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KENNEDY WATCHING TREATMENT OF JEWS IN RUSSIA; KEEPS EYE ON EGYPT

WASHINGTON, July 25. (JTA) -- President Kennedy indicated today that he may consider friendly intervention with the Soviet authorities to relieve pressures on Jews in the Soviet Union. He also indicated that he was observing the Egyptian rocket build-up, with an appreciation of Israel's concern.

The President expressed his sentiments to National Commander Morton London, of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, who was received in the White House. Citing the prospect of a thaw in American-Soviet relations, Mr. London told the President that the time might be ripe for Presidential intercession with Soviet leaders on behalf of Russian Jews.

Mr. London cited a recent State Department letter to the J WV, containing evidence of the increasing persecution of Jews in Russia. President Kennedy made it apparent that he would give the Russian Jewish situation further thought, and that he was concerned.

In his half-hour meeting with the President, Mr. London also cited aspects of the Egyptian military build-up, and contended that the State Department may not have properly evaluated developments. Mr. Kennedy then revealed that he was following the situation very closely. His response was attentive, sympathetic, and encouraging, said Mr. London.

The J WV commander commended the President on his liberal immigration proposals to phase out the national origins quota system. The President appreciated the support of the Jewish community on immigration reform and on his civil rights program. Mr. London told Mr. Kennedy that the J WV would try to help implement integration by participating actively in local bi-racial committees and on the legislative front. Mr. London was accompanied by Felix Putterman, J WV national legislative director.

Position of Russian Jews Discussed With Soviet Church Delegation

MONTREAL, July 25. (JTA) -- The position of Jews in the Soviet Union, in the light of the experiences of other faiths there, was discussed here by leaders of the Canadian Jewish Congress with a group of delegates of the Orthodox Church of Soviet Russia, who came to Montreal to participate in the fourth World Conference of Faith and Order, being held here under the aegis of the World Council of Churches.

The CJC leaders expressed concern over the fact that the Jews in the Soviet Union have no opportunity of developing a collective life as a religious group, and seem to suffer from a specific policy different from that applied to other denominations, which leads to an enforced disintegration of the Jewish community. They also expressed concern that synagogues are being closed and that facilities are denied to Soviet Jews to establish national organizations for common religious purposes along the lines available to other religious faiths, and that they cannot maintain contact with Jewish communities outside Russia and participate in world Jewish gatherings.

Also discussed was the inability of Jews to obtain matzo for Passover, and the practicability of each family baking matzo on its own, which apparently is permissible in Russia. The availability of religious articles and prayer books and the training of religious personnel were also a matter of discussion with the Soviet clergymen.

The position of Jews was analyzed by the Soviet visitors in light of the basic approach of Moscow's policy toward religion generally. They claimed that no religious denomination is treated either with special favor or being discriminated against, and that Jews have the same opportunities as followers of other faiths to practice religion.

Michael Garber, president of Canadian Jewish Congress, and Lavy M. Becker, chairman of the national foreign affairs committee of the Congress, led the Jewish group.

MOSCOW'S CHIEF RABBI SHARPLY REBUKED BY CHIEF RABBI OF ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, July 25. (JTA) -- A protest by Moscow's Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin to the Israel Embassy in the Soviet capital against alleged distribution by Embassy staff members of Hebrew prayer books and prayer shawls to Moscow Jews, was received here today. It evoked immediate reaction on the part of Israel's Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim.

The Israeli Chief Rabbi categorically rejected the allegations contained in the protest of the Moscow rabbi that the Israel Embassy had "disturbed" the peace of the Jewish community in Moscow by distributing religious articles in the synagogue there. In his letter of reply to the Moscow rabbi, the Chief Rabbi of Israel expressed "regret and deep hurt" over the fact that religious leaders of the Moscow Jewish community protested to the Israeli Embassy.

"Even if the Embassy officials did provide the members of the synagogue in Moscow with religious articles, how could this be regarded as a disturbance?", Chief Rabbi Nissim argued in his letter. Pointing out that it is generally known that there is a great shortage in the Soviet Union of prayer books, prayer shawls, mezuzoth and other Jewish religious articles, Rabbi Nissim expressed hope that "by Divine intervention, all barriers to our Soviet brethren in obtaining needed religious articles will be lifted." He added that "if Israel Embassy officials did alleviate the dire shortage of such articles, they should be blessed rather than censured."

Rabbi Levin's protest had been sent in his name and in the name of the elders of the Central Synagogue in Moscow. They urged the Israeli Embassy to halt the distribution of the religious articles, saying they were not needed by the congregation, and asking the Embassy to desist from such further gifts.

The letter charged the Embassy with abusing the hospitality of the Moscow synagogue by "sowing confusion and bitterness" among the worshipers. Until the Embassy officials appeared on the scene, the letter stated, synagogue prayers were carried out in joy and holy splendor.

TWO ISRAELI CITIZENS ARRESTED; CHARGED WITH SPYING FOR EGYPT

TEL AVIV, July 25. (JTA) -- Two Israeli citizens have been arrested on charges of espionage on behalf of Egypt, it was announced today. Israeli police officials said one of the men returned recently from Europe, where he had made contact with Egyptians.

