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VATICAN TO ESTABLISH SECRETARIAT TO DEAL WITH NON-CHRISTIAN FAITHS

RCME, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- A special secretariat to promote good relations with the principal non-Christian religions will be set up by the Vatican, according to an announcement made this weekend by Pope Paul VI.

The Pope's announcement was contained in a letter to Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, dean of the College of Cardinals and head of the Presidential Council of the Ecumenical Council which opens its second session on September 29.

(The New York Times reported from Rome today that the new interfaith secretariat would probably be concerned with Oriental and Middle Eastern religions but not with the Jewish religion. "Jewish-Catholic relations are currently the concern of the Secretariat for Christian Unity," the Rome correspondent emphasized.)

While the Pope gave no indication whether non-Christian religious observers had been invited to the resumed Council session, Vatican sources said here today that formation of the new secretariat leaves the door open for the participation of non-Christian observers at the Council session, although no plans have yet been made to this end.

(In New York, the American Jewish Committee said: "We warmly welcome the step by Pope Paul VI to extend the scope of the Secretariat to include relationships with non-Christian religions. This action will contribute to much desired increased understanding among all religions and it will, of course, substantially advance Catholic-Jewish amity. This step of His Holiness is in keeping with the spirit that prompted the historic accomplishments for the enhancement of human understanding of his saintly predecessor, Pope John XXIII.")

SOVIET TREATMENT OF JEWS CONDEMNED AT LATIN AMERICAN CONFERENCE

RIO DE JANEIRO, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The Soviet Government's treatment of the country's Jews was sharply condemned here today at a conference of intellectuals from 12 Latin American countries in which the Soviet's anti-Jewish policy was described as "cultural genocide," and the situation was compared to the plight of Jewry under the Spanish inquisition.

Some 50 delegates including writers, novelists, university rectors and professors are attending the meeting devoted to the situation of Soviet Jewry. Austregesilo de Atahude, president of the Brazilian Academy of Letters, called upon the Soviet Union to implement its own constitution in preserving Jewish cultural and religious rights.

German Arciniegas, a Colombian writer and diplomat, deploring the discrimination in the Soviet Union against Jewish culture and the Yiddish language, declared: "Jewish culture obviously surpasses that of Uzbeks, Yakuts and Usitans. Why with one hand stimulate the development of stammering languages and with the other deprive the Jews of their schools? Why interrupt a multiseular chain of culture which proved so useful to the progress of the Western World and was not foreign to the very formation of the Soviet State? Yiddish is not, as the Soviet Encyclopedia states, a dead language. It is what it ever was-- a language of faith."

Stressing the importance to the Jewish people of the cultural contributions of Russian Jewry, Senator Aron Steinbruch, vice-president of the Confederation of Brazilian Jewish Organizations, told the delegates: "If the Land of Israel was the cradle of the ancient Jewish people, the Russian land was the birthplace of almost everything which is today important in the Jewish world. In territories now part of the Soviet Union were born almost all movements which impressed their mark on today's Judaism. We think of what Russian Judaism meant to the Jewish people and what its disappearance might signify."

Other speakers addressing the conference included Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, president of the DAIA, national representative organization of Argentine Jewry, who said that "morally and spiritually, the important Jewish minority is being stifled."

In a message to the conference, former Brazilian President Juscelino Kubitschek said that he joined the delegates in urging the Soviet Government to grant full rights to Jews. He declared: "As a citizen of a nation where Jews enjoy full freedom, I appeal to the Government of the USSR that they reformulate their policies with regard to the problem."

Other messages were received by the conference from Artur Illia, president-elect of Argentina; Carlos Lleras Restrepo, presidential candidate of Colombia; Rafael Caldera,

presidential candidate of Venezuela; Felipe Gil, Uruguayan Interior Minister; Waldo Frank, American writer; Emilio Fortes Gil, former President of Mexico; Ignacio Chaves, rector of the University of Mexico; Eduarro Santos, former President of Colombia; and Romulo Gallegos, former President of Venezuela.

