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CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SPAIN ACTS TO ERADICATE PREJUDICE AGAINST JEWS

MADRID, Jan. 16; (JTA) -- For the first time in centuries, the Catholic Church in Spain is taking concrete steps to improve relations between Catholics and Jews; it was revealed here today by Max Mazin, president of the Madrid Jewish Community.

As a result of disclosures during the Adolf Eichmann trial in Israel, indicating that many Nazis, pro-Nazis and former Nazis had taken refuge in Spain, Mr. Mazin said he discussed Catholic-Jewish relations here with Monsignor Lahiguera, Deputy-Bishop of Madrid. "The Monsignor," said Mr. Mazin "showed great interest in the problems, and expressed his desire to cooperate. From then on, joint Christian-Jewish initiatives have multiplied."

Growing out of the discussions with the Deputy Bishop, Mr. Mazin said, have been a series of meetings between leading Jews here and the Propaganda Popular Catolica; PPC issued a pamphlet, sharply criticizing "teaching of contempt" against Jews, and declaring:

"In no way can a Christian reproach the entire Jewish people for the assassination of Christ. A series of false, anti-Christian ideas, unfortunately persisting up to our days, have supplied a pretext to commit thousands of horrors against the God-chosen people."

Twenty thousand copies of the pamphlet were sold in the first few days after its publication, and a second printing was issued, said Mr. Mazin. Later, a Christian-Jewish Action Group, called "Amistad Judeo-Christiana," was organized. The group adopted a program aimed at eradication of prejudice against Jews and the promotion of mutual understanding among Christians and Jews.

The executive board of the new organization includes a representative of the Bishop of Madrid, the Mother Superior of the Order of Our Lady of Zion, Mazin and Louis Blitz, honorary president of the Madrid Jewish Community.

"In my opinion," Mr. Mazin said, "this new attitude of the Spanish clergy, which finds inspiration and support also in the spirit animating Pope John XXIII toward the Jews, is one of the most important and encouraging events in the history of Christian-Jewish relations in this land."

There are 3,500 Jews in Spain today, about a third of them living in this city, with the majority in Barcelona, while others are dispersed throughout the country. Nearly all of the Jews in Spain arrived between World Wars I and II, but some came during and after World War II. There are two autonomous Jewish religious communities--Sephardic and Ashkenazi. In this city, the two groups hold joint Sabbath services. In Barcelona, each of the groups has its own synagogues.

FRENCH UNDERGROUND IN ALGIERS WARNS JEWS AGAINST LEAVING COUNTRY

ALGIERS, Jan. 16; (JTA) -- The O.A.S., the secret army organization of the French underground opposing independence for Algeria, considers every Jew leaving for France--or planning to do so--as a "deserter" subject to the death penalty. This was made clear here today in posters distributed by the O.A.S.

The posters announced boldly that a Jew, M. Chekroun, had been executed by the O.A.S. for "desertion." The victim, a jeweler in Algiers, was dragged out of his home late one night, two weeks ago, by two men who said they represented the O.A.S. He has not been seen since. Today, O.A.S. posted the following "notice to the population":

"In spite of the order for general mobilization, M. Chekroun, a jeweler in Maison Carree, has tried to leave Algerian territory to settle in Metropolitan France. Arrested by the police of the Secret Army during the morning of December 30, 1961, Chekroun was immediately taken before the military tribunal of the O.A.S. Condemned to death for desertion, Chekroun was executed at 11 a.m."

The O.A.S. poster provoked consternation among many of the Jews here who have been planning to move to France, where Algerians are admitted as French citizens, enjoying all rights given to citizens in Metropolitan France.

SHARETT REBUKES BEN-GURION PUBLICLY FOR REMARK ON JEWISH AGENCY

JERUSALEM, Jan, 16; (JTA) -- Moshe Sharett, former Prime Minister and ex-Foreign Minister of Israel, now chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, made public today a sharp letter to Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, criticizing the latter for some remarks on the Jewish Agency made by Mr. Ben-Gurion during a debate in the Knesset (Parliament) here last week.

