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SO. AFRICAN PREMIER CLARIFIES POSITION ON JEWISH CITIZENS, ISRAEL RELATIONS

JOHANNESBURG, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- Premier Hendrik Verwoerd declared last night that his stand on Israel's United Nations position on South Africa's Apartheid policy, as it related to the status of South African Jewry, had been distorted.

Speaking at the Witwatersrand annual conference of his National party, he strongly deplored what he called "exploitation" by his political foes of the contents of a private letter he had written to a Cape Town Jew, in reply to a similarly private letter. He said his letter was being used to misrepresent his attitude on the question of Israel and South African Jews.

The Premier said it had never been his position that Jewish citizens of South Africa did not have the right to choose whatever political party they wished to support. This statement apparently referred to a remark in his letter to A.S. East, a former Cape Town city councillor. The Premier was reported stating in that letter that, in the recent Parliamentary elections, many South African Jews had favored the Progressive Party, while few Jews voted for his National Party, a fact which "did not go unnoticed." Dr. Verwoerd insisted last night he would be the last person to deprive Jewish voters of that right.

He said he strongly deplored the action of newspapers like the Daily Mail and the Cape Times which, he declared, sought to infer that he wanted to threaten that Jewish citizens did not have the right of political free choice.

Takes Pride in Absence of Anti-Semitism; Hits Israel's U.N. Vote Again

The Premier also told the conference that there were times when anti-Semitism could have been "talked about" but that, throughout the 13 years of office of the Nationalist Government, there had not been a single action against South African Jews. He said he regretted that Jewish journals had been "misled by the malicious propaganda of political opponents into sharp comment on a private letter whose publication was a breach of confidence." He urged that no one should be led by such reactions into stirring up "race hatred," and he warned people not to let attitudes of Israel or "actions of some people here" to "conduce" to the emergence of anti-Semitism.

Discussing his criticism of Israel for its anti-South African stand at the UN, the Premier insisted this had nothing to do with his attitude toward the Jewish citizens of South Africa. He explained that his position was that, if Israel thought "separate development" was wrong for South Africa, then Israel had no justification for existing as a Jewish State because its existence was predicated on a similar policy of the right of the Jewish people to a "separate development."

He said South Africa had supported and helped Israel because it believed in Israel's right to existence and because it believed that the emergence of Israel was the fulfillment of a national ideal for the Jewish people. Israel's UN vote against South Africa, he declared, was contrary to that context. He said Israel should have supported South Africa, particularly on the General Assembly motion, on grounds of the right of free speech. Israel's attitude at the UN has increased South Africa's difficulties, he said, but South Africa would continue to follow its principles nevertheless.

PRESS CRITICIZES VERWOERD FOR LINKING ISRAEL'S VOTE TO SO. AFRICA JEWS

JOHANNESBURG, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- Jewish newspapers here replied editorially today to remarks by Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd linking South African Jews to Israel's United Nations stand in opposition to the Verwoerd Government's Apartheid policy.

Affirming South African Jewry's position as a community of African citizens who cannot be held responsible for Israel's policies, the Jewish papers said that, in South Africa's internal politics, the Jews here have the full democratic right to vote for whatever political party each voter favors.

The Zionist Record, organ of the South African Zionist Federation, said that the position of the Jew in South Africa is that he is a South African citizen with the full right to join any lawful party he wishes. Jews in fact have joined all parties, including the Nationalists, the paper said, adding that: "How many Jews voted for the Progressive party is

neither known nor material," The paper said that the difference between South Africa and Israel was a "conflict of interests between two sovereign states and must be resolved as such without involving identifiable groups of citizens in the struggle."

The Revisionist Jewish Herald said that, while it criticized Israel's vote against South Africa at the United Nations as an error, it was wrong for the Premier to link South African Jewish citizens as a group with a policy of Israel, or to seek to make them responsible for that policy. It was also wrong, the paper said, for the Premier to criticize those Jews who voted for the party in opposition to his own. The Herald added that there was no connection between Israel's vote at the UN and the democratic right of citizens of South Africa to express themselves as they wished in local elections.

