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PASSOVER CELEBRATIONS START TONIGHT; JEWS PRAY FOR FREEDOM AND PEACE

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- Jews throughout the world will start celebrating the eight-day Passover festival at sundown tomorrow with traditional seders at which the story of the liberation of the Israelites from Egyptian slavery more than 3,000 years ago will be told, and the memory of the 6,000,000 Jews killed by the Nazis will be commemorated with a special prayer. The Passover themes in synagogue sermons and prayers will be--liberation from bondage, freedom and peace for the entire world.

Jewish men and women in the armed services of the United States, stationed in this country, at bases and installations around the world, and on all Naval facilities, will attend special seders arranged by the National Jewish Welfare Board. The JWB is the agency authorized by the United States Government to serve the religious needs of Jewish servicemen and women and their families, as well as of Jews who are hospitalized veterans of the U.S. armed services.

Officiating at the special services arranged by the JWB will be 370 full-time and part-time Jewish chaplains. Additionally, 265 Armed Services Committees and the field staffs of the JWB and the United Service Organization will work closely with the Jewish chaplains. Passover services and seders will be conducted under this vast program not only in camps and installations in the United States but also in Korea and Japan, in Panama and at missile and radar stations in the Arctic, in North Africa, Turkey, Greece, throughout Europe, in Iceland and the Caribbean, at Guantanamo Bay in Cuba and at Thule, Greenland.

Warburg Stresses J. D. C. Passover Aid to Needy Jews Abroad

Special Passover messages were issued today by leaders of many Jewish organizations devoted to overseas aid, domestic communal activities, religious causes and the Zionist movement. Joseph Meyerhoff, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, which, in 1961, is aiding nearly 600,000 distressed Jews in 27 countries, pointed out that, "by a happy coincidence, this Passover comes in a month in which the young democracy of Israel will mark its 13th year of independence."

Edward M. M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, said: "Through the JDC, the Jews of America this year will be host at the seder table to tens of thousands of needy Jews overseas. Many among them have been provided this Passover with matzot and other essentials for the traditional observance. In addition, mass sederim will be conducted in a number of European cities for Jewish refugees en route to Israel and other free lands. For them it will be their first Passover in the free world.

"It is only the concern and generosity of American Jewry which will make possible for these and others the celebration of Passover. It is this concern, expressed through gifts to the United Jewish Appeal, which enabled the JDC once again this year to send hundreds of thousands of pounds of Passover food and supplies to needy Jews overseas," Mr. Warburg pointed out.

Leaders Appeal for Intensified American Jewish Aid to Israel

Dewey D. Stone, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., and national chairman of the United Israel Appeal, declared: "As we approach this Passover holiday, the world's oldest festival of freedom, we rededicate ourselves to those high ideals of liberty, justice and charity which are the mainstays of our heritage as Jews as well as Americans."

Mr. Stone expressed the hope that "it be given to us in the years to come to see in Israel the continuation of the great ingathering, and to welcome to the shores of Israel those for whom today this land is but a hope and a silent prayer." "May we live to see Israel grown to full maturity," he concluded, "secure and at peace with all its neighbors, fulfilling the ancient prophecy 'and thou shall be a blessing.'"

Israel's 13th anniversary was also emphasized in the Passover statement issued by Abraham Feinberg, president of the State of Israel Bond Organization. The Jewish State's Bar Mitzvah anniversary, said Mr. Feinberg, "represents a coming of age in a world of unparalleled progress in the fields of economic and scientific development. In the space of 13 years, Israel has many achievements to her credit.

"But all this has been achieved without utilizing the full potentialities of the country. The people of Israel, as they recall the wanderings of their forefathers, are keenly conscious of the fact that the Negev Desert, comprising half of Israel's area, is still largely

a wilderness. This year, one of their most vital activities will be the establishment of industrial towns in the Negev. Sharing a common history, it is most fitting that we also share in the development of every part of Israel through our purchase of Israel bonds in greater amounts."

