



Jewish Telegraphic Agency DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXIX - 44th year

Monday, June 25, 1962

No. 121

N. C. R. A. C. CONDEMNNS SOVIET POLICY ON JEWS; ASKS U. S. ACTION ON ARABS

CINCINNATI, June 24. (JTA) -- In a series of resolutions on the international scene, the plenary session of the National Community Relations Advisory Council went on record today in condemnation of the discrimination against Jews in Soviet Russia and a demand for action by the United States to halt Arab discrimination against American citizens, in a plea to the Kennedy Administration to press for Arab-Israel peace and in a call for support of the United Nations as an agency for peace.

The Soviet resolution expressed "deep concern and anguish upon the plight of our fellow Jews within the Soviet Union" and condemned "the discriminatory repressive treatment accorded by the Soviet Government to its Jewish citizens." The resolution described the methods of discrimination employed against Soviet Jews and charged that they were being singled out for prosecution for "economic crimes." Death penalties for these crimes, it charged, were being imposed on Jews "in a greater ratio than upon others charged with similar offences."

The conference adopted two resolutions on the Middle East. One dealing with Arab discrimination against American Jews asked Congress to enact a provision in the pending foreign aid bill requiring the President to report annually on progress made in eliminating such discriminations.

The resolution proposed a four-point program to "preserve the integrity of American citizenship" by continuously challenging through diplomatic channels, flagrant violations of the rights of American citizens; by ending the screening of citizens for Government service abroad on racial or religious grounds; by rejecting provisions in all treaties and executive agreements denying to American citizens rights of employment, travel or trade because of race or religion and by calling on federal and state anti-bias agencies not to yield to the religious or racial prejudice of Arab countries in the hiring and placement of Americans.

In its resolution on the Middle East situation, the conference warned that "each provocation by an Arab state dims the prospect for peace in the Middle East." It asserted that the continued undeclared Arab warfare against Israel "not only endangers the stability of the Middle East, but constitutes a critical threat to world peace."

The resolution noted President Kennedy's affirmation two years ago of the need for seeking permanent settlement in the Middle East, but pointed out that "recent actions by United States representatives in the United Nations have not only emboldened Arab aggressors, but have been inconsistent with the President's pronouncement. The United States, as the leader of the free world should be in the vanguard of world opinion in pressing for an Arab-Israel peace. Our country must stand up against belligerency, provocation, hostility and threat."

The resolution urged the United States Government to "pursue a policy both within and without the United Nations, which rejects all forms of aggression and which will make it clear to all governments in the Middle East, that we do not condone war and that peace is the major goal of American policy in the region."

Delegates Reject 'Shared Time' Plan for Public Schools

The so-called "shared time" plan under which pupils in parochial schools would be permitted to use public school facilities, was overwhelmingly rejected today by the plenary session after the plan had been termed a "tragic betrayal of our public schools."

The plan had been offered as a compromise that would permit federal aid to parochial schools without infringement of the principle of separation of church and state. Proponents of the plan had also argued that the scheme would also help break down barriers between pupils in the public schools and the parochial schools by bringing them together in some classroom sessions in the public schools.

The 250 delegates and guests attending the session of the national agency had been urged by Dr. David G. Salten, noted educator, to give careful consideration to the plan on the grounds that "any plan which minimizes the tendency toward social stratification

and promises some reduction in inter-religious conflict, deserves the most painstaking consideration."

The NCRAC action followed a long discussion in which delegates from Hartford, Connecticut; and Kansas City described the unsatisfactory operation of the "shared time" plan there. Although the plan has been discussed extensively in Jewish, Protestant and Catholic circles over the last year or more, the action here today is the first rejection of the proposal on a national level.

Leader Explains N. C. R. A. C. 's Opposition to 'Shared Time'

Lewis H. Weinstein, NCRAC chairman, explained the agency's positions. "While shared time may not violate the constitutional separation between church and state, it would impair and in the end violate our American public school system," he said. He expressed doubt that the proposal would resolve the controversy over government aid to parochial schools.

