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VATICAN COUNCIL REPORTED NOT YET READY WITH STATEMENT ON JEWS

ROME, Oct. 17, (JTA) -- Vatican circles denied today reports which appeared this morning in the American press, claiming that a declaration on relations between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people has been completed and is being printed for distribution to the Fathers attending the Ecumenical Council.

Circles close to the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity, headed by Augustin Cardinal Bea--who was supposed to have drafted the declaration--denied that such a declaration was about to be distributed or even that it is being printed now. They said this document is still subject to elaboration. They denied also that Cardinal Bea is about to deliver a speech to the Ecumenical Council on this subject.

In reporting that the document is already in print and ready for distribution, the report in the American press said the declaration contains the following points:

1. The Church owes its origins to Judaism, with which it shares the heritage of the Old Testament.
2. Roman Catholics should never forget that Jesus was a Jew and his family and the Apostles were Jews.
3. The guilt for the death of Jesus falls more properly on all humanity than on Jews.
4. The Church disapproves of the anti-Semitism of the past and of the present. It has an abiding affection for the Jews, and takes the strongest possible view of those who have hatred and contempt for them, or persecute them.

The report in the American press emphasized that as of today, it was still not certain whether the declaration will be debated at the current session of the Council, scheduled to close before Christmas. In all likelihood, it will be discussed at the resumed session to be held next spring, it was reported.

The report emphasized that the declaration would establish once and for all that the Catholic Church officially disassociates itself from the age-old charges of deicide leveled against the Jewish people. A preliminary step toward removal from the Roman Catholic liturgy of references apt to be offensive to Jews was taken by the late Pope John XXIII in March 1959. He ordered the deletion from the Good Friday prayers of the phrase "perfidis Judaeis" in an ancient text, referring to the crucifiers of Christ and continuing "Oremus