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REPORT ON ISRAEL'S ABILITY TO PRODUCE AN ATOMIC BOMB IS DENIED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The Israeli Embassy here today denied a report published in London and in Washington that Israel has developed a nuclear reactor which will enable the Jewish State to build an atomic bomb. Similar denials were made also in Jerusalem.

The report, published in the Washington Post today, said that it is officially established in Washington that Israel has secretly developed a nuclear reactor which would make it possible for the State of Israel to produce an atomic bomb within perhaps five years. The report was written by Chalmers M. Roberts, the Post's leading political writer.

"It was the discovery of this development, unknown to the United States Government until very recently, which brought about a December 9 secret conference in Washington of the Joint Atomic Energy Committee of the U.S. Congress," the Post reported. "Committee members were called here from their homes all across the nation to hear a secret briefing on the Israeli atomic military development by State Department and Central Intelligence Agency officials." Word of this development had been transmitted to President-elect John F. Kennedy by CIA Chief Allen W. Dulles, the Post said.

(On Friday, the London Express reported Israel was believed by U.S. and British intelligence to be making an experimental atomic bomb, Reuters reported. But, an Israel Embassy spokesman in London later told Reuters that Israel is "not building an atom bomb and has no intention of doing so." The spokesman said: "We have been for some years engaged in atomic research, especially the development of isotopes and heavy water. But Israel has neither the means nor the intention of using her atomic research for the construction of an atom bomb.")

The Washington Post said that the Israeli atomic development came as a surprise to American officials. "Whether or not Israel intends to build a nuclear weapon, she now has the capability. And the five-year estimate could be wrong as have been estimates of Soviet progress, by a matter of years," the paper commented.

The Israel Embassy in Washington indicated in its statement that Israel has no such capacity. The statement said: "Israel's atomic research program was directed exclusively to peaceful use. Israel has neither the practical means nor the desire to use her atomic research for other than peaceful purposes--such as the development of isotopes for agricultural and medical application."

State Department Abstains from Comment; Notes Israel's Denial

A State Department spokesman refused to comment on the substance of the Washington Post report. All he said was: "We have noticed the various press reports on this subject. We have also noticed the statement by the Israeli Embassy in London that Israel is not building an atom bomb and has no intention of doing so."

The Washington Post stressed that four nations, the United States, the Soviet Union, Britain and France are manufacturing atomic bombs. "If Israel is the next to go into production, she thus would be the fifth nuclear power," the paper pointed out. It asserted that development of nuclear weapons by Israel could radically upset the Arab-Israeli balance, "quite likely breaking the current relative calm in the long-time Arab-Israeli controversy."

Israel and the Arabs, said the Post, have long been involved in a precarious balance of conventional weapons. "The United Arab Republic has received large quantities of Soviet jet aircraft and other weapons, while Israel has obtained the most modern jets from France," the Washington paper stated.

Israel Considers Report Flattering, but Grossly Exaggerated

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Israel was amused today by the reports abroad that her scientists are well on the way to making an atomic bomb. Professor David Bergman, head of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission, said: "The report is very flattering, but is grossly exaggerated. Israel's industry is not capable of such a task."

Well informed military circles in Israel stated today: "Israel's atomic energy development is for research and peaceful uses only." Foreign Ministry circles said today they

had no knowledge of the reports circulated here, claiming that Israel's Ambassador to the United States, Avraham Harman, was summoned urgently and secretly to the U. S. State Department last week, in connection with the reports about Israel's alleged atomic bomb developments.

(The London Express, quoting an Israel Atomic Energy Commission authority as stating that Israel does not yet have enough of a nuclear industry to build an atomic bomb, added that a team of United States experts recently carried out a survey of all the nations which possibly could become atomic powers in the near future, and "Israel is not among them.")

NO JEWS KILLED IN ALGERIAN DISTURBANCES, FRENCH AUTHORITIES REPORT

PARIS, Dec. 18, (JTA) -- The French authorities in Algeria today denied, in an official communique, that any Jews were killed in the recent Moslem-French rioting. Jewish organizations here also have been informed by their offices in Algeria that no Jew was killed and none seriously injured.

The reports indicated that an unknown number of Jews were slightly injured either in the general rioting or in some special anti-Jewish actions.

The organizations also received reports from North Africa that the Jewish community in Algiers is in a condition of acute anxiety because of the wrecking and destruction of the Casbah synagogue, the largest and finest in the entire French North African territory.

The synagogue had been in little use in recent years because few members of the Jewish community dared to enter the heart of the Casbah where it was located. Latest reports indicated that the structure was completely wrecked. The outer gates were torn down, the synagogue's sacred books were torn to shreds and the walls smeared with anti-Jewish slogans and swastikas.

The "Action Committee for the Defense of Democracy," headed by Jacques Soustelle, issued a statement today deploring the anti-Jewish incidents and calling on French security forces to assure adequate protection for all citizens in Algeria.

