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VATICAN INVITES ISRAEL TO OPENING CEREMONY OF ECUMENICAL COUNCIL

JERUSALEM, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- The Vatican has extended to the Government of Israel an invitation to attend the opening session and ceremonies of the Ecumenical Council on October 11, it was disclosed here today.

Morris Fisher, Israel's Ambassador to Italy, will head the Israeli delegation to the opening session. The delegation will include three persons, one of them a representative of the Ministry for Religious Affairs.

Similar invitations have been extended by the Vatican to more than 70 countries with which the Vatican maintains diplomatic relations. The invitation to Israel was seen as a goodwill gesture since there are no formal diplomatic ties between Israel and the Vatican.

Since Pope John XXIII ascended to the papacy, Israeli envoys in Rome have been invited to attend Vatican functions. Former Ambassador Eliyahu Sasson was awarded the Vatican Order of Saint Silvester.

U. S. REJECTS EGYPT'S COMPLAINT AGAINST SELLING MISSILES TO ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Oct. 3. (JTA) -- A suggestion that Middle East countries agree to regional disarmament or an arms limitation plan to keep heavy weapons out of the area was made here by Secretary of State Dean Rusk yesterday to the Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Fawzi, it was learned here today.

The suggestion was advanced in reply to the complaint made by the Egyptian Minister to Secretary Rusk against the decision of the United States to sell defensive missiles to Israel. Mr. Rusk told the Egyptian diplomat that the United States considers the short-range Hawk missiles which will go to Israel as strictly defensive weapons. He also emphasized that the United States Government has no intention of entering into a Middle East arms race.

U. S. SUPPORTS JOHNSON'S PLAN ON SETTLEMENT OF ARAB REFUGEE PROBLEM

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- State Department spokesman Lincoln White said today that the United States had "no objections" to the proposals for settlement of the Arab refugee problem advanced by Dr. Joseph E. Johnson, special envoy of the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission.

Mr. White told newsmen that the United States considered published reports of the proposals substantially correct. The United States is a member of the PCC.

At the same time it was learned here that France and Turkey, the other two members of the Palestine Conciliation Commission, were not inclined to give their support to Dr. Johnson's recommendations. The issue will come up for debate before the United Nations Special Political Committee.

Although the Arab states and Israel are withholding comment on Dr. Johnson's report until it is officially made public, all indications point to the fact that neither is satisfied with the recommendations in the report.

Morocco, Libya Raise Arab Refugee Issue at U.N. Assembly

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Oct. 3. (JTA) -- The annual round of Arab denunciations of Israel during the General Assembly was continued today with charges by two speakers that "Zionist bands" had "forced" 1,000,000 inhabitants out of their "own country" and that the Arab refugees had been "dragged from their homes."

The first charge was made by delegate Mohieddine Fekini of Libya, a member country of the Arab League. The other was voiced by Ahmed Balafrej, personal representative of the King of Morocco in charge of foreign affairs. Both spoke today at the UN plenary session.

Dr. Fekini asserted also that "the principle of self-determination should be applied by the United Nations to Palestine," and said there had been "colonialist aggression" there. He said the question must be given specific attention within the context of the whole problem of colonialism. The Moroccan delegate told the Assembly that the UN "must immediately implement" its resolution on the refugees.

JEWISH AGENCY SAYS ISRAEL CAN ABSORB MIDDLE CLASS NEWCOMERS

JERUSALEM, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- The Israeli economy can absorb an average of 3,000 middle class newcomer families annually, according to the results of a Jewish Agency survey published today.

The survey indicated that at the current rate of development there was room in Israel for 2,000 self-employed newcomers in various crafts and for 1,000 experts and members of the professions. The survey also indicated that Israel's needs for the coming four years require the creation of 1,000 small and medium-size enterprises, including workshops, services and small industries.

Leon Dulchin, head of the Jewish Agency's economic department, who outlined the findings at a press conference, said that the Government would be urged to pass legislation to encourage middle class immigration. He said conditions had to be created to facilitate the absorption of middle class members and craftsmen who, after integration, create jobs for less skilled newcomers.

