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MEMBERS OF CONGRESS TO OPPOSE AMERICAN FINANCIAL AID TO EGYPT

WASHINGTON, April 15. (JTA) -- Democrats and Republicans today indicated that they will oppose further American financial assistance to Egypt, in view of the fact that such assistance enables the Egyptian Government to secure armaments from the Soviet Union and other countries, thereby endangering the relative peace in the Middle East.

Chairman Emanuel Celler, of the House Judiciary Committee, announced that he would offer an amendment to the pending Foreign Aid bill, to prevent Egypt "from using American aid in any manner endangering the peace in the Middle East." He cited the Egyptian missile build-up. "We cannot afford to lose sight of the fact that Egypt refused to recognize the existence of the State of Israel, and has again threatened to push her into the sea," he said.

Rep. William E. Miller, chairman of the Republican National Committee, said today that the Republican members of Congress will oppose further American financial assistance to Egypt. "Our economic aid to President Nasser," he said, "has enabled him to divert enough money to purchase massive armaments from Soviet Russia and other Communist bloc countries, to engage in a costly military adventure in Yemen, involving some 100,000 Egyptian soldiers, and to pay for the development of offensive missiles."

The Republican national chairman, who serves as a Congressman representing New York, pointed out that "American taxpayer dollars, therefore, make it possible for the USSR to threaten, not only Israel, but other sovereign Mid-East states where we have considerable strategic, political and economic interests."

Rep. Miller charged that "pious statements and assertions of friendship to the threatened countries cannot obscure the fact that our money is used to weaken the stability of the Near East and world peace, and, in fact, contributes to the danger of war." He said that "aside from conservation of our resources and protection of our economic interests, it is high time to put a stop to such an immoral and blundering policy."

According to Rep. Miller, "the impending union between Egypt, Syria and Iraq, under leadership of President Nasser, should be the occasion for a critical new look at the U.S. foreign aid program in the Near East." Other Republican leaders likewise indicated recent days, owing to the Egyptian missile build-up, that they will inject this issue into debate on the Foreign Aid bill now pending.

Six Senators Express Anxiety Over German Nuclear Activities in Egypt

Senator Hugh Scott, Pennsylvania Republican, issued a statement criticizing the State Department for "doing almost nothing" to alleviate "the potentially explosive situation" in the Middle East. Sen. Scott is one of six Senators who wrote to President Kennedy last week, urging his intervention with the West German Government against permitting German nuclear scientists to build missiles in Egypt.

Each of the six anxious Senators received a reply signed by Averell Harriman, Under Secretary of State, saying that Egypt is "seeking to create its own source of fighter aircraft, using Western resources, and is trying to reduce its current, almost total reliance on the Soviet for military equipment." He added that the German citizens working on the German rocket program "are few in number" and that "it is by no means certain they would obey a summons from their government to return home."

"You can rest assured," Mr. Harriman wrote, "that we have a deep and continuing interest in the security of Israel and other Middle Eastern states. I can say without any hesitation or qualification that a constant priority emphasis of the Department of State is on measures to reduce Middle East tensions. Many of our efforts are well known, but many are necessarily shielded from public view."

Cairo Accord Will Lead to 'Liberation of Palestine,' Says Egyptian Envoy

NICOSIA, April 15. (JTA) -- The Egyptian Ambassador to Cyprus asserted today that he sought in current talks between Egypt, Iraq and Syria "will speed up the liberation of Palestine, of every inch of Arab territory in the hands of imperialists and will thus terminate misfortune, injustice and tyranny." The statement was made by Mostafa Lofty in a press interview.

USSR RETURNS PACKAGES OF MATZOTH TO SENDERS IN STOCKHOLM

STOCKHOLM, April 15. (JTA) -- Ten out of 11 packages of matzoth, sent from this city to individuals in the Soviet Union, have been returned without explanation, it was announced today by Rodef Chessed, the Swedish Association for Jewish Assistance.

The parcels, each containing over 12 pounds of matzoth, had been addressed to Jews in 11 different Soviet cities. All the parcels returned had been opened by Soviet customs authorities. Tass, the Soviet news agency, had announced prior to the Passover season that matzoth could be sent to individuals in the Soviet Union.

