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EISENHOWER WARNS AGAINST INJECTING RELIGION IN ELECTION CAMPAIGNS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7, (JTA) -- President Eisenhower today told his press conference that he was firmly opposed to injection of religious issues in election campaigns. Mr. Eisenhower said:

"Mr. Nixon and I agreed long ago that one thing that we would never raise, and never mention, is the religious issue in the coming campaign, I have made my position clear." The President added: "I not only don't believe in voicing prejudice, I want to assure you I feel none. And I am sure that Mr. Nixon feels exactly the same."

Mr. Eisenhower pointed out that "the need for protesting innocence in this regard seems to exacerbate the situation rather than to quiet it." He said no one had suggested to him that religion should be used as an election issue. He voiced hope that religion "could be one of those subjects that could be laid on the shelf and forgotten until after the election is over."

JORDAN SITUATION NOT AFFECTING ISRAEL, ESHKOL SAYS IN LONDON

LONDON, Sept. 7, (JTA) -- The situation in Jordan, as a consequence of the assassination of the Prime Minister there, was termed here today by Israel's Finance Minister Levi Eshkol as a "purely internal matter" which must nevertheless keep Israel "on the alert." Mr. Eshkol added that he does not think that "the Jordanian situation is serious enough to affect Israel."

The Israel Finance Minister, who is flying tonight to Mexico, spoke at a press conference here prior to his being received by the Chancellor of the Exchequer Selwyn Lloyd, and talks which he held today with representatives of six of the largest banks in Britain. He revealed that he had similar financial talks in Paris yesterday, including a talk with French Finance Minister Baumgartner.

Mr. Eshkol said that among matters discussed in Paris, was the possible purchase by Israel of a new, 20,000-ton liner for Israel's expanding merchant marine. Negotiations for this purchase, he stated, are proceeding with a French shipyard and French financiers. As for relations with Britain, he said that an "atmosphere of sincere friendship" has been growing between Britain and Israel, increasing in the last 12 years since Israel's state was reborn.

Discusses Financial Matters with Chancellor of the Exchequer

Later in the day, Mr. Eshkol conferred for an hour with Chancellor of the Exchequer Selwyn Lloyd, discussing with him economic affairs of mutual interest to Israel and Britain. Among the matters discussed was Israel's possible tie-in with the various regional European economic organizations.

Appearing to have been satisfied with the Lloyd discussion, Mr. Eshkol said he hoped the outcome of the discussions "would be very positive." He told a press conference at the Israel Embassy in the afternoon that Israel is prepared to increase her trade volume with Britain and "to secure closer links as far as commercial activities are concerned."

Mr. Eshkol's talk with the representatives of the six largest banks in Britain centered on the general economic situation in Israel with regard to capital development and the possibilities of inducing banks and other firms to make financial investments in Israel.

Israel, said the Finance Minister, needs not only short-term loans but also long-term loans for development of various industrial expansions, particularly its chemical industry and an expanding merchant marine. Israel wants to double its merchant fleet, Mr. Eshkol declared.

Economic cooperation between Britain and Israel has been growing, Mr. Eshkol stated. The understanding on the levels of the two governments has now developed into closer economic ties, "especially in the last few years," he said.

INDIA ACCEPTS PROPOSAL TO RAISE STATUS OF ISRAEL'S CONSULATE

NEW DELHI, Sept. 7, (JTA) -- The Indian Government has accepted a proposal by Israel to raise Israel's consulate here to the status of Consulate-General, it was announced here officially today. India recognizes Israel but has not yet established formal diplomatic relations with the Jewish State.

ISRAEL TO START LONG-PLANNED HUGE NATIONAL IRRIGATION PROJECT

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- Work on the national irrigation project involving diversion of Jordan River waters is being accelerated and construction of a 6,000,000-pound pumping station is scheduled to begin soon on the shores of the Sea of Galilee for the project, it was disclosed today.