In the Knesset debate, a representative of Agudat Israel had reprimanded the Government because an El Al passenger plane, bringing some Bar Mitzvah boys to Israel, had landed at Lydda Airport on a Friday evening, after sundown, thus violating the Sabbath. Angered by this attack, Mr. Ben-Gurion told Parliament that the flight of the boys had been sponsored not by the Government, but by the Jewish Agency.

"The Government is not the Agency's master," Premier Ben-Gurion continued. "The Agency is an autonomous institution. I do not know what this institution does--the Government is no more responsible for this institution than it is for the activities of Agudat Israel."

In his rebuking letter to Mr. Ben-Gurion, Mr. Sharett stated: "It is one thing to be not responsible for acts of certain institutions, and another to claim ignorance of its activities." Recalling that, for 13 years prior to the establishment of the modern State of Israel, Mr. Ben-Gurion had been chairman of the Agency, Mr. Sharett held that the Premier "could hardly be ignorant of what the Agency does."

He pointed out that Mr. Ben-Gurion himself has presided over the periodic meetings of the Agency-Government Coordinating Board, set up under an agreement between the Government of Israel and the World Zionist Organization, citing the fact that Mr. Ben-Gurion had been "the sponsor and principal architect" of that agreement.

The Agency chairman cited a long list of activities in the field of immigration, absorption of newcomers, settlement, education and other spheres to the credit of the Agency. "Has it not come to your knowledge," he asked the Premier, "or have you forgotten what the Jewish Agency, through Keren Hayesod, had done to increase the voluntary efforts of the Jewish masses toward the upbuilding of the country, the financing of its activities, and first and foremost immigration absorption and settlement?"

The letter concluded by stating that "heavy responsibility" for the Knesset statement rests on the Premier "even if the remarks were a slip of the tongue in the course of a heated debate."

ISRAELIS DEBATE ABOLITION OF MILITARY RULE FOR ARABS AT PUBLIC MEETINGS

TEL AVIV, Jan, 16; (JTA) -- Continuation or abolition of Israel's military government in border areas inhabited by Arabs was publicly debated here today at two large mass meetings.

A so-called "Public Committee Against Military Governmentship," inspired largely by the Mapam Party, held one meeting that filled a large auditorium here to capacity. Speakers included representatives of Mapam, Ahdut Avoda, the Liberal Party, and one member of Herut who said, however, that he was speaking for himself and not as a representative of his party. Present were also some Arabs, a number of prominent Israeli actors and writers, and "younger generation" members of various parties.

At the same time, Minister of Agriculture Moshe Dayan, Israel's former Chief of Staff of the Defense Forces, addressed another rally, attended chiefly by elder Israelis. Gen. Dayan repeated the Government's explanation that continuance of the military government was essential to the State's security. The same view was expressed by Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres at a rally in Herzlia.

Abba Eban, Minister of Education, speaking at another huge public meeting, said that the continuance of the military government is imperative as long as Arabs in the neighboring countries insist on the "elimination" of Israel and especially because Arabs in Israel are in sympathy with the anti-Israel views of the Arab world. He revealed that he had asked 300 Arab school principals on the attitudes of Israel's Arab youth, and was told categorically that they felt themselves part of the Arab world and brothers of the Arabs across the border.

BEN-GURION ASKS ISRAEL'S BAR ASSOCIATION TO DEVELOP HEBREW CODE

JERUSALEM, Jan, 16; (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion urged today, in a message to the Israel Bar Association, the development of Israeli law "based on the enduring values of Judaism, geared to the needs of the modern State and the historic mission of the Jewish people."

Mr. Ben-Gurion urged a change in the country's legal system, which it inherited "from foreign sources." Instead, he requested the development of a Hebrew code "which was halted under the Roman domination some 2,000 years ago." He called upon Israel's lawyers to join the country's legislators "to achieve a legal system based on the prophetic mission of the Nation."

BONN CONSIDERS ESTABLISHING TRADE MISSION IN ISRAEL; TO CONSULT ARABS

BONN, Jan. 16; (JTA) -- Regret over the decision of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, to limit cultural and social relations with Germany was expressed today in a number of West German newspapers. Some of them attributed Israel's move to the fact that the Bonn Government refuses to establish diplomatic relations with the Jewish State.