Two members of Sweden's Parliament, who had sent appeals to Soviet authorities in Moscow, requesting that matzoth baking be permitted there, said today that they have as yet received no answers to their requests.

From Moscow, it was reported here today that a capacity audience, including many Jews, crowded the Maly Theatre in the Soviet capital when, during Passover, an Italian theatrical company gave a performance of "The Diary of Anne Frank." The Italian company, playing in the Soviet Union under a cultural exchange agreement, had to negotiate at length to get permission to put on "The Diary of Anne Frank," and was finally allowed to give the drama two performances--although all other plays by the troupe were to be given five performances.

Jews in the Maly Theatre audience wept and later pelted the actors with flowers, thanking the Italians profusely for the performance, the report said.

JEWISH GROUPS APPEAL TO UNITED NATIONS BODY AGAINST SOVIET EXECUTIONS

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., April 15. (JTA) -- Declaring that the Soviet Union has put to death at least 141 persons accused of economic crimes in the last two years, and that 60 percent of the victims were Jews, the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations appealed to the Economic and Social Council here today to pay particular attention "to these tragic abuses" of human rights by Soviet authorities.

The issue was raised in a letter to Ambassador Alfonso Patino, of Colombia, president of the Council, from Label A. Katz, international president of B'nai B'rith and chairman of the CBJO. The latter body, which has consultative status before the Council, giving it the right to non-voting intervention in ECOSOC debates, is composed of B'nai B'rith, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies.

The Economic and Social Council, a major UN organ ranking equally with the Security Council and the General Assembly, is holding a series of important sessions here now. Last week, American and Soviet delegates to the Council clashed on the issue of capital punishment, a subject concerning the Council because of its effect on human rights.

In today's communication, the CBJO informed the Council that the USSR has "reinstated the death sentence for such offenses as embezzlement of state funds, pilfering of state property and currency speculation." Pointing out that, in most lands, capital punishment is meted out only for crimes involving loss of human life or other major offenses like rape, the CBJO declared that the USSR's policy places "property rights above human rights."

(The New York Herald Tribune reported from Moscow today that at least eight persons with Jewish names were executed, while seven others whose names seemed Jewish were given long prison sentences, in another mass trial of Soviet citizens charged with "economic crimes." The trial was reportedly held in Lvov, in the Ukraine, two months ago. The men believed Jews given the death sentence were identified as A. S. Aberbukh, Y. M. Fuks, F. D. Meskhov, E. I. Akseirud, M. I. Rubashny, S. P. Elgurt, D. S. Rozenblat and D. I. Zkharinsky.)

"The Jewish community," the CBJO letter stated, "has been profoundly disturbed by the fact that 83 of those who suffered the death penalty were Jews. Since Soviet Jewry represents about one percent of the USSR population, the gross disproportion of finding it responsible for 60 percent of the economic crimes warranting the death penalty corresponds neither to reason nor to fact." The letter charged the Soviet Union with "acting out of a desire to offer up a scapegoat for the social and economic ills" of its own society.

Since ECOSOC is now planning worldwide celebrations, next December, of the 15th anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the CBJC suggested to the Council that "this is the appropriate time for the Council to study the tragic abuse to which capital punishment can be put, particularly when these laws are administered with prejudice."

TEN UKRAINIANS EXECUTED IN KIEV FOR AIDING NAZIS IN GAS CHAMBERS

LONDON, April 15. (JTA) -- Ten Soviet Ukrainians charged with having aided the Nazi regime during World War II by killing 15,000 persons in the gas chambers of Sobibor, near Maidanek, in Poland, have been executed after a trial in Kiev, according to a dispatch from the Soviet Union received here today.

The principal witness against the men was a Soviet army officer named Fechersky, a name common among Jews in Russia. Otherwise, however, the dispatch did not identify the victims as Jews--a fact well known here as well as in the USSR.

POPE JOHN SEEN DETERMINED TO REMOVE ANTI-JEWISH TRACES FROM RITES

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- Determination on the part of Pope John XXIII to remove any anti-Jewish traces from Catholic rites and prayers was seen in Jewish circles here today, following the Pope's dramatic action in making a prelate restart a Good Friday prayer in Latin that contained the words "perfidious Jews" and omit the word "perfidious."

