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ECUMENICAL COUNCIL TO DISCUSS REMOVING 'GOD KILLERS' STIGMA FROM JEWS

ROME, April 26. (JTA) -- The forthcoming Ecumenical Council, to be convened here by Pope John XXIII next October, will probably discuss ways of removing from the Jews the stigma of "slayers of God," Augustin Cardinal Bea told representatives of the press here yesterday. Cardinal Bea was the confessor to the late Pope Pius XII, and is now president of the Vatican's Secretariat for the Union of Christians, planning the agenda for the Ecumenical Council.

The Catholic Church, said the Cardinal, recognizes that a principal reason for anti-Semitic persecutions through the ages has been the fact that the Jewish people were blamed by Christians for the crucifixion of Jesus. It is high time for this stigma to be removed, the Cardinal said.

Under Pope John XXIII, various steps toward reduction of anti-Semitism have already been taken. Two years ago, the Pope revised the Easter ritual so as to eliminate references to "perfidious Jews" allegedly responsible for the killing of the Christ.

Cardinal Bea told the press that representatives of all non-Catholic Christian churches who want to attend the Ecumenical Council will be invited. He did not indicate whether Jewish observers will also be admitted. Leading Jewish organizations in the United States have been discussing for some time whether to seek an invitation to the Ecumenical Council as observers, and Dr. Nahum Goldmann discussed the matter with Cardinal Bea here recently.

Vatican sources indicated today that some Jewish suggestions for the Ecumenical Council have been received. Jewish organizations are especially interested in having the Council condemn anti-Semitism and modify the emphasis in the Catechism on Jews as "God killers."

American Jewish Committee Lauds Cardinal Bea's Statement

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee highly commended today the statement by Augustin Cardinal Bea on the forthcoming Ecumenical Council's discussion of measures to remove from the Catholic liturgy references to Jews that tend to stigmatize them.

The American Jewish Committee termed the Cardinal's statement, that the Catholic Church recognizes that much of the persecution of the Jews through the centuries has been due to their having been blamed for the crucifixion of Jesus, as "a highly significant advance, a major step forward in the betterment of relations between Catholics and Jews."

Louis Caplan, of Pittsburgh, AJCommittee president, declared: "The exploration of the relationship of religious teachings to the persecution of Jews suggested by Cardinal Bea for the forthcoming Ecumenical Council in October 1962 represents a profoundly courageous move which is bound to help reduce the barriers of bias that have led to misunderstanding and conflicts between Jews and Christians."

Mr. Caplan paid specific tribute to Pope John XXIII "for having ushered in a new spirit of understanding and rapprochement which have provided a basis for overcoming ancient antagonisms." He added that "His Eminence, Cardinal Bea, has also worked actively to create a new atmosphere of friendship and improved relationships between Christians and Jews."

ALGERIAN MOSLEMS APPEAL TO JEWS FOR SUPPORT AGAINST FRENCH UNDERGROUND

TUNIS, April 26. (JTA) -- The Algerian Provisional Government's news agency, the PS, reported today that the Algerian nationalists have appealed publicly for the first time for the backing of Algerian Jews in the battle against the OAS, the secret European underground army in Algeria.

The APS reported that the Algerian Moslem Committee for the Struggle Against Fascism had distributed pamphlets throughout Algeria which carried this message: "Jews of Algeria, do not forget that the Secret Army equals fascism, anti-Semitism, Auschwitz,uchenwald and the Warsaw Ghetto." Posters bearing a similar message also were placed in Algerian cities.

NAZI MASS-MURDER OF JEWS MENTIONED IN SOVIET PARLIAMENT FOR FIRST TIME

LONDON, April 26. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union's Supreme Soviet, or Parliament, yesterday recognized for the first time in many years that Jews were the principal victims of Nazi mass murders, both inside Russia and in other countries, according to dispatches from Moscow published here today.

For a long period of time, going back to the anti-Jewish purges launched by the late Joseph Stalin in 1948, and lasting throughout the post-Stalin era, including the more recent years under the dictatorship of Nikita Khrushchev, the Soviet Communist Party's line had forbidden mention of Jews among the victims killed by the Nazis. Now, at the closing session of the Supreme Soviet, yesterday, Jews were mentioned explicitly in an address to its members.

