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ARABS, ISRAEL REJECT NEW, SECRET JOHNSON PLAN ON ARAB REFUGEES

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Both the Arab and the Israeli sides have rejected in advance a plan proposed secretly by Dr. Joseph E. Johnson, special Middle East emissary for the Palestine Conciliation Commission, who had envisaged giving the Arab refugees a choice between "returning" to Israel and resettlement in Arab lands, according to information divulged here today.

Three Arab diplomats representing Syria, Lebanon and Jordan, met with Dr. Johnson and gave him a flat "no" in regard to the plan. Earlier, it had been ascertained here, Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, rejected the plan on behalf of her Government.

The Arab diplomats objected chiefly to the very fact that Johnson would offer "resettlement." In the Arab view, only "repatriation" or compensation by Israel should be mentioned to the refugees as alternatives, but the idea that they might choose to live in Arab states must not even appear with UN sanction. The Israel Government, on the other hand, would not agree to the Johnson plan because Israel reserves to itself the absolute right to decide about the admission of any one seeking to enter Israel, refugee or not. Israel was also of the opinion that Arab politicians would force refugees to reject anything but outright "repatriation."

Dr. Johnson has visited all the Arab capitals and Jerusalem twice in his effort, begun more than 18 months ago, to develop some easement of the refugee question for the PCC. An American, Dr. Johnson is president of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In connection with the Arab-Israeli rejections of the plan, diplomats here pointed out what was called an anomaly. Dr. Johnson has denied that he has authored the new plan attributed to him, the PCC has denied it has such a plan before it, and the three members of the PCC--the United States, France and Turkey--have insisted there is no such plan on paper. But the Arab-Israel rejections are facts.

HAIFA STEVEDORES DEFY HISTADRUT AS SHIPS JAM HARBOR; BROADEN DEMANDS

TEL AVIV, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Nearly 2,000 Haifa stevedores conducting a costly slowdown since Sunday, widened their demands today in defiance of orders of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, to return to work.

The stevedores began their action, which has left more than 20 vessels waiting to be loaded in the harbor, in protest against what they claimed were excessive prices for stevedores. The Histadrut told them to halt their slowdown and permit the issue to be settled through rough negotiation.

A committee of the dockworkers today broke off contacts with the Histadrut, and demanded that foremen be classified as technicians for wage scales for port workers. Later the workers said they would talk only to a Ministerial committee and would resume work only if such a committee were appointed. Histadrut newspapers warned that the labor federation's position was being endangered by the dockworkers' defiance.

ISRAEL ANNOUNCES NEW, \$23 MILLION INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX IN NEGEV

JERUSALEM, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- An integrated mining and chemical industrial complex will be established at Oron, in the Negev, within the next three years, at a total outlay of \$23,333,333, Development Minister Joseph Almogi announced today.

Plants will include one for phosphate calcination, one for soda ash, one for super-phosphates and one for defluorination. He said preliminary work had been started on the calcination plant. The enterprise will be financed by development funds and international loans, including one from the Export-Import Bank, he added.

NEW SYSTEM FOR DESALINATION TO BE PROBED IN PILOT PLANT IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- A new system for desalination of sea water will be explored in two pilot plants, one in this country and another in France, to be built by Azriel Osdor, a French chemical engineer, Mr. Osdor announced here today. He said his method differing from the one announced here two years ago by Dr. Alexander Zarchin, would turn salt water into sweet water by distillation at high pressure and at temperatures of 400 degrees centigrade. If the pilot plants show success, he said, his new firm is ready to invest \$500,000 in the process. Mr. Osdor is a native of Tel Aviv.

KREMLIN REPORTED PLANNING TO SHUT MOSCOW CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE ON WEEKDAYS

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The Central Synagogue of Moscow, which for years has been open for services seven days a week, may be closed weekdays on orders of Soviet authorities, according to a report here today in The Day-Jewish Journal, a Yiddish daily.

The official Kremlin excuse for the possible order to shut the house of worship on weekdays, according to the report, is that the partial closure "will prevent the illegal trade in religious articles." Government officials have charged openly in recent months that the synagogue is a center for alleged "black market traffic" in Hebrew ritual prayer shawls, phylacteries and prayer books which, presumably, are donated to the congregants by foreign visitors.