A delegation representing the conference attempted to obtain an interview with the Soviet charge d'affaires here, Andrei A. Fomin, but the delegates were told he could not receive them.

SEN. HUMPHREY LAUDS U. J. A. AT THREE-DAY PARLEY OF YOUNG LEADERS

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Senator Hubert H. Humphrey of Minnesota, a ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, hailed the United Jewish Appeal last night as "one of the greatest voluntary instruments for life saving and life building ever created by Americans."

In a deeply moving address that was the highlight of a three-day gathering of 400 Young Jewish leaders attending the Third UJA Annual National Young Leadership Conference at the New York Hilton Hotel, Senator Humphrey called the UJA "a supreme expression of man's acceptance of the concept that he is, and must be, his brother's keeper."

Speaking at the banquet session of the conference, which was presided over by Alan Sagner, of Newark, N. J., chairman of the UJA Young Leadership Cabinet and the Conference, the Minnesota Senator called on the young Jewish leaders, most of them between 25 and 40, to complete the tasks of Jewish rescue and reconstruction "begun by your elders," and also to "fight constantly for human rights and peace."

The three-day gathering of young leaders, drawn from major communities across the country, and members of a Young Leadership Council of 6,500, also heard major addresses by Avraham Harman, Israel Ambassador to the United States, Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA executive vice-chairman, and Mr. Sagner. At the same time detailed presentations of Middle East problems, along with immigrant absorption needs in Israel and urgent refugee requirements in Europe and elsewhere were made by authoritative speakers at various conference sessions.

Ambassador Harman Calls to Aid Jews Abroad Maintain Their Freedom

Ambassador Harman told the young Jewish leaders at the closing session today that it is their task "to help maintain the freedom for Jews overseas already won by their elders and the people of Israel." He spoke on the gains that had been made by Jews since the founding of the State of Israel 15 years ago and the establishment of the UJA a quarter of a century ago.

Rabbi Friedman, UJA executive vice-chairman, speaking last night, declared that "over the last quarter of a century, the UJA has been the great unifier of the American Jewish community. "Since its inception at the time of the Hitler menace," the Appeal's executive head noted, "the UJA has brought together under one banner virtually all elements in American Jewish life -- religious and non-religious, Zionist and non-Zionist, labor and capital. The UJA has enabled the American Jewish community to transcend all ideological differences, thus creating a common will for the saving of Jewish lives and the resettlement and rehabilitation of uprooted Jews in Israel and other havens of freedom, including our own country."

Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice-chairman, reporting on the tasks of his organization, said France has recently become the scene of a most pressing Jewish refugee problem. "In the last two months," he said, "requests for relief by Jewish refugees from Algeria have doubled and will probably quadruple by October. As of now, one in every six repatriated Algerian Jewish families is registered with Jewish welfare agencies, 3,000 families in the Paris region alone."

UJA funds are not keeping pace with the third successive year of a high rate of immigration to Israel, and this is adversely affecting the program for transporting, receiving, resettling and absorbing these immigrants, the young leaders were told by Gottlieb Hammer, executive vice-chairman of the Jewish Agency, Inc., which benefits from UJA funds. Another factor complicating the situation, Mr. Hammer said, is the fact that immigration costs today are much higher than those of the first years of Israel's statehood.

In opening the conference, Mr. Sanger told the assembled young leaders: "It is our generation's responsibility to carry forward the great rescue and life-renewing work of the United Jewish Appeal begun by our fathers in the Hitler era." Mr. Sagner, a member of UJA's policy making executive committee, who is serving his second term as general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal of Essex County, New Jersey, told the young leaders "we must be pragmatic as well as idealistic. It is not enough for us to want a better world, we have to go out and work for it."

At the concluding session today Rabbi Isidore Breslau, UJA national chairman, urged the 400 young communal leaders "to carry forward with vigor and with imagination of youth" the work of helping millions of Jews "which your fathers have so well done." Other speakers at the conference included I. L. Kenen, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee; Philip Soskis, executive director of the New York Association for New Americans; James P. Rice, executive director of the United Hias Service; Paul Bernick, executive director of the American ORT Federation, and Zvi Kolitz, Israel author.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON ISRAEL BONDS DECIDES ON INTENSIVE DRIVE

WASHINGTON, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The three-day National Planning Conference for Israel Bonds, attended by more than 500 Jewish leaders from the United States and Canada, today closed with the adoption of a program of intensive campaign activity after receiving messages from Prime Minister Levi Eshkol stressing Israel's reliance on wider American bond support.

