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AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS LEAVES NEW YORK U.J.A.; TO CONDUCT SEPARATE DRIVE

NEW YORK, Feb. 1. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress will no longer be one of the beneficiaries of the New York United Jewish Appeal and will seek direct support from the New York Jewish community for its activities, it was announced here today by Dr. Joachim Prinz, AJC president. A "mutual agreement" to this effect was reached by both parties, a joint statement said.

The statement, signed by Dr. Prinz and Monroe Goldwater, president of the New York UJA, said:

"This decision was reached in a spirit of understanding and friendship. It grows out of the realization that UJA's needs are so overwhelmingly great and urgent that every effort must be concentrated on meeting them while, at the same time, the American Jewish Congress required increased support for its work;

"As the American Jewish Congress recognizes the great importance of the work that the United Jewish Appeal is doing, and has pledged the full cooperation of its members to the cause of the UJA, so does the United Jewish Appeal acknowledge the valuable work of the American Jewish Congress, which merits the generous support of the Jewish community."

The American Jewish Congress has relied for its support locally on the New York UJA since 1947 and engaged in no independent fund-raising. The 1962 budget of the American Jewish Congress is \$1,300,000. The AJC campaign will open next Thursday at a dinner for leaders of the organization in the New York area.

During the last year in which the Congress engaged in an independent fund-raising appeal in New York--1946--the sum of \$775,000 was raised, Dr. Prinz disclosed today. Outside of New York, the American Jewish Congress will continue as a beneficiary of local Jewish federations and welfare funds, Dr. Prinz said. He reported that the AJC had received financial support from Jewish communities in 294 cities across the United States in 1961.

AUSTRIA CRITICIZED FOR INADEQUATE COMPENSATION TO NAZI VICTIMS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1; (JTA) -- The Austrian Government was criticized today in Israel's Parliament for the limitations of its program of compensation to victims of the Nazi era in that country.

Deputy Zvi Zimmerman of the Liberal party said that 20,000 Austrian Jews now living in Israel will receive only five to six percent of the rate of payment provided by the West German Government to Nazi era victims. He also pointed out that Austria will pay nothing to those made invalid by Nazi abuse and to those whose professions or schooling was interrupted.

Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, who managed to have the issue removed from the Knesset agenda and submitted to a parliamentary committee, called the agreement unsatisfactory. He recalled that it was achieved only after lengthy negotiations in which Dr. Nahum Goldmann participated. He added that those negotiations were undertaken after the Israel Government had exhausted every approach for a more satisfactory program. He expressed regret at the "inadequacy" of the Austrian program.

SPECIAL PRAYERS FOR SOVIET JEWRY HELD IN ALL SYNAGOGUES IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1; (JTA) -- Special prayers for the "speedy deliverance" of Russian Jewry, and for Soviet authorities to grant Jews the possibility of free religious worship, were recited in virtually all of Israel's synagogues today. The Chief Rabbinate had declared today as a special day of prayer on behalf of Russian Jewry.

At morning and afternoon services, solemn liturgy especially prescribed for this day was recited by the rabbis and congregants, and Psalms were read, calling for Divine intercession on behalf of "our oppressed brethren in the Soviet Union." Rabbis and elders addressed the congregations on the recent and recurring reports of new Soviet oppressions against Russian Jews wishing to practice their religious rights.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT INVOKES EMERGENCY LAW FOR 43 STRIKING ENGINEERS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 1; (JTA) -- Minister of Labor Yigal Allon was sent today a formal request for emergency mobilization orders for 43 engineers needed for essential work on Government projects as the engineers strike remained deadlocked after more than three weeks.