Jewish Dedication to the Cause of Emigrants and Refugees Stressed

Murray I. Gurfein, president of United Hias Service, pointed out in his Passover statement that the festival is "a time for rededication to the cause of the wayfarer, the migrant and the refugee." United Hias Service, he said, "with a record of assisting more than 3,000,000 Jewish migrants during the past 77 years, pledges to remain on the alert to fulfill the hopes and dreams of every possible Jewish refugee."

Special messages calling attention to the relation between the Passover festival and the striving of all people to peace and freedom were issued by Herbert B. Ehrmann, president of the American Jewish Committee; Rabbi Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress; Label A. Katz, president of B'nai B'rith; and Mrs. Charles Hymes, president of the National Council of Jewish Women.

Max Bressler, president of the Zionist Organization of America, pledged the ZOA in the spirit of Passover, to dedicate itself "anew to the ideal of Zion reborn, the unity and cultural regeneration of our people everywhere through a common bond of faith, tradition and heritage, and to the centrality of Israel and Jewish life."

Mrs. Rose Halprin, as co-chairman of the Confederation of General Zionists, emphasized "the duty of Zionists in the Diaspora to rededicate themselves to the unfinished tasks of the movement--the ingathering of the exiles, the unity of our people throughout the world and the perpetuation of Jewish values in the Diaspora." Other Zionist leaders who issued special Passover statements included Mrs. Siegfried Kramarsky, president of Hadassah; and Albert Schiff, president of the Jewish National Fund of America.

A Passover message was issued by Rabbi Max D. Davidson, president of the Synagogue Council of America, the central national agency representing the rabbinic and congregational organizations of Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Judaism in the United States. Leaders of the rabbinical and lay organizations of the three denominations also issued individual statements.

HUNDREDS OF PUBLIC SEDERS TO BE HELD IN ISRAEL; TOURISTS FLOOD COUNTRY

JERUSALEM, March 30. (JTA) -- The Jews of Israel completed today most of their preparations for Passover tomorrow night which will include hundreds of public first seders for tourists as well as in scores of military camps throughout the country.

Supplies for the observance were both abundant and varied but an unprecedentedly demand for matzot brought stocks to such a low point that bakers asked the Chief Rabbinate for permission to bake matzot during the Chol Hamoed period next week.

Thousands of tourists arrived to participate in Israel's observance with more expected in the next 48 hours. On Saturday night, a second seder will be held in most hotels for tourists and visitors. Among the non-Jewish dignitaries planning to attend public seders were former French Premier Edgar Faure and the Congo's Finance Minister, Pascal Nkai, who is in Israel with an economic delegation.

One of the interesting aspects of the preparations this year is that much fewer kitchen utensils have been cleaned for the observance. Many observant housewives have purchased inexpensive and abundant plastic ware for Passover instead of going through the annual cleansing chore. Field kitchens in military camps received a special scrubbing under the supervision of the military rabbinate.

ISRAEL DENIES REPORT OF CAPTURE OF DR. MENGELE IN ARGENTINA BY ISRAELIS

JERUSALEM, March 30. (JTA) -- The Government Press Office today issued a "categorical" denial of reports in Paris claiming that Dr. Josef Mengele, Nazi "selection doctor" at the Auschwitz concentration camp, had been captured in Argentina by Israeli secret agents and was en route to Israel. The official statement from the Government declared "this rumor is absolutely without foundation."

The report, carried in the Parisian newspaper Paris Presse, had stated that Mengele was being brought to Israel aboard a Panamanian freighter, in time to be used as a surprise witness in the trial of the Nazi SS Col. Adolf Eichmann which opens here on April 11.

TWO ESTONIANS WHO HELPED NAZI TO KILL JEWS ARE EXECUTED

LONDON, March 30. (JTA) -- The Supreme Court of Soviet Estonia today announced the execution by a firing squad of two Estonian police officers who joined the Nazi SS and helped run extermination camps that killed an estimated 125,000 persons, mainly Jews. The pair--Ralf Gerrets, 55, and Jan Vijk, 44--were condemned March 11 after a six-day trial.