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, reported that during the period from January 1 through September 13, 1963, cash sales of Israel bonds amounted to \$34,000,000 or \$5,500,000 more than the amount obtained during the same period of last year. The results of the 1963 drive to date represent an increase of approximately 18 per cent over the results of 1962. The 1963 quota is \$75,000,000.

Reporting on redemption of bonds which began last May, Dr. Schwartz stated that since then the State of Israel paid out \$7,250,000 in principal and interest on Israel bonds during that period, or 50 per cent of the total amount due to be redeemed. Bonds maturing in 1963 amount to \$24,500,000.

Dr. Schwartz said the fact that only half of the maturing bonds have been presented for collection reflected a high degree of confidence on the part of bond holders. It was also a gratifying demonstration of solidarity with Israel that more than half of the \$7,250,000 paid out was immediately re-invested in new Israel bonds.

Israel's Urgent Needs Outlined by Minister Almogi

Josef Almogi, Israeli Minister of Development and Housing, told the delegates that while the Cold War is growing less intense in other parts of the world, things are getting hotter in the Middle East. Israel, he said, continued to be "the only country in the world whose neighbors daily threaten to destroy her" and subsequently must build deterrent power to prevent aggression.

Mr. Almogi outlined a program of pioneering development that would reclaim large portions of the Negev and the central Galilee for immigrant settlement. He said this undertaking depended on Israel bonds. He told of the need to develop 250,000 acres in the Galilee and further exploit the resources of the Negev.

He cited as an example of problems the fact that Israel is now building 16 housing units per 1,000 population, as compared with a rate of seven per 1,000 in the United States. The Israeli population, he said, was growing by four per cent annually - 100,000 per year - based on immigration and natural increase compared with a rise of less than two per cent in wealthier nations.

U. S. Curtailment of Aid to Israel Cited at Conference

Abraham Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization, characterized the beginning of the redemption of the first Israel bonds last May as "a giant step toward the attainment of economic self-reliance." Twelve-year Israel savings bonds purchased in 1951 are now being repaid at the rate of 150 cents on the dollar, he pointed out. He said this removed the last question mark about Israel's economic future and affirmed the effectiveness of the bond program.

Aryeh Manor, Economic Minister of the State of Israel, told the delegates that Israel's dependence on bonds is much greater as the state is being "phased out" of U. S. Government assistance programs because of her economic progress. He said some U. S. authorities feel that Israel, which no longer receives grants, should not even receive further low interest government loans. Bond sales are needed, said Mr. Manor, to "get us completely over the hump" because "we can see the top."

Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the board of governors of the bond organization, noted that "the generous financial aid which Egypt has been receiving from the United States for non-military purposes" has helped President Nasser divert Egyptian funds to military acquisitions from the Soviet Union. He said "the people of Israel cannot and will not permit themselves to live in a fool's paradise."

EX-NAZI POLICE OFFICER TESTIFIES ON GASSING OF 233,000 LODZ JEWS

HANNOVER, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- A former Nazi police officer, appearing as a prosecution witness in the trial of two former Nazis accused of helping to murder 233,000 Lodz ghetto Jews in 1942, testified this weekend that he thought the Kulmbach extermination camp was a recreation center for sick Jews.

The prosecution witness, Ottmar Roese, testified that he had been told there was an old castle at Kulmbach "where ailing Jews were sent to recuperate and I was foolish enough to believe it." Roese, who was wartime commander of the Nazi security police in Lodz, gave the testimony at the trial of former SS Lt. Col. Otto Bradfisch, 69, and Guenther Fuchs, 52, who had been Gestapo "chief for Jewish affairs" at Lodz in Nazi-occupied Poland.