The independent Southern African Jewish Times said that the Jews would not be intimidated by the Premier's letter, that they would stand on their rights as citizens of a democratic country and also on their ties with Israel and world Jewry. These ties, the paper said, have nothing to do with Israel's vote against South Africa at the United Nations on which there was a difference of opinion both here and in Israel. This was a matter to be discussed at government level, the paper added, and South African Jews could not be hostage to force Israel's hand at the United Nations.

In editorial reaction in the South African general press both the Rand Daily Mail and the Star sharply criticized the letter as mistaken in concept, and urged the Jews to stand firmly on their rights as citizens to support whatever parties they chose.

Tel Aviv Newspapers Resent Pressure on So. African Jews Due to Israel's Position

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- While there was no official comment here over South African Premier Hendrik Verwoerd's remarks concerning Israel's United Nations stand over the South African Apartheid policy, political circles here expressed astonishment that Dr. Verwoerd had connected the Jewish community's voting record on domestic issues with Israel's position on international problems.

Premier Verwoerd's statement that Arab attacks on South Africa were perhaps due to South Africa's sympathy towards Israel was sharply criticized here as a misinterpretation of facts, and his attempt to compare the Apartheid policy with Israel's aims in establishing the Jewish State was viewed as utterly spurious.

Israeli press comment was inclined to view Dr. Verwoerd's intention of warning South African Jewry that they can be held responsible for the foreign policy of Israel as tantamount to putting on pressure here.

Herut, the organ of Israel's right-wing party, recalled its opposition to Israel's policy regarding South Africa and its justification of Premier Verwoerd's disappointment at Israel. Today, Herut editorialized that the South African Government has the right to draw conclusions about Israel but has no right to demand that its Jewish citizens be responsible for Israel's policy or for their votes in the Republic's elections. "The threat hinted at in Dr. Verwoerd's letter is strange and disturbing," the paper declared.

Davar, organ of Histadrut, Mapam's Al Hamishmar and Hatzofeh, organ of the National Religious party, all regretted the tone of the Premier's letter, and were outspoken against any attempt to make South African Jews responsible for Israel's policy.

Davar noted that Premier Verwoerd's statement about the Jewish vote in recent elections "would be inconceivable in any country in which the opposition is a recognized and legal political body." The paper said: "It is our duty to warn the Jews of South Africa, while there is still time, that the fleshpots, by which they are sitting, have dynamite in them."

GOLDA MEIR SEES U THANT, COMAY ANSWERS ARABS; U.N. REFUGEE DEBATE LOOMS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 23; (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, who returned to the United Nations this week to participate in the Arab refugee debate scheduled for next week, met today with Acting Secretary General U Thant, and with a number of topmost representatives of the West European and Latin American blocs.

At the same time, Michael S. Comay, Israel's permanent representative here, has replied to vicious Arab delegation attacks in the General Assembly, and has also conferred with numerous delegations, in pursuit of Israel's policies. Mr. Comay took the floor during the Assembly's debate on the issues of colonialism and on a new UN program for African independence, counter-attacking against several Arab representatives who irrelevantly dragged "The Palestine Question" into that debate.

Mrs. Meir, in addition to seeing Mr. Thant, also conferred with Paul Henri Spaak, Belgium's Vice-Premier and Foreign Minister; Mrs. Agda Rossel, Sweden's permanent representative here; Dr. Victor Andres Belaunde, of Peru, former president of the General Assembly; and the heads of the Brazilian and Colombian delegations.

The stepped-up activities by both the Arab delegations and the Israelis is motivated by the fact that the Arab refugee debate is slated to open next week in the Assembly's Special Political Committee. Tomorrow, it is expected, the Palestine Conciliation Commission will file its long-awaited report, authorized by the Assembly last spring dealing with the refugee question.

BULGARIA ASKED TO CLARIFY MYSTERY OF MISSING CHIEF RABBI HANNANEL

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- An appeal to the Bulgarian Government to confirm or deny reports that Bulgarian Chief Rabbi Asher Hannanel had been jailed on charges of "maintaining contact with foreigners," was made here today by Dr. Zvi Harkavy, a former director of a Jewish school in Sofia before World War II, and a close associate of Dr. Hannanel.