ISRAEL URGED TO ESTABLISH BODY FOR IMMIGRANTS FROM WESTERN COUNTRIES

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18, (JTA) -- Establishment of a central Government authority to handle immigration from western countries was urged here by the Council for Western Aliyah. The Council represents settlers in the British, South African, American and Canadian Immigrants associations.

A spokesman for the council stressed, at a press conference, that it was essential that an expert body deal with the absorption of immigrants who come to Israel of their own free will.

"The problem today is not immigration from the free world but its absorption once it is here," the spokesman said. He added that those from western countries who left Israel did so out of personal disappointments which could be prevented by a competent authority which would include the departments of the Government and of the Jewish Agency which deal with aliyah and absorption.

ITALIAN JEWISH REFUGEES FROM EGYPT WILL GET GOVERNMENT ASSISTANCE

ROME, Dec. 18, (JTA) -- The Union of Italian Jewish Communities reported today that the Oct. 25, 1960 law providing aid to Italian citizens repatriated from Egypt after the 1956 Suez campaign, who included a number of Jews, has become effective.

The law, passage of which climaxed three years of effort by the Union, extends to such refugees the provisions for refugees generally established by 1952 legislation. That legislation guarantees to bona fide refugees monthly subsidies, employment aid, enrollment on jobless lists and, if requested, acceptance in refugee centers pending permanent settlement.

AUSTRIA TO RESUME TALKS WITH BONN ON PAYMENTS TO NAZI VICTIMS

BONN, Dec. 18, (JTA) -- Political sources indicated here today that indemnification talks between the West German Government and Austria were expected to be resumed early next year.

Negotiations for a West German contribution to an Austrian fund for restitution to victims of the Nazi period in Austria have been deadlocked for more than a year because the West German Government claimed Austria had collaborated with Hitler and should indemnify its own victims of nazism.

According to reports, West Germany has offered to pay a total of 250,000,000 marks (\$60,000,000) to Austria for compensation of persons persecuted by nazism, for war victims and for postwar refugees.

GERMAN DEFENSE MINISTRY MAY BUY MUNITION CONTAINERS FROM ISRAEL

BONN, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The West German Defense Ministry confirmed today reports that it "may contract" an Israeli firm for delivery of 120,000 munitions containers.

It was disclosed that the Tel Aviv firm answered an advertisement placed by the West German Army for such containers and a representative of the army opened talks with the firm in Israel. The Ministry denied another report that the army planned to buy uniforms from the Tel Aviv firm.

JEWS IN GERMANY PROTEST DISTORTED PORTRAYAL OF JEW ON TELEVISION

BERLIN, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The Jewish community here protested today against what it called a "distorted" portrayal of a Jew in a play appearing on the national West German television network.

In an open letter to the Stuttgart radio company, Heinz Galinski, head of the West Berlin Jewish community, said that the play had "depicted a Jewish citizen in the manner of a Nazi caricature." His protest referred to a scene in the play in which a salesman, ostensibly of Polish-Jewish extraction, sold clothes in a second-hand shop.

Mr. Galinski said the scene "must give a completely false picture to German youths" who had never met a Jew. But Carl Zuckmayer, a German-born United States citizen who wrote the play, "The Captain of Koepenick," said he was "entirely in agreement" with the television portrayal. He said the Jewish dealer was "a type as then lived in old Berlin."

FATE OF NAZIS WHO DEPORTED 100,000 JEWS DISCUSSED IN DUTCH PARLIAMENT

THE HAGUE, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The Dutch Minister of Justice, Dr. Anton Beerman, refused this weekend during debate in the lower chamber of Parliament to commit his Government to permanent imprisonment for four German war criminals convicted of participation in the deportation and gassing of more than 100,000 Dutch Jews.

The four SS men--Lages, Kotalla, Ausderfueten and Fischer--originally were sentenced to death but the sentences later were commuted to life imprisonment.

Dr. C. Berkhouwer, a Liberal Member of Parliament, urged Dr. Beerman to declare that the four Nazis would never be released. Dr. Beerman replied that the right of pardon was a prerogative of the Crown and that it was impossible to tie the hands of a future government on the question.

FLORENCE POLICE CONSIDER ANTI-JEWISH ARTICLE AS 'INCITEMENT TO HATRED'

FLORENCE, Italy, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- The political office of the Florence Police Headquarters officially expressed the opinion that the author of an anti-Semitic article distributed by the "Orbis" news agency, which has its headquarters here, was guilty of "apology for crime and incitement to hatred."

The political office gave this view after a request for action by the Union of Italian Jewish Communities on the article, written by Luigi Mosciano, purporting to be a survey of the status of the remnant of Jews in West Germany, with a Munich dateline. Mosciano attacked the West German Jews in explicit Nazi terms.

The political office said also that "any further decision on the issue is up to the magistrature of Florence." The article, in which Mosciano wrote that West German Jews were "money-sick" and "creating around them an atmosphere of repressed hatred which some day will explode in a new Hitlerian era," has been regarded with concern by Jewish groups and other democratic groups and by police authorities.