The witness said that he later learned what was really taking place in the northern Bavaria camp and "immediately drove out there to take a look for myself. It was awful. They were just herding a group of screaming people into the gas vans, and their shrieks subsided only a full 20 minutes later."

JEWISH GROUPS URGE ADOPTION OF FEDERAL EQUAL ACCOMMODATIONS LAW

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Six national Jewish organizations and sixty-six Jewish community councils joined today in urging the adoption of federal legislation against discrimination in places of public accommodation, as proposed by the Kennedy Administration in its civil rights program.

The six national organizations are American Jewish Congress, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the U. S. A., Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and United Synagogue of America. Together with the 66 community councils, all are affiliated in the National Community Relations Advisory Council through which they coordinate policies and programs.

"It is imperative," they declared in a statement submitted to the Senate Commerce Committee, "that federal legislation be passed to eliminate discrimination in hotels, restaurants and other public facilities. It is the obligation of Congress to enact such legislation to ensure that those who have been promised equal rights will in fact receive them. Jews are not unfamiliar with the humiliation which results from approaching a facility supposedly open to the public and being turned away with either crudely anti-Semitic remarks or inadequate evasions which clearly reveal the bias of the speaker," the statement stressed.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF Touro SYNAGOGUE MARKED WITH CELEBRATION

NEWPORT, R.I., Sept. 15. (JTA) -- The Touro Synagogue here, which was designated as a national historic shrine by the U. S. Government in 1946, today marked the 200th anniversary of its dedication with ceremonies attended by prominent national personalities and Jewish communal leaders. The synagogue building is currently undergoing an extensive restoration in honor of the event.

The ceremonies included the reading of the historic letter from George Washington to the congregation in 1790 in which the first President used the famous phrase, "to bigotry no sanction, to persecution no assistance..." In an address to the gathering, Senator Jacob Javits of New York called on Americans to emulate the courage and convictions of founders of the Touro Synagogue "by pushing toward a goal of equal opportunity for all Americans with our personal as well as public commitments clear and unequivocal."

MYER BROWN, LABOR ZIONIST LEADER, HONORED ON HIS 75TH BIRTHDAY

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Meyer L. Brown, president and founder of Farband-Labor Zionist Order and a foremost American Jewish communal leader, was feted here today on his 75th birthday.

The 50-member national executive board, representing the more than 40,000 families affiliated with Farband in 321 branches in 127 communities in the United States and Canada, met in a special festive session at Farband House, to salute the man who exactly 55 years ago this month called together the first group of young Jews in Philadelphia to lay the foundation for what was subsequently to become a large national Jewish fraternal order.

Tribute was paid to Mr. Brown by Louis Segal, general secretary of Farband, and Samuel Bonchek, national vice-president. Hundreds of congratulatory messages were received from the heads of Jewish organizations in the United States, Israel and other parts of the world.

B. SUMNER GRUZEN, PRESIDENT OF AMERICAN TECHNION SOCIETY, HONORED

WEST ORANGE, N.J., Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Declaring that to ignore "Egypt's military build-up, plus Nasser's insatiable ambition to rule over all Arab governments is to turn our backs upon reality," Congressman Emanuel Celler, Democrat of New York, chairman of the House Judiciary Committee, warned here that tension in the Middle East brocks ill for the western world.

Congressman Celler was principal speaker at a testimonial dinner tendered in honor of B. Sumner Gruzen, president of American Technion Society, a nationwide group that provides financial and technical assistance to the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, the oldest institution of higher learning in Israel.

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR DR. DUBOVSKY; AUTHOR OF MANY BOOKS

NEW YORK, Sept. 15. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Dr. Benjamin Dubovsky, 75, noted physician who devoted a major portion of his career to writing and lecturing on medicine. At the time of his death he was editor of a medical column in the Jewish Daily Forward.

Born in Talno, in the Ukraine, he was brought to the United States by his parents when he was 13 years old. He received his M.D. 12 years later from the New York University College of Medicine. He was the author of numerous books both in English and Yiddish. One of his works, "Jesus, Jews and Gentiles," published in 1948, stirred considerable controversy.