The 81-year-old Pontiff ruled four years ago that the word "perfidious" referring to Jews be omitted from the prayer. By mistake, however, the canon sang the old text of the prayer during the Good Friday services in St. Peter's Basilica. Pope John, hearing the word "perfidious," immediately ordered the prayer-chant restarted, and the word "perfidious" omitted.

(From Rome, it was reported today that the Vatican organ, L'Osservatore Romano, denied yesterday that the prelate acting as canon sang the old format of the prayer. The Vatican newspaper said that Fernando Cardinal Cento, the canon, read the prayer without hesitation and without the use of the word "perfidious." However, several newspapers in Italy, as well as correspondents from foreign newspapers who attended the services, insisted that the Cardinal acting as canon inadvertently made a lapse which the Pope caught and had the prayer started afresh.)

The American Jewish Congress and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith today joined other national Jewish organizations in praising Pope John's encyclical of last week. Rabbi Joachim Prinz, AJC president, said in a press statement that the encyclical "ill surely rank as one of the most significant documents of our time."

Core Schary, national chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, declared that "there is much encouragement and hope" to be derived from the encyclical. "The fact it is addressed not only to Roman Catholics but to all men of good will may presage a new era of intensified cooperation among people of all faiths," Mr. Schary said.

POLAND BARS CORRESPONDENTS FROM COVERING GHETTO REVOLT ANNIVERSARY

LONDON, April 15. (JTA) -- Poland has refused to issue visas to British newspaper and television correspondents who had planned to report the 20th anniversary commemoration of the Warsaw Ghetto revolt, scheduled to be held in Warsaw next weekend. The reason given here by the Polish Embassy today is that "the pressure on hotel accommodations in Warsaw is so great, that these accommodations are being reserved for people whose relatives were directly involved in the Ghetto uprising." That statement was made here by Stanislaw Kostarski, First Secretary of the Polish Embassy.

Michael Cliffe, a Labor member of Parliament, chairman of the 120-man British delegation going to Warsaw for the commemorative ceremonies--a group that includes non-Jews as well as Jews--informed the Jewish Telegraphic Agency here today that he has told the Polish Embassy here "in no uncertain terms" of the disappointment over the visa denials. While the ceremonies in Warsaw "must not be marred," he declared, he will "say more about it" in Warsaw. "It is the most lamentable excuse I have ever heard," he said, "and is bound to cause a lot of bad feeling."

Television producers for the British Broadcasting Corporation and for the Independent Television network, as well as some of this country's best-known radio and TV commentators, had planned on going to Warsaw for the occasion. They said today they had confirmed hotel reservations a month ago. One of the top producers, Girdon Reese, said "they just don't want British television there. This must be one of the silliest examples of discrimination ever."

It was learned today that some Polish-Jewish ex-servicemen in this country have also been denied visas for the occasion. Only one British correspondent has been allowed to cover the Ghetto revolt commemorative exercises. This man happens to be in Poland now--for an entirely different reason, according to the Polish Embassy here.

Polish Visas Refused to Three Members of the Israeli Delegation

TEL AVIV, April 15. (JTA) -- The Israeli delegation to the commemorative exercises marking the 20th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto rebellion, was considering today the possible cancellation of its scheduled trip to Warsaw, because some members of the delegation have been refused Polish visas.

The Israeli delegation was scheduled to leave for Warsaw tomorrow, under the chairmanship of former Attorney General Gideon Hausner, the chief prosecutor in the Adolf Eichmann case. The delegation was to represent jointly the World Federation of Polish Jews, Yad Vashem, the Israeli-Poland Friendship Committee, the Partisans Organization, the Organization of Persons Injured during the Nazi Persecutions and the Ghetto Fighters Museum.

During the weekend, however, it was learned, three members of the Israeli Poland Friendship Committee were refused visas. Zvi Klemantinovsky, chairman of the Friendship Committee, said today: "For years, we have been making efforts to foster good relations between the two countries. Now, I don't know what to say." Visas have been issued to three members of the Friendship Committee: Mr. Klemantinovsky; Shlomo Gal, former Israeli Consul in Warsaw; and Dr. Chaim Drobkin. However, with others being banned, it was uncertain whether these three will go to Poland.