"There is no reason to expect that those who have been demanding inclusion of parochial schools in a federal aid program would withdraw their demand just because a few communities adopt the new plan," he asserted. "It is likely that the demands would continue and the net result would be an increased financial burden on the public school system rather than amelioration of its critical needs."

Mr. Weinstein further charged that the shared time in practice would lead to the greatest divisiveness. He said the new plan would be "a tragic betrayal of our public schools." These are the institutions on which we have relied for generations for the preparation of our young people for citizenship, for effective participation in our society," he declared. "This is an obligation of our democracy. We cannot abandon it to a variety of religious bodies, a variety of value systems unless we are prepared to abandon our convictions about the values that as Americans we hold in common."

Ben-Gurion's Gloomy View of Future of U. S. Jewry Is Rejected

A ringing affirmation of faith in the future of American Jewry was offered here by two American Jewish leaders in replies before the plenary session to utterances of Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. "American Jewish life has never been more visible, more viable and more vibrant than it is today," Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, told the delegates. "This is our best answer to those prophets of doom such as the Prime Minister of Israel and others who negate the American Jewish future."

"These negators of the Diaspora misread both American democracy and the American Jew," he said. "While the people of the State of Israel and American Jewry are indissolubly linked as an historic people, recent highly publicized misunderstandings demonstrate that we have a long way to go in building the kind of reciprocal cultural religious and spiritual bridge which is essential to our mutual survival."

Irving Kane, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, similarly rejected the "defeatist view" of the American Jewish future and the assumption of "some observers" that American Jewry was "doomed to a sterile assimilation."

"The hard fact," said Mr. Kane, "is that on this continent we have reached the stage of 'do-it-yourself.' Even if the European centers of learning and culture still flourished, it was perhaps inevitable that the substance and forms which would give fullest meaning to the needs of American Jews living in the American environment would have to be developed here."

"Israel, to be sure, can and will deepen the content of our lives, our communal purpose, but American Jewry cannot live culturally and spiritually as a parasite on a body 6,000 miles away," he said. "The goals and values of Jewish life remain fairly constant: To live creatively as Jews, to fulfil our obligations to our fellow Jews here and in Israel and in other lands and to our fellow-men everywhere, to make our maximum contribution to American democracy, to maintain our religious and cultural integrity. In short, to keep faith with the American idea, to be true to the faith of our fathers and to live by the ethical standards of our faith. In this we have done pretty well as a whole."

Both speakers participated with Professor Horace Kallen in a symposium on Jewish Life in the Free Plural Society--Achieving a Balance between Integration as Distinctive Separateness. Dr. Kallen, research professor in Social Philosophy at the New School for Social Research in New York, discussed the implications of "pluralism" in America, a term it is said he coined 50 years ago in his writings on the nature of America.

Lewis H. Weinstein Re-Elected N. C. R. A. C. Chairman for Next Term

Lewis H. Weinstein of Boston, was re-elected chairman of the NCRAC. Vice-chairmen elected were Louis Feinmark of New Haven, Julian Freeman of Indianapolis, Marcus Ginsburg of Fort Worth, Texas, Aaron Goldman of Washington and Herbert A. Leland of San Francisco. Joseph X. Yaffe of Philadelphia was elected treasurer; and William B. Schwartz, Jr. of Atlanta, secretary; Isaiah M. Minkoff, executive director.

REFORM RABBIS CONVENTION URGES ACTION ON SOVIET PERSECUTION OF JEWS

MINNEAPOLIS, June 24. (JTA) -- The 73rd annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis concluded here last night with a resolution calling on the 850 Reform rabbis in this country as well as upon the more than 1,000,000 members in the Reform Temples "to arouse public opinion" in the United States to the "persecution of Jews and Judaism in the Soviet Union."

The convention of the central body of the Reform rabbinate saluted the "courage and persistent loyalty to Judaism" of Jews in the Soviet Union despite "arrests, convictions and executions of lay leaders of synagogues" and other repressions. The rabbis also criticized the U.S. State Department for what was termed "a failure to protest more vigorously" the maltreatment of Jews in the Soviet Union. They expressed their revulsion "over the religious and cultural liquidation of Judaism and the coercive assimilation of Jews in the Soviet Union."

