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AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE DISCUSSES SITUATION OF JEWS IN MANY LANDS

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- The 55th Annual Meeting of the American Jewish Committee opened here today to discuss problems affecting Jewish life in this country, Israel and other overseas lands, including the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union and the problems faced now by Jewish communities in Latin America as a result of political upheavals there. Leaders from all parts of the United States are participating in the four-day sessions.

Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president, in a major address on Jewish identity in the United States took issue with those who "strive to have American Jewry appear as a religious group in the strictly creedal sense" because they feel that this conforms more to the American pattern.

"It is a known fact," Dr. Slawson said, "that while there has been a great increase in affiliation in this country with both Church and Synagogue, devotionism or orthodoxy has by no means increased. As a matter of fact, the communal aspect of religious association--i.e., the sense of community, the feeling of belongingness--is becoming increasingly a factor in religious association. Jews may attend Synagogue less often than certain Christian groups, especially the Catholic, but they meet much of their communal association needs in the secular area. Philanthropy is an example. In Christian communities philanthropy is frequently organically related to Church.

"It is also to be remembered that in Jewish tradition the distinction between the sacred and profane (secular) is much smaller than in Christian tradition," Dr. Slawson stressed. He pointed out that while Christian groups meet their communal participation needs within the Church, Jewish groups get the larger part of their communal participation outside synagogue auspices, although even in the case of the synagogue, affiliation is taking on more and more of a communal aspect.

"It is not necessary for Jews to adopt Christian patterns or of course vice versa," the American Jewish Committee leader said. "It is not necessary for Jews to water down Jewish identity to meet the fantasy of a sort of monolithic American pattern that does not exist. There is no absolute formula as to the type and character of group identification in the United States. Some are more creedal, others more communal. One may generalize from observation that Jews who are secure in their identity and knowledgeable in their tradition win for themselves and their group respect and acceptance to a greater extent than those Jews who are not sure-footed in their identity.

European Christian World Reappraises Attitudes toward Jews

Zachariah Shuster, director of the American Jewish Committee's European office, reported a "widespread movement" among European Catholic and Protestant church leaders to combat anti-Jewish prejudice rooted in religious texts and materials. He said that the European Christian world, there is "a ferment of reappraisal going on with regard to attitudes toward Jews."

In practical terms, Mr. Shuster said, this ferment has found expression in a "renewed study and respect for the Old Testament and Judaism, not just as relics of Biblical times but as having contemporary force and meaning." In addition, he said, there has been increased research to determine more exactly the historic ties between Judaism and other religions. He added:

"Such understanding often results in changes in the teaching of the catechism and in religious texts. This has been particularly true in France, and generally such revisions hand in hand with the combating of prejudice."

Mr. Shuster said that recent steps by leading Catholic authorities have raised hopes at the forthcoming Ecumenical Council (October 1962) will "pave the way for a fundamental re-examination of distorted pictures of other religious groups contained in religious texts which in the past have been the source of misunderstandings and prejudice."

Anti-Semitism Reported Rising in Argentina; Noted in Brazil

Abraham Monk, Director of the American Jewish Committee's Latin American office, reported that anti-Semitism in South America generally--and particularly in Argentina--is presently at its "highest level since the end of World War II." Mr. Monk said that the Peronist Administration in Argentina did not interfere with the activities of the neo-fascist

and anti-Semitic organization Tacuara, which despite repeated acts of violence and vandalism against Jewish and democratic institutions "enjoyed a strange kind of immunity from the police."

Although Tacuara and other fascist groups in Argentina momentarily lessened their activities during the political crisis which brought Jose Maria Guido to the Presidency, "a new spate of vandalism--this time attacks against Jewish school children in San Martin"--has recently erupted, Mr. Monk said.

He reported that even in Brazil, a country traditionally free of religious and racial bias, Jewish cemeteries in two cities were recently desecrated. "These are the worst anti-Semitic incidents ever recalled in Brazil. Despite intensive government action to apprehend the culprits, they are still at large," he said.

