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BRITISH JEWRY APPEALS TO MOSCOW TO REMIT DEATH SENTENCES OF VILNA JEWS

LONDON, Feb. 18; (JTA) -- The Board of Deputies of British Jews today issued a "solid appeal" to the supreme authorities of the USSR for the remission of the death sentences imposed by a Soviet court in Vilna upon four Lithuanian Jews convicted of alleged currency offenses. Sir Barnett Janner, president of the Board, issued the following statement at the end of today's meeting of the central representative body of British Jewry:

"The Board of Deputies of British Jews wishes to express its deep sense of shock and abhorrence at the savage sentences of capital punishment reported to have been passed on a number of Jews in Lithuania, following upon similar charges and death sentences in other parts of the USSR. Such reports of the trials as are available, indicated by their suggestions and innuendos against Jews and Judaism an intensification of anti-Jewish measures made increasingly manifest in recent years."

The Board's appeal requested not only the remission of the death sentences but also "a reversal generally of the present harsh and discriminatory action against Jews in the USSR." At the same time the Board announced today that a group of lay and religious Jewish leaders from Hungary will visit here next month "to make contact with the Anglo-Jewish community." The Hungarian leaders are scheduled to attend the Board's next meeting, in March.

SENATE HEARS PLEA FOR U.N. ACTION ON SOVIET ANTI-JEWISH DISCRIMINATION

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18; (JTA) -- Senator Kenneth Keating of New York told the Senate yesterday that he favors a firmer stand by both the American people and the United States Government on Soviet discrimination against Jewish culture and religion.

The Republican lawmaker, in a floor speech, stated he endorses the idea of having our UN delegation "publicly air the facts on the situation before United Nations committees and the General Assembly." He said it has come to his attention that the Soviet Government "is disturbed by this kind of pressure" and is resorting to "counter measures to prevent American Jewish organizations from playing an active role in support of their co-religionists in the Soviet Union."

"There is mounting evidence that the Communists are trying to block these well justified protests by casting aspersions on the integrity of some of the organizations involved and even going so far as to hint that American-Jewish organizations are being used as pawns by the American State Department," he declared. "Nothing could be further from the truth. All Americans are shocked by Soviet persecutions and discrimination and all Americans have the right--or, even stronger--I would say all Americans have the obligation to express their indignation at this kind of tactics."

TWO-THIRDS OF ALL JEWS LEFT ALGERIAN CITY; RESIDED FOR GENERATIONS

PARIS, Feb. 18; (JTA) -- Two-thirds of all the Jewish residents in the Algerian city of Constantine--where Jewish families have been residing for generations--left the city during 1961, according to the results of the survey published today in Le Monde, leading French newspaper.

The survey established that of the 18,000 Jews who lived in Constantine for many years, there are only 8,000 left today. This, the French newspaper commented, reflects the widespread doubts among Algerian Jews in the pledges of the Moslem FLN independence movement about their status in an independent Algeria.

The overall prospects for Algerian Jews "will probably depend less on international agreements than on the psychological climate which will prevail between them and the country's Moslem majority after independence," Le Monde reported. The newspaper noted that the FLN has always officially rejected any form of racism and anti-Semitism and that it has repeatedly warned Algerian Moslems against committing anti-Jewish acts.

Among the departing Jews, most of whom have gone to France, have been government officials who asked for transfer to France, tradesmen, members of the professions and manual workers.

ISRAEL CABINET ADOPTS ALLEVIATION MEASURES ON DEVALUATION EFFECTS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18; (JTA) -- Israel's Cabinet devoted its regular, weekly meeting today to discussions revolving around the new economic policy, following last week's devaluation of the Israeli pound. The Cabinet approved in principle a series of steps to help alleviate the situation that has resulted from the pound devaluation, and empowered a Ministerial committee to work out the details of the policy, which will be presented to the Knesset (Parliament) tomorrow.

Some of the recommendations are intended to ease the burden of mortgages whose indebtedness, linked to dollar loans, has increased 67 percent. Under the devaluation policy, the Israeli currency, which used to be worth 1.8 pounds to the dollar, is now valued at three pounds to the dollar.