The request for the orders was made by Giora Josephthal, Minister of Housing and Development, who decided on the drastic step after he made an unsuccessful personal effort to induce the needed engineers to return to work on the projects; The engineers refused on grounds they needed union permission to do so;

It was learned however, that the Labor Minister intended to make one more effort to persuade the 6,000 striking salaried engineers to return to work; It was understood he would issue the so-called "job freeze" orders which require the mobilized engineers to return to their posts within a few days; He intends to try to get the engineers to call off their strike before the effective date to return-to-work orders; The Israel Cabinet authorized such action last week after all mediation efforts failed;

ARAB LEFTIST DEPUTIES RAISE ISSUE IN KNESSET OVER EXPROPRIATED LAND

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1; (JTA) -- Two Arab members of Israel's Parliament today challenged plans of the Government to expropriate some partly Arab owned land for development of a new town near the Acre-Safed road;

A motion was submitted by Communist deputy Emile Habibi and Mapam deputy Yousef Khamis asking for a full debate on the proposed expropriation; They argued that marble quarries on the site provided a livelihood for 400 Arab families and that adjacent land could be used for the development project; Some 1,300 acres, half of which belongs to Arab villages, will be used for the new town, Carmiel;

Finance Minister Levi Eshkol, replying for the Government, said it was simply a coincidence that some of the land was partly Arab-owned; He said Jewish land was also expropriated for similar purposes; He explained that among considerations leading to selection of the site were the topography and proximity to roads and supply centers;

He also said that in compensation, the Government had offered either land or money and that most of the owners chose cash; Elias Makhle, another Arab deputy, then proposed that the issue be submitted to a Knesset committee; His proposal was approved without objection;

BURMESE PREMIER EXPLAINS TO BEN-GURION HIS STATEMENT IN CAIRO

JERUSALEM, Feb. 1; (JTA) -- Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion said yesterday that he had received a letter from Burmese Premier U Nu explaining the declaration the Burmese leader had signed jointly with President Nasser of Egypt in Cairo;

Mr. Ben-Gurion said he was "completely satisfied" that U Nu was a staunch friend of Israel; In the joint Nasser-U Nu statement, the two Government leaders pledged "support for the full restoration of all rights of the Arab people of Palestine in conformity with the Charter and United Nations resolutions."

The Israel Premier conceded that the initial announcement of the joint declaration had caused him "unpleasant surprise" but said that he had discounted the importance of the statement after reading the Burmese Premier's letter; He said Nasser had obtained from the Burmese leader nothing more than an endorsement of his known position--namely, to support United Nations decisions; Mr. Ben-Gurion added that Nasser worded the joint declaration to obtain the ready endorsement of the Burmese Premier for UN resolutions which Nasser himself disregards;

U. J. A. TO HONOR ADVISORS ON JEWISH AFFAIRS TO U. S. MILITARY IN GERMANY

NEW YORK, Feb. 1; (JTA) -- The six former Advisors on Jewish Affairs to the United States Military Forces in occupied Germany have been invited to join a former U. S. Military Governor of that country, Gen. Lucius D. Clay, as guests of honor at the National Inaugural Dinner of the United Jewish Appeal, to be held here on February 11, at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel; it was announced here today; Gen. Clay will be the principal speaker at the event;

The advisors include Judge Simon Rifkind of New York, Rabbi Philip Bernstein of Rochester, Judge Louis Levinthal of Philadelphia, Dr. William Haber of Ann Arbor, Mich., Harry Greenstein of Baltimore and Abraham S. Hyman of New York; All of them served as liaison between the military authorities and the Jewish displaced persons; Gen. Clay, who is now in Berlin as President Kennedy's personal representative, has informed the UJA that he will appear as a featured speaker at the dinner provided his duties permit him; The other featured speaker at the dinner will be Brig. Gen. Chaim Herzog, former Chief of Intelligence of the Israel Defense Forces; The dinner will mark the official opening of the 1962 national UJA campaign to raise \$95,000,000;

U. N. BODY POSTPONES STUDY ON MEASURES TO CHECK RELIGIOUS BIGOTRY

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 1; (JTA) -- The Subcommittee on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities decided today to postpone consideration of the appointment of a special rapporteur to study "measures to be taken for the cessation of any advocacy of national, racial or religious hostility that constitutes an incitement to hatred and violence."