The Bulgarian Chief Rabbi disappeared in Sofia last September, and apprehension regarding his fate has been increasing among former Bulgarians in Israel. Dr. Hannanel failed to attend High Holy Day services in his synagogue in Sofia last Rosh Hashanah and there is no information about his whereabouts to this day. Dr. Harkavy also urged public bodies here and abroad to inquire into his fate.

IMMIGRANT DOCTORS QUICKLY INTEGRATED INTO ISRAELI MEDICAL PRACTICE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- More than 86 percent of the 1,300 physicians who came to Israel as immigrants between January 1957 and October 1961 have been successfully integrated into medical practice in the country, Deputy Health Minister Yitzhak Rafael disclosed here today. Mr. Rafael, who was replying in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, to a question on what the Government did to facilitate the absorption of immigrant doctors, said that all but 180 of the immigrant physicians were employed by hospitals and clinics or were engaged in private practice.

Noting that the Health Ministry had set up a special fund to tide over immigrant doctors until they became integrated into the profession in Israel, Mr. Rafael said that additional openings for physicians would be available at new Government institutions after next April.

ISRAEL'S TRADE GAP RISES AS CAPITAL GOODS IMPORTS INCREASE

JERUSALEM, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- Israel's foreign trade deficit increased by \$31,000, -000 to a total of \$174,000,000 for the first six months of 1961, compared with \$143,000,000 for the same period last year, it was reported here today.

The report showed that the increase in Israel's foreign trade gap was due to a rise in the imports of capital goods, especially ships and aircraft, which totaled \$41,000,000 in the period compared with only \$8,000,000 during the first half of 1960.

EGYPTIAN'S 'SEQUESTRATIONS' HIT 29 MORE VICTIMS, MOST OF THEM JEWS

LONDON, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- The latest list of persons whose property has been ordered "sequestered" by the Egyptian Government contains 29 names, most of them Jewish. The new list brings the total number of such confiscations to 622 since the launching of Nasser's new "socialization" campaign, it was reported here today from Cairo.

CZECHS ACCUSE GLOBKE OF NAZI ACTIVITIES, BONN PROSECUTOR PROBES CHARGES

BONN, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- Documentary material concerning State Secretary Hans Globke's activities in Czechoslovakia, during the Nazi occupation, were handed over to the Bonn prosecution office today by Czech legal authorities. The prosecution office announced that it would review the material carefully, although "evidence in recent years from Communist countries has been used for propaganda purposes. Dr. Globke is the principal aide to Chancellor Konrad Adenauer.

Dr. Globke has been under fire for years by opposition party leaders and officials in Communist countries for his part in writing the legal commentary to the Nuremberg race laws. However, he was cleared of these charges by a parliamentary inquiry committee here.

EAST GERMAN EX-NAZIS SEEN AIDING WEST GERMAN MILITARISTS, RIGHTISTS

BCNN, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- East German Communists, led by two formerly prominent Nazi functionaries, have been trying for years to tighten liaison with West German rightists, militarists, former SS officers and ex-leaders of the Hitler Youth Movement, according to a 10-year study made by a prominent West German journalist, Manfred Jenke, published here today.

Mr. Jenke states that, among the East German ex-Nazis at work in the efforts to form a "national front" for the reunification of Germany are Vinzenz Muller, formerly the chief of Hitler's "People's Police," and Werner Schaefer, a Hitler SS and SA leader, who was first Nazi commander of the Oranienburg concentration camp. The East German Communists, Mr. Jenke says, have given financial support to various West German right-wing extremist publications like "International Military Correspondence" and "Nationale Rundschau."

AUSTRIA OPENS TRIAL OF FORMER NAZI ACCUSED OF MURDERING HUNGARIAN JEWS

VIENNA, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- Josef Hoeblinger, a former member of the Nazi SS Elite Guard, went on trial here today on charges of participating in the mass murder of 100 persons, in April 1945. Most of the victims were Hungarian Jews.