The production of 100 eight-inch steel-reinforced concrete pipes, which will serve as main conductors of Jordan River water, also is being speeded up at the Yuval Gad factory at Ashkelon. Plans call for a total of 10 miles of the giant pipes to be produced this year but completion of the entire project will require several years.

Six construction firms, including several in other countries, submitted bids for building the pumping station which is scheduled to be completed in 30 months. The Government is expected to choose a contractor next week. Work also is proceeding on channels and tunnels in which the giant pipes will be placed.

ISRAEL OFFERS TO TEACH ARABIC TO MOSLEM CHILDREN IN AFRICAN LANDS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- Israel has offered several African countries with substantial Moslem populations assistance in the teaching of Arabic in their schools, it was disclosed here today. Names of the countries were not revealed.

Israel has unusual experience in this area of teaching. It is the only country in which a system has been developed to teach Arabic as a first foreign language to pupils whose mother tongue is not Arabic. Israel also has suitable textbooks, including English-Arabic ones, in contrast to methods and texts in Arab countries which are designed for pupils whose mother tongue is Arabic.

It was noted, in connection with the Israeli offer, that there is some apprehension in several African countries that teachers from Egypt, the traditional source of Arabic educators, might become agents of subversion for President Nasser of the United Arab Republic. This has happened in several countries.

Groups in the African countries which are under Egyptian influence responded to the Israel offer with counter-measures, it was reported. Sierra Leone's secretary of the Moslem League came to Egypt with a warning that unless the Arab League provided needed teachers, "my countrymen are liable to accept the Israeli offer."

ISRAELI TEACHERS INVITED TO GERMANY TO ADVISE ON TEXTBOOKS

BRUNSWICK, Germany, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- Israeli teachers' organizations have been invited by the International Schoolbook Institute here to cooperate in the improvement and further development of teaching materials for German schools.

The Institute is devoted to the task of general improvement of civic education in German schools, in an effort to insure that German students learn about democracy, the evils of Nazism, and the civic benefits of intergroup understanding.

EX-CHIEF OF NAZI CONCENTRATION CAMP COMMITS SUICIDE IN WINNIPEG

WINNIPEG, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- Alex Laak, 53, a self-confessed Nazi gauleiter, committed suicide last night by hanging himself in the garage of his home here.

Last week, a Radio Moscow broadcast discussing the forthcoming trial in Israel of Adolf Eichmann, Nazi "specialist" in the extermination of 6,000,000 Jews, charged that "a former Nazi leader and other fascist murderers are living safely abroad, some of them in Winnipeg."

Laak wrote a letter to a local newspaper, the Winnipeg Free Press, saying that the Moscow Radio evidently meant him in mentioning Nazis living here. He confessed in his letter that he had been gauleiter of a Nazi concentration camp at Tallin, Esthonia, in 1942 and 1943.

Canada's External Affairs Department, at Ottawa, denied at first that there were any former Nazis living in Canada. Today, however, a Department spokesman stated that, if there were any Nazis in this country, "they entered illegally." Laak has been in Canada since 1948.

GERMAN BUSINESSMAN, ABUSED FOR DEFENDING JEWS, EMIGRATES TO CANADA

AMSTERDAM, Sept. 6. (JTA) -- A non-Jewish businessman and his family, who suffered a boycott and molestation by inhabitants of the West German village of Koppeln for his defense of a half-Jewish cafe owner whose case became an international incident, is duplicating the action of the cafe owner and leaving West Germany, it was reported here today.

Max Kaufman and his family will take up temporary residence in Holland before leaving for permanent settlement in Canada. The Kaufman family was abused for defending Heinrich Sumpf, the cafe owner. Sumpf's persecution was publicized internationally. A group of Dutch emigrants now living in Canada will sponsor the emigration to that country of the Kaufman family. The Sumpf family migrated to the United States.

