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ISRAELI EXPERT ON MIDDLE EAST SENTENCED IN HAIFA FOR ESPIONAGE

HAIFA, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Aharon Cohen, an expert on the Middle East and Arab affairs, and a former leader of the Mapam party, was sentenced in District Court here today to five years' imprisonment, as a result of his conviction by the court of espionage. He had been convicted, after a secret trial, on three of four counts alleging that he had gathered secret information and passed it to an agent for an unnamed Communist country.

His attorney, who immediately filed notice of an appeal to the Israel Supreme Court, issued a statement declaring he was not guilty, asking for the court's "mercy," and declaring the defense is "asking for justice." According to his defense, Cohen said he was "let down" by the Government's security officials who, he said, failed to warn him that the foreign diplomat to whom he passed the secret information, was "an agent."

The prosecution, however, requested a stiff penalty on the ground that "when a leader commits a crime, it is worse than a crime committed by an ordinary man." At the request of the defense, the District Court permitted Cohen's release on bail for 10 days, pending a ruling by a higher court.

Meanwhile, preparations were being made today at Tel Aviv for the rendering of the verdict in another espionage case, against Lieut. Colonel Israel Beer. The latter, formerly a high officer in Israel's Army headquarters, and a noted military analyst, was also accused of espionage on behalf of an unnamed Communist country. The verdict in the Beer case is scheduled to be handed down next Sunday.

ISRAELI NEWSPAPERS CLASH WITH GOVERNMENT RADIO OVER COMMERCIAL ADS

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Israel's newspaper publishing industry today launched an attack against the use of commercial advertising over Kol Israel, this country's Government-owned radio broadcasting service.

At a meeting of newspaper publishers and editors, several resolutions were adopted protesting against Kol Israel's new commercial policy, inaugurated a year ago. The resolutions, calling for a discontinuance of the radio service's commercial policy, will be forwarded to the financial committee of the Knesset (Parliament).

Kol Israel made a contract with a French firm a year ago, giving the French enterprise time for commercial advertising in return for \$750,000 worth of transmitting equipment.

Speakers at the publishers' and editors' meeting said that newspaper revenues have been seriously affected by the competition from Kol Israel. Complaints were voiced to the effect that the very existence of newspapers of smaller circulation is being threatened because of Kol Israel's competition for the Israel advertising revenue.

Some publishers declared that competition between the State monopoly of radio broadcasting, and private business, is without precedent in any other country where the Government owns and operates the broadcasting services.

The newspaper industry is alarmed not only because of competition from Kol Israel's radio services, but also because plans are being drawn for inauguration of a television service in Israel. It was made clear at the meeting that the newspaper industry will fight hard against possible use of commercial advertising on Israel's forthcoming TV service and "will take all necessary steps" to prevent such a development if organized opposition to commercial TV becomes necessary.

ELIMINATION OF ISRAEL IS MAJOR POINT IN SYRIAN POLICY, PREMIER SAYS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- "Elimination of Israel" and the "return of Palestine to the Arabs," is "first on the list of the Arab affairs that will occupy our attention," Syria's Prime Minister, Marfouf Dawalibi, stated today in addressing the Syrian Parliament at Damascus.

Mr. Dawalibi made that statement in his first speech to Parliament, outlining the Government's policy since Syria broke away from the United Arab Republic and re-established its own Government. As to world affairs, the Syrian leader said, his country is "neither pro-West nor pro-East." The speech, transmitted over the Damascus radio, was monitored here.

ZIONIST OFFICIAL INDICTED IN ISRAEL; CHARGED WITH \$170,000 EMBEZZLEMENT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9; (JTA) -- A 78-count indictment charging chiefly embezzlement of \$170,000 from the funds of Keren Hayesod, the Palestine Foundation Fund, was lodged in the District Court here today against Ephraim Margalit, former head of the Keren Hayesod office in Paris. If convicted, the accused is liable to seven years' imprisonment on each embezzlement charge.

The largest single defalcation charged to Margalit is his alleged pocketing of \$20,000 donated to Keren Hayesod by Baron Edmond de Rothschild. Margalit has been under arrest here for two and a half months. The prosecutor requested the court to order him detained until his trial.