The Stadtanzeiger, a Cologne newspaper, carries a report revealing that the West German Government is now considering the possibility of establishing a trade mission in Jerusalem similar to the Israel Purchasing Mission in Germany. The report adds, however, that the West German Foreign Ministry will first sound out the Arab states to see if the establishment of such a mission would be considered by the Arabs as an unfriendly act. The Foreign Ministry fears that the Arab states may retaliate by granting recognition to the East German Government.

Die Zeit, a Hamburg weekly, came out today with an article suggesting that the Bonn Government establish a "more intense" program of aid to Israeli students in German universities, proposing the provision of scholarships to Israeli students for such purposes. Government sources here are still declining to comment on the Knesset's decision on German-Israel relations.

SENATE HEARS REPORT ON BAN OF AMERICAN-JEWISH TOURISTS IN JORDAN

WASHINGTON, Jan. 16; (JTA) -- Senator Joseph S. Clark of Pennsylvania reminded the Senate today that American Jews and Jewish-owned businesses continue to have difficulties in travel and trade relations with Arab countries.

"It is a sad fact that Americans of the Jewish faith," Senator Clark said, "are barred from visiting Jordan even though U.S. tax dollars underwrite half of the budget of that nation and Jordan can ill afford to turn away potential earnings from tourism." The Pennsylvania Democrat urged that "full force and effect" be given a 1960 Democratic Platform pledge which asked "protection of rights of American citizens to travel, to pursue lawful trade and to engage in other lawful activities abroad without distinction to race or religion."

Senator Clark told the Senate that "we must neither at home nor abroad let any of our citizens be relegated to a second-class status." He said: "For the U.S. Government to be a party to such distinctions by not effectively opposing them is not only contrary to some of the oldest traditions of this nation but in effect serves to negate the efforts to strengthen the concepts of freedom and democracy throughout the world on which we are now expending so much of our national effort and treasure."

The Senator referred to an article on the entire matter written by his Pennsylvania colleague Congressman Thomas E. Morgan--Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee--in the November 1961 issue of the "Committee Reporter," monthly organ of the American Jewish Committee, and asked that it be inserted in the Congressional Record.

AMERICA-ISRAEL CULTURAL FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$2,500,000 PROJECT

NEW YORK, Jan. 16; (JTA) -- A \$2,500,000 program to build a network of 50 cultural centers in the newer outlying Israel settlements and villages was announced tonight at the annual dinner-concert of the America-Israel Cultural Foundation by Samuel Rubin, president of the Foundation.

Speaking before 1,200 people gathered at the Waldorf Astoria to honor Herbert H. Lehman "for distinguished service in the cause of America, Israel and all humanity," Mr. Rubin also announced that the first center to be built under this new program, the gift of a group of friends, will be named in honor of former Governor Lehman, and will be located in the village of Isfiya, a community populated by Druse and Christian Arabs.

"It is particularly appropriate," Mr. Rubin said, "that this new cultural center in the Middle East be established in the name of Herbert H. Lehman who, as director general of UNRRA, helped save the lives of millions of men, women and children in the Middle East." Over \$200,000 was raised for the annual program of the Foundation in behalf of over 40 cultural institutions and projects in Israel. Robert S. Benjamin, chairman of the dinner-concert, was toastmaster. The principal guest address was delivered by Avraham Harman, Israel Ambassador to the United States.

Of the 50 cultural centers projected in the new America-Israel Cultural Foundation program, it is estimated that ten will be erected in areas largely populated by Arabs, and the other 40 in outlying settlements in the newer sections of Israel, particularly the Negev, largely populated by new immigrants. "In the past few years," Mr. Rubin said, "the Foundation has built seven cultural centers in outlying sections of Israel. This was an experimental project, and on the basis of the success of these pilot centers, and utilizing the knowledge we gained in the building and administration of them, we evolved this present plan."

Mr. Lehman, addressing the 1,200 guests, warned that although "an uneasy quiet rests today upon the Middle East," that there is no doubt "that this area of deep tensions, passions, and hostilities may again produce an eruption of vital danger to world peace and to the existence of Israel."

