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15,000 ASCEND MOUNT ZION; ALL ISRAELIS OF ALL FAITHS MARK HOLIDAYS

JERUSALEM, April 22. (JTA) -- Some 15,000 Israelis and tourists participated here today in one of the most colorful phases of Israel's Passover celebration, when they marched to joyful music from the Jerusalem railway station to Mount Zion.

The parade started at the depot, where special trains had brought many pilgrims from all parts of Israel. As youth bands struck up the music, bearded old men wearing the traditional hassidic garb mingled with young boys and girls in sports club gear, while tourists joined, clad in their usual gay costumes. The parade led up Mount Zion, where all looked across the Jordanian lines for a glimpse of the distant Wailing Wall, in the Old section of Jerusalem.

Meanwhile, the Mandelbaum Gate, crossing point from Jerusalem into the Old City under Jordanian jurisdiction, was the scene of other activities. Hundreds of Christians crossed into the Old City to celebrate Easter.

In other parts of Israel, in all Arab towns and villages, a third celebration was under way. For the first time in eight years, the Day of Nebi Musa--birthday of Mohammed--fell on Easter Sunday during the Hebrew Passover. Thus, three major religious communities in Israel were celebrating their holidays simultaneously. At the same time, the Greek Orthodox community marked today as Palm Sunday. All of Israel, of all faiths, was in holiday mood, despite a sudden change in the weather which blanketed virtually the entire country, from the Negev to Galilee, in wet, foggy atmosphere.

Private sedorim were held in homes everywhere. Improvised festivals were held in kibbutzim and other collectives which were hosts to many of the thousands of visitors who streamed into Israel for the holiday, as well as to foreign diplomats stationed in Israel.

Many Foreign Envoys Guests at Sedorim; Matzoh Shortages Probed

The Ghanaian Ambassador and his embassy staff were guests at Kibbutz Einat near Petach Tikvah. Visitors and officials from Niger, the Ivory Coast, France and Tanganyika were guests of Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres at Kibbutz Alumot.

Tel Aviv Chief Rabbi Isar Y. Untermann, who officiated at the ZOA House, set aside a special matzoh for the Jews of the Soviet Union. Prayers for Russian Jewry, barred by Soviet officials from being able to purchase matzoh this year, were included in Passover eve services in many synagogues attended by thousands of worshippers. A special additional plate of matzoh also was set at the Second Seder at Hamlin House, with Isaac Hamlin presiding, as well as at other sedorim, as a mark of sympathy for Russian Jewry.

The Army had its sedorim at various places. The central seder was held with Army Chief Chaplain Shlomo Goren officiating. Chief of Staff Zvi Tsur and other officers, as well as hundreds of servicemen, took part. Children of the officers asked the "four questions" and received gifts.

Authorities meanwhile opened an investigation to determine the reasons for a sudden shortage of matzoh, developing on the eve of the holiday. A Commerce Ministry spokesman said that demand had been lagging until shoppers suddenly swamped stores with a last-minute rush to buy. The Chief Rabbinate gave special permission to bakeries to operate during the intermediate days of the holiday, to provide sufficient additional matzoh for the remainder of Passover.

The key question under investigation will be whether distribution of matzoh is more effective when bakers are organized in a combine, to assure nationwide planned production. Such a combine was approved last year, but this year the matzoh bakers withdrew their request for authorization to set up such a combine for this Passover.

ISRAELI VIOLINIST PLACES SECOND IN SOVIET CONTEST; CURBED BY CENSOR

TEL AVIV, April 22. (JTA) -- Shmuel Ashkenazi, a young Israeli violinist, won second place in the Tchaikovsky contest just concluded at Moscow but, in spite of being an honored guest of the Soviet Union, was not permitted by the Russian censors to talk about the subject of matzohs, it was learned here today.

The story was told by the evening newspaper Maariv. A reporter for Maariv placed a telephone call to Moscow to interview Ashkenazi. The Israeli musician mentioned that he had been the guest of the Israeli Embassy at Moscow for the Passover seder. Since Soviet

authorities had severely restricted the use of matzo's this year, by banning the baking of matzo's in state factories, Ashkenazi was asked where the matzo's at the Embassy's seder has been obtained. At that point, the Russian censor cut the telephone conversation.