At the same time, it was reported today that Naum S. Paller, president of the Central Synagogue, informed his congregation during the recent High Holiday services that the Government had been requested for permission to have new prayer shawls woven for the Jews who lack the taleithim. Mr. Paller was quoted as saying that he had hired a weaver, who is a non-Jew, to make the taleithim, and that he hoped permission for a start on the manufacture might be received soon.

YIDDISH CULTURE LEADERS REQUEST THAT USSR EASE RESTRICTIONS ON JEWS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The Congress for Jewish Culture transmitted to Soviet Ambassador Anatoli Dobrynin here today an appeal urging the Soviet Government to "revoke the de facto prohibition of Jewish cultural and communal life." The Congress requested that the USSR permit Soviet Jews to re-establish cultural contacts with Jews outside Russia; publicly rehabilitate the Jewish intellectuals who were executed 10 years ago, and punish those responsible for the deaths; and permit Soviet Jews wishing to emigrate to do so.

The Congress for Jewish Culture, with headquarters in New York and offices in Buenos Aires, Paris, Stockholm and Chicago, is headed by prominent Yiddish writers and civic leaders, including the poet H. Leivick, Jacob Pat, Louis Segal, Benjamin Tabachinsky and L. Spizman. The message to Ambassador Dobrynin was signed on behalf of the officers by the organization's executive director, Hyman Bass.

PARISIAN CATHOLIC PAPER DECRIES DENIALS OF RIGHT TO SOVIET JEWS

PARIS, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- A progressive Catholic publication, "Esprit," declared today in its current issue "there is a general feeling of anxiety concerning Russia's Jews." The publication cited the fact that "they are deprived of Jewish schools and the facilities for publishing literary works in Yiddish, but nevertheless they carry passports which clearly state their 'Jewish' nationality."

Publication of the comment coincided with a meeting held by the Jewish Writers and Journalists Union of France in memory of the Jewish writers in the Soviet Union who were executed there 10 years ago. Speakers recalled the sufferings endured by the Russian Yiddish writers, most of whom disappeared during the Stalin regime. Several hundred persons attending the meeting adopted a resolution calling on the Soviet Union to grant its Jewish community the same facilities enjoyed by other minorities in Russia.

LONDON BOROUGH PRESS CAMPAIGN TO OUTLAW RACIST INCITEMENTS

LONDON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- A campaign launched by a London borough council to strengthen the Public Order Act to prevent riots incited by speakers preaching racial or religious hatred received backing today from the Metropolitan Boroughs Standing Joint Committee, representing all boroughs in the city. The Board of Deputies of British Jews is also conducting a drive to obtain 1,000,000 signatures for a petition to Parliament for that objective.

With the House of Commons scheduled to reconvene this month, the joint committee appealed to Home Secretary Henry Brooke for action to make such incitement a criminal offense. In its appeal, the committee told the Home Secretary that, while "adhering to the principle of free speech, we are concerned at the nature of recent disturbances in London. We ask the Government to consider amending the law so that incitement to violence by persons advocating racial or religious discrimination or hatred may become a criminal offense."

The issue was touched on last night by R. N. Carvalho, president of the Anglo-Jewish Association at a meeting of the organization's council. He said he agreed that the neo-Fascist groups thrived on publicity and that he also agreed with the advice of the Board of Deputies of British Jews that the targets of the incitement should refrain from responses that created conflicts and resultant publicity for the neo-Nazis.

A related development today involving the neo-Nazis was the rejection by Manchester Magistrate Bancroft Turner of an application by Max Mosley, 22, son of Union Movement leader Oswald Mosley, to put Councillor Peter Grimshaw, secretary of the Manchester district of the Labor party, under bond to keep the peace. The son of the neo-Nazi leader said that Grimshaw had announced he intended to form an anti-Fascist body from which the younger Mosley inferred that Grimshaw intended to oppose the Union Movement, posing "a possible breach of the peace." The Magistrate dismissed the argument.

LEADING ARGENTINIAN FORM 'UNITED FRONT' TO FIGHT ANTI-SEMITISM

BUENOS AIRES, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Leading Argentine political parties and personalities joined today in the formation of a United Front Against Anti-Semitism. In a statement announcing the new organization, the signers declared the step had been taken "to promote permanent action against all anti-Semitic manifestations and any form of racism."