30 MOROCCAN JEWS RELEASED FROM PRISON; WERE DETAINED FOR THREE MONTHS

CASABLANCA, March 30. (JTA) -- Some 30 Moroccan Jews, most of them young, have been released from Moroccan prisons where they had been held for nearly three months, it was reported here today.

Their release was ordered, after several intercessions, by Interior Minister Embarek Bekkai. Those released constituted a majority of the Jews arrested during the anti-Jewish events which followed the visit to Morocco of President Nasser of the United Arab Republic.

The Jews still held in prison are those arrested on charges of being involved in a "Zionist" network. They are scheduled to appear in court on charges of offenses against the internal and external security of the state.

Chief Rabbi Saul Danan of Morocco issued an appeal today to Moroccan Jewry to observe Passover this year simply and without pomp or rejoicing as an expression of mourning over the recent death of the late King Mohammed V.

The Chief Rabbi said the solemnity of Passover should be marked by meditations, rather than by rejoicing. He particularly cited certain rowdy customs observed on the evening of "mimouna," a traditional Moroccan celebration which falls this year in the Passover period. The Chief Rabbi warned Moroccan Jews that he formally forbids such practices.

80,000 GERMANS PARTICIPATED IN MASS MURDERS OF JEWS, BONN REPORTS

STUTTGART, March 30. (JTA) -- Support to the forthcoming trial of Adolf Eichmann, the Gestapo leader who directed the mass murder of 6,000,000 European Jews under the Nazi regime, was given here today by the West German War Crimes office, which revealed that 80,000 Germans took part in the mass murders of Jews during World War II.

The impact of the figures, especially upon public opinion in West Germany, is to deflate claims that are made in some circles here that "only a handful" of Germans took part in the wartime atrocities against Jews. The direct relationship between the newly announced figures and the Eichmann case was seen in the fact that the data was furnished to German newspaper correspondents today, on the eve of their departure to Israel to cover the Eichmann trial, which gets under way April 11.

The figures were announced to the German newspapermen by the Government's chief expert on the subject, Ernest Schuele, director of and chief prosecutor for the West German Central War Crimes Commission. The Commission was established in 1958 to coordinate and probe into war crimes and arrange for prosecutions prior to the expiration of the statutory deadline for such prosecutions in 1965.

Mr. Schuele told the press that at least 1,000 persons will be tried in German courts during the next two years on charges of murdering "countless numbers of human beings" during the Nazi regime. He further related Israel's and Germany's own efforts to track down and prosecute the Nazi war criminals by revealing that Israel had furnished West Germany with a list of 3,000 Nazi war criminals. All 3,000, he said, "were involved in criminal complexes which have either already been investigated or that we are beginning to probe right now."

According to Mr. Schuele, 100 to 150 Nazi war criminals are living abroad, "and we even know the whereabouts of some of them." But, he said, West Germany "has encountered great difficulty in attempting to obtain the aid of the International Police authorities and of other foreign authorities" in apprehending the war criminals living abroad.

"Interpol, the International Police Organization, considers such persons as men accused of political crimes, and refuses for that reason to aid in their capture or extradition," Mr. Schuele said. "Otherwise, we could have captured Adolf Eichmann a long time ago." He said that a warrant for the arrest of Eichmann was issued by a West German court at Frankfurt as long ago as 1946.

LIFE IMPRISONMENT DEMANDED FOR NAZI WHO TORTURED CAMP INMATES

ANSBACH, May 30. (JTA) -- The prosecution in the trial of Karl Chmielewski, former commandant of the Gusen sub-camp of the Mauthausen concentration camp, demanded today life imprisonment for the defendant.

The prosecution asserted that testimony of witnesses during the six-week trial had proved that the 58-year-old former SS major had brutally murdered at least 293 camp inmates. The prosecution asked three years imprisonment for the co-defendant, Herbert Jumege, a camp guard, for complicity in murder.

More than 100 witnesses testified giving descriptions of unbelievable horrors which took place at the camp, including the death baths devised by Chmielewski in which inmates were taken naked to the camp courtyard and hosed down with ice cold water until they died.