Mortgagees owing loans on apartment buildings or low-cost housing are to be given several choices for relief, including conversion of the dollar-link to the cost-of-living index linked retroactively to the date of issuance of the loan, or three months' grace to repay existing mortgages fully or partly at the pre-devaluation rate, or time extension for repayment of the mortgages at the new rate. Additionally, mortgagees would be given an extra one-third period in which to repay their indebtedness, so that a mortgage repayable in six years will not fall due until eight years.

Other recommendations include relief to be extended to farmers who have loans or mortgages from development funds which have been dollar-linked until now. Meanwhile, the devaluation-sparked economic upheaval appeared to be stabilizing today. Prices appeared to have stopped the upward surge touched off by the currency devaluation.

Manufacturers Reach Agreement with Govt. on Prices

David Horowitz, Governor of the State Bank of Israel, was reported to have suggested that the Government issue short-term, cost-of-living, index-linked securities as a replacement for dollar-linked securities, as one way to absorb the excess spendable money. Another suggestion was to increase the interest on foreign currency deposits to about nine or ten percent.

Manufacturers reached an agreement with the Government, under which no surcharge duties will be levied on raw materials, and the manufacturers agreed to maintain existing prices as long as stocks bought at pre-devaluation prices remain available.

Gift parcels from abroad are now subject to higher taxation, as a result of the devaluation. Under the new customs rates, the tax on foods has risen from one and a half pounds to two and a half Israeli pounds per 2.2 pounds of weight. Gift clothing taxes remain at 84 percent for wool and cotton goods, and 100 percent for silks and synthetic fibers. The used-clothing levy has gone up from 40 agora (40 percent of an Israeli pound) to a pound per 2.2 pounds of weight.

CAIRO ANNOUNCES ARREST OF 13 PERSONS CHARGED WITH SPYING FOR ISRAEL

LONDON, Feb. 18; (JTA) -- The arrest of 13 persons, mainly Greeks, on charges of "pro-Israeli" espionage activities, has been announced by the United Arab Republic, it was reported here today from Cairo. The alleged spies, the announcement charged, were "trying to get information about the UAR's military dispositions, especially about the Navy and also the possibility of carrying out destructive actions in the Navy."

The "spy network" was discovered last August, according to the announcement, which identified the "ringleader" as Spiridon Constantine Skyfis, a native of Egypt. Skyfis was arrested when he attempted to go to Greece allegedly to meet with Israeli intelligence officers.

LAW PERMITTING ISRAELIS TO MARRY INDIAN JEWS BECOMES EFFECTIVE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18; (JTA) -- New regulations, permitting marriage between an Israeli and a member of the Bene Israel community of Jews in India, were issued here today, reversing a previous ban against such unions and concluding a protracted controversy on the subject.

All Israeli rabbis received today from Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim new directives in line with a recent Rabbinical decision on the issue. Each rabbi received also a 300-page volume containing the background of the controversy and reasoned opinions on the issue by many rabbis, some of the opinions dating back 150 years.

CONDITION OF PAULA BEN-GURION REPORTED IMPROVING BY HOSPITAL DOCTORS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 18; (JTA) -- Mrs. Paula Ben-Gurion, wife of the Prime Minister, who has been a patient at the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center for about five weeks, was reported today as comfortable but still bed-ridden.

Mrs. Ben-Gurion was taken ill suddenly more than a month ago while visiting her physician here, and was rushed to the hospital. She has been visited daily by Prime Minister Ben-Gurion. Physicians have not as yet fixed a date for her discharge from the hospital.

AUSTRIAN MINISTER NOTES REVIVAL OF NAZI IDEOLOGY; SOUNDS WARNING

VIENNA, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The Nazi ideology is not only not dead in Austria but has shown an unexpected revival, Interior Minister Josef Aflritsch told a meeting today of Socialist students in Graz. So far, in recent months, 130 persons, most of them youngsters, have been arrested and punished for swastika smearings and distribution of Nazi pamphlets, he said.

He added that such experiences called for a warning against understanding or minimizing the seriousness of such incidents. If present laws to deal with such incidents are insufficient, amendments will be proposed to Parliament, he warned.

