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FRENCH SCIENTIST TESTIFIES AT EICHMANN TRIAL ON NAZI GASSING OF CHILDREN

JERUSALEM, May 9. (JTA) -- A French scientist who survived the Nazi murder camp of Auschwitz testified today at the trial of Adolf Eichmann here on how 4,000 Jewish children many of them as young as two years of age, were abused in the Drancy concentration camp in France and then shipped to the Auschwitz gas chambers.

The scientist, Prof. Georges Wellers, director of the French National Medical Research Laboratory and a professor of Sorbonne University in Paris, said he was permitted to move about the Drancy camp and could see what most other inmates never saw. He said that the Germans brought the children to Drancy in busses, and dumped them into a bare barracks, 120 children to a room, with only burlap bags on the vermin-ridden floors. They were ragged, starved and filthy. They received soup occasionally, but no spoons.

Prof. Wellers testified he helped to organize four teams of women to give the children some care, but the Nazis refused to allow adults in the childrens' barracks at night. He said the children would awaken "and cry for their mothers, sometimes all the children in one barracks at one time." Their parents were already in the Auschwitz extermination camp.

The scientist said that the deportations from France reached a peak in the summer of 1942, when the children were brought to Drancy and then shipped to their deaths. He said that altogether he saw between 40,000 and 50,000 Jews sent to their deaths.

Dr. Wellers said that French civilian authorities tried to hide Rene Blum, brother of former Premier Leon Blum, but the Nazis found him and sent him to Drancy with instructions for prompt shipment to Auschwitz, where he was tortured and killed.

He testified that the first important persecution of the Jews in France was in May 1941, when foreign Jews were ordered to report to the police station for registration. Some 4,000 were arrested and taken to Orleans and Thiviers, the first two camps in France. The second big roundup took place on Aug. 2, 1941, when the Nazis made a house-to-house search of a section of Paris and seized 6,000 Jews. He said he was arrested in December, 1941.

The witness replied to a question from Judge Binyamin Halevi, one of the three justices presiding, as to whether the Jews were unaware of the nature of the Auschwitz camp before they arrived there. He said that they did not know, and that the London radio had broadcast reports about gas chambers but that French Jews believed this was simply war propaganda.

Lack of Jews in Bordeaux for Deportation Provokes Eichmann's Fury

Eichmann was portrayed in documentary evidence introduced in his trial here today--covering his program of deportation of Jews from Nazi-conquered France--as infuriated when a subordinate reported that a deportation train from Bordeaux had to be canceled because not enough Jews had been rounded up to fill it to capacity.

The documents were an exchange of letters between Heinz Roethke, Eichmann's representative in France, and Eichmann. Assistant prosecutor Gabriel Bach, in introducing the exchange, said Roethke's letter "caused great anger and frustration." Mr. Bach introduced a letter of reply from Eichmann in which Eichmann said the transport failure was "a matter of prestige," that it "had never happened before," and that "this thing is a shame."

Mr. Bach quoted from the Eichmann letter a veiled threat in these words: "We may have to consider whether we should not forego the deportation of Jews from France." The assistant prosecutor added: "Certainly, this threat was too much for Roethke, who took steps to ensure that this would not happen again."

Another document introduced today indicated that another Eichmann representative in France, S.S. Capt. Theodor Danneker, regarded deportation of Jewish children as an "urgent" matter. Mr. Bach cited the "urgent" report from Danneker to the Eichmann office in Berlin on July 4, 1942 in which Danneker asked whether the fifteenth deportation of Jews from France could "include children under the age of 16."

Another document submitted today gave the reaction of Otto Abetz, the Nazi Ambassador to France, to a Foreign Ministry report of the plans for deportation of 40,000 Jews from France. Abetz simply requested that the deportations be carried out in such a manner as to stimulate anti-Semitism among the French populace.

HITLER'S DEPUTY BORMANN WAS WITH EICHMANN IN ARGENTINA; EX-ENVOY REPORTS

TEL AVIV, May 9. (JTA) -- Martin Bormann, Hitler's deputy, who was at first believed to have been killed in Berlin in 1945, but was later reported to have escaped to South America, was in Argentina when Adolf Eichmann was captured there last year, a former Argentine diplomat told a press conference here today.