The Jewish Agency executive member said that while this was the least expensive type of absorption, there was no law to encourage small entrepreneurs who settle themselves as there was for capital investments which benefit non-residents. He said that for the first time Israel was facing the possibility of a large-scale middle class immigration, citing the immigration potential of the 800,000 Jews of the South American countries. He added that this potential could be realized if adequate conditions were created including the required legislation.

Summarizing the findings of the survey, he said it had proved that Israel needed middle class immigrants and that the question was whether the Israeli economy was prepared to create the conditions for such immigration. He added that when the Jewish Agency holds its plenary at the end of the month, he would seek the activation of the joint Government-Jewish Agency immigration authority to promote such immigration.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT CONSIDERS PROFIT POSITION OF INDUSTRY SATISFACTORY

JERUSALEM, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- One-third of the 450,000,000 pounds loaned by the Government to industry since the establishment of Israel have been repaid, Pinhas Sapir, Minister of Commerce and Industry, told the press today.

He also disputed the contention of a recent State Bank survey that most of the financing for industry came from the Government's Development Budgets, asserting that funds from those budgets amounted to not more than 15 percent of the loans. He added that all development loans to industry were linked either to the dollar or to the cost of living index.

The Minister said that in view of the satisfactory profit position of industry in Israel generally, industry would be asked to absorb an additional wage bill in January to meet the regular cost-of-living allowance increase due then. He added that while it was felt that most firms could successfully absorb the rise, there was no reason to charge industry as a whole with making excessive profits.

He also warned that Israeli banks would have to reduce profits and charges, even if this was at the expense of "progressive" working conditions including such bonuses as a 13th and even 14th monthly salary. He predicted that exports this year would total \$250,000,000.

PRESIDENT BEN-ZVI REPORTED TO HAVE AGREED TO RUN FOR A THIRD TERM

JERUSALEM, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- Sources close to President Ben-Zvi denied today reports that he had not yet agreed to run for a third term and that his Mapai party was consequently considering an alternative candidate. His term expires on October 30.

These sources said that Premier Ben-Gurion, Finance Minister Levi Eshkol and other Mapai leaders had approached Mr. Ben-Zvi and asked him on behalf of the party to accept nomination. The President agreed and is therefore the only candidate of Mapai.

ISRAELI ENVOY STARTS TALKS IN BRUSSELS ON LINK TO COMMON MARKET

BRUSSELS, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- Israel Ambassador Amiel Najjar conferred today with Professor Walter Halstein, president of the Commission of the European Economic Community in connection with the recent decision of the EEC Council of Ministers to open negotiations with Israel for some type of trade ties with the six nations of Euromart.

The talk followed a prior meeting the envoy had with Jean Rey, a member of the EEC Commission who is in charge of foreign relations. It was expected that the negotiations on the exact form of the trade ties would start in Brussels at the beginning of November.

GOVT. OF INDIA ACCEPTS ISRAEL OFFER OF SCHOLARSHIPS TO STUDENTS

NEW DELHI, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- The Government of India has accepted an Israeli offer of scholarships for postgraduate study and research in soil science for the 1962-63 academic year, it was disclosed today. Two Indian students are expected to go to Israel under the scholarship program.

SENATE-HOUSE CONFERENCE AGREES ON HEIRLESS PROPERTY SETTLEMENT

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- A Senate-House conference agreed today on an enemy assets disposition bill containing an amendment providing a \$500,000 lump sum settlement of all claims of successor organizations for use in rehabilitation of needy Jewish persecutees of the Nazi regime living in the United States.

The amendment was sponsored by Senators Kenneth B. Keating and Jacob K. Javits, both of New York. This is the so-called heirless property amendment on which action was pending for a considerable time. The sum will go to the Jewish Restitution Successor Organization. The bill reported out today by the conference committee will go to the President.