Later, when Maariv placed a second telephone call, the conversation went on uninterrupted since the subject of matzo's was not mentioned. Ashkenazi said he had been invited to play as soloist by the philharmonic orchestras of Moscow and Leningrad.

POTOFSKY CONDEMNS RUSSIA FOR 'OUTRAGEOUS BLOW' AT 3,000,000 JEWS

NEW YORK, April 22 (JTA) -- Jacob S. Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America, strongly condemned the Soviet Union last night for its efforts to eradicate Jewish culture and its "outrageous blow" at 3,000,000 Jews of the USSR by severely restricting this year their right to bake and obtain matzo's.

Mr. Potofsky addressed the traditional "Third Seder," conducted by the National Committee for Labor Israel, the American fund-raising arm of Histadrut, the Israel Federation of Labor. More than 2,000 guests attended the festivities at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. A number of United Nations Ambassadors participated, including Israel's UN delegation chairman, Michael S. Comay; Ambassador U On Sein, of Burma; and Ambassador Gershon Collier, of Sierra Leone.

Citing this year's Soviet ban on matzo-baking in state factories as one of the anti-Jewish steps taken by Soviet authorities, Mr. Potofsky said: "I condemn this effort to eradicate Jewish culture and tradition from the heart of Russian Jewry, even if that culture and tradition is saturated with the ideals of freedom which the Soviets apparently exalt as their ultimate goal. The Soviet regime has gone to extremes to cut off normal contact between the Jews of that country and their fellow Jews everywhere even by the crude device of prohibiting the import of matzo which have been offered as a gift to those families behind the Iron Curtain who wish to preserve their heritage. This is not a simple curtailment of religious traditions but an outrageous blow at an expression of man's hope for liberation from bondage, contemporary as well as ancient."

In another address, Dr. Sol Stein, executive director of the National Committee for Labor Israel, cited the progress made by Israel during the past 14 years. "This has been not only physical growth and a population explosion due to the influx of more than a million immigrants, but a vast cultural and political upsurge that has given us a stable democracy in the Middle East. Israel has demonstrated that backwardness is not a chronic disease but a malady for which there is a remedy."

Other speakers included Isaiah Avrech, American representative of the Histadrut executive; Aharon Becker, general secretary of Histadrut; and Yehoshua Levi, the Federation's treasurer. A cable was read from Yitzhak Ben-Zvi, President of Israel, appealing for increased aid to Israel's pioneering forces.

A highlight of the "Third Seder" was the lighting of six candles in memory of the six million Jews who died during the Hitler regime, and the chanting of the Russian poem "Babi Yar," which denounces anti-Semitism.

LONDON PAPER RAPS LEFTISTS FOR SILENCE ON SOVIET DEATH EDICTS

LONDON, April 22 (JTA) -- The Sunday Telegraph today criticized the "double standards" of leftists who, while noted for their "inveterate" protests against capital punishment, remained silent over the death sentences recently imposed by Soviet courts for "speculation" and other economic crimes, mainly against Jews.

BELGIUM REPORTED SEEKING EXTRADITION OF NAZI LEADER ARRESTED IN VIENNA

VIENNA, April 22. (JTA) -- The Belgian Government was reported today to have asked Austria to extradite former SS General Robert Verbelen, who was arrested in Austria last week on charges of war crimes committed during the Nazi occupation of Belgium. During the war, he was the top deputy to the Belgian Nazi leader, Leon Degrelle. Since Verbelen acquired Austrian citizenship some time ago, however, the request was expected to be turned down.

It became known meanwhile that, shortly after arriving in Vienna, Verbelen adopted the name of Isaak Meisels, under which it appeared he had been an employee of the United States occupation forces in Vienna. Later, under the nom de plume of Jean Marais, he wrote political articles for Spanish periodicals. Austrian officials have opened an investigation to determine what Austrian groups or persons helped Verbelen during his long freedom from exposure and arrest. He has been living here since 1945. Four prominent Belgian resistance fighters will come to Vienna next week to discuss the case with Austrian authorities.

Belgian Resistance Movement Helped Capture of Verbelen in Austria

BRUSSELS, April 22. (JTA) -- A demand that Belgium insist on Spain to extradite Leo Degrelle, the Nazi leader here during the Hitler regime, was made today by Hubert Halin, leader of the Belgian Union of Resistance. He announced at the same time that

that Belgian resistance fighters had aided Austria to capture Degrelle's No. 2 man, Robert Verbelen, now under arrest in Vienna.