The diplomat, Dr. Gregario Topolevsky former Argentine Ambassador to Israel, said that Bormann, who was living in Argentina under another name, fled to Brazil when he heard about Eichmann's capture in May last year. (Dr. Fritz Eauer, chief prosecutor at Frankfurt, Germany, reported only last Sunday that he has "virtually certain proof" that Bormann is alive and hiding "outside Germany.")

Argentine police knew that Bormann was in the country, according to Dr. Topolevsky, who added that if Israel had asked for Eichmann's extradition through diplomatic channels, he, too, would have fled the country. The former diplomat said that Argentine authorities also knew of the presence in the country of Dr. Josef Mengele, the Auschwitz physician who selected victims for the gas chambers. He added that Mengele disappeared when he heard that West German authorities were looking for him.

ISRAEL CABINET APPROVES IMMUNITY FOR TWO EX-NAZIS IN EICHMANN TRIAL

JERUSALEM, May 9. (JTA) -- The Government's decision to grant immunity from arrest for two ex-Nazis, wanted by the Adolf Eichmann defense as witnesses, squeezed through a Cabinet meeting narrowly by a vote of 6 to 5, it was revealed here today.

The two men, whom Attorney General Gideon Hausner, chief prosecutor in the Eichmann trial, promised immunity are Dr. Wilhelm Hoettl, a former major in the Gestapo; and Walter Huppenkothen, formerly a functionary in the Gestapo Security offices. Dr. Robert Servatius, chief of the Eichmann defense, had requested they be given immunity so that they might come here to testify on Eichmann's behalf.

When the issue came before the Cabinet meeting, five of the Ministers voted against the immunity proposal "on both emotional and legal grounds." Although Mr. Hausner assured the Cabinet that there is no record of direct involvement by the two men in the program for the annihilation of European Jewry, the five insisted that, since Hoettl and Huppenkothen were officers in the Hitler Elite Guard (SS), they are "automatically" subject to prosecution in Israel under the same Israeli law which is the basis for Eichmann's indictment.

Those who voted against immunity for the ex-Nazis are Minister of Development Mordechai Bentov, Minister of Social Welfare Yosef Burg, Minister of Posts Binyamin Mintz, Minister of Agriculture Moshe Dayan and Minister of Police Behor Shitreet. The Herut Party has demanded a debate on the immunity issue in the Knesset (Parliament). The debate may come up in the House either tomorrow or next Monday.

Meanwhile, defense circles in the Eichmann trial denied reports that Dieter Wechtenbruch, Assistant to Dr. Servatius, who has paid a brief visit to Cyprus, went there to try to contact the former Grand Mufti of Jerusalem. The ex-Mufti lives now at Beirut, Lebanon. According to the prosecution, Eichmann had negotiated with the ex-Mufti about the Jewish annihilation program when the former Moslem religious leader was in Berlin.

KNESSET GETS AMENDMENTS TO ELECTION LAW: AIMED AT 'SPLINTER' GROUPS

JERUSALEM, May 9. (JTA) -- Amendments to Israel's election law, intended to discourage small, "splinter" parties from crowding the election lists in the forthcoming, general national balloting, were introduced last night when the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, resumed its sessions.

The Knesset reconvened after its six-week Passover vacation, and is expected to last until June 28, when the members will disperse to devote full time to electioneering. The elections are scheduled for August 15.

The election law amendment would require new parties to deposit 5,000 Israeli pounds (\$2,800) before they could file an election list. Should their lists be voided by the Elections Board, for failure to muster a minimum of one percent of the total electorate, such parties would forfeit one-fifth of their deposit.

President Izhak Ben-Zvi attended the opening session of Parliament. Speaker Kaddish Luz opened the proceedings with a eulogy of the late Dr. Naphtali Peretz, former member of the Knesset and former Minister of Social Welfare and ex-Minister of Agriculture. Mr. Luz also warmly welcomed a six-man delegation of members of the British Parliament who are here for an official, nine-day visit as guests of the Knesset.

MOROCCAN PAPER PROPOSES DEATH SENTENCE FOR JEWS SEEKING TO GO TO ISRAEL

CASABLANCA, May 9. (JTA) -- The Casablanca newspaper Al Alam, organ of the ultra-nationalist Istiqlal Party, today proposed in an editorial that the death penalty be imposed on Moroccan Jews trying to emigrate to Israel.