The Subcommittee had initiated steps to study racial and religious incitement two years ago, when it sharply condemned the worldwide outbreak of swastika-smearings and other anti-Semitic manifestations, following the desecration of the Cologne Synagogue in Germany. A resolution favoring such a discussion was adopted last summer by the United Nations Economic and Social Council;

PENNSYLVANIA LAW ON BIBLE READING IN SCHOOLS RULED UNCONSTITUTIONAL

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 1; (JTA) -- A special three-judge Federal court ruled here today that the Pennsylvania law on Bible reading in public schools was unconstitutional. In the unanimous decision, the court outlawed the recitation of the Lord's Prayer as part of Bible reading practices in public schools of the state;

The suit originally had been brought by Edward L. Schemp of Roslyn, a Unitarian, and the law was ruled unconstitutional by a Federal court here. The law was then amended to permit pupils to be excused from participation in the classroom readings. The defendants were the School District in Abington Township and Charles H. Boehm, superintendent of public instruction in Pennsylvania.

After the law was amended, the Philadelphia ruling was appealed to the United States Supreme Court, which sent the suit back to Philadelphia for further consideration because of the amendment.

Two Jewish organizations, the Philadelphia Jewish Community Council and the American Jewish Congress, filed briefs as friends of the court in the hearing. The AJRC has contended that the growth of both religion and democratic society was best fostered in the home and houses of worship. The Congress brief challenged the practices as "religious intrusions barred under the constitution."

(In New York, the American Jewish Congress hailed today's ruling by the Federal District Court against Bible reading in Pennsylvania public schools as a "major victory for religious freedom." The decision is expected to be appealed again to the U. S. Supreme Court in time for it to act on the question before its June adjournment.)

ANTI-JEWISH BIAS IN CLUBS IS HIGHEST IN MIDWEST, A. D. L. OFFICIAL REPORTS

MINNEAPOLIS, Feb. 1; (JTA) -- A regional Anti-Defamation League official reported today that bias against Jews by private clubs in the midwest is significantly higher than in other regions of the United States, as well as in comparison with the situation nationally.

Dr. Harold B. Barrie, chairman of the Minnesota-Dakota regional advisory board of the ADL, said the regional office had collected information on 17 country clubs and eight city clubs as part of the ADL national survey of 1,152 such clubs. Total membership of such clubs in the Minnesota-Dakotas area exceeded 20,000 of the more than 700,000 members of the clubs surveyed nationally.

He reported that 76 percent of the clubs in the midwest area practiced religious discrimination in admission of members, compared with 67 percent nationally. "The higher percentage of religious discrimination in a state noted for its progressive attitude toward civil rights legislation is particularly disturbing and requires further study," he declared.

Dr. Barrie noted that 90 percent of the discriminatory clubs nationally maintained the restrictions on an "unofficial basis," that is, he said, there was nothing restrictive in their constitutions or by-laws. Among the 19 clubs in the Minnesota-Dakotas area practicing such bias, he reported, all did so on an "unofficial" basis. As on the national level, most of the private clubs in the region practiced total exclusion of Jews as members while seven permitted "token" membership from other faiths.

The clubs studied nationally included 693 which were rated as having prestige in their communities and 60 percent were found to bar Jews. At the regional level, there were 12 such clubs and of these 90 percent discriminated against Jews.

PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA ATTENDS CLOSING CEREMONY OF 'ISRAEL WEEK'

GUATEMALA, Feb. 1; (JTA) -- President Miguel Ydigoras Fuentes and Education Minister Anchissi were among the guests at a public function here marking the close of a weeklong series of events in Central America. Israel Week, the first such program of events in Central America, included commercial, photographic and art exhibits, concerts and special radio and television programs.