Sponsors of the new group included Dr. Carlos Adrogué, former Interior Minister, General Pedro Aramburu, former President of Argentina; Oscar Alende, head of the Union Cívica Radical del Pueblo, one of the largest political parties in the country; Adolfo Vicchi, head of the Conservative party; and Americo Ghioldi, head of the Socialist party. Included among the sponsors was the University Students Socialist party. The founders of the new movement issued a statement, declaring:

"World experience in this century shows that anti-Semitism is the most alarming symptom of tensions among negative forces which can put a stop to a country's growth and development. It is also an index to the presence of unadapted or psychopathic personalities whose actions, projected into social and political fields, sharpen present difficulties and make impossible democratic cohesion."

At the same time today, three Jews who were arrested last July in an armed clash between police and Jews guarding a synagogue during the height of the summer's anti-Semitic incidents were released, but two Jews were continued under detention.

That announcement was made by Dr. Mariano Grondona, subsecretary of the Ministry of the Interior, who said the two Jews who were not released will be brought before a court for a hearing. The clash occurred in the Buenos Aires suburb of Caseros when police in an unmarked car were approached by the Jewish synagogue guards and shooting broke out. A police inspector was fatally wounded. The DAIA, representative body of Argentine Jewry, is dealing with the legal aspects of the case facing the two accused Jews.

FORMER CONCENTRATION CAMP OFFICER FREED AS JUDGE 'REGRETS' ACQUITTAL

FRANKFURT, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- A Frankfurt jury court acquitted today, "for lack of irrefutable proof," a 49-year-old former deputy commandant of a Nazi concentration camp tried on charges of having caused the suicide of a Jewish Socialist in 1933.

The verdict, which was announced by the court's presiding judge with "regret and uneasiness," evoked widespread press and radio condemnation. The defendant, Wilhelm Dusensteen, was set free. He had been charged with causing the suicide of Dr. Fritz Solmitz, who had been editor of a Lubeck paper.

The Frankfurter Rundschau said that the defendant was acquitted under "formal law" but could not be freed from his "moral guilt." A Hesse radio commentator even went so far in his protest as to suggest a means of appealing the verdict.

U. J. A. STUDY MISSION CONVENES IN PARIS TODAY; MEYERHOFF HEADS 138 MEMBERS

PARIS, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Members of the eighth United Jewish Appeal Study Mission, representing American Jewish community leadership across the country, were gathering here to launch tomorrow an intensive 16-day fact-finding survey of the needs of distressed Jews in Europe and North Africa, and to get a first-hand picture of the problems of absorbing immigrants into the economic and social life of Israel.

Heading the 138-member delegation is Joseph Meyerhoff, UJA general chairman. Important roles in the survey are being played by Edward M. M. Warburg, general chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, and Dewey D. Stone, chairman of the Jewish Agency, Inc., both UJA beneficiary agencies.

The mission's tour, which also is serving as a prelude to the UJA's 25th anniversary year, will begin tomorrow when the American Jewish leaders will attend a three-day meeting of the JDC. Charles Jordan, JDC overseas director general, and other JDC executives will report on the sharp upsurge in the number of Jews who must be rendered aid as a result of the political upheavals in North Africa. Other representatives of UJA beneficiary organizations who will participate in the meeting are: Eran Laor, European director of the Jewish Agency; Max Braude, director of the World ORT Union; and Israel Jacobson, European director of the United Hias Service, which assists Jews to migrate to countries other than Israel.

In addition to the meeting, the mission will be tendered a dinner by Jewish leaders of 12 European countries in honor of the role played by American Jewry in restoring Jewish life in Europe since the close of World War II. The European Jewish leaders are representatives to the Standing Conference on European Jewish Community Services. Dr. Astorre Mayer of Milan, Italy, chairman of the conference, will serve as spokesman for the European communities. The American spokesman will be Mr. Warburg.

In Israel, the mission will make on-the-spot studies of the problems facing the Jewish Agency and the Israel Government in handling the current large numbers of immigrants. The leaders will see newcomers reaching Israel by ship and plane, visit newly established immigrant settlements and villages and confer with ranking officials of the Government and Jewish Agency. A series of UJA anniversary observances also will mark the mission's visit in Israel.