The rabbis pointed to a whole series of repressions, citing "repeated anti-Semitic attacks in the Soviet press; the restrictions suffered by Jews which make impossible any organizational and communal contact with their co-religionists in other parts of the world; and the denial of religious articles such as Bibles, prayer books, prayer shawls, and matzo's."

The convention also accepted a recommendation by Rabbi Albert G. Minda of Minneapolis, president of the CCAR, calling for maximum support of the fund-raising campaigns for the support of Reform Judaism's national institutions. These are the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Reform Judaism's synagogue service body, and the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, Reform Judaism's rabbinical seminary. The rabbis also pledged their full support to Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the congregational union, and Rabbi Nelson Glueck, president of the seminary.

The convention took stands on a variety of religious and public issues which will serve as guidelines for individual rabbis in their communities. It decided to meet again in Philadelphia next June. Dr. Albert G. Minda, of Minneapolis, was re-elected president by a unanimous vote of the 500 rabbis who attended the convention. Rabbi Sidney L. Regier, the CCAR's executive vice-president, was cited by the rabbinical body for his many years of service to it and on motion of the convention will be the recipient later this year of "suitable recognition" as he marks his 35th year in the rabbinate.

Another Synagogue Reported Bombed in the Soviet Union

NEW YORK, June 24. (JTA) -- The bombing of a synagogue in Kutaisi, a town in the Soviet Republic of Georgia, was reported here this week-end as having taken place during the first week in June. The front of the synagogue was damaged. Local authorities removed two other bombs planted in the synagogue, the report said.

This is the second time within a month when the destruction of synagogues by terrorists as attempted in Georgia. The first attempt was made at the Georgian town of Tskhakya, where a synagogue was heavily damaged by fire and where religious objects, including Torah scrolls, prayer shawls and prayer books were burned. Traces of gasoline were reported to have been found. An American tourist who happened to be on the scene photographed the remnants of the burned Torahs and brought the pictures to this country.

The New York Times, in a cable today from Moscow said that some Jews in the Soviet Union fear that "latent anti-Semitism among the population may be stirred up" by the attention given in the Soviet press to Jews among the persons arrested or executed for so-called economic crimes. "One of the objectives of the publicity, according to Soviet officials, is to deter would-be offenders. However, a by-product of the campaign has been to stir apprehension of a revival of anti-Semitism because a considerable number of Jews have been condemned in the campaign against currency and gold speculation," the Moscow cable said.

Americans Ask Moscow to Abolish Death Penalty for 'Economic Crimes'

NEW YORK, June 24. (JTA) -- A group of 223 prominent Americans sent a petition yesterday to the Soviet Government urging the abolition of the death penalty for economic crimes. The petition was submitted to the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, Anatoly E. Dobrynin, for transmission to Moscow.

The petition does not mention Jews but it is known that at least 26 of the 41 death sentences noted in the Soviet press for such crimes have been inflicted on Jews--nearly two-thirds of the total. Of the nine individuals whose executions were announced in the Soviet press, five are Jews.

Among the initiators of the petition were Norman Thomas, Nobel Prize winning scientist Dr. Linus C. Pauling and a number of liberals and pacifists who have not been unfriendly to the Soviet Union. In his letter of transmittal, Mr. Thomas, former Socialist Party candidate for President, wrote Ambassador Dobrynin that, "as you can see, the individuals who joined with me in initiating this petition, as well as those who signed it, are noted for their dedication both to civil liberties in our own country and to a world of peace."

EX-NAZI SENTENCED TO LIFE IMPRISONMENT FOR KILLING JEWS IN VILNA, GRODNO

BERLIN, June 24. (JTA) -- Dr. Albert Filbert, a former Colonel in the S.S., was sentenced this weekend by a West Berlin Court to life imprisonment with hard labor, for his part in the killing in 1941 of over 10,500 Jews in the regions of Vilna, Grodno and Vitebsk.