24, 620 SOVIET JEWISH SCIENTISTS 'DISAPPEAR' FROM MOSCOW OFFICIAL DATA

NEW YORK, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- The Soviet Government was charged today with deliberately concealing the part played by Soviet Jews in the fields of science, agriculture and industry. The charge was substantiated by data showing that there were 24, 620 Jewish scientific workers in the Soviet Union in 1955 -- surpassed only by the Russian group, with 144, 285 -- while not a single Jew figures in the Soviet statistics published in 1957 in the volume "The Achievements of the Soviet Regime in 40 years in Figures."

The charge was made in a report on the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union published by the Christian Science Monitor. The leading American newspaper pointed out that the statistical tables on the number of scientific workers according to nationality published in the 1957 volume listed 300 Turkmenians, 100 Tazhiks, and 300 Moldavians in the total of 223, 893 scientists, but omitted to mention the number of Jewish scientists.

The fact that there were 24, 620 Jewish scientific workers in the Soviet Union in 1955 was indicated in the Soviet periodical Voprosy Filosofii (Problems of Philosophy), the Christian Science Monitor stressed. It also pointed out that the 1957 volume on the Soviet achievements during 40 years of existence carried no designation "Jew" or "Jewish" in its 358 pages.

"Although specifically recognized as a religious and national entity, Soviet Jews are prevented from fulfilling their cultural and religious aspirations or being treated as equals with the Russians or Ukrainians or any of the other 120-odd nationalities of the Soviet Union," the study establishes. "They are suspected of an 'antistate' or 'anti-social' attitude if they declare themselves as Jews, and they are rejected if they declare themselves as Russians, Moldavians, Ukrainians, and so on.

"They are living in a state of permanent double jeopardy, as it were, a fact that has led to a constantly deteriorating relationship with tragic personal consequences," the Christian Science Monitor emphasizes.

The paper pointed out that in the official Soviet census of last February 2, 268, 000 persons declared themselves as Jewish -- roughly 1.1 percent of the Soviet population. In addition, some 800, 000 Jews are believed to have registered as Russians or Ukrainians, raising the ratio to just below 1.5 percent.

"Yet," the paper emphasized, "among the some 1, 300 deputies of the two houses of the Supreme Soviet there are only three Jews -- not quite .25 percent -- and among the some 250 members and candidate members of the Central Committee of the Soviet Communist Party there are only two Jews -- less than .8 percent. There also has been a drastic decline in the number of Jewish students in Soviet universities -- from 13 percent, in 1935, to between two and three percent today.

"As individuals, Jews have been removed in large numbers from responsible positions in the military and diplomatic service. Unlike other indigenous cults -- Pravoslavs, Baptists, and Moslems -- Jews are not allowed to have a nationwide federation of their religious communities," the report stressed.

ORIGINAL SECTIONS OF TALMUD REPORTED DISCOVERED IN SOVIET LIBRARY

NEW YORK, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- Professor Abraham I. Katsh, chairman of the Department of Hebrew Studies at New York University, told the New York Times correspondent in Moscow yesterday that during his present visit in Leningrad, he discovered in the Public Library there manuscripts that record original, uncensored sections of the Talmud and show that the name of Jesus appeared in the original version of the Talmud. The manuscripts were found by him in the Antonin Genizah Collection of the library, Prof. Katsh said.

Antonin was a Russian priest who, in 1860, went through the Genizah -- a storage place of old Hebrew religious documents -- in the Cairo synagogue. Antonin was able to select and take away about 1, 200 fragments of the manuscripts, some dating from the Ninth Century. Prof. Katsh said the Antonin Collection included fragments that were "extremely valuable" variants from the present edition of the Talmud.

The variants stem largely from deletions made by the government censors of various countries who struck out material from successive editions after the printing of the Talmudic compendium began in the Sixteenth Century. References to Jesus appear to have been struck out by civil censors either out of caprice or because they took the view that they were derogatory.

The availability of the variants on Jesus and other deviations from the accepted Talmud will help scholars to better understand Talmudic law, Dr. Katsh said. The Antonin Collection which Dr. Katsh microfilmed in its entirety, also contains revealing material about the life of Jews in Egypt in the Eleventh and Twelfth Centuries.