ALLIANCE ISRAELITE PLANS TO ESTABLISH MORE JEWISH HIGH SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Jan. 16; (JTA) -- More Jewish high schools will be established by Alliance Israelite Universelle, it was announced here today by Jules Braunschvig, of Paris, vice-president of the organization. Mr. Braunschvig made the announcement at the annual meeting held here by the American Friends of Alliance, under the chairmanship of Alan M. Strock.

In order to provide more teachers for Alliance schools, the organization's normal school facilities will be expanded in Paris, Mr. Braunschvig reported. Thus, he said, Alliance will be enabled not only to continue its network of schools in the Mediterranean area, but also to train more teachers "to provide higher Jewish education to the future intelligentsia of West European Jewry."

Eugene Weill, secretary-general of Alliance, who had also come here from Paris to attend the meeting of the American Friends, reported that the organization will extend its network of high schools in the Negev region of Israel, as well as in other Israeli areas settled predominantly by Jewish immigrants from Asia and Africa.

Marcel Franco, president of the American Friends of the Alliance, who was recently in Morocco where King Hassan II conferred upon him a high Moroccan decoration told the meeting that there is every reason to believe that a way will be found to insure for the Jewish children in North Africa--where the Alliance operates 71 day schools--an adequate general and religious education while fully respecting the aspirations of the newly independent countries of that area.

16, 000 NEW YORKERS SOUGHT AID FROM JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE IN 1961

LAKEWOOD, N.J., Jan. 16; (JTA) -- Some 16,000 Jewish families in New York City sought help last year from the Jewish Family Service there, it was disclosed here today by Rabbi Fred Hollander, assistant professor of pastoral psychology at Yeshiva University.

Addressing the conference of the Rabbinical Council of America, which is taking place here, Rabbi Hollander said that "these families, consisting of some 60,000 husbands, wives and children, reflect in a very conservative estimate, the number of Jewish families throughout the country, who require help and guidance in leading emotionally healthier lives."

Citing the strengthening of family ties as the cornerstone of western civilization, he told the 500 Orthodox rabbis attending the conference that "the rabbi can provide people with the resources which will enable them to establish the family as a source of mature living."

Gustav Stern, chairman of the Rabbinical Court Corporation, told the rabbis that the Rabbinical Court was "founded on the precept that unity in the Jewish family is a direct resultant of the traditional emphasis of social justice, Torah directed behavior and collective responsibility." He hailed the "magnificent cooperation which the Rabbinical Court has received from Governmental and social welfare agencies in overcoming the opposition of willful and obstinate spouses who refused to consider the granting of needed religious divorces."

Mr. Stern was honored by the Council for "his selfless dedication to the principles of Orthodox Judaism by helping in the creation of the Rabbinical Court." The Rabbinical Council will launch a "massive Torah tour of leading American colleges for the purpose of spreading the basic tenets and ideals of religion and Orthodox Judaism" among Jewish students; it was announced here by Rabbi Abraham N. Avrutick, first vice-president of the organization.

UNION OF RABBIS OF CENTRAL AMERICA FORMED; HEADQUARTERS IN MEXICO CITY

PANAMA, Jan. 16; (JTA) -- The establishment of the Union of Rabbis of Central America was announced here today at the conclusion of the founding conference of the organization by Rabbi Abraham Hersberg, of Mexico City, the group's first president and by Rabbi Mayer Rosenbaum of Caracas, chairman of the board.

The new rabbinical body, which will have its headquarters in Mexico City, will seek to promote "unity and progress" within the Jewish religion in the countries of Central America and endeavor to "strengthen religion and democracy throughout Latin America." The Union will recognize only properly ordained Orthodox rabbis. It will assist youth organizations to bring their memberships closer to Judaism, promote Hebrew and Yiddish education and will furnish aid to the Rabbinical Seminary of Mexico.

In resolutions adopted by the conference, the rabbinical organization called upon "all Jewish communities of Latin America to unite among themselves and to avoid friction which is the source of all difficulties." The group also pledged itself to "help Israel, which is the fountain of democracy and a spiritual bridge for the Jews of the displacement."