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SOVIET JEWISH GENERAL REPORTS IN PARIS ON SITUATION OF JEWS IN RUSSIA

PARIS, Nov. 26; (JTA) -- Lieutenant General David Dragunsky, a Jewish Army officer who is one of the most decorated Soviet heroes of World War II, declared here that "vestiges of anti-Semitism still exist in the Soviet Union" but said that the Soviet Government "is about to liquidate the last traces of racism and popular anti-Semitism" in Russia.

General Dragunsky came to Paris to represent the Soviet War Veterans Federation at the Warsaw Ghetto exhibit, which is being held here at the Memorial for Unknown Jewish Martyrs. He made his comment on Soviet anti-Semitism in a wide-ranging press conference, during which he also asserted in fluent Yiddish that Russian Jews did not want to emigrate nor did they want Yiddish publications.

"Not more than 100 Jews of Russia, mainly old people living in the past, would choose to emigrate if a referendum were held," the stocky, fair-haired tank commander asserted. "Russia is our home, the land of our ancestors and of our future. It is more than ever so now that it had been flooded with Jewish blood by the Nazi oppressors."

The son of an itinerant tailor, the general asserted that anti-Semitism in Russia was a left-over from the wartime German occupation and Nazi propaganda. He called the publication of the Yiddish monthly, Soviet Homeland, a "political gesture," asserting that "few Jews were interested in reading Yiddish publications." He claimed, as evidence, that Shalom Aleichem's works in Yiddish "barely managed" to reach 30,000 circulation, while a far larger number was sold in Russian translation.

Estimates 100 Jews Hold Rank of General in Soviet Army

He also declared that "there is no demand for Jewish schools" and said "what would a youngster who has studied in Yiddish do after his graduation? Where would he find work?"

Discussing the widely debated poem, "Babi Yar," about the slaughter by the Nazis of 40,000 Jews of Kiev, by the noted Soviet poet Eugen Yevtechenko, and the criticism of the poem by Soviet editor Starikov, the general said: "I think both of them are right and wrong. Yevtechenko is in the wrong for having diminished the role played by the Russian people in saving Jewish lives. Starikov is wrong for the violent language he used in denouncing the poet."

In support of his argument that Soviet officials were doing their "utmost" to liquidate popular anti-Semitism, he said: "I was a delegate at the last Communist Party Congress. With me were countless other Jews--generals, physicians, scientists and engineers. A Jewish general is in command of the Far Eastern region, other Jews command other military areas, divisions, whole fronts. Can things like this happen in the United States, England or France?"

He declared that the fight in the Soviet Union against anti-Semitism was considerably accelerated after the fall of Lavrentia Beria, Stalin's secret police chief, who was liquidated by Khrushchev, "When I myself was promoted from colonel to major general, and then to lieutenant general. Other Jews carry still higher rank in the Soviet forces." He estimated that more than 100 Jews hold the rank of general in the Soviet Army.

On the subject of Israel, he said: "It is most painful to me to see that Israel has become a base for the forces of aggression. It's just as painful to see pictures of Ben-Gurion shaking Adenauer's hand and to hear that Eichmann may finally die of old age in his cell. Ben-Gurion is not the working people of Israel to whom my brotherly feelings go."

He also remarked that "all Jews outside of Israel are doomed to assimilation wherever they live; I think, however, that in the Soviet Union this process may be speedier than elsewhere." He said he did not rule out a possible visit to Israel "when and if I find the time."

Denies Generals Asked for Separate List of Jewish War Heroes

General Dragunsky later denied a report published in some Jewish publications that a number of Jewish generals attending the recent Communist Party Congress in Moscow had submitted a request for the preparation by the government of a separate list of Jewish casualties and war heroes of World War II. He termed this report "a shameful lie." Emphasizing that he himself participated in the Congress together with other Jewish generals, he said he

would have known about such a request. He added that such a list was unnecessary and undesirable because the casualties of other Soviet nationalities did not appear on separate lists;

Other than the press conference and his comment on the separate list report; General Dragunsky did not hold any public meetings or conferences. Throughout his stay in Paris, he expressed his admiration for the Warsaw material and "the symbol of peace which it represents." He promised to inform the people of Moscow about these sentiments, and to describe them in articles for the Soviet press.