BEN-GURION ASSURES LABEL KATZ ON COOPERATION WITH 'PRESIDENTS CONFERENCE'

JERUSALEM, May 9. (JTA) -- Texts were made public here today of cables exchanged between Label-Katz, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations--popularly known as "the Presidents' Conference"--and Israel Prime Minister David Ben Gurion in connection with the statement issued jointly by Mr. Ben-Gurion and Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee, clarifying relations between Israel and Jewish communities in other countries.

Mr. Katz indicated regret over the fact that Prime Minister Ben-Gurion made his statement jointly with a leader of a single Jewish organization at a time when there is close cooperation on Israeli matters with the President's Conference. Mr. Ben Gurion replied that the new statement is only a reaffirmation of a declaration published ten years ago and "does not detract in the slightest from the accomplishments and the important role of the Presidents' Conference." He promised "continued cooperation" with the Presidents' Conference.

Mr. Katz's cable to Prime Minister Ben-Gurion reads:

"On behalf of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations I convey these expressions of sincere regrets for the confusions and controversy that have evolved from the recent publication of a statement ascribed jointly to an individual affiliated with an American Jewish Organization and your good self.

"I had the honor to review with you in Jerusalem last July the role of the Presidents Conference as a consultative and coordinative body of 18 constituent organizations that has for its singular concern the encouragement and advancement of harmonious and productive inter-relationships between the American Jewish community and the people of Israel. As such, the Presidents Conference is regarded as the most representative component of the American Jewish community in this area of activity.

"While no single Jewish movement can properly identify itself as spokesman for the diverse and wholly voluntary elements, comprising the American Jewish community, I respectfully invited your attention to the significance of 18 leading Jewish Organizations engaged in a program of voluntary unity in matters which are of particular interest to the people and to the State of Israel. In this connection, His Excellency the Israel Ambassador to the United States and other representatives of the people of Israel have maintained close and cooperative relationships with the Presidents Conference.

"I further respectfully note that on May 2 an official delegation of the Presidents Conference had the honor to confer with our Secretary of State on matters of interest to the purpose of the Presidents Conference. Believe me Mr. Prime Minister we acknowledge the affirmative concepts that motivated the published statement and in fact, have always regarded the principle it espouses as reflective of both your sentiments and the American Jewish community, without need for any special articulation. Permit me also to assure you that the Presidents Conference is ready to continue its role of furthering a spirit of good and creative relationships between the Jewish community of our respective nations."

Prime Minister Ben-Gurion's cabled reply to Mr. Katz reads:

"The statement by myself and Mr. Blaustein does not detract in the slightest from the accomplishments and the important role of the Presidents Conference whose function I greatly appreciate and esteem. The statement does not purport to determine the status or importance of any group or organization. It's only purpose is to make clear that the agreed declaration we published 10 years ago remains in force except for one reservation which I added; namely, that there are differences of opinion on the nature of Judaism within the American Jewish community as well as between Jewish communities in various countries and in particular between the Jews of Israel and the Jews in the Diaspora.

"I am happy to note that the contents of the statement meet your views. The American Jewish Committee had complained of statements recently made by some representatives of the Israel Government which were considered incompatible with the agreement. I repeat the statement did not confer any special status on any individual body or person, and should have no bearing on the fruitful relationship existing between the Presidents Conference and Israel representatives. As I say it was only meant to remove misunderstandings. I am confident of continued cooperation and understanding between us in accordance with your assurance which I fully reciprocate on my part."

SENATE BODY CONFIRMS BARBOUR AS NEW U.S. AMBASSADOR TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, May 9. (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today voted unanimously to confirm the nomination of Walworth Barbour as new U.S. Ambassador to Israel. Following an attack by Chairman J.W. Fulbright on the State Department for shifting Mr. Barbour, a man with extensive diplomatic experience in Europe, to Israel.

Sen. Fulbright, Arkansas Democrat, asked Mr. Barbour why a man with his background in Europe was sent to Israel. Mr. Barbour replied that he had not requested the assignment to Israel. Sen. Fulbright then asked Mr. Barbour if he had ever visited Israel. Mr. Barbour answered that he had visited Palestine in the time of the British Mandate.