Aleksander Y. Korneichuk, famous Ukrainian playwright, a member of the Supreme Soviet, and one of the most active USSR leaders of the so-called World Peace Council, had been obviously selected by the Communist leadership to bring up the subject of Jewish martyrdom, in response to protests abroad against Russia's recently renewed persecutions of Jews in the Soviet Union.

Debating a Foreign Ministry report dealing with disarmament and the testing of atomic bombs, Mr. Korneichuk charged that the West is overlooking Germany's wartime policy of mass murders. In that context, he mentioned that Jews were among Nazi Germany's principal victims. He told Parliament that "Jews, Poles and other peoples" had been slaughtered by the Nazis, and went on to mention not only concentration camps like Auschwitz and Buchenwald, but also Babi Yar, the Kiev gully where the Nazi murdered and tossed into a vast mass grave tens of thousands of Jewish victims.

Mr. Korneichuk lives in Kiev. His mention of Babi Yar, furthermore, was an obvious reaction to the poem entitled "Babi Yar," written by one of Russia's leading young writers, Yevgeny Yevtushenko, which raised storms of protests from some Russian writers of the old line last summer. In that poem, Yevtushenko had attacked latent anti-Semitism among the Russians, employing the unmarked mass-grave of Jews killed at Babi Yar as a symbol.

Observers here were of the belief that, by using Mr. Korneichuk for such a speech, the Soviet authorities have shown they are still sensitive to foreign criticisms against their anti-Jewish policies. Mr. Korneichuk, as a prominent member of the World Peace Council, is one of the Russians who must meet with Western intellectuals to formulate "peace" moves. He is believed to be among prominent Soviet figures who have become concerned by unfavorable publicity given to the Soviet Union in the Western press as a result of the execution of Jews who were among about two dozen persons condemned to death on currency speculation charges in recent months.

Soviet Mistreatment of Jews Linked to Middle East Situation

NEW YORK, April 26. (JTA) -- Rep. Herbert Zelenko, New York Democrat, asserted tonight that there was a direct link between the Israel-Arab conflict in the Middle East and the current Soviet mistreatment of Russian Jews.

Speaking at an emergency conference called by the Jewish Labor Committee to protest the recent Soviet manifestations of anti-Semitism, Rep. Zelenko declared that "the present attack upon Jews and Jewish life in Russia" was motivated by Soviet "aggressive designs in the Middle East and North Africa," a "cheap way to curry the favor of the Arab nationalists."

More than 800 delegates from trade unions and fraternal organizations attended the meeting. Other speakers in addition to Mr. Zelenko were Adolph Held, national chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee; Nathan Chanan, general secretary of the Workmen's Circle; Jacob Pat and Benjamin Tabachinsky, respectively general secretary and national director of the JLC; and Professor Timothy Costello, of New York University.

Congressman Zelenko condemned the recent United States action in backing and voting for a Security Council resolution condemning Israel for its March 17 reprisal raid on Syrian gunposts in the Lake Tiberias area. He said the resolution would simply "whet the Arab's appetite" and if such actions were not stopped, "the ultimate result would be "to offer up to utter extinction of all Russian Jews on the altar of catering to the Arab's capacity for making trouble" in the Middle East.

He urged the United States Government to insist at the United Nations "that the Arabs sit down to a peace table with Israel so that they can work out a solution of the problems that remain between them. Once this is done, there will be an end to blackmail pressures against the United States and Russia" by the Arab countries.

He also urged that all unions, community groups, religious organizations and inter-faith groups be asked to crystallize public opinion against the Soviet mistreatment of its Jews, conduct rallies "and by every means express their indignation toward the Soviets on the question of religious persecution."

He also proposed that efforts be made to contact all labor organizations in other countries "to exert both public opinion and economic pressure to cease the persecution of Jewish citizens."

ISRAEL GOVT. ABOLISHES IMPORT LICENSES FOR A NUMBER OF COMMODITIES

JERUSALEM, April 26. (JTA) -- The Israel Government announced officially today that import licenses will be abolished on June 1 for products which accounted for one-fourth of all Israeli imports during 1961. It was also announced that the Ministry of Commerce was preparing another list to free, in the near future, an additional 25 percent of imports now requiring licenses.