U. N. BODY ASKS FOR ANOTHER YEAR TO STUDY ARAB REFUGEE PROBLEM

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Nov. 26; (JTA) -- The Palestine Conciliation Commission declared today it "warmly endorses" the conclusions of its special Middle East representative, Dr. Joseph E. Johnson, who has proposed that the PCC be given another year in which to determine whether it is possible to reach a solution of the Arab refugee problem;

The Commission put its stamp of approval on the report by Dr. Johnson, who has been trying since last August to see whether he could find common ground toward a solution of the Arab refugee issue between the Arab states on the one hand and Israel on the other. Dr. Johnson's report on his mission, submitted to the PCC, was sent on to the General Assembly by the commission yesterday.

While Dr. Johnson expressed what he called "cautious optimism" and the hope that extension of the special mission until the fall of 1962 might indicate whether a solution is possible, he stated categorically "there are many indications that no progress can be made on the Palestine Arab refugee question apart from, or in advance of, an over-all settlement" of all Arab-Israeli disputes. "It is clear," he said, "that, as matters stand now, there is no prospect of an early resolution of the Palestine Question as a whole."

At the same time, however, Dr. Johnson said he found, on the part of both Arab and Israeli statesmen, a will to peace and an interest in the humanitarian aspects of the Arab refugee problem. He advocated further efforts during the coming year toward some "step-by-step" attempts to ease the refugee problem. He stated:

"The willingness expressed to me to consider the possibility of a step-by-step process, without prejudice to positions on the other related issues, leads me to believe that it is worth while continuing the efforts that the Commission has now begun. Whether progress will be possible, no one can now say for certain. But, to state the matter in the most negative way, the signs that no progress is possible are not so conclusive as to justify a decision not to try."

Dr. Johnson, president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, was sent to the Middle East by the Commission when it attempted to carry out a special mandate given it by the Assembly last spring. That mandate instructed the Commission to report what progress, if any, had been made toward "repatriation" of the Arab refugees into Israel, as mentioned, among other possible solutions, in an Assembly resolution that created the Commission in 1948.

'Mistrust and Suspicion' between Arabs and Israel Stressed

Dr. Johnson reported that he found among all the governments concerned "responsible statesmen who want peace in a general way and as a long-term goal." However, he said, he also found on all sides "a consistency of obdurate determination" and much "mistrust and suspicion and active fear."

He pointed in his speech to a number of "fundamental considerations" that he said should guide the continuing effort in the next year. He noted that "the focus should be on the refugees." The cooperation of all the affected governments must be obtained, he said. These governments are Egypt, Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Israel.

At the same time he expressed the opinion that it must be recognized that "even if there is some prospect of progress, there can be no early end to the refugee problem. It can only be dealt with on a step-by-step basis with emphasis on the need for parallel and coordinated action by all those involved, not only the governments concerned but the United Nations itself."

Dr. Johnson emphasized that "the cautious hopes" he expressed could not be fulfilled without "determined, imaginative and generous" international assistance. Planning, he said, must assume that the refugee problem will continue to exist for at least another decade.

In his report, he called the attention of the Assembly to the fact that the PCC's current mandate for re-study of the Arab refugee problem included the directive not only to take a fresh look at "repatriation" of the Arab refugees into Israel territory but also "resettlement and economic and social rehabilitation of the refugees."

In order to bring such moves into effect during the current decade, he stated, "accelerated economic growth for the area as a whole," would be required. Throughout his report, which he noted would probably displease all parties concerned, at least in part, Dr. Johnson referred to resettlement and integration of the refugees as one of the alternatives to repatriation. The report will be one of the principal items to be considered by the Assembly's Special Political Committee when it takes up the Arab refugee item this week.

EISENHOWER SAYS U.S. JEWS 'ARE FIRST AMERICANS, NOT NATIVES OF ISRAEL'

NEW YORK, Nov. 26; (JTA) -- President Eisenhower has indicated--in a coast to coast television network program--that he feels that the voting in the 1956 Presidential election proved that American Jews "are first Americans and not natives of Israel."

