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U. S. JEWS OBSERVE PASSOVER WITH SPECIAL SEDER PRAYER FOR SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, April 9. (JTA) -- American Jews started the celebration of Passover last night by including a special prayer in their Seder for the redemption of Soviet Jews "to whom is denied the right of free men to worship their God and to perform His precepts."

A plea to include this prayer in the Passover Seder was made by the presidents of the 12 major Jewish religious and secular organizations who announced last Sunday that they were ready to send a plane-load of matzoth to the Jews in the Soviet Union, if permission were granted by Soviet Premier Khrushchev. (See Monday's JTA Bulletin). Their call appeared to Moscow was ignored by the Soviet Premier. The special prayer read:

"When we recite in the Haggadah the age-hallowed 'Ho lachmo anyo--This is the bread of affliction which our fathers ate in the Land of Egypt,' let us be mindful of our fellow Jews in Soviet Russia who truly eat the bread of affliction and to whom is denied the right of free men to worship their God and to perform His precepts. Let every one of us pledge himself before his Maker not to forget in his plenty those in need; and in his freedom, those in servitude. And when we say 'This year in bondage; the year to come, free men,' let this be a prayer before the Throne of Justice for those with whom we are united by a common faith and a common hope for ultimate redemption."

ISRAEL CELEBRATES PASSOVER IN GAY SPIRIT; MANY GUESTS FROM ABROAD

JERUSALEM, April 9. (JTA) -- Israel started celebration of Passover in gay spirits and in an atmosphere of a record abundance of tourists and ample supplies of food.

Lydda Airport was a beehive of activity in the 24 hours before the first Seder as jets and turboprop giant airliners discharged guests for the holiday. A new passengers hall enabled airport officials to handle the hundreds of arrivals in record time. A total of 15 planes landed at the airport on Sunday with 2,000 visitors. During the prior week, El Al flew in 5,000 persons.

Israel's transport services mobilized "everything on wheels" to handle the hundreds of thousands of Israelis moving about the country for family gatherings. The western shores of the Sea of Galilee were dotted with hitch-hikers. The Kibbutzim were filled to capacity with overseas visitors. Passover supplies were adequate, and prices were stable.

MOSCOW SYNAGOGUE CROWDED ON PASSOVER; ONLY FEW JEWS SECURED MATZOTH

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- Dispatches from Moscow received here today reported that the Central Synagogue there was crowded last night with worshipers, but that a very small percentage of Moscow's 300,000 Jews were in a position to secure matzoth for the Passover holiday. No reports were received on how Jews celebrated Passover in other cities in the Soviet Union.

Some Moscow Jewish families with friends in Soviet Georgia, where Jewish religion is being tolerated more than in any other part of the USSR, have succeeded in obtaining matzoth sent from Tbilisi, capital of Georgia. A few Jewish families in Moscow, which have oven facilities, baked matzoth in their homes. Despite Soviet denials that no one was arrested in Moscow for selling matzoth, the reports received here today from the Soviet capital clearly stated that there had been arrests of people charged with matzoth selling.

JEWS IN RUMANIA CELEBRATE PASSOVER WITH PLENTY OF LOCALLY BAKED MATZOTH

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- Rumanian Jewry had matzoth aplenty, at moderate prices, according to a dispatch from Bucharest received here today. There were matzoth baked in state bakeries, and there was also a supply of "shemura" matzoth baked privately. There were also ample supplies of Passover wines. These were bottled under the supervision of the Rumanian rabbinate at the yeshiva at Arad.

Dr. Moses Rosen, chief rabbi of Rumania, conducted Passover services last night at the Choral Synagogue in Bucharest, and delivered a sermon in which he noted that all persecutors of Jews "must receive the end given to Pharaoh." He also praised the Government of Rumania for "making it possible for the Jews here to obtain matzoth and everything else needed for our celebration of Passover." At the same time, Rabbi Rosen conducted a memorial service honoring the martyrs of the Warsaw Ghetto revolt in 1943.

COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM BACKS SOVIET POLICY ON JEWS; DENIES DISCRIMINATION

WASHINGTON, April 9. (JTA) -- Soviet diplomats and Communist propagandists in this country are making extensive use of material provided by the American Council for Judaism in their attempts to quiet mounting concern among Jews and non-Jews here over the systematic discrimination practiced against the Jews in the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Embassy in Washington replies to written inquiries on the treatment of Russian Jews by including statements by Leonard R. Sussman, executive director of the Council, as "proof" that anti-Jewish discrimination does not exist in the Soviet Union. Communist publications, currently devoting much attention to denials of mistreatment of the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union, also place considerable reliance on the "evidence" in statements by the Council for Judaism.

Officials of the organization have apparently taken on themselves the duty of replying to criticisms of the Soviet Union's Jewish policy wherever such criticism may appear in newspapers throughout the United States. They frequently prevail upon local members of the organization to write to the newspapers, as individuals, denying mistreatment of the Jews in Russia. The Council for Judaism "line" is to identify such charges as "Zionist propaganda."

The onus of dealing with most protests received by the Soviet Embassy on the Jewish question falls on Gennadi V. Gavrikov, the Embassy's Second Secretary. Mr. Gavrikov generally replies by quoting statistics on the Jewish population in Russia, official statements on the status of the Jewish community, and the "evidence" of the Council for Judaism. A typical letter from Mr. Gavrikov concluded as follows:

"And here is further evidence coming from Mr. Leonard R. Sussman, executive director of the American Council for Judaism. This is what he had to say concerning the question in his address before the annual conference of the Council in Chicago, Ill., on May 11, 1962:

"We have talked with Soviet experts in the government and out; they see no substantiation of the broad charge of persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union.... The State Department told us, as it told others, there is no government-inspired anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union at this time. Recent trials of Jews, the Department told us, were 'ostensibly not for religious activity but for alleged involvement in speculations or other criminal offenses.' I hardly need to add anything more on this subject."

Ignores State Department Report on Soviet Anti-Jewish Acts

There is no public record of any statement by the American Council for Judaism modifying its position in the light of the declaration by the State Department in March that the United States Government's concern over anti-Semitic developments in Russia had been made known "at the highest levels of the Soviet Government." The Department disclosed then it had received information "officially and from private observers" that anti-Semitism existed "in many areas of the Soviet Union."

The State Department noted that pressures on the Jews were such that "Jewish religious activities have been curtailed to the point where functioning synagogues are a rarity and opportunities to train and educate Jewish religious leaders have been virtually eliminated." The State Department also charged that Jews in the Soviet Union "are receiving a disproportionate amount of condemnation and victimization" in the Soviet campaign against economic crimes. It warned that "the publicity given the trials will in all probability have the effect of buttressing already existing anti-Semitic prejudices through the association of identifiably Jewish persons with economic violations."

Council's Statements Seen Lending Aid to Communist Propagandists

The statements by the American Council for Judaism have been most helpful to Communist propagandists seeking to combat the impression made here by Soviet anti-Semitism. The March issue of "New World Review," formerly "Soviet Russia Today," relies heavily on a Council for Judaism memorandum and the Sussman report to the Council's annual conference last year to disprove the charges.

The magazine is listed by the United States Subversive Activities Control Board. Its editor, Jessica Smith, the author of the article on Russian Jews in the March issue, is described as "a long-time member and functionary in the (Communist) Party, as well as in the party-controlled Friends of the Soviet Union."

Mr. Sussman's report on what he said the State Department told him about the position of the Jews in Russia is a highlight of Mrs. Smith's defense of the Soviet Union. The author went further than the Embassy aide and quoted Mr. Sussman as asserting that "Russian Jews, on the whole, are among the privileged classes of the population." Mr. Sussman pointed out, according to the magazine, that "of course, it is convenient to use Jews to whip the Soviet, just as it is convenient to use the cold war to produce mass manpower for Israel."

The Communist publication also quoted extensively from a memorandum it said the Council for Judaism had issued on Dec. 11, 1961, which denied that Jews suffered any greater religious disabilities in Russia than other religions and justified the execution

of Jews in the Leningrad and Moscow spy trials. "New World Review" quoted this memorandum as stating that "there is no evidence that any large number of Jews... desire greater religious participation, after several generations of downgrading of religion."