ANTI-BIAS LEGISLATION IN U.S. SETS RECORD, A.J.C. STUDY FINDS

NEW YORK, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- More states enacted more anti-discrimination laws in 1961 than in any previous year, the American Jewish Congress reported today. In its biennial survey of state anti-bias legislation, the Congress said that 21 states passed 39 laws this year, covering racial and religious discrimination in employment, education, housing and public accommodations.

"Figured either by the number of states, the number of bills or the breadth of their scope," the report noted, "the year 1961 set records for state civil rights legislation not achieved in any preceding year." The study was prepared by the AJC's Commission on Law and Social Action under the chairmanship of Shad Polier.

While pointing out that none of the 1961 laws blazed new trails in anti-discrimination legislation, the report found as "a very significant development" the fact that "legislatures throughout the country have observed the enactment of civil rights laws in other states, have satisfied themselves that the laws work and have decided to follow suit."

LABOR ISRAEL OPENS 'TWIN JUBILEE' CELEBRATION; BEN-GURION HAILS MOVEMENT

NEW YORK, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- Some 3,000 delegates from the United States and Canada convened here today for the opening session of the four-day convention of the National Committee for Labor Israel. This year's "Twin Jubilees" convention will mark the 50th anniversaries of the kibbutz movement and of Kupat Holim, the Histadrut health program in Israel.

In a cabled message to the convention, Israeli Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion hailed the friendship of the American labor movement which "brought strength and encouragement not only to Histadrut but to the development of our country as a whole." In another message, Israeli Finance Minister Levi Eshkol described the National Committee as a "vital instrument for forging strong links of solidarity" between Israel and the United States.

DAROFF SEES ZIONISTS FAVORING NON-IDENTIFICATION WITH ISRAELI PARTIES

NEW YORK, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- Samuel Daroff, president of the American Jewish League for Israel, declared yesterday that the League's principle of non-identification with any political parties in Israel "is rapidly gaining adherents in all sectors of Diaspora Zionism and its impact is being increasingly felt."

Mr. Daroff, addressing a meeting of the organization's board, also said that the "call today is for centralization and for the elimination of duplicate and overlapping efforts" and that "the demand of the hour is a single Zionist organization in every country."

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, vice-president, said the purpose of the League was "to act as a catalyst for unification." He said that "we must define our present situation and re-define our objectives in the light of today's Zionist needs." Judge Louis E. Levinthal, honorary president, stressed the importance of Jewish education and the strengthening of Jewish self-awareness to ensure Jewish survival.

Other speakers included Michael S. Comay, Israel's permanent representative at the United Nations; Eleazar Lipsky, Samuel Rothstein, Louis Falk and Jacob Alkow.

ADENAUER PROMISES TO AID JEWS WHO SUFFERED PHYSICAL INJURIES UNDER NAZIS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer is on record as promising to help settle the claims of Jewish victims of Nazism who suffered physical injuries under the Nazi regime, it was announced here today by Moses I. Socahevsky, president of the Jewish Nazi Victims Association. A delegation representing the organization met with Dr. Adenauer prior to his departure for Germany yesterday.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL OF AMERICA NAMES THREE LEADERS FOR 'STATESMAN AWARDS'

NEW YORK, Nov. 23; (JTA) -- Three outstanding leaders of the American Jewish community, representing the three major wings of organized Jewish religion in this country--Orthodox, Reform and Conservative--will receive the 1961 Synagogue Statesman Awards at a dinner December 3, it was announced here today. The recipients will be Ludwig Jesselson, of New York, Orthodox; Samuel H. Daroff, of Philadelphia, Conservative; and Brigadier General David Sarnoff, Reform.

The awards were announced jointly by Rabbi Julius Mark, president of the Synagogue Council of America; former Senator Herbert H. Lehman, chairman of the Synagogue Statesman Awards Committee; and Benjamin Lazrus, chairman of the National Advisory Council.

The SCA is the national coordinating agency of the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox congregational and rabbinic associations in this country.