RISE IN ISRAEL'S INDUSTRIAL AND FARM PRODUCTION IN 1961 REPORTED

NEW YORK, Jan. 9; (JTA) -- Israel's gross national product rose by 10 or 11 percent in 1961 to a record of \$2,625,000,000, industrial production going up 13 percent over the 1960 figure, and agricultural production rising by 11 percent as against the previous year, the New York Times reported today as part of its world-wide review of last year's economic developments.

Most of the gains in production, however, were reported due to better productivity by a labor force which expanded only by four percent during the year. Israeli unemployment had dropped to what is called a "rockbottom" level of 6,000 unemployables, and there were shortages of skilled labor.

The "real Achilles heel" of Israel's economy, the Times stated, is "the persistent deficit" in the country's foreign trade balance, which was reported having "worsened" last year by \$34,000,000. In 1961, exports rose 18 percent to \$415,000,000, while imports increased 14 percent to \$790,000,000. The Times stated that, in 1961, Israel's "deficit fattened to \$375,000,000."

ARAMCO FAILS IN ATTEMPT TO CAST SHADOW ON S. C. A. D. COMMISSIONERS

NEW YORK, Jan. 9; (JTA) -- An attempt by the attorney for the Aramco, Arabian-American Oil Company, to question the impartiality of the members of the State Commission Against Discrimination conducting hearings of charges that the oil firm discriminates against Jews in both domestic and foreign employment, failed today in the second day of the Commission's deliberations.

Chester Bordeau, counsel for Aramco, asked the three commissioners whether any of them were ever affiliated with members, officers or employees of, or contributors to the American Jewish Congress or any organization affiliated with the World Zionist movement. Citing from the purposes of the American Jewish Congress--which is the complainant against the oil firm in the hearing--Mr. Bordeau noted that it was one of the aims of the AJC to support the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine.

The Aramco attorney said that if any members of the Commission were affiliated with the American Jewish Congress or with a Zionist group, he would ask that they be disqualified from participating in the hearings. Describing Mr. Bordeau's request as "rare and unusual," J. Edward Conway, the presiding commissioner, said that he would reject as improper that part of the question dealing with affiliation with the world Zionist movement since the role of Israel was "extraneous" to the issues of the hearing. Mr. Conway said, however, that he would permit the commissioners to answer the part of Mr. Bordeau's question dealing with affiliation with the American Jewish Congress.

Both Mr. Conway and another commissioner, Mrs. Mary Louise Nice, then said that they are not Jewish, and consequently are not members of the American Jewish Congress. They also said that they had never contributed to the organization. The third commissioner, Bernard Katzen, said he was Jewish, but was never affiliated with the AJCongress and never contributed to it. He challenged the propriety of the question, however, and said that the fact that he was not affiliated with the AJCongress "should not be taken as disparaging" that organization.

Seeks Dismissal of Charges of Anti-Jewish Discrimination

The Aramco lawyer also failed in an attempt to seek the dismissal by the Commission of the charges of anti-Jewish discrimination brought by the American Jewish Congress against the oil company. Mr. Bordeau, counsel for Aramco, argued that there was no evidence that Aramco had discriminated in its domestic employment practices.

In reply, Shad Polier, vice-president of the American Jewish Congress, who is serving as the organization's counsel in the case, pointed out that Aramco "uses the possibility of travel to Saudi Arabia as a formula to disguise the fact that it is actually honoring a commitment to its business partner--Saudi Arabia--to exclude Jews from any part of its payroll, foreign or domestic."

"The State of New York cannot require Saudi Arabia to admit Jews," Mr. Polier said. "But SCAD can and should bar Aramco from acting as the tool and agent of a foreign power in violating the laws of the State."

WASHINGTON JEWS SEEK BAN ON RELIGIOUS OBSERVANCES IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9; (JTA) -- The District of Columbia school board and the school boards in the surrounding Maryland and Virginia communities were studying today a request by the Jewish Community Council of Greater Washington that they issue directives prohibiting public school religious observances of any kind.