Sixty-seven witnesses were heard during the four-week trial. They told of the atrocities committed by the unit under Filbert's command which herded together the victims--men, women and children--and then killed them in mass shootings.

Filbert, aged 56, who had been a bank director at the time of his arrest two years ago, told the court that he regretted now that that he had not committed suicide at the time, even though his suicide would not have stopped Hitler's campaign against the Jews.

Five other former S.S. officers who had served under him stood trial together with Filbert. Four of them were sentenced to terms of hard labor ranging from three to ten years. They pleaded that they had acted under orders and refusal to obey would have entailed punishment and possibly death. A fifth accused, Konrad Fiebig, was acquitted for lack of evidence. All the accused were government officials, police officers or well-to-do business men at the time of their arrest.

J.D.C. TO EXPAND CARE FOR MENTALLY DISTURBED SURVIVORS OF NAZISM

GENEVA, June 24. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee plans an expansion in care for the high proportion of mentally disturbed persons among the survivors in Europe of the Nazi holocaust, Charles Jordan, JDC director-general, reported today.

He said the expanded program was the result of a psychiatric survey conducted in three countries by the JDC medical department, which was financed by a grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. The cost of putting the expanded program into effect will be met from Claims Conference and JDC funds.

"We have been increasingly aware of the high incidence of mental disturbances among European Jews as a result of their traumatic experiences during the Nazi persecution," the JDC official said. "The survey indicated that it is almost twice as high as among the general population. The survey also confirmed our impression that existing facilities for the care of the mentally ill, both public and private, are still far from adequate in most European countries."

ISRAEL MINISTER ADDRESSES YOUNG ISRAEL CONVENTION; ASKS FOR AID

GREENFIELD PARK, N.Y., June 24. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph Burg, Israel's Minister of Social Welfare, called on religious Jews to help in the construction and furtherance of Israel. "It would be paradoxical if those who dreamed and prayed for Israel should not do practical work now that the time has arrived," he stated. Dr. Burg was speaking at the National Council of Young Israel convention, celebrating its Golden Jubilee at the Pioneer Country Club here.

"Israel is the geographical, historical and spiritual center of Judaism," Dr. Burg declared. He stated that the foundation of the State of Israel had a two-fold effect. "First to help the survival of Jews and second to foster a revival of Judaism throughout the world."

HEBREW UNION COLLEGE APPOINTS ADMINISTRATOR FOR ITS JERUSALEM SCHOOL

NEW YORK, June 24. (JTA) -- The appointment of Rabbi Herbert Weiner of South Orange, N.J., as administrator of the new School of the Hebrew Union College in Jerusalem was announced today by Dr. Nelson Glueck, president of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

The Jerusalem School of the Hebrew Union College will provide an American center for the study of biblical archaeology and related fields. Its new building, to be completed soon, provides ample modern facilities for the administrator, an archaeological director, an annual professor, visiting professors and graduate fellows. It contains a chapel where Reform services will be held regularly.

NATIONAL JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS MOURN SUDDEN DEATH OF DR. SAMUEL SAR

NEW YORK, June 24. (JTA) -- Leaders of the Joint Distribution Committee, the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and other national Jewish organization today issued statements mourning the death of Dr. Samuel L. Sar, dean of men and professor of Bible at Yeshiva University, who succumbed to a heart attack Thursday after delivering the opening address at the ordination ceremonies of 30 rabbinical graduates of the university's Rabbi Isaac Elchanan Theological Seminary. He was 69 years old.

Born in Ligniany, Poland, Dr. Sar came to the United States in 1914 and joined the Yeshiva faculty as an instructor in Talmud five years later. He assumed his present post in 1937. Active in the work of the Religious Zionists of America, Dr. Sar was a member of the board of governors of Bar-Ilan University in Israel and was a member of the board of directors of the Federated Council of Israel Institutions. In 1945, he made a tour of displaced persons camps in Europe for the JDC. He later served as director of religious activities in Europe for the Central Orthodox Committee on behalf of the JDC.