The import commodities to be made license-free on June 1, which last year totalled some \$120,000,000 in value, are those which do not compete with local manufacture. They include foods, chemicals, timber, metals, machinery, quarry products and transport equipment.

Wheat, sugar and soya beans, hitherto imported by the Government, will also be placed on the free list but they will remain subject to some regulations to assure adequate quantities of imports to keep down shipping costs. In the case of sugar, dealers must buy 40 percent of their orders from local manufacturers. Tea and medical imports must comply with health and packing regulations but otherwise will not require licenses.

Simultaneously with the liberalization, the Commerce Ministry plans to lower tariffs progressively to expose Israeli manufacturers to the competition of imports. It was indicated that Israeli firms unable to meet competition without the benefit of protective tariffs will have no option but to liquidate in line with the Ministry's plans to normalize the Israeli economy.

Officials commented that some Israeli enterprises were able, thanks to the absence of competing imports, to produce at a nine to 15-pound per dollar ratio. If they hope to remain in business hereafter, it was indicated, they will have to trim costs by greater efficiency.

FUTURE VISITS OF CLERGYMAN TO EICHMANN IN JAIL TO BE KEPT SECRET

JERUSALEM, April 26. (JTA) -- The arrangements by which a Winnipeg-born Jerusalem pastor has become spiritual advisor to Adolf Eichmann were undertaken by the clergyman at the suggestion of the Israeli Ministry for Religious Affairs, it was disclosed today.

The Rev. William H. Hull, who visited the condemned Nazi in his jail cell twice this month, said he planned to see him regularly in the future but that the dates of future visits would be kept secret. Rev. Hull undertook to be Eichmann's spiritual advisor at the Nazi's request.

(In Winnipeg, it was reported today that Rev. Hull had written a letter to relatives there, describing Eichmann as "the hardest man I ever saw" and as one who "seems unconscious of any wrong-doing.")

Rev. Hull, a Pentecostal Minister who established the non-denominational Zion Christian Mission in Jerusalem in 1935, contacted Dr. Robert Servatius, Eichmann's West German defense counsel, at the start of the Nazi's trial in April 1961, expressing willingness to talk with Eichmann if the Nazi were willing. Last month, Eichmann told Dr. Servatius he would like to meet the pastor.

The pastor's wife served as interpreter during the two sessions. Conversations were carried on over microphones and earphones through a hugh glass sheet in the cell where Eichmann is awaiting the outcome of his appeal.

NUMBER OF JEWISH CEMETERIES IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA REPORTED DESECRATED

LONDON, April 26. (JTA) -- A number of Jewish cemeteries in Czechoslovakia have been desecrated in recent months, it was reported here today from Prague. Czech officials were said to have taken no action to find the vandals.

A visitor to the Jewish cemetery in the Zizkov quarter of Prague found that newly erected fences had been smashed and many tombstones had been toppled. Swastikas had been painted on others and several marble headstones had been removed. Two cemeteries in the provinces were reported to have been similarly desecrated recently.

NAZI LEADER CHARGED WITH KILLING 350,000 JEWS IS RELEASED ON BAIL

BONN, April 26. (JTA) -- Former Gestapo Colonel Wilhelm Koppe, 66, who has been in jail for 27 months on charges of complicity in the Nazi wartime slaughter of 350,000 Polish Jews, was released on bail of \$14,000 today.

MOROCCAN MILITARY COURT ACQUITS JEW TRIED FOR ALLEGED ESPIONAGE

CASABLANCA, April 26. (JTA) -- A. Cohen, a Moroccan Jew, was acquitted at Rabat today after a trial, before a military tribunal, on charges of "complicity in espionage." The charges had alleged that he had helped provide secret information to an unnamed foreign country.

FIVE PERCENT OF TOP-RANKING U.S. OFFICIALS ARE JEWS, SURVEY SHOWS

WASHINGTON, April 26. (JTA) -- Five percent of a sample of top-ranking Federal officials named by the Kennedy Administration were reported today to be Jewish, in a survey conducted by Protestants and Other Americans United.