According to M. Halin, there are close ties between former Nazis in and out of Germany, the OAS--the French terrorist organization fighting against the liberation of Algeria-- and native fascist organizations in this country.

MOSLEM-JEWISH PEACE, COOPERATION IN ALGERIA ADVOCATED AT PARIS MEET

PARIS, April 22. (JTA) -- The International League Against Racism and Anti-Semitism today adopted a resolution asking for Moslem-Jewish rapprochement in Algeria.

The League, which held a plenary session in the UNESCO building here, attended by 200 delegates from Metropolitan France and North Africa, heard reports from Algeria which asserted that the Jewish and Moslem communities can continue to live peacefully and cooperate under the new independent regime. The delegates also recalled that many Algerian Moslems opposed Vichy's racist anti-Semitic laws, and assisted persecuted Jews.

GERMAN GROUP OPPOSES LEGALIZATION OF SCHECHITA WHICH NAZIS HAD BANNED

HAMBURG, April 22. (JTA) -- The German Association Against Cruelty to Animals, which opposes the legalization of Jewish ritual slaughter in West Germany, filed a formal complaint today against charges it was anti-Semitic. The association contended that opposition to ritual slaughter has no connection with anti-Semitism. The complaint was filed against "persons unknown."

The filing followed a meeting of the association at which a member called out "they ought to go back where they came from" during the discussion on schechita. He was applauded by many other members.

A bill to revise Nazi legislation, which banned ritual slaughter, is being drafted in the West German Bundestag, lower House of Parliament, where all three party factions have agreed to legalize ritual slaughter. The West German Federal court previously had declared the Nazi ban unconstitutional as a violation of the free exercise of religion.

U.S. AID TO ISRAEL TOTALS \$219,300,000 SINCE REBIRTH OF STATE IN 1948

WASHINGTON, April 22. (JTA) -- The United States Agency for International Development reported today that Israel has concluded loan agreements with the United States, totaling nearly \$219,300,000 since its creation as a State. Of this sum, loan grants totaling nearly \$170,600,000 have already been disbursed.

The figures include loans made under the Economic Cooperation Act of 1948, the Marshall Plan; the Mutual Security Programs, including the former Development Loan Fund; the local currency provisions of Public Law 480; and the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, which created AID.

Under the foreign aid legislation, the U.S. lends dollars to provide foreign exchange to countries being granted economic assistance. The local currencies loaned under Public Law 480 represent part of the proceeds from the sale of U.S. agricultural commodities to recipient countries. Most of the loans are made on a long-term basis--up to 40 years-- and customarily contain grace periods during which no payments are required.

NEW YORK CONGRESSMAN INTRODUCES BILLS AGAINST HOUSING BIAS IN D.C.

WASHINGTON, April 22. (JTA) -- Two bills aimed at wiping out housing discrimination in the Nation's capital have been introduced in the House of Representatives by Democratic Congressman William Fitts Ryan, of New York.

One bill, patterned after New York City's Sharkey-Brown-Isaacs law, would prohibit discrimination by owners or agents who sell or rent housing. A companion measure would revoke the license of any realtor engaging in discriminatory housing practices.

MARYLAND OPPOSES BAN ON PRAYERS IN SCHOOLS, IN BRIEF TO SUPREME COURT

WASHINGTON, April 22. (JTA) -- Maryland this weekend became the 17th state to enter is "a friend of court" in a case involving public school prayer recitation, which is currently before the United States Supreme Court. State Attorney General Thomas Finan said Maryland has entered the case in favor of retention of the prayer. Maryland's interest in the Supreme Court case--involving public schools in New Hyde Park, N. Y.,--stems from Maryland Court of Appeals decision a week ago, upholding the constitutionality of prayer reading in Baltimore public schools.

The Daughters of the American Revolution wound up its 71st annual convention here with a resolution calling on the states to oppose any efforts "by the courts to suppress a recognition and reverence for God in our public schools."

In another development, the District of Columbia Board of Education said it will wait for a public hearing on the question of religious practices--including prayer reading--in public schools. Such a hearing, originally set for last week, has been postponed indefinitely, and School Superintendent Carl Hansen said that all practices will remain as is, ending the hearing. The Washington Jewish Community, joined by several church groups, has been seeking to reverse the practice.