The former President made that comment in a discussion of political pressures associated with the 1956 elections which took place shortly after Israel's Sinai campaign. He made the comment in the second of a series on his views on the presidency taped by CBS Television. Walter Cronkite, the interviewer, introduced the subject with this question:

"The Israelis claim that the Sinai campaign, as they called this operation, was to eliminate Soviet stores of arms in Sinai that they believed Nasser was about to use against them. Now, here is a specific question where foreign policy had very distinct and immediate domestic repercussions in the great support that Israel has in the United States; Now, what were the pressures brought on you at that time?"

General Eisenhower replied: "The pressures weren't so much as I felt immediately as I was sort of warned by different people, some of them great friends of mine. They said the election is just coming up and if you do so and if you don't go along with Britain and Israel, you will lose the election. Certainly, you'll lose New York State."

Mr. Eisenhower continued: "There was a--one of the Ambassadors--Israel Ambassadors was just returning to his country for a conference with Mr. Ben-Gurion and I called in Mr. Dulles and I said 'you please tell this ambassador, and in no uncertain terms, just exactly these words: that I hope he is not making the mistake of thinking that any concern of mine about the national election year will change my decision with respect to the use of troops that had not yet been used in any way.'"

Abba Eban was then Israel Ambassador to the United States; The late John Foster Dulles was then Secretary of State in the Eisenhower Administration; The former President then said about his conversation with Mr. Dulles that he had told his Secretary of State that "Because frankly, it's of no great moment to the United States whether I'm elected or re-elected, and it is of great moment to the United States that we do the right thing."

Mr. Eisenhower then added: "Well, I was called up, I even remember, by a friend of mine in New York who said, 'Well, you lost New York State;' Well, the fact of it is that I don't think New York State went for any national ticket on a larger majority than it did in 1956 for the ticket that I headed. So I don't think that sometimes these prophets are very accurate, because, after all, I think the Jewish vote there indicated that after all they are first Americans and not natives of Israel."

HISTADRUT IN U.S. HONORS SECRETARY GOLDBERG; SETS \$5,000,000 CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Nov. 26; (JTA) -- Secretary of Labor Arthur J. Goldberg was presented tonight with the 1961 Histadrut Humanitarian Award, at the 38th annual convention of the National Committee for Labor Israel, at which a \$5,000,000 goal for the 1962 Histadrut campaign was adopted; Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, of Chicago, was re-named national chairman of the campaign, and Joseph Schlossberg was re-elected president;

President Kennedy, in a message to the convention praising Secretary Goldberg, said: "His entire career has been devoted to the cause of those who are handicapped or underprivileged; It is particularly appropriate that Histadrut, the Israel Labor Federation, present him with the award in view of his long service to the cause of labor and his deep interest in the State of Israel;"

Alexander Kahn, general manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, was honored at the convention for his active leadership in the Histadrut campaign, and was presented with the Founders Award; Dr. Leon H. Keyserling, noted American economist, addressed the gathering on the current problems of Israel and the role of Histadrut's cooperatives in strengthening the industrial fabric of the young state; Principal speakers tonight were Avraham Harman, Israel Ambassador to Washington; and George Meany, president of the AFL-CIO;

Dr. Sol Stein, national executive director, reported that the campaign for 1961 had netted \$3,188,335, including the sum of \$866,000 raised by Pioneer Women for the program of Histadrut's Working Women's Council in Israel. Other speakers included Louis Segal, member of the Jewish Agency executive and general secretary of the Farband-Labor Zionist Order; Isaiah Avrech, American representative of the Histadrut; Meir Argov, chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee of Israel's Parliament; and Moshe Erem, member of the Histadrut executive council;

Yehoshua Levy, treasurer of Histadrut in Israel, reported details of a multi-million dollar development plan: that would enable a quarter of a million population to settle in three new areas of Israel--the Bsor and Arad sectors of the Negev, and the Carmiel sector of Upper Galilee. Stressing that Israel's population was growing steadily through natural increase and immigration, Mr. Levy stated that Histadrut would expand its complex of cooperative industries in order to provide employment for the growing labor force.

The annual increase of job seekers in Israel is five percent and the Histadrut plans will create job opportunities for these, he reported, adding that at present, Israel suffers from a labor shortage;

ABRAHAM FEINBERG HEADS \$25,000,000 FUND FOR WEIZMANN INSTITUTE

TEL AVIV, Nov. 26; (JTA) -- A \$25,000,000 endowment fund for the Weizmann Institute of Science, at Rehovot, has been launched under the world chairmanship of Abraham A. Feinberg, New York industrialist and philanthropist, it was announced here today by Meyer Weisgal, chairman of the Weizmann Institute.