The conference dropped another amendment, however, which would have provided individual compensation payments to German Jews who since World War II became American citizens. The basic legislation pertained to the sale of the General Aniline & Film Corporation, German property vested by the United States during World War II and disposition of the proceeds.

MASS TRIAL OF NAZIS CHARGED WITH KILLING JEWS STARTS THIS MONTH

COBLENZ, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- The Coblenz public prosecutor announced today that the trial of 14 defendants charged with mass extermination of Jews in and near Pinsk during World War II will begin on October 15. Among the defendants are Johann Federd, 51, now a Cologne police officer, and George Heuser, a former chief of police. They were members of Security units operating in the Minsk area.

A Frankfurt municipal personnel official reported today that, after a screening of 50 police officers, an additional policeman may be charged in the murder of Jews and Russian prisoners of war during World War II. The screening was undertaken after the recent surprise arrests and detention of a number of Frankfurt police on those charges. The name of the policeman was not given.

BONN ACTS ON JEWISH REQUEST FOR CARE OF GRAVES OF NAZI VICTIMS

BONN, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- The West German Minister of the Interior notified the Central Council of the Jews of Germany today that under a projected graves law, graves in concentration camp cemeteries will receive the same care given to war graves.

The bill, which is expected not to create any differences among the parties in the West German Parliament, will also provide for the preservation of cemeteries "to guarantee the peace of the dead." The Central Council applied to the Ministry for such measures five months ago.

Meanwhile, it was reported today that the Jewish cemetery in the south German town of Fellheim has been desecrated. Of the cemetery's 187 headstones, 29 were knocked over and broken to pieces, but police said there were no anti-Semitic slogans smeared on them. The desecration was regarded as surprising since there are no Jews living in the Fellheim area. The once thriving Jewish community of 500 persons no longer exists.

AMERICAN JEWISH PLAY 'THE TENTH MAN' OPENS IN BERLIN THEATRE

BERLIN, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- A mixed German Jewish and non-Jewish audience greeted with applause and laughter last night the opening of the first German performance of Paddy Chaevsky's "The Tenth Man." The play deals with synagogue patterns in the United States.

The play is being presented in the Berliner Theater as an American contribution to the 12th annual Cultural Festival in West Berlin. The translation was made by Eric Burger, a writer born in Berlin who has lived in New York for the past 20 years. He told newsmen last night that he had to eliminate some of the Jewish religious ritual "because there are some things a German actor just cannot do."

The plan to show the play initially created some opposition from West Berlin's tiny Jewish community who felt some of the rites might be misunderstood by a German audience. But the audience seemed to enjoy and accept the lively religious scenes without difficulty although the playwright's allusions to the problems of management faced by a modern American rabbi appeared to puzzle the German playgoers. It will run here for several weeks before starting a tour of several West German cities.

WARSAW RECONSTRUCTION PLANS WILL NOT AFFECT JEWISH CEMETERY

WASHINGTON, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- The Embassy of Poland made known today that reconstruction plans in Warsaw, at least until 1970, will not affect the Gensher Jewish cemetery. It had been previously reported that well known cemetery, a remaining symbol of Polish Jewry, would be destroyed in the course of an area re-development project.

POLICE SEEK VANDALS WHO SMEARED MILAN SYNAGOGUE ON NEW YEAR

MILAN, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- Police were searching today for clues to the identity of vandals who smeared a Milan synagogue with swastikas on the first night of the Jewish New Year.

CHIEF JUSTICE OF FLORIDA MAY HEAR CASE ON ANTI-SEMITIC REMARK

MIAMI, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- An attorney for a Miami judge accused of making an anti-Semitic remark during a traffic charge hearing said today he would seek to have a judge from outside Dade county conduct a hearing into the charge.

The complaint against Judge Edwin Strickland was made by Marvin L. Cohen, a Miami school teacher. Mr. Cohen said that he appeared on June 8 before Judge Strickland on a minor traffic violation and pleaded not guilty. He said the judge commented: "You Jews are the same -- 90 percent plead not guilty."