The survey found that 80 percent were Protestants and 15 percent of the officials were Roman Catholics, indicating that, "religion-wise," the appointments to the more important jobs of this administration are generally commensurate with the religious percentages of the population, the POAU declared. The survey was made of a selection of 1,000 of the top-ranking officials as the sample.

The report also covered recent appointments to Federal judgeships and found the percentages, on a religious breakdown, roughly equivalent to those for the high-ranking agency positions. Eighty percent of the judges named were Protestants, 17 percent were Roman Catholics and three percent were Jewish.

The POAU said, however, that it found complaints of "sectarian orientation" in the area of United States foreign policy, and the Central Intelligence Agency. The organization said it found certain divisions in the Federal Government where, "as a result of seeming collusion between directors of personnel procurement and division or section heads, various forms of religious, racial and geographical bias have been exhibited" and suggested the need for a "more detailed study in depth" of this problem.

KING OF SWEDEN NAMES BLAUSTEIN TO BOARD OF HAMMARSKJOLD FOUNDATION

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 26. (JTA) -- King Gustav IV Adolf, of Sweden, has named three Americans to the board of trustees of the Dag Hammarskjold Foundation, which has its headquarters at Stockholm, it was announced here today. The three are Andrew W. Cordier, the late Mr. Hammarskjold's executive assistant; Jacob Blaustein, honorary president of the American Jewish Committee; and Ernest A. Gross.

Mr. Blaustein, who had served one term as a member of the United States delegation to the United Nations, was a close personal friend of the late Mr. Hammarskjold. Mr. Gross was American deputy permanent representative here during the administration of former President Harry S. Truman.

HEBREW UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS RECEIVE ROTHSCHILD PRIZES IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, April 26. (JTA) -- Four Hebrew University scholars were presented today with the Rothschild prizes established by the Edmond James de Rothschild Memorial Group.

The prizes, which have a cash value of 5,000 Israel pounds (\$1,666) were presented to Professor Ernest David Bergmann, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission and Hebrew University Professor of Organic Chemistry; Professor Yaacov Polotsky, Hebrew University Professor of Egyptian and Semitic Linguistics; Dr. Yoel Racah, University rector; and Professor Gershon Sholem, an expert on Judaica.

The presentations were made by Lord Nathaniel Mayer Rothschild, Professor of Biology at Cambridge University, who came to Israel to present the awards.

SENATE BODY CONFIRMS KENNEDY'S NOMINATION OF JUDGE ROH TO FEDERAL POST

WASHINGTON, April 26. (JTA) -- The Senate Judiciary Committee today confirmed President Kennedy's nomination of Judge Stephen J. Roth of Flint, Michigan, to be a Federal judge for Eastern Michigan. The Hungarian-born jurist, who was naturalized in 1933, has been serving as circuit court judge of Michigan's Genesee County.

JEWS IN BUENOS AIRES CELEBRATE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF OLDEST SYNAGOGUE

BUENOS AIRES, April 26. (JTA) -- With solemn ritual and gala ceremonies, the Jewish community here celebrated today the 100th anniversary of the oldest Jewish temple in this country, the Congregacion Israelita de la Republica Argentina. The house of worship was filled to capacity, as Argentine Jewry rejoiced on the birth date of this congregation, founded here in 1862.

While Argentina's earliest Jewish settlers were Marranos escaping from the Inquisitions in Spain and Portugal, the present community grew from the immigrants who started arriving in Argentina, in 1852, from England, Germany, the Balkans and North Africa.

MEMBER OF ISRAELI DELEGATION ELECTED TO IMPORTANT POST AT U.N.

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 26. (JTA) -- Miss Hava Hareli, a member of Israel's permanent mission to the United Nations, was re-elected by the Social and Economic Council here to a second term on the United Nations Technical Assistance Committee. She will serve until 1964.

A member of the Israeli mission since 1958, Miss Hareli is in charge of social and economic affairs for the delegation. She represented her Government at four successive sessions of the General Assembly, serving in the Assembly's economic committee. She is a former member of Kibbutz Galed, in Israel.