Upon his return, the man was placed under surveillance, and this led also to the arrest of the second man. The names of both were not revealed. One is 23, the other is 29, police said. They will both be tried soon, the announcement stated.

SEVERAL HUNDRED ISRAELIS SAVED FROM ENTERING EGYPTIAN PORT

TEL AVIV, July 25. (JTA) -- Six hundred ship passengers, most of them Israelis, on the way to Israel, were narrowly saved from entering a port in the Gaza Strip, the Israeli Coast Guard announced today. The passengers included 150 new immigrants on the way to this country.

Coming from a Southern European port on a Turkish ship, the Iskadrin, the captain of the vessel missed the lights of the Haifa port, due to fog, and continued southward. He saw the lights of another port and, thinking he had reached Haifa, was about to enter that harbor.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Coast Guard was searching for the Iskadrin. The Coast Guard made radio contact with the Iskadrin just in time to prevent its entry into Gaza, guiding it to Haifa.

SENATE BODY ELIMINATES AMENDMENT AIMED AT CHECKING AID TO EGYPT

WASHINGTON, July 25. (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today adopted an amendment eliminating from the foreign aid bill the Keating-Halpern amendment which would deny aid to countries like Egypt which use their own funds to buy Soviet arms.

The committee also eliminated a policy statement calling for freedom of navigation in international waterways, and the right of Americans of Jewish faith to travel and do business in Arab countries.

CARVALHO RESIGNS UNEXPECTEDLY AS PRESIDENT OF ANGLO-JEWISH ASSOCIATION

LONDON, July 25. (JTA) -- R.N. Carvalho, since 1954 president of the Anglo-Jewish Association, resigned today, effective October 1. The unexpected resignation will be filled by the AJA Council when it meets in early fall. Mr. Carvalho said his resignation was due to "personal reasons."

SYRIA RELEASES THREE ABDUCTED BELGIANS; HOLDS THREE ISRAELIS

TEL AVIV, July 25. (JTA) -- Three Belgian citizens -- a mother and two sons -- who, along with three Israelis, were abducted by Syria last week on Israel's Lake Tiberias, were returned to Israel today through the Bnot Yaakov Bridge on the Israel-Syrian border. The three Israelis were still being detained by the Syrians today, with no indication as to when they might be released.

Immediately after their return, the Belgian family were questioned by Israeli authorities concerning the circumstances of their capture. In a protest over the incident earlier this week to Maj. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, Foreign Minister Golda Meir emphasized that the lake is entirely within Israel territory.

ISRAEL'S FINANCE MINISTER BACKS 11 PER CENT INTEREST RATES BY BANKS

JERUSALEM, July 25. (JTA) -- A Communist motion to lower Israeli bank interests was voted down in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, here today after it had been opposed by Pinhas Sapir, Minister of Finance, Trade and Industry. Moshe Sneh, one of the Communist leaders, moved to have interest rates fixed by law at 7 per cent for agricultural loans and at 9 per cent for other purposes. The rate is now 11 per cent.

Mr. Sapir told the House that lowering the rates for borrowers would entail reduction of the interest rates paid to savers. The result, he said, would be to drive savers to withdraw their funds and spend the money on consumer goods. In fact, he held, Israel's economy is expanding, and there is a heavy demand for capital, with the supply limited. Reduction of the interest rate "in an economy hungry for capital," he declared, would only drive money into the black market, thus making credit more expensive for the very groups which Mr. Sneh professed he wanted to protect.

MEMBER OF ISRAEL'S SUPREME COURT REGRETS HIS REMARK ON RELIGION

JERUSALEM, July 25. (JTA) -- Justice Minister Dov Joseph reported to the Knesset last night that Supreme Court Justice Chaim Cohen has expressed regret that his recent remarks comparing the rabbinic definition of a Jew with the Nazi racist Nuremberg laws had given some people the impression that it was his intention "to disparage the Jewish religion."

Dr. Joseph told the Israel Parliament that he did not intend to accede to the suggestion of the Agudat Israel and Poale Agudat Israel deputies that Justice Cohen be brought before a disciplinary court. He said that the jurist's remarks, delivered before the recent American Jewish Congress Dialogue in Israel, were apparently taken out of context and created a false impression.

In his remarks at the Dialogue which aroused strong criticism in religious quarters, Justice Cohen had declared: "It is one of the bitterest ironies of the State that the same racist approach that was propagated by the Nazis and characterized the infamous Nuremberg laws should, because of an alleged sacrosanct Jewish tradition, become the basis for official determination or rejection of Jewishness in the State of Israel."

Dr. Joseph informed the Knesset that Justice Cohen had expressed his regret over the statement in a letter to Supreme Court President Yitzhak Olshan as soon as he saw his remarks reported in the press. "Anyone who heard his whole lecture," Mr. Joseph declared, "knew that nothing was further from his mind than to insult the Jewish religion." He said that nobody familiar with Justice Cohen's views or judgments on the excellence of Jewish law and the possibility of adjusting it to the needs of the State would suspect him of any such intention.