DETROIT JEWISH FEDERATION CLOSES 1961 DRIVE WITH \$4, 615, 000 RAISED

DETROIT, May 9. (JTA) -- A total of \$4, 615, 000 was raised by the Jewish Welfare Federation this year -- and additional contributions are still to come -- it was announced here at a dinner closing the campaign, of which the United Jewish Appeal is the largest beneficiary.

Max M. Fisher, president of the Federation, told the 400 assembled leaders that the Federation's 14 member agencies in Detroit would be able to meet increased demands for service because of the generous support given the campaign. He lauded Paul Zuckerman, the campaign chairman, and said that "his enthusiasm and determination to make the campaign successful inspired the whole community."

Mr. Zuckerman called the work of the 2, 500 member campaign army inspiring. He said that although campaign workers represent more than 100 trades and professions they have one thing in common -- concern for their fellow human beings in need. "I am proud in your name of the progress of the campaign to date," he declared. "When the reports are tabulated I am certain that Detroit will again have given an excellent account of itself. The figures are closing in on last year's total. Whatever extra effort is necessary to finish the job, I know you will exert until the last dollar is in -- and that the pride we have in our causes, in our organization and in our community will be fully justified."

Mr. Isidore Sobeloff, executive vice-president of the Federation, said that Detroit Jewry has shown that even under prevailing adverse economic conditions and unemployment it is ready to fulfill fully its obligations toward local and national communal needs as well as toward Jewish needs overseas. He said that the \$4, 600, 000 already assured for this year's campaign constitutes a "distinguished accomplishment" and guarantees another year of successful activity. He emphasized that 2, 000 prospective contributors are yet to be covered for this year.

Label Katz, national president of B'nai B'rith and national cabinet member of the United Jewish Appeal, addressing the dinner, thanked the key workers and assembled leaders in behalf of the national and overseas agencies supported by the campaign. He called Detroit a national leader and an inspiration to other Jewish communities. With Detroit's record this year, he emphasized, no community in the nation has an excuse for doing less than its share.

Mr. Katz called a strong American Jewish community the best hope for Jewish survival. He stressed the importance of building local and national institutions to take care of our people and preserve our heritage.

Mr. Katz, himself a former president of the Jewish Federation of New Orleans, praised campaign workers for building a strong community able to take care of its needs at home and to help provide for Jews in distress overseas.

MCGILL UNIVERSITY DEPLORES JORDAN'S VOIDING OF SALE OF DEAD SEA SCROLLS

MONTREAL, May 9. (JTA) -- A McGill University dean said today that the university "strongly deplores" the action of the Jordanian Government in voiding a sale made six years ago of 100 fragments of the Dead Sea scrolls to the school.

Dean Stanley Frost of the University's Divinity School reported the university paid \$20, 000 for the fragments and had a contract signed by Jordan. Calling the cancellation a serious blow to North American biblical scholarship, he said Jordan had neither a moral nor a legal right to the fragments and its action would only "further undermine western confidence in the Arab countries."

The Jordan cancelation, Dr. Frost stated, also affected the Vatican library, the Chicago McCormick Seminary, and Heidelberg and Manchester Universities but that McGill University had paid the most money and was to have received the most valuable collection.

INTERNATIONAL YOUTH CENTER OPENED AT ANNE FRANK HOME IN AMSTERDAM

AMSTERDAM, May 9. (JTA) -- An international youth center was opened at the Anne Frank Home here in the presence of Otto Frank, father of the victim of the Nazi occupation. Officials of the West German Consulate here were also present.

The first event at the new center was an International Youth Congress to promote international understanding. The center is planned to become a meeting place for youth from all parts of the world.

JEWS MOURN DEATH OF DR. GRANADOS; ISRAEL GOVERNMENT SENDS CONDOLENCES

GUATEMALA CITY, May 9. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Joshua Shai and local Zionist and Jewish communal leaders, participated in funeral services here today for Jorge Garcia Granados, who died last week in Santiago, Chile. Speakers who eulogized the late Guatemalan diplomat, recalled the decisive role he played in the establishment of the State of Israel and in Israel's admission to the United Nations. President Ydigoras and members of Mr. Granados' family received cabled messages of condolence from President Izhak Ben-Zvi, Premier David Ben-Gurion and Foreign Minister Golda Meir.