AMERICAN JEWISH YOUTH CONFERENCE DISCUSSES MEANING OF JUDAISM

STARLIGHT, Pa., Sept. 7. (JTA) -- American Jewish youth was called upon today to reject the "bagel and lox" concept of Judaism and to seek the deeper meaning of their heritage. The call was made by Rabbi Maurice Pekar, founder and director of the Hillel Foundation at the University of Chicago, addressing the Conference of Jewish Youth of the United States and Canada now being held here. Delegates from 19 Zionist and non-Zionist national youth organizations are participating in the three-day parley which is being sponsored by the youth department of the Jewish Agency.

Citing the various characters of the different groups represented at the conference, Dr. Pekar urged the delegates to consider the unifying factors of Judaism in their deliberations. Rabbi Norman Frimer, New York regional director of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, urged the delegates to accept the obligations of leadership in the ethical field.

Discussing the moral failings of the older generation of Jews and non-Jews, Rabbi Frimer urged the 150 delegates to formulate "ethically-laden programming" and to establish "cells of dedicated people in every organization, to serve as examples of ethical and moral leadership." He suggested that such dedicated youth resolve to give one year's service with some movement or to spend a year in Israel in work or study.

NEGRO LABOR UNION LOCAL PURCHASES \$11,000 WORTH OF ISRAEL BONDS

WASHINGTON, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- A Negro labor union here today purchased \$11,000 worth of State of Israel bonds "in appreciation of the technical aid Israel is giving to underdeveloped new nations in Africa." The purchase was announced by James Jeter, secretary-treasurer of Local 74 of the International Hod Carriers and Builders Union, who said the move was initiated by the president of the local, Walter Boyce, Jr.

In turning over the \$11,000 check to Dr. Seymour Alpert, chairman of the Israel Bond campaign in Washington, Mr. Jeter stated that his union felt "Israel's program of assistance to the newly independent states of Africa and Asia is a vital factor in helping these young nations to achieve economic stability under democratic self government."

PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL OPENS HASSIDIC EXHIBITION; THOUSANDS ATTEND

TEL AVIV, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- Thousands of persons visited today a Hassidic exhibition, displaying some 2,000 exhibits of the Hassidic era, which was opened by President Ben-Zvi in the presence of Sephardic Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim and Benjamin Mintz, the new Minister of Posts. The two Orthodox leaders were the moving spirits in organizing the exhibit which marks the 200th anniversary of the death of Baal Shem Tov, founder of the Hassidic movement.

The items on exhibit include documents and pictures of noted Hassidic rabbis, the chairs and tables they used and ancient Arks. The exhibition proved to be an attraction for religious and non-religious Jews alike.

NAMIE PHILLIPS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF SO. AFRICAN BOARD OF DEPUTIES

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- Namie Phillips, chairman of the Board of Deputies of South African Jews, was unanimously elected president last night at the closing session of the organization's congress.

Moses A. Leavitt, executive vice-president of the Joint Distribution Committee, addressed the congress yesterday on Jewish problems and JDC programs around the world. He was given a warm welcome by the delegates. The delegates endorsed the work of the board in youth and student areas where a Hillel-type program was introduced during the past year.

The delegates also extended a bon voyage to Gustav Saron, the board's general secretary, who was scheduled to leave tomorrow for the United States on a year's sabbatical. He is one of nine community leaders from three continents who will do graduate study at American universities through National Council of Jewish Women scholarships. He will study community organization at the School of Applied Social Sciences of Western Reserve University in Cleveland.

NEW CUBAN MINISTER TO ISRAEL PRESENTS CREDENTIALS IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Sept. 7. (JTA) -- Ricardo Subirana y Lobo, new Cuban Minister to Israel, today presented his letters of credence to President Itzhak Ben-Zvi.

Responding to the Havana envoy's expression of the hope for amicable relations between Cuba and Israel, President Ben-Zvi wished the people of Cuba success in solving their economic, social and political problems. He also expressed the hope for friendly ties between Cuba and Israel.