GERMAN TEXTBOOKS DISTORT NAZI ATROCITIES AGAINST JEWS, STUDY SHOWS

CHICAGO, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- High school textbooks in both West Germany and East Germany distort the history of the Nazi atrocities against Jews, according to a study by Professor Mark M. Krug, of the University of Chicago's history department, released here today in The School Review, a quarterly published by the University of Chicago Press.

Dr. Krug studied and evaluated eight leading high school texts, four from each of the two Germanys, published during the last three years. He found that the "Germans, East and West, have failed to comprehend the magnitude of their collective guilt" for the happenings under the Hitler regime. The textbooks on both sides of the Iron Curtain, he reported, stress that "the majority of the Germans knew nothing or next to nothing about these crimes."

In West Germany, he declared, the murder of 6,000,000 Jews by the Nazis is "treated in a detached and restrained manner." In East Germany, the murder of 6,000,000 "people" is reported, and these "people" are not identified as Jews but as Poles or "anti-fascists." Two of the West German texts, he found, cut down the number of persons murdered by the Nazis to four and a half million, reporting persecutions of Catholics and Protestants but glossing over the massacres directed against Jews.

On both sides, the educator found, the Nuremberg trials of war criminals are condemned. In West Germany, the trials are called "illegal." Calling for revision of the text books, especially in West Germany, Dr. Krug holds that the history book continue to show "a traditional line of nationalistic distortion which is clearly at variance with the views of Chancellor Konrad Adenauer and many other West German leaders and scholars."

JEWS IN BRAZIL SEEK BAN ON NEW EDITION OF HITLER'S 'MEIN KAMPF'

SAO PAULO, Brazil, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The Confederation of Brazilian Jewish Organizations pushed efforts today to obtain a government ban on sale of a new locally published edition of Hitler's Mein Kampf.

The Confederation first checked with the West German Embassy to determine whether the local publisher, Mestre Jou, had violated copyright procedures in issuing the new edition. Then a delegation of the Confederation, together with a Brazilian War Veterans group, met with Minister of Justice Alfredo Nasser and asked for a ban on the book. The Minister promised prompt and favorable action.

VIENNA ART MUSEUM DISPLAYS RITUAL MURDER PICTURE; JEWS PROTEST

VIENNA, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- The Vienna Jewish community protested strongly today to the director of the Vienna Art Museum for inclusion of ritual murder representations.

The exhibit covers the cultural and religious historical development of the Austrian Tyrol. Jewish visitors discovered to their shocked amazement that representations from the Catholic Church in Rinn, a Tyrolean township, depicted the holy "Anderl," whom the Jews were accused of murdering for "ritual purposes" in 1475.

TURKEY INVITES ISRAELI PROFESSOR TO EXAMINE RELEASED JEWISH DEPUTY

ISTANBUL, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Professor Harden Ashkenazy, of the Beilinson Medical Center at Tel Aviv, came here today for a brief visit, at the invitation of Turkish physicians, to consult on the case of Isaac Altavev, former Democratic deputy, who was released from jail recently for health reasons. Mr. Altavev, a Jew, had been sentenced, along with other members of the discredited Democratic regime, for alleged unconstitutional acts.

Professor Ashkenazy, after examining Mr. Altavev and consulting with other physicians here, declared the condition of the former Jewish member of Parliament is "critical but not hopeless." Mr. Altavev suffers from a brain lesion.

Twenty-four Israelis, including Israeli tourist officials, arrived here by ship today, inaugurating the new Turkish Israeli tourist agreement signed at Ankara last fall. Two liners have announced regular sailings between Turkey and Israel's port of Haifa on a fortnightly schedule. It is hoped that, by Spring, large numbers of Israeli and Turkish tourists will visit each of the countries.

AMERICAN FRIENDS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY HOLD NATIONAL PARLEY IN MIAMI

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 18. (JTA) -- High praise for the achievements of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem was voiced today by President Kennedy in a message sent to the three-day national conference of the American Friends of the Hebrew University which was addressed here tonight by the Earl of Balfour.