KENNEDY LINKS SPIRIT OF WARSAW GHETTO AND RISE OF STATE OF ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- President Kennedy, in a message to the 2,000 guests attending the Histadrut Third Seder last night at the Waldorf Astoria, stated that "it is perhaps the profoundest lesson of the Passover that each generation may also draw sustenance from the hope of freedom. The spirit of the people of the Warsaw Ghetto foreshadowed the reality of a democratic Israel."

The Passover fete, sponsored by the Histadrut Council, marked the 20th anniversary of the uprising of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto and the 15th anniversary of the State of Israel. Louis Stulberg, general secretary-treasurer of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union, was toastmaster. Guest speakers were Under Secretary of Labor John F. Henning and Professor Cecil Roth, of Oxford.

In his message, President Kennedy said: "The ancient festival of freedom you celebrate coincides this year with the 20th anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising and the 15th anniversary of the foundation of the State of Israel.

"The concurrence of these anniversaries is a fortuitous reminder, if any need be given, that many generations have been called to taste, in their turn, the bitterness of loss of freedom. It is perhaps the profoundest lesson of the Passover, however, that each generation may also draw sustenance from the hope of freedom. The spirit of the people of the Warsaw Ghetto foreshadowed the reality of a democratic Israel.

"The future belongs to the free, not only because free societies have been able to assemble impressive material wealth and expand human knowledge but because the nature of man is set on a course toward ultimate liberties and realizations. Man's destiny today is no different from that of those led out of Egypt; it is escape from bondage. It is the particular pride, and the particular obligation of American citizenship that we have a central role to play in this greatest of history's dramas."

Six memorial candles were lit in a ceremony dedicated to the 6,000,000 Jews who perished under Hitlerism. Samuel Bonchek, vice-president of the Farband Labor Zionist Order, delivered the eulogy. Dr. Sol Stein, executive director of the National Committee for Labor Israel, opened the festivities at the Waldorf-Astoria. The Third Seder, a modern addition to the Passover week functions, was inaugurated by the National Committee 31 years ago as a tribute to present-day pioneers in Israel.

JEWISH CONGRESS OPPOSES LEASING OF PUBLIC SCHOOL TO ORTHODOX GROUP

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- New York State legal authorities have been asked for a ruling on whether the New York City Board of Education is allowed to lease public school classrooms for use by a Jewish parochial school, it was announced here today.

Dr. Bernard E. Donovan, acting superintendent of New York schools, said he had asked for a ruling on the issue from Dr. Charles A. Brind, counsel for the State Education Department. The move is favored by the applicant for the lease, the Beth Jacob Schools, and is opposed by the American Jewish Congress and the Public Education Association.

Beth Jacob Schools had offered to lease six classrooms in Brooklyn's Public School No. 105, a building with a capacity of 1,934 pupils and an enrollment of 940. Dr. Donovan said he had approved the rental previously, but had asked the City Board of Education to delay approval until a ruling had been obtained from State authorities.

According to the American Jewish Congress, the rental would set a "dangerous precedent" which would "threaten to establish religious segregation in the public schools." The Congress objection added: "Mingling public and parochial or private school children in the manner suggested here is bound to have unfortunate effects on both groups of children. Religious or other symbols that may characterize the children's or the teachers' garb or their facilities would add to the confusion."

JEWISH LABOR COMMITTEE ANNOUNCES RETIREMENT OF JACOB PAT

NEW YORK, April 15. (JTA) -- The retirement of Jacob Pat, who has served as executive secretary of the Jewish Labor Committee for the past 23 years, was announced here today by JLC national chairman Adolph Held.

In accepting Mr. Pat's resignation, the JLC Administrative Committee expressed "deep regret and sincere appreciation of the outstanding leadership provided by Jacob Pat during his long years of service." Mr. Pat indicated that his resignation was motivated by health reasons. He intends to devote his time to writing.

MRS. HILDA MARSHAK SCHECHTER, COUNCIL OF JEWISH WOMEN LEADER, DIES

BAYONNE, N.J., April 15. (JTA) -- Mrs. Hilda Marshak Schechter, a member of the board of the National Council of Jewish Women, and assisting head of the Council's field department, died here yesterday. She was 49. She was also a member of the national council of United Hias Service and of the advisory council of the National Jewish Welfare Board. Funeral services were scheduled for Wednesday.