The traffic charge was dismissed but the teacher pressed for an inquiry into his complaint. At this point, the Miami Metropolitan Commission entered the case, but earlier this week, Circuit Judge Pat Cannon issued an order barring the commission from inquiring further into the charges against Judge Strickland. The order caused a temporary halt in efforts by Dade County Attorney Darrey Davis to start a hearing on the complaint.

Milton Ferrell, attorney for Judge Strickland, then told Judge Cannon he would ask the Chief Justice of the Florida Supreme Court to hear Judge Strickland's case. The attorney said it would be unfair for a Dade County judge to have to sit in on the case. County Attorney Davis said that he had been directed to make an inquiry and report on whether a formal investigation was warranted. He added that the commission's hearing had not been intended to be a removal hearing.

STATE DEPT. SENDS PITTSBURGH JEWISH LEADER ON MISSION TO VENEZUELA

PITTSBURGH, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- Aaron P. Levinson, Pittsburgh Jewish leader, left for Caracas on an assignment by the United States Department of State to conduct a productivity seminar in Venezuela for industrialists there.

Mr. Levinson's mission is part of President Kennedy's Alliance for Progress program for South America which is administered by the Agency for International Development. Mr. Levinson is president of the Levinson Steel Company. He scheduled meetings with Jewish community leaders in Caracas between the seminar sessions.

SOPHIE TUCKER HOSPITAL TO BE BUILT IN ISRAEL; FOREST DEDICATED

JERUSALEM, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- A Sophie Tucker Hospital will be built in the Beit Shemesh village near Jerusalem, according to an announcement today by the Beit Shemesh council and the American entertainer at dedication ceremonies for the Sophie Tucker Forest in the Judean Hill township.

The forest is the first of two being planted by the Jewish National Fund in honor of the entertainer who raised funds for both forests. Abraham Harzfeld paid tribute to her contributions on behalf of the JNF board.

1,300 PERSONS VISIT OPENING OF REUVEN RUBIN'S ART EXHIBIT IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- A turnout described by Wildenstein Gallery officials as the largest in the history of the Gallery attended the opening last night of the first United States showing in nine years of the paintings of Reuven Rubin, noted Israeli painter.

Gallery officials said that from 5:30 p.m. until 7 p.m. about 1,300 persons, including many officials of the Israeli Consulate, jammed the gallery to see the 60 paintings on display. Admission was by invitation only and 700 such invitations were distributed but ticket holders brought friends with them. The exhibit will run until October 20.

JEWISH THEATRE FOR CHILDREN ANNOUNCES PRIZE FOR FULL-LENGTH PLAY

NEW YORK, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- The Jewish Theater for Children announced today a prize of \$1,000 for the best full-length play for children in English on a Jewish theme in the seventh annual competition for such plays. Philip Kasakove, theater chairman, said manuscripts must be submitted by a deadline of April 15, 1963.

Judges include Dr. Azriel Eisenberg, executive vice-president of the Jewish Education Committee of New York; Lewis Funke, New York Times Drama editor; N. U. Levitt, chairman of the School of Adult Jewish Studies of Temple Beth El of Great Neck; Norman Nadel, World-Telegram and Sun drama critic; and Grace M. Stanistreet, director of the Adelphi College Children's Theater Arts Center.

ELIE NATAF, JEWISH LEADER IN TUNISIA, DIES IN TUNIS; WAS 74

GENEVA, Oct. 3. (JTA) -- Elie Nataf, president of Ort in Tunisia since its inception in 1949, died in Tunis on September 30, the World Ort Union said here today. He was 74. A distinguished attorney and leader of the bar, he had been a past president of the Jewish community of Tunis, a member of the World Ort Union central board and of the World Ort Union executive committee.

He had been an attorney of the Court of Appeals in Tunis, president of the Order of French Advocates in Tunis and a member of the executive of the World Jewish Congress. He had been awarded the Chevalier of the Legion of Honor by France.