Justifies Spy Trials in Russia; Seeks to Involve Israel

In justification of the spy trials, the magazine quoted the Council memorandum as follows: "It is generally acknowledged that Israel has one of the most effective espionage services... We note the Israel-Zionist effort to interfere in the internal affairs of countries wherever there are large Jewish populations. We recognize this to be part of a single pattern which commits Zionist agencies to the policy of 'ingathering all Jews in Israel.' Consequently we oppose every step to carry out this policy as applied to Jews of the United States and we recognize that the same forces are often directed toward Jews in other countries."

Typical of the letters written by members of the American Council for Judaism to editors of newspapers commenting editorially on Russian anti-Semitism is one which appeared in the Washington Post and Times-Herald earlier this year. The letter complained that American newspapers gave almost no attention to the "even severer restrictions on Soviet Islam" and asked: "Is the American press for freedom of religion in Russia only for those religious groups which have counterparts in the United States?"

The letter protested advocacy by "certain right-wing Congressmen and segments of the media" to withdrawal of the American Ambassador from Moscow because of Soviet anti-Semitism and insisted that "surely our relations with Russia can no more be governed by their Jewish policies than their Jehovah Witnesses policies or our relations with India by their caste system."

The letter linked the Council for Judaism position on the Soviet Union with its enmity to Israel in asking: "How many of the religious leaders who protested to Russia (over discriminations against the Jewish religion) would be willing to protest to Israel over its anti-Moslem and anti-Christian policies?"

MOSCOW REPORTED BUILDING SECRETLY PLANS FOR EGYPT TO LAUNCH MISSILES

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union is secretly building plants for the launching of surface-to-air missiles by Egypt, according to a Cairo report in the Daily Express here today. The launching pads are reportedly being located, at the request of Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser, in various strategic spots in Egypt, and one of these plants, at Aswan, in Upper Egypt, is "already operational."

At the same time, the report stated, Nasser has ordered a crash program for the development of supersonic jet fighters with a speed of Mach-2, twice the speed of sound, capable of carrying air-to-air missiles against Israel. The Express report stated that, with these steps by Nasser, "the Middle East arms race is on in earnest," the previous balance of arms in the region having turned into "a balance of terror."

The newspaper's correspondent stated he had learned in Cairo that work on four of the missile launching pads is "well advanced." The pads, he stated, are to use the Russian SAM-2 missiles. These are the weapons that brought down Gary Powers, the American U-2 pilot whose downing in the Soviet Union caused a major United States-Soviet Union crisis. The same Russian weapons reportedly brought down other American fliers that penetrated the airways over Cuba.

PERES REPORTS TO BEN-GURION ON HIS HAWK MISSILES TALKS IN U.S.

TEL AVIV, April 9. (JTA) -- Shimon Peres, Deputy Defense Minister, and Col. Ezer Weizmann, Air Force commander, returned yesterday from a brief visit to Washington where they reportedly negotiated with United States officials on the purchase of supersonic Hawk missiles.

Colonel Weizmann said there would be no difficulty for Israel to absorb and operate the ground-to-air missiles which the United States agreed last year to sell to Israel. Mr. Peres, who met with President Kennedy at the President's request, said he was impressed by the President's intimate knowledge of Middle East affairs.

Immediately on arrival, the Deputy Defense Minister flew from Lydda to Jerusalem for a personal report to Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion. He also met with Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister.

Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion said today, in reply to a question about West German scientists aiding Egyptian advanced weapons development, that if Israel had any reason to fear Egypt -- "and it has" -- it was only from Egypt's conventional weapons. He made the statement in an interview with Davar.

Syrians Open Heavy Machinegun Fire on Israeli Fishermen

TEL AVIV, April 9. (JTA) -- Israeli fishermen on Lake Tiberias came under Syrian fire again at dawn yesterday, Israeli officials reported today. A number of boats came under surprise attack from heavy machinegun fire from a position north of Ein Gev in the demilitarized zone. The fisherman called for help and a police boat came to their rescue, covering their retreat from the machinegun fire. The police boat suffered damage when it was hit by phosphorus bullets.

EICHMANN'S AIDE REPORTED IN ITALY; FLEES LUGANO HOME BEFORE DISCOVERY

MILAN, April 9. (JTA) -- The hide-out of an Austrian businessman, Erich Rajakovic, said to have been a key wartime aide to Adolf Eichmann, was reported today to have been found in Lugano at the same time that he left his home here on Friday night with his wife. The hideout was found abandoned.