Mr. Weisgal said it is hoped that \$10,000,000 of the total sum would be presented to the Weizmann Institute by November 1962, the tenth anniversary of the death of the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann, first president of Israel and founder of the institute at Rehovot. Mr. Weisgal also revealed that Dr. Robert Oppenheimer, famous American physicist who heads the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton, N. J., has signified his intention to spend three months at the Weizmann Institute in 1962.

ISRAEL GOVT. CHOOSES U.S. FIRM TO SUPERVISE CONSTRUCTION OF ASHDOD PORT

NEW YORK, Nov. 26; (JTA) -- The Israel Government has chosen the New York engineering firm, Frederic R. Harris, Inc., to supervise the first phase of the construction of the deep-sea port of Ashdod, south of Tel Aviv, the firm announced here today.

Harris engineers, who have been working on plans for the project since 1957, have developed final designs and have recommended a harbor enclosed by breakwaters; Construction will be carried out in three phases timed to keep pace with the expansion of Israel's foreign trade. The new port is expected to be handling an estimated 2,250,000 tons of citrus fruit and general cargo by 1965, when the first phase is scheduled for completion.

JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE APPOINTS RABBI GRYN AS EXECUTIVE ASSISTANT

NEW YORK, Nov. 26; (JTA) -- Rabbi Hugo Gryn, executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism, is joining the staff of the Joint Distribution Committee as an executive assistant, it was announced today by Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice-chairman. Born in Czechoslovakia, Rabbi Gryn is a survivor of three concentration camps; He was liberated from the Mauthausen Camp in 1945 by the United States Army. His first association with the JDC was the Prague office, where he received displaced persons and was later sent to escort groups of orphaned children to England.

In 1948, he served as a volunteer in the Israeli Army. He came to the United States on a scholarship in 1950 to complete his rabbinical training, and was graduated from the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati in 1956. His first pulpit was the Jewish Religious Union, a liberal congregation in Bombay, India. After serving there for two and a half years, Rabbi Gryn was named executive director of the World Union for Progressive Judaism.

REUVEN BARKAT NAMED SECRETARY GENERAL OF MAPAI PARTY IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Nov. 26; (JTA) -- Reuven Barkat, Israeli Minister to Norway, was appointed tonight as secretary general of the Mapai Party. He succeeds Josef Almog, who has joined the new coalition Cabinet as Minister Without Portfolio.

Mr. Barkat, who has been in Israel, accompanying the Norwegian Prime Minister, Einar Gerhardsen, will return to Norway for a short period before assuming his party duties. He had been previously designated for the post of Ambassador to the Soviet Union. The Foreign Ministry is now facing the need to find another personality to fill the important Moscow position.

DR. RCSEN, CHIEF RABBI OF RUMANIA, ARRIVES IN NEW YORK; WILL LECTURE

NEW YORK, Nov. 26; (JTA) -- Dr. Moses Rosen, Chief Rabbi of Rumania, arrived here today for a ten-week visit during which he will serve as Visiting Professor of Jewish History at Yeshiva University. Dr. Rosen, who is a recognized authority on contemporary Jewish history, will lecture at the university for a select group of rabbis and scholars working toward graduate degrees.

This is Dr. Rosen's first visit to this country. He will also deliver a series of lectures for the public at the university.

ASHES OF 3,000 JEWS GASSED AND CREMATED BY NAZIS INTERRED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Nov. 26; (JTA) -- Ashes of 3,000 Jews from the town of Drobnin, Poland, who were gassed and cremated by the Nazis at Auschwitz during the Second World War were interred today on the burial grounds of the Drobniner Benevolent Society. Special services were held at the cemetery. All Drobniners were killed at Auschwitz, except those who were fit for heavy labor.

One of the survivors, Rabbi David Feffer of the Jewish Theological Seminary, returned to Auschwitz recently and arranged to have the ashes from the crematories sent here for burial at the foot of a monument erected in memory of the Drobniners.