In identical letters to the school boards, the council asked for "a policy that clearly prohibits the conduct of religious holiday observances and other religious practices under public school auspices, whether optional or compulsory." The Council did not spell out what it meant by "other religious practices" but it is interpreted to mean Bible reading, recitation of the Lord's Prayer and similar prayers recited in classrooms or school assemblies.

The council charged that religious observance in the public schools tends to undermine the schools curriculum because it subjects "all children to divisive influences, personal embarrassment and psychological confusion." It pointed out that "children of majority religions are conditioned to perceive the children of other religions as somehow odd non-conformists who depart from a dominant school-imposed norm."

In addition to affecting the schools' curriculum, the council said religious observances in public schools are: 1, "A major hindrance to authentic religion and meaningful religious education"; and 2, "Unconstitutional violation of the traditional American principles of separation of church and state and of religious freedom." The council asserted that school religious observances make for a "watered down, anemic, empty kind of religiosity." It said that the prime responsibility for religious education "must fall exclusively upon the clergy, the religious educators and parents."

ILLINOIS, MINNESOTA GOVERNORS URGED TO ACT ON ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9; (JTA) -- The Governors of Illinois and Minnesota were called on today by the Jewish War Veterans of the United States of America to utilize all available "resources" to apprehend those responsible for recent anti-Semitic incidents in Chicago and Minneapolis.

The veterans group sent identical telegrams to Illinois Governor Otto Kerner and Minnesota Chief Executive Elmer I. Anderson, labeling the dynamiting of a Chicago synagogue last week and the swastika-daubing of several Minneapolis synagogues a few days later, "despicable acts."

The messages urged enactment of "appropriate legislation to deter activities of this nature" and offered the services of local J WV posts in assisting "in every endeavor to get under way a program to educate American citizens to the danger of these actions as dividing our nation;" J WV volunteers in Minneapolis were standing guard at several synagogues and Jewish schools following the incident.

JEWS TEACHERS SEMINARY CELEBRATES FIRST DEGREE-GRANTING PROGRAM

NEW YORK, Jan. 9; (JTA) -- The inauguration of its first degree-granting program, under the charter granted by the New York State Legislature, to the Jewish Teachers Seminary and People's University was celebrated today at a public gathering addressed by leaders of Jewish education, Jewish labor leaders and Zionist leaders.

A combined freshman and sophomore first class of students, of a total enrollment of over 100, is now studying for degrees of Bachelor of Jewish Literature and Bachelor of Jewish Pedagogy. The Jewish Teachers Seminary and People's University includes the only tri-lingual Jewish teachers training institute in the United States.

In its 44 years of existence, it has graduated many hundreds of teachers and Jewish professionals who are now serving the Jewish community throughout the United States and Canada and in many other parts of the world. In addition to teacher-training facilities, the institution has provided for many years an Institute of Jewish Affairs and a variety of extension courses in Yiddish, Hebrew, Yiddish Literature, Hebrew Literature, Bible, Zionism, Jewish religious customs and ceremonies, and Jewish philosophy and ethics.

Principal speakers at today's celebration included Meyer L. Brown, president of the Seminary; Dr. Jacob L. Hartstein, dean of the Graduate School of Education of Long Island University; Dr. Mordecai Kaplan, founder of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement; Louis Segal, member of the Jewish Agency executive and prominent Zionist labor leader; Jacob Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, and others.

AMERICAN ORT TO HOLD 40TH ANNIVERSARY CONFERENCE IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 9; (JTA) -- The American ORT Federation will hold its 40th Anniversary National Conference on January 21st at Hotel Commodore here, it was announced today by Dr. William Haber, president.

More than 500 Jewish community leaders from all parts of the country are expected to attend, Dr. Haber declared. They will review the activities and problems of the 20-nation program of technical education and economic assistance which served 40,000 persons during 1961, most of them in Israel, North Africa, Iran and Europe.

ALASKA JEWISH COMMUNITY GETS RITUAL OBJECT RECOVERED FROM NAZIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- A collection of Jewish ritual objects looted by the Nazi regime from European synagogues--and salvaged by the American occupation forces in Germany--was sent to Alaska today, for the use of Alaska's Jewish community.