This attitude, it was explained, does not stem from the status of the news agency, which is considered unimportant, but because it seemed to fit in within a general picture of intensified neo-fascist aggressiveness and symptoms of Nazi-inspired propaganda in Italy.

Fears have been expressed that such propaganda, unless checked, might be intensified to reach a peak at the start of the trial in March in Israel of Adolf Eichmann, who directed the extermination of the 6,000,000 European Jews, not only in Italy but in other countries as well.

DEPORTATION OF 284 JEWS FROM FLORENCE BY NAZIS COMMEMORATED IN ITALY

FLORENCE, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- A ceremony commemorating the deportation of 284 Jews in this city during the Second World War, was held at the main synagogue here today.

Official representatives of the city, civil and military authorities, members of the Florence Jewish community, and representatives of the Freedom Fighters Association, took part in the rites which were sponsored by the National Association of the Families of Italian Martyrs for Freedom.

JEWISH HEIRESS OFFERS \$500,000 FOR TEACHERS IN DESEGREGATED SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Miss Ellen Steinberg, daughter of the late Marc C. Steinberg, St. Louis Jewish investment broker and philanthropist, announced here today that she has set aside \$500,000 to help the New Orleans Board of Education to keep its schools open in the face of segregationist actions by the Louisiana Legislature, which has cut off funds needed to pay teachers.

Expressing herself as "deeply distressed" over the New Orleans situation, Miss Steinberg said she hoped her move "will encourage others who have been silent to fight to keep the schools open."

Miss Steinberg's father, a multimillionaire, had given large sums of money, during his life, to Washington University, in St. Louis, and to hospitals and charities in that city. She said the \$500,000 will be placed in a New York bank, to be drawn by the New Orleans school board if the board accepts her offer.

CANADIAN PREMIER TO RECEIVE 1960 CANADA-ISRAEL FRIENDSHIP AWARD

OTTAWA, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Prime Minister John G. Diefenbaker has been named the recipient of the 1960 Canada-Israel Friendship Award given by the State of Israel Bond Organization in Toronto, it was announced here today.

The Prime Minister will receive the award at the Ambassador's Ball here on Jan. 24. The ball, held annually for the past eight years, is under the patronage of Israel's Ambassador to Canada, Yaacov Herzog. Last year's winner was Roland Michener, Speaker of the House of Commons.

HILLEL FOUNDATION SERVICE EXTENDED TO OXFORD UNIVERSITY IN ENGLAND

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Oxford University in England, one of the oldest institutions of higher learning in the world, will be the 235th campus at which service to Jewish students will be rendered by the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations, it was announced by Dr. William Haber, chairman of the National Hillel Commission.

This is the seventh university in Great Britain where Hillel service will exist under the supervision of the Hillel Advisory Board of Great Britain, and the National Hillel Commission. An Advisory Board for the Oxford Hillel program has been organized, headed by Sir Isaah Berlin, distinguished scholar.

CENTENNIAL OF ABRAHAM CAHAN COMMEMORATED AT TOWN HALL

NEW YORK, Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Leaders of Government and labor, were among the 2,000 personalities gathered at Town Hall here today to pay homage to the memory of the late Abraham Cahan, famous as one of the founders of the Jewish Daily Forward, who was born 100 years ago.

Among the prominent personalities who sent messages honoring Mr. Cahan's memory on the occasion of the centenary of his birth were President Eisenhower, President-elect John F. Kennedy, Israel's President Izhak Ben-Zvi and Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, New York's Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller, and Abraham A. Ribicoff, Governor of Connecticut who has been designated as Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare in the next Washington Administration.

Speakers included Mayor Robert F. Wagner, David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; Jacob Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; Adolph Held, president of the Forward Association; Alexander Kahn, general manager of the Forward; Nathan Chanan, general secretary of the Workmen's Circle; and Hillel Rogoff, editor of The Forward, who succeeded Mr. Cahan when the latter died in 1951.

Mr. Cahan was praised as an editor; as an author who wrote prolifically in English as well as in Yiddish; and as one of the leading figures who helped the Americanization of many Jews who came to the United States during the great flow of mass immigration in the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries. His pioneering efforts in social reform were praised in many of the messages.

SAMUEL NEUSNER, PUBLISHER OF 'HARTFORD JEWISH LEDGER,' DEAD; WAS 64

HARTFORD, Conn., Dec. 18. (JTA) -- Samuel Neusner, founder and publisher of the Jewish Ledger of Hartford, died here at the age of 64 after a long illness.

Brought here as a child from Poland where he was born, Mr. Neusner was educated in Beverly, Mass., and went into the Army Air Force. After his army service, he worked in Dallas for an English Jewish paper and then came to Boston to serve as editor of local editions for the Jewish Advocate of Boston.

In 1929 he purchased the interests of the Jewish Advocate in Western Massachusetts and Springfield and organized three editions of a new publication, the Jewish Ledger. With additional editions, the Ledger was published in Hartford, Springfield, New Haven and Bridgeport.