U.N. TO COOPERATE WITH ISRAEL ON EXPERIMENTAL FRESH WATER PROJECT

TEL AVIV, July 25. (JTA) -- Tahal, the Israeli Government water planning agency, and the United Nations Special Fund will cooperate in the development in this country of a water project, whereby fresh ground-water will be siphoned from the seas by means of coastal ground-water collectors, it was announced here today.

The announcement was made by Raymond Gautherau, resident representative in Israel for the U.N. Technical Assistance Board, and Aharon Wiener, managing director of Tahal. The U.N. Special Fund will contribute \$350,000 for the experimental project, while Tahal will spend 1,800,000 pounds (\$600,000).

The project is expected to take eight years to complete. The experts estimated that, ultimately, fresh water thus taken from the seas would yield 40,000,000 to 100,000,000 cubic meters of water annually.

JEV ELECTED MAYOR OF WINNIPEG BEACH; SEES REBUKE TO SWASTIKA SMEARERS

WINNIPEG, Manitoba, July 25. (JTA) -- Lawrence E. Tapper, 60, prominent Jewish resident of Winnipeg Beach, north of this city, was elected Mayor of Winnipeg Beach, it was announced today. Mr. Tapper had one opponent, Patrick E. Irwin. He is the first Jew ever elected to that office.

Mr. Tapper has been active in Jewish and general community affairs for many years. He is a past president of B'nai B'rith Lodge 650, former international deputy for A.Z.A., a B'nai B'rith youth organization, and a member of Shaarey Zedek Congregation. He is a member of an early pioneering family in this area, dating back to the 1870's. The names of his parents, Elias and Yetta Tapper, were listed in Winnipeg's first city directory.

In an interview with The Jewish Post here, Mr. Tapper declared: "I attribute my election not only to my election workers in Winnipeg Beach and the city, but to the entire non-Jewish element, by far the greatest majority of electors, who are very much ashamed and revolted by the recent defacing of the synagogue and the swastika contagion at the Beach."

JEWISH PARTICIPATION IN HENRY FORD CENTENNIAL DISPUTED IN DETROIT

DETROIT, July 25. (JTA) -- The question whether Jews should serve on a committee of civic leaders set up by the mayor of Detroit to observe the 100th anniversary of the birth of Henry Ford, is raised in the Jewish News here by its editor and publisher, Philip Slomovitz.

Two Jews have accepted membership on that committee. Mr. Slomovitz questions the "wisdom of those who join in honoring an arch anti-Semite." He points out that the U.S. Post Office Department has rejected a request that a commemorative stamp be issued on the occasion of the 100th anniversary of the birth of the automobile tycoon.

"Henry Ford" he argues, "not only was personally responsible for the spread of anti-Semitism, when he first began to distribute the faked 'Protocols of the Elders of Zion' and his atrocious hate-inciting pamphlet 'The International Jew'. Even long after his apology to the Jewish people for his actions--an apology made in order to put an end to the libel suit that was pending in a Detroit court in 1927-- he was responsible for the spread of his anti-Semitic ideas in Germany and in Latin America, in addition to the damage he had done to this Jewish fellow-Americans."

Rabbi Leon Fram, one of the Jewish participants in the Henry Ford Centennial Committee of Detroit, in a statement in The Jewish News, said: "Henry Ford's anti-Semitism was an episode in his life. It was not his principal interest or activity. Above all, the fact remains that Henry Ford apologized. He took action during his lifetime to purge himself of the sin of his anti-Semitism. What more can a fair-minded person ask? Even though it is true that his apology did not undo the evil his anti-Semitic publications had wrought, it is also not to be questioned but that his complete and unconditional apology also made a strong impression on the American people and served greatly to repudiate anti-Semitism in American life and reduce its impact."

THREE MAJOR CANTORIAL ORGANIZATIONS IN U.S. FORM OVER-ALL COUNCIL

CHICAGO, July 25. (JTA) -- The three major Cantorial organizations, Jewish Ministers Cantor's Association of America and Canada, Cantors Assembly of America, and American Conference of Cantors, have joined together in the formation of an over-all body to be known as The Council of American Cantors, it was announced here today.

The three bodies encompassing the cantors who serve congregations of the three major arms of American Judaism -- Orthodox, Conservative and Reform -- will continue to function independently as heretofore, but through this new body will unite the American cantorate on those problems and issues which are common to all three.

The new group will be concerned with maintaining the high standards of the cantorate and with the delineation of the evolving role of the cantor in the American synagogue. Election of officers and the establishment of a permanent headquarters for the Council will take place early in the fall.

CHARLES GUTWIRTH, JEWISH PHILANTHROPIST, DIES IN NEW YORK; WAS 71

NEW YORK, July 25. (JTA) -- Charles Gutwirth, prominent Jewish philanthropist and diamond merchant, died here today at the age of 71. Born in Antwerp, Belgium, Mr. Gutwirth came to the United States in 1939. He was a vice-president of Ampal and of the Israel Development Corporation, one of the founders of the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University, an active supporter of the United Jewish Appeal, the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, the Weizmann Institute of Science, in Rehovot, and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of Greater New York.