ROCKEFELLER SIGNS NEW LAW AGAINST RACIST MATERIALS IN VOTE CAMPAIGNS

ALBANY, N. Y., April 22. (JTA) -- Governor Rockefeller this weekend signed into law a bill designed to discourage publication and distribution of biased material during political campaigns. The measure will become effective next September 1, two months before state-wide elections for a variety of state and local offices.

The new law bars unsigned campaign material and makes it a misdemeanor to print or distribute any political literature which lacks the name of the printer, the individual or group sponsor, and the person who gave the order for printing or distribution. Penalties for violation range up to a \$500 fine and a year in prison.

Sponsors of the measure said they hoped it would eliminate campaign material appealing to racial or religious prejudices. The measure is based on the proposition that persons would choose not to distribute such material if compelled by law to be publicly identified with it. The law previously required only that the name of the printer or sponsoring group be placed on political material. However, in many cases, only the printer's name was used, while sponsoring individuals or groups were hard to locate.

PROTESTANT LITERATURE DECREASES ANTI-JEWISH REFERENCES, SCHOLAR FINDS

NEW YORK, April 22. (JTA) -- A decline in the number of negative references to Jews in Protestant Sunday School texts was reported today in a study being conducted by the Union Theological Seminary here. The study found that, with few exceptions, Jews were more advantageously presented by Protestant educators now than were other religious groups.

Dr. Bernhard E. Olson, who had initiated the study at Yale University, and who is continuing the investigation at the Seminary, said that this does not mean that all Protestant denominations present Jews and Judaism in a favorable light. The lessons of many conservative Fundamentalist groups that refer to Jews could be rated negatively, he declared.

Citing the frequent charge that the seeds of anti-Semitism might possibly exist in the Christian message, especially if it is carelessly presented, Dr. Olson explained that religious texts: sometimes give the "simplistic" idea that the "Jews killed Christ," without regard to the Roman role in the crucifixion or the fact that Jesus was a Jew.

Dr. Olson stressed the possibility that the Christian child might connect the negative image of the ancient Jew, as depicted in a denomination's Bible literature, with the Jewish children who live next door to him. He found, however, that church editors have become increasingly concerned about the images of the Jews that they are presenting.

The study, which will be published this fall under the title "Faith and Prejudice," found that Protestant writers had far more difficulty dealing positively with Roman Catholics, than with Jews.

BRITISH CLERGYMAN HAILS CHRISTIAN REJECTION OF ANTI-JEWISH CHARGES

LONDON, April 22. (JTA) -- The Rev. W. W. Simpson, general secretary of the Council of Christians and Jews here, today hailed recent efforts by Christian leaders in rejecting the traditional stereotypes of Jews and "the distorted and inaccurate historical setting" in which Jews are depicted in a negative manner.

"In this generation of ours, the 'Jew on the cross' is more closely identified with the Jew in the gas chamber than with those who still present the historic events which led to the crucifixion so as to fasten upon the Jewish people of today responsibilities which belong to corporate humanity," the clergyman declared.

Rev. Simpson said that many Jews find this a disturbing time of the year partly because they find disturbing the constant reiteration of phrases in music, drama and sermon which seem to involve the Jews of all time with responsibility for the crucifixion of Jesus.

MRS. JOSEPH C. GAYL, PRESIDENT OF WOMEN'S AMERICAN ORT, DEAD AT 51

PHILADELPHIA, April 22. (JTA) -- Mrs. Joseph C. Gayl, national president of Women's American Ort, died here last night at the age of 51. Mrs. Gayl's presidency of the women's arm of the organization dedicated chiefly to vocational training, was a period of significant expansion in which the membership doubled.

After serving for many years as president of the Philadelphia chapter of Women's Ort, Mrs. Gayl was named chairman of the national organization's executive committee in 1957. The following year, she was elected national president, and was re-elected to that post last October.

In 1960, she headed a Women's American Ort delegation to North Africa, the Middle East and Europe.

SOLOMON ELSNER, FORMER NATIONAL REFORM LEADER, DEAD AT HARTFORD

HARTFORD, Conn., April 22. (JTA) -- Solomon Elsner, lawyer, and former chairman of the national executive of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, died here this weekend. He was 78.