In Argentina, Mr. Monk named three other anti-Semitic groups now operating in addition to Tacuara. They are Grupo Social Cristiano in the province of Cordoba, Alianza Libertadora Argentina in Buenos Aires and FAJA in the province of Misiones. All these groups have in common "anti-Semitism and utter disregard for liberal democracy and a deep-seated hatred for the United States."

RUMANIAN CHIEF RABBI VOICES CHARGES AGAINST BISHOP NOW IN DETROIT

TEL AVIV, May 3. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania submitted today to the Israeli press pictures and documents which he said showed that Bishop Vioral Trifu, now of Detroit, was the former head of the Rumanian Green Shirt student organization of the Rumanian Iron Guard which conducted pogroms on Jews under the Antonescu regime.

The Chief Rabbi explained he had delayed his return to Rumania because he had been looking for those documents. He said he was prepared to appear before any board to testify against Trifu. Rabbi Rosen said he found the documentary material in the archives of the Yad Vashem, the official agency for the documentation of the Nazi genocide program in Europe, and of the World Jewish Congress.

Dr. Aryeh Tartakower, of the Israeli World Jewish Congress executive, said his organization would not take any position as to which Jewish organization would seek to press charges in the case but all material has been transferred to the American Jewish Congress in New York City for action.

ISRAEL ANNOUNCES PLANS FOR CELEBRATION OF INDEPENDENCE DAY NEXT WEEK

JERUSALEM, May 3. (JYA) -- Complete plans for the official celebration of Israel's 14th annual Independence Day, to be observed formally next Wednesday, were announced here today. The modern State of Israel was officially born at 12:01 A.M., on May 15, 1948, which was the 5th of Iyar on the Hebrew calendar--falling this year on May 9.

In accordance with Hebrew custom, under which holidays are launched the evening before the set date, Independence Day will be inaugurated Tuesday, at 8:30 P.M. At that hour, 12 torches, symbolic of the 12 ancient tribes of Israel, will be lighted simultaneously here on Mount Herzl, the heights dedicated to the memory of the late Dr. Theodor Herzl, father of political Zionism. At the same moment, gala events will be launched in more than 800 Israeli cities, towns, villages and settlements.

With "Security and Defense," the central theme of this year's celebrations, Israel's Army and Navy will play significant roles in the scheduled events. The traditional Independence Day military parade will be held at Tel Aviv. The entire diplomatic corps stationed in Israel has been invited and is expected to attend as guests of President Izhak Ben-Zvi. Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, flanked by the topmost officers of Israel's defense forces, will take the salute in his capacity of Minister of Defense.

The Government has invited 500 visitors from foreign countries to watch the parade. Among the special guests expected are the President of Gabon, the Defense Minister of Liberia, the Chief of Staff of the Senegalese Defense Forces, and a group of French Army officers. Arrangements have been made to seat about 11,000 tourists in the reviewing stands. There will also be special sections for about 4,000 members of families of Israel heroes who had given their lives for the State, and for disabled veterans.

The Army and the Navy will also observe their separate celebrations, the Army having invited 10,000 children to its camps while the Navy has invited 800 youngsters. All Naval ships will be open to the public on Independence Day.

However, the major theme of security and defense will not overshadow the cultural aspects of the usual Independence Day celebration. At the Hebrew University, the annual Israel Prizes will be awarded by Minister of Education and Culture Abba Eban. At the same time, the annual Israel Book Week will be inaugurated. And Kol Israel, the state-operated broadcast service, has scheduled a special festival of Israel songs and melodies, to be broadcast throughout the week.

RECORD REVENUE FROM INCOME TAX EXPECTED IN ISRAEL; SOME EXEMPTIONS END

JERUSALEM, May 3. (JTA) -- Record revenue of 445,000,000 pounds (\$148,333,333) in income taxes is expected in the current fiscal year, compared with 380,000,000 pounds (\$123,000,000) in 1962, Treasury officials indicated today.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE SEES OPPORTUNITIES FOR U.S. INVESTMENTS IN ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, May 3. (JTA) -- Israel, with a high rate of industrial development and a continued substantial trade with the United States, "offers attractive opportunities for a further expansion of United States trade and investment," the United States Department of Commerce said today.