"The Hebrew University," President Kennedy said in his message, "serves as a beacon to all who believe that the future is with the spirit of free inquiry." The message was read at a dinner at which Samuel Rothberg of Peoria, Illinois, was presented with the 1962 Scopus Award, the highest honor conferred by the American Friends. Mr. Rothberg is one of the chief donors of the Eliezer Kaplan School of Economics and Social Sciences at the university, and the main lecture hall in that building bears his name.

The Earl of Balfour, son of Lord Balfour who was the author of the Balfour Declaration promising the establishment of a Jewish National Home in Palestine by the British Government, reviewed the story of the Hebrew University's growth. He told the gathering of community leaders from all parts of the United States: "In contributing toward the university's further progress, you help to expand the frontier of knowledge, to sustain Jewish intellectual achievement, and to provide a superb example to the newly independent nations of the redemptive power of education." He recalled his father's prediction in the "inevitable success" of the early Zionist experiment in Palestine.

Principal speakers at the dinner tonight included Dr. George S. Wise, chairman of the board of governors of the Hebrew University; Daniel G. Ross, chairman of the board of directors of the American Friends; Judge Louis E. Levinthal of Philadelphia and Jack S. Popick of Miami Beach. Messages of congratulations to Mr. Rothberg were received from Israel's Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion; Foreign Minister Golda Meir; Minister of Education Abba Eban; Dr. Nahum Goldmann and other American Jewish leaders.

BNAI ZION HONORS MENDEL FISHER; TO BUILD STUDENT HOUSE IN HIS NAME

NEW YORK, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- A student house will be built at Ein Hod, the artist colony in Israel, bearing the name of Mendel N. Fisher, retiring executive director of the Jewish National Fund, it was announced here tonight at the 54th annual Order Day dinner of Bnai Zion, American fraternal Zionist organization. Ein Hod is financed by Bnai Zion.

About 1,500 persons, including many leaders in American life, attended the dinner which was greeted by a special message from President Kennedy. The President lauded Mr. Fisher's 27 years of service to the JNF. "The goal of transforming arid wastes into habitable, fertile and productive soil," stated Mr. Kennedy in reference to the JNF's work of land reclamation in Israel, "is a job that should serve as an example to all nations."

Principal speakers at the dinner included Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman; Ambassador Philip M. Klutznick, a member of the U.S. delegation to the United Nations; Norman G. Levine, national president of Bnai Zion, and Albert Schiff, president of the Jewish National Fund of America; They all emphasized the great services rendered by Mr. Fisher to the JNF during his 27 years of service. Messages of greetings to Mr. Fisher were received also from Israel's Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and other members of the Israel Cabinet. Also from Dr. Nahum Goldmann, Moshe Sharett and other leaders of the Jewish Agency.

Replying to the tribute, Mendel N. Fisher reviewed what he termed the tremendous changes "which the American Jewish community has undergone in the course of the last three decades," adding that in the course of this period "over \$225,000,000 has been mobilized by the Jewish National Fund for land acquisition and land development." The guest of honor pointed out that "whereas 30 years ago the major support provided for the work in the upbuilding of Israel was made possible by immigrants, the Jewish population of America today consists of 80 percent native-born Jews and only 20 percent who come from other areas of the world."

BRUNO WALTER, EMINENT CONDUCTOR, DEAD; WAS EXILED BY NAZIS FROM GERMANY

BEVERLY HILLS, Cal., Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Bruno Walter, one of the world's leading musical conductors, died here yesterday at the age of 85. Because of his Jewish origin, Mr. Walter's appearances were banned by the Nazi authorities in 1933 and he was exiled from his native Germany.

Born in Berlin of poor parents, he dropped his family name of Schlesinger during his rapid rise to fame in Germany. He came to the United States in 1939 and continued his career actively until his retirement in 1957. In 1960, he was awarded the Karl Renner Prize of Vienna and the Cultural Prize of the City of Munich.

PROF. DAVID VAN EMBDEN, NOTED DUTCH-JEWISH ECONOMIST, DEAD; WAS 86

AMSTERDAM, Feb. 18. (JTA) -- Professor David Van Embden, noted Dutch-Jewish economist, died here today, aged 86. Prof. Van Embden had formerly served in the Dutch Senate as a representative of the Radical Party.