(A report from The Hague today said that the Dutch Government, responding to reports that Rajakovic had fled to Switzerland from Italy, was considering asking the Swiss to extradite him. The extradition would be based on Rajakovic's reported connection with the transport of 110,000 Jews from Holland to the Mauthausen, Auschwitz and Treblinka murder camps.)

Rajakovic's departure preceded the appearance of reports in Milan's "Corriere della Sera," identifying him as an assistant to the Gestapo colonel who was tried in Jerusalem, found guilty and hanged last May. Press reports quoted his son as saying on Friday night that a "defamatory campaign" was being waged against his father. The son also disappeared a few hours later. Neither the son nor the father left any traces, according to Italian journalists.

The Milan newspaper said that Rajakovic, who had lived in Milan since 1957, had been identified by the Jewish Documentation Center in Haifa as a top Nazi who had been in charge of a Nazi concentration camp at Nisko, in Galicia, where 6,000 Jews perished. Later, it was established, he went to Prague and then became director of the Nazi "Special Office for Jews" in Holland and Belgium. After the war, he fled to Argentina, leaving when Peron fell from power. He had not been heard from since, until his whereabouts in Italy were disclosed.

The Rome daily, "Messaggero," asserted that the Austrian consulate in Milan probably knew more about Rajakovic's whereabouts than it was willing to reveal.

MEASURE TO EXEMPT JEWS FROM SUNDAY CLOSING DEFEATED IN MASSACHUSETTS

BOSTON, April 9. (JTA) -- Supporters of an amendment to the Massachusetts Sunday closing law, which would exempt Jews and Seventh Day Adventists, expressed hope today that the measure, which was defeated last week in the House, would have better luck in the Senate.

The lower chamber rejected the amendment by a vote of 108 to 104. The measure had been reported out to the floor with a favorable report of the Legislative Committee on Mercantile Affairs. Rep. Freyda Koplow, author of the bill, pleaded with the House before the vote, noting that such an amendment had been declared constitutional by the U. S. Supreme Court.

Rabbi Samuel J. Fox, representing the Massachusetts Council of Rabbis, stressed that the narrow margin of defeat indicated a gain over the votes mustered last year when the bill previously had been rejected.

TURKEY CONCLUDES AGRICULTURAL PACT WITH ISRAEL; WILL EXCHANGE EXPERTS

ISTANBUL, April 9. (JTA) -- Turkey and Israel concluded an agricultural cooperation agreement in Ankara which provides for an exchange of experts in various fields of agricultural technical cooperation, it was reported here today.

Turkey will send experts for special training and study of Israel's agricultural methods in various fields from poultry to irrigation techniques. Israel in turn will send experts to Turkey for training in fields of cotton and tobacco.

RABBI CASPER APPOINTED CHIEF RABBI OF JOHANNESBURG; BORN IN BRITAIN

JOHANNESBURG, April 9. (JTA) -- The United Hebrew Congregation of Johannesburg, an Orthodox body, announced today it had received an acceptance from Rabbi Bernard Casper, Dean of Students at Hebrew University, for the post of Chief Rabbi.

Rabbi Casper will come to Johannesburg in August to fill the pulpit, which was vacated two years ago by Rabbi Louis L. Rabinowitz, who settled in Jerusalem. Both rabbis were born in Britain. The offer was extended last week by a unanimous decision of the synagogue's board.

VISCOUNT HERBERT SAMUEL'S WILL MADE PUBLIC; LEFT \$81,000 ESTATE

LONDON, April 9. (JTA) -- Publication of the will of the late Liberal statesman and first High Commissioner for Palestine, Viscount Herbert Samuel, disclosed today he had left an estate of 29,000 pounds (\$81,200). After a number of bequests, including a gift of 250 pounds (\$700) to the Liberal Party, he left the residue to his three sons and a daughter.

MRS. GEMMA CAMARINI, WIZO LEADER IN BRAZIL, DIES AT AGE OF 61

SAO PAULO, April 9. (JTA) -- Mrs. Gemma Camerini, long-time president of the Sao Paulo Wizo and of the Brazilian Wizo Federation, died here suddenly at the age of 61. Wife of the president of the Sao Paulo Zionist Organization, Mrs. Camerini helped found Wizo in Brazil after World War II, and was a member of the World Presidium of the organization. She was an active leader of all Zionist affairs in Sao Paulo.