The collection was presented by Mrs. H. Herbert Rossman, president of the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America, to Rabbi Aryeh Lev, director of the National Jewish Welfare Board's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy, and was sent to Chaplain Samuel B. Press, in Alaska. The latter serves both as chaplain to the Jewish military personnel in Alaska and as spiritual leader of the growing Jewish community there.

The collection includes a Havdalah tray from Germany, a seder plate from Holland, a wine pitcher from Danzig, a pair of brass Sabbath candlesticks from Warsaw, a spice container from Belgrade, a Hanukah lamp from Austria and a kiddush cup from Germany.

MCRE DEAD SEA SCROLLS REPORTED DISCOVERED BY BRITISH ARCHEOLOGISTS

LONDON, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- Enough new discoveries were found in the latest British archeological expedition, seeking further Dead Sea Scrolls, in the Qumram area in Jordan, to justify more diggings there, Dr. John Allegro, professor of Semitic languages at Manchester University, declared here today.

Dr. Allegro announced that digging in the Christmas Cave of the Kidron Valley, in the Qumram area, was temporarily finished yesterday, and said there was "plenty of evidence to justify further investigations." The main chamber of the cave, he said, yielded many wooden objects, remnants of clothing, sandals, and "distinctive pottery" dating back to the Roman occupation of Palestine.

"It is clear," Prof. Allegro said, "that the cave was much more than a temporary refuge." He said that well-plastered floors, in the cave, indicated that the place had been "inhabited over a considerable period of time."

1,700-YEAR-OLD MATZOH-BAKING OVENS FOUND DURING EXCAVATION IN ITALY

ROME, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- Ovens used by an ancient Jewish community in this country for baking matzoh were discovered among the ruins of what may have been the oldest synagogue in Europe, it was reported here today by Prof. Maria Floriani Squarciapino, a noted Italian archeologist.

The ovens were found at the site of the old synagogue, near the seaside resort of Ostia, and probably date back to about the year 300 of the Christian Era, Dr. Squarciapino said. The Temple, recently discovered in diggings near Ostia, was identified as a Jewish house of worship, she said, by engravings of a menorah at the base and tops of two broken columns measuring two feet in diameter and 40 feet in height.

CANADIAN BUSINESSMEN GO TO ISRAEL TO STUDY INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES

NEW YORK, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- Thirty-five Canadian businessmen and industrialists, all of them stockholders in Supersol, largest supermarket chain in Israel, left the international airport here tonight for a two-week tour of Israel. Included in the group are real estate men and experts on construction and development who will survey the potentials of real estate opportunities in Israel.

Supersol is operated by a group of Canadian and United States businessmen, headed by Charles R. Bronfman, of Canada. Starting its Israel operations in 1958, Supersol reported sales of \$2,800,000 in 1960, with profits of \$263,000. By the end of 1961, the firm had opened six stores in Israel, and annual sales of \$6,700,000 have been projected for this year.

ANTI-DEFAMATION LEAGUE NAMES ADLAI STEVENSON FOR ITS ANNUAL AWARD

NEW YORK, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- Adlai E. Stevenson, United States Ambassador to the United Nations, has been named to receive the America's Democratic Legacy award, given annually by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, it was announced today by Henry Edward Schultz, the League's national chairman.

The ADL award, a silver medallion, has been given each year since 1948 to individuals and institutions for "distinguished contributions to the enrichment of America's democratic heritage." Previous winners include former Presidents Eisenhower and Truman, Eleanor Roosevelt, and Herbert Lehman, among others. Last year, the award was presented to Harvard, Notre Dame and Brandeis Universities.

GERMAN PUBLISHER ISSUES DEFENSE SUMMATION IN EICHMANN TRIAL

FRANKFURT, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- The publishing house of Harrag Verlag, at Bad Kreuznach, today published the defense summation on the Adolf Eichmann trial at Jerusalem. The summation had been delivered by the chief of Eichmann's counsel, Dr. Robert Servatius, of Cologne. It was reported here that Dr. Servatius had had difficulty finding a German publisher willing to issue his summation.