AMERICAN-ISRAEL TRADE REACHED \$152,337,600 IN 1960, STRAUSS REPORTS

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- Israel-American trade reached an all-time high of \$152,337,600 in 1960, compared with \$144,173,900 in 1959, despite the Arab League boycott campaign, the annual dinner of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce and Industry was told tonight.

Nathan Strauss III, president, who made the report, also presented to Baron Edmund de Rothschild, French financier and president of Transcontinental Pipelines, Ltd., builder and operator of Israel's new 16-inch oil pipeline, the Chamber's annual award of merit for the outstanding single contribution during the year to Israel's economic progress.

Mr. Strauss asserted that the "threats and intimidation which the United States Government has characterized as 'unwarranted interference in the commercial relationships of American business firms' have failed to stem the surging growth of American-Israel economic relations."

Trade between the two countries in the fourth quarter of 1960 also was at a record high of \$41,671,300, a 21 percent increase over the total of \$34,243,300 in the same quarter of 1959, the organization's president told the dinner guests.

A breakdown of the data showed United States exports to Israel during 1960 of \$118,410,900 worth of merchandise of United States origin and \$6,665,800 worth of merchandise of other origin. In the same year, Israel exported \$27,260,900 worth of goods to the United States.

The award to Baron Rothschild described him as carrying on "an illustrious family tradition of vision and leadership in the upbuilding of the Land of Israel through the establishment of major economic enterprises." The 36-year-old Baron is the great-grandson of the founder of the Rothschild banking dynasty, and grandson of the first Edmond de Rothschild who, in the 1880's, was a pioneer in the resettlement of Jews in Palestine.

Mr. Strauss said that by completing the \$20,000,000 Eilat-Haifa pipeline, Baron de Rothschild had fulfilled a forecast of his grandfather who in 1917, predicted "the emergence of a strong industrial Israel that would have a large port at Eilat to make Europe independent of Egypt and the Suez Canal."

\$5,000,000 INVESTMENT PROJECT FOR ISRAEL ORGANIZED IN NEW YORK

JERUSALEM, March 30. (JTA) -- A new \$5,000,000 investment project, involving investors on three continents, was announced here today by David Dunsky, chairman of the Foreign Investors Association. He said the project was organized during his recent visit to New York and the entire capital will be transferred to Israel this year since agreement has been reached on how the funds are to be invested.

Two groups of investors are involved, he said. One consists of investors from the United States, Canada, Mexico, and South Africa. The other includes investors from Argentina, and Uruguay. The funds will be invested both in large existing enterprises and to establish new ones.

BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY GETS \$180,000 GIFT FROM LOS ANGELES DONOR

WALTHAM, Mass., March 30. (JTA) -- Brandeis University announced today establishment of the "Iser and Helena Solomon Sloane Student Loan Fund" from a \$180,000 estate left to the university to aid students to acquire the formal education the donors never had. Under terms of the will of Iser Sloane, a Los Angeles businessman, half of the income from the fund will be available to students at Brandeis and the rest for Brandeis students who wish to study in Israel.

An immigrant to the United States from Rumania, Mr. Sloane had succeeded in business in both countries notwithstanding his lack of formal higher education. Largely self-taught, he was proficient in several languages and in history. His will specifies that his estate be used to assist students who might not otherwise be able to earn a college degree, to help provide, for them, the educational advantages he had never been able to secure for himself.

WORLD MERGER OF GENERAL ZIONIST GROUPS TO BE CONSIDERED AT PARLEY

NEW YORK, March 30. (JTA) -- The possibility of forming a single, worldwide union embracing all groups of General Zionists everywhere, will be considered at a plenary session of the executive of the World Confederation of General Zionists, to be held in Israel next month, it was announced here by Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Confederation.

The proposed world union would replace or include the two rival confederations now in existence, as well as organizations of General Zionists not hitherto affiliated with either. Dr. Neumann has announced that if the unity program is approved by the Confederation, he will initiate negotiations with the Confederation of General Zionists headed by Dr. Israel Goldstein and Mrs. Rose Halprin during the forthcoming session of the Zionist Actions Committee in Jerusalem, scheduled for April 26th.