RECONSTRUCTIONIST RITUAL 'GUIDE' ALTERS MANY ORTHODOX PRACTICES

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The Reconstructionist Foundation, the religious movement founded by Rabbi Mordecai M. Kaplan with adherents among Conservative and Reform Jewry, and dedicated to "the advancement of Judaism as a religious civilization," today issued its "Guide to Jewish Ritual."

Dr. Ira Eisenstein, president of the Foundation, noted that the Guide, which deals with home devotions, the Sabbath, festivals, High Holy Days, public worship, personal occasions and dietary laws, is not a code. He said that "those who were responsible for preparing it do not submit it as infallible and hence unalterable."

Among the features of the Guide are the recognition of the full equality for women in ritual matters, the abolition of the traditional distinction between the Cohen (priest) and other Jews, "the recognition of diversity in ritual as legitimate under conditions of modern life," and the stress upon affirmative usages rather than on prohibitions.

The Guide advises: refraining from smoking on the Sabbath in Jewish institutions or where the act could offend other Jews; omission of foods forbidden in the Bible but disregard of regulations about pots and pans outside the home; disregard of the traditional Orthodox ban on Sabbath travel as "not a violation" when the travel is for the purpose of synagogue worship or joining one's family at meals.

With regard to public worship, the Guide declares that "The text of the prayerbook should omit those prayers which do not represent the sincere convictions of the worshippers." It recommends the omission of prayers for the restoration of the Temple, of animal sacrifices, prayers affirming belief in a personal Messiah, in bodily resurrection and in the Jews as a Chosen People.

GERMAN-AMERICAN GROUP URGES DIRKSEN RE-ELECTION ON RACIAL GROUNDS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- A racial appeal for the re-election of Senator Everett Dirksen of Illinois, the Republican leader, and the return to the Upper House of "our own man" has been made by a German-American committee in Chicago. The committee, in a letter sent to the membership lists of 225 German societies in the Chicago area, warmly defended the Kaiser's Germany and Hitler's Third Reich against charges of responsibility for two world wars, and accused the Democratic Party of being anti-German and responsible for both wars.

A staff writer of the Washington Evening Star pointed out today that "Sen. Dirksen is of German descent. His Democratic opponent, Rep. Sidney R. Yates, is Jewish and the son of Polish (Jewish) immigrants."

The letter, on Dirksen-for Senator stationery, stated in part that "flamed to a high pitch by propaganda of the worst sort, both these wars were conducted against the German nation and everything German. The catastrophic holocaust engendered over the entire world by these actions of rapacity by the victims created the chaos and uncertainty of existence we live in today."

It went on to advise that "German-Americans with the slightest tinge of emotion and justice left should reflect upon these facts and remember... Let us demonstrate by actions that we, as German-Americans, want to have a voice in government by re-electing our own man as representative again."

The Star quoted A. M. Frey, secretary of the German-American Committee for Dirksen, as explaining that what was meant by the "rapacity of the victors" was the Morgenthau Plan, a plan for the postwar treatment of Germany prepared by the then Secretary of the Treasury, Henry Morgenthau, Jr., that the allies "bombed little cities, old people and hospitals, not just military targets" and "went all out to bring terror into the hearts of the whole people."

MILLION DOLLARS SOUGHT FOR AIRPORT SYNAGOGUE; CHARLES SILVER PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The New York Board of Rabbis announced today that \$1,000,000 was being raised for the International Synagogue and Jewish Center it is sponsoring at Idlewild International Airport in New York.

Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz, president of the board, also announced the election of Charles H. Silver, former president of the New York City Board of Education, as president of the synagogue. He said half of the total being raised would be used for construction and the other half for maintenance after the structure is built. The synagogue-center is expected to be ready for use by Jewish visitors to the New York World's Fair in 1964.

BRAZIL JEWISH LEADER ELECTED TO STATE SENATE IN LANDSLIDE VOTE

RIO DE JANEIRO, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- In a landslide vote here, Dr. Aaron Steinbruch, president of the Federation of Jewish Organizations in this city, was elected as a Senator in the State of Rio de Janeiro, according to the complete tabulation of the recent general elections announced today. He will be the first Jewish Senator to serve in this country. Dr. Steinbruch defeated four other candidates for the Senatorship, his vote topping the number of ballots cast for all of the four others combined.