the instruments, financed at least in part by the Hungarian Government, to maintain an enduring Jewish life."

SWISS GOVT. GIVES 65 TONS OF POWDERED MILK TO J.D.C. FOR NEEDY JEWS

GENEVA, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- The Swiss Government has contributed 65 tons of powdered milk to the Joint Distribution Committee for distribution to needy Jewish families in Morocco and Tunisia, Charles Jordan, director general of the JDC, announced today.

Mr. Jordan said that the donation came from the Swiss Department of Agriculture and that the powdered milk was being prepared by the JDC for shipment and distribution in the two countries where the JDC operates extensive social, health and education programs for some 79,000 men, women and children.

The JDC official said the gift was "a welcome and impressive supplement to our feeding program in Morocco and Tunisia." He added that the JDC was proud that "we are one of the agencies through which the Swiss Government is making this form of contribution to the needy of many countries. We are grateful not only for ourselves but for the tens of thousands to whom this gift will give more nourishment and a better life."

STUDENTS FROM 116 COLLEGES DISCUSS ZIONIST MOVEMENT IN UNITED STATES

DETROIT, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Some 200 members of the Student Zionist Organization from 116 colleges campuses today opened the organization's seventh annual national convention at Camp Sharon, Michigan, to re-examine the role of Zionism in the light of recent developments. They will especially discuss the Zionist movement in America and on the college campuses.

Among issues the collegiate Zionists will discuss at the six-day convention will be the unity of the Jewish people, the problems of Jewish exiles and related matters. One feature will be a workshop on professional opportunities today in Israel which will be headed by Yitzhak Woolfson, director of the Professional and Technical Workers Aliyah.

Seven Canadian colleges are represented. Delegates include members of a chapter of American students at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem and 15 college students who have just returned from a seven-week tour of Israel sponsored by the Jewish Agency Summer Institute.

DECISION TO CLOSE N. Y. PUBLIC SCHOOLS ON ROSH HASHANAH EVOKES PROTEST

NEW YORK, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- The New York City Board of Education plan to close public schools on Rosh Hashanah, September 22 and 23, came under legal attack today from the Freethinkers of America. Joseph Lewis, president of the group, and Alfred L. Klein, father of two Staten Island children, filed papers in court asking the Board of Education to show cause why the schools should be closed.

The order is returnable September 5 in Brooklyn Supreme Court. The show cause demand argued that the school closing would violate both state and federal constitutions because the constitutions "prohibit the disruption of the public schools for the purposes of religious instruction or the benefit of any religious sect."

The suit also contended that children who are not of the Jewish faith would be compelled by the closing "to observe the Jewish New Year against their will." The school board decided last January to take the action because of the large numbers of teachers absent on those days. Yom Kippur observance is not involved because it falls this year on a Saturday when schools are closed.

SOUTHERN CITY WITH 300 JEWISH FAMILIES OPENS ALL-DAY HEBREW SCHOOL

NEW YORK, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- An all-day Hebrew school was opened today in Augusta, Georgia, which has a Jewish population of about 300 families, it was announced here by Samuel C. Feuerstein, president of Torah Umesorah, the national society for Orthodox Hebrew Day Schools. There are 14 pupils in the first grade of the new school.

Torah Umesorah has helped during the past 16 years to establish 258 such schools and 48 Hebrew high schools in 24 states with a total school population of 45,000 children. Mr. Feuerstein said that the Augusta school was one of 13 new Jewish all-day schools scheduled for opening for the current academic year.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA ISSUES LABOR DAY MESSAGE; HONORS LABOR

NEW YORK, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Leaders of the Jewish, Catholic and Protestant faiths today issued special statements honoring labor in connection with the national observance of Labor Day next Monday. The statements were in the names of the National Council of Churches (Protestant) National Catholic Welfare Conference and the Synagogue Council of America, the coordinating agency for the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jewish congregations in the United States.

Rabbi Max Davidson, president of the Synagogue Council, declared in his message that the theme of Labor Day this year is "the right of every man and woman to work in peace and dignity without discrimination or distinction based on race, religion, color, ancestry or national origin." Rabbi Davidson pointed out that the Talmud had stated: "Great is labor, for it does honor to him who is occupied by it."

RIO DE JANEIRO CITY COUNCIL LAUDS BRAZILIAN JEWISH NEWSPAPER

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- A resolution lauding the contributions to Brazilian life by the Yiddish newspaper, "Yiddische Presse," was adopted here today by the Rio de Janeiro City Council. The newspaper is currently celebrating its 30th anniversary. The Council praised the newspaper for "developing the love of Brazil among the immigrants to this country."

Today, a new fortnightly Jewish publication, in Portuguese, made its appearance here. The periodical is entitled "Menorah," and is aimed primarily toward the interests of the younger generation of Jews in Brazil. Six well known young Jewish journalists who are staff members of prominent Brazilian newspapers are the editors of "Menorah."