The Department emphasized, in its weekly publication, "Foreign Commerce," that the effect of the recent devaluation of the Israel pound and other monetary reforms on future trade with the United States "will largely hinge on measures to be taken by that country to combat inflation." The monetary reforms cited were the unification of Israel's "hitherto complicated multiple rate of exchange systems" and the abolition or reduction of import duties on raw materials and capital equipment.

The Department reported that the United States maintained its role in 1961 as Israel's leading supplier, with exports valued at \$146,000,000, a 16.1 percent increase over 1960. This record level of exports, the report said, was largely the result of increased sales of electrical machinery, industrial machinery, new passenger cars and chassis, tractors, parts and accessories, and rubber products.

The report said trade had been "particularly stimulated by a \$27,500,000 loan for improvements of the Ashdod and Eilat ports, and by a \$10,000,000 loan to finance imports of capital goods and services from the United States. "Attractive opportunities for United States trade and investment are expected to continue in the chemical, electronics, metal, machinery and automotive industries," the department reported.

American and Canadian Investments in Israel to Rise This Year

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- Business investments in Israel by American and Canadian firms are expected to reach a new high in 1962 of \$120,000,000, Israel's Economic Minister to the United States and Canada, Aryeh Manor, said here today in an address before the International Division of the American Management Association at the Hotel Astor. United States and Canadian investment in Israel in 1960 reached \$76,000,000. In 1961, investment increased to \$94,000,000.

The AMA conference addressed by Mr. Manor is part of a three-day seminar being held on "How To Do Business In and With Israel." The seminar ends tomorrow. Mr. Manor reported that "more than 200 American firms now have business investments in Israel.

He credited the continuing rise in American investments to two factors. The first is Israel's 1959 Law for the Encouragement of Capital Investments, which, he said, offers investors many benefits, including the rights of withdrawal of 100 percent of profit and capital in dollars, as well as highly attractive tax benefits and incentives." The second factor cited by Mr. Manor was the establishment in 1960 of the Government of Israel Investment Authority for North America, which has offices in nine major cities throughout the United States.

DAROFF CALLS FOR CENTRAL SINGLE ZIONIST ORGANIZATION IN UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- Samuel H. Daroff, president of the American Jewish League for Israel, declared today that "the time demands a central, single Zionist organization in the United States, an organization freed of the strictures and limitations imposed by party-thinking and party-structure.

Mr. Daroff made the proposal in a letter to a group of American Jewish leaders, in which he said he was not alone in proposing such an idea. "Thinkers and leaders of the various Zionist sectors have been inclining more and more toward the same plan," he stressed.

Asserting he believed that the Zionist movement would, "for many decades to come, have to face and contend with many as yet unfulfilled tasks," he added he also believed that "the fulfillment of those tasks" was being hampered by "a feature of Zionism which has now outlived its use and, by its retention, merely serves as an obstruction to the effective execution of our obligations."

"Now is the time for the dissolution of party lines in Zionism, if we hope to eliminate the band of overlapping and duplication of work and concentrate our best talents on a unified effort," he asserted. He urged those who agreed with him to consider a meeting to "discuss what is to be done to achieve this goal."

KENNEDY LAUDS B'NAI B'RITH AS A 'CONSTRUCTIVE FORCE' IN U.S. HISTORY

WASHINGTON, May 3. (JTA) -- President Kennedy commended today the 119-year record of B'nai B'rith community services as "a positive constructive force for a good part of the history of our nation."

The President's tribute was contained in a letter to B'nai B'rith President Label Katz, in which the President also extended greetings to the B'nai B'rith triennial convention which will open here May 12 for five days.

Some 1,200 guests and delegates from 35 states as well as from Canada, Latin America, Great Britain, Ireland, Continental Europe and Israel are expected for the convention.

LEADER OF JEWISH COMMUNITY APPOINTED MEMBER OF JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT

KINGSTON, Jamaica, W.I., May 3. (JTA) -- Neville N. Ashenheim, who has held many offices here in the Jamaican Jewish community, was appointed today to the Cabinet of the Jamaican Government which is scheduled to achieve complete independence next August. He was also made a member of the Legislative Council, the body which will become the country's Senate after it has achieved independence.

Mr. Ashenheim will be Minister Without Portfolio and, as a member of the Senate, leader of Government business. A prominent attorney here, Mr. Ashenheim is chairman of the board of directors of the Daily Gleaner, the only daily newspaper in Jamaica. He has announced that he is resigning that post.

Dr. Maurice L. Perlzweig, director of the international affairs department of the World Jewish Congress, who is currently visiting Jamaica, said the Jewish community here, which numbers 1,500 persons, was flourishing, "contrary to fears heard not many years ago that it was in danger of disappearing." He expressed appreciation of the Jewish community's action in assuming responsibility to the Government for more than 1,000 Cuban Jewish migrants who had been granted temporary asylum in Jamaica pending resettlement in other countries.

NEW YORK BOARD OF RABBIS CELEBRATES 80TH ANNIVERSARY; HONORS LEADERS

NEW YORK, May 3. (JTA) -- Leaders of the major faiths in the United States should "declare a moratorium on their differences and dissensions" and form "a united powerful moral force to meet today's challenges," Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, declared tonight at the 80th anniversary dinner of the board.

Rabbi Abba Hillel Silver told the 1,000 dinner guests that "nationalism alone will provide inadequately for Israel as it has for all other peoples." He stressed that as the pride of pioneering life and the "exaltation of an independent state give way to the prosaic experience and the petty rounds of everyday life, along with their inevitable frustrations and disillusionments," the generations of tomorrow "will need a sustaining faith which only our spiritual heritage can give them." Other speakers were Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican; Rabbi Irving Miller and Rabbi Harold H. Gordon, executive vice-president of the board.

Eight Jewish communal leaders were honored for outstanding service to the American Jewish community and presented with silver covered Israeli-printed Bibles in Hebrew and in English. Those honored were Jacob Blaustein, Ambassador Philip M. Klutznick, Joseph M. Mazer, Admiral Lewis L. Strauss, Samuel H. Daroff, Senator Herbert H. Lehman, Max Stern and Lawrence A. Wien.

FRANK SINATRA ARRIVES IN ISRAEL; WILL HELP BUILD YOUTH CENTER IN NAZARETH

TEL AVIV, May 3. (JTA) -- Frank Sinatra, the American singer, came to Israel last night for a series of seven performances from which the proceeds will go toward establishment of a youth center in the Arab city of Nazareth. His aim, he said, was to help promote understanding between Jewish and Arab youth.

"I have wanted to visit this great State of Israel for 10 years. Now, at last, my wish has materialized," he said as he alighted from his private plane. Mr. Sinatra is paying the costs of his trip and the expenses involved in connection with his cast and aides.

Among his performances in Israel, one will be staged in the amphitheatre at Ein Gev, on the shore of Lake Tiberias, under the Syrian gun-posts on the heights above Ein Gev. Special security measures will be taken by the Israeli defense forces there because, only two months ago, there were armed clashes in the area between the Syrians and Israelis.

JUDAH L. MAGNES MEMORIAL MUSEUM ESTABLISHED BY ADMIRERS IN CALIF.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 3. (JTA) -- Establishment of a Judah L. Magnes Memorial Museum, to honor the memory of the late president of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, who was born in this city, has been announced by a group of Magnes admirers in Oakland. The museum will be housed at Temple Beth Shalom, San Leandro, built in 1885 and one of the oldest synagogue buildings in the West.

A fund of \$25,000 has been raised for the museum by an Oakland committee, of which Seymour Fromer is secretary. Magnes memorabilia, including his writings and documentary material, are now on display at the Oakland Public Museum, and will be installed in the new permanent Magnes Memorial Museum.

Dr. Magnes was born here in 1877. He was the son of Rabbi David L. Magnes. He received his early education in Oakland. After a brilliant career in the American rabbinate, he became one of the founders and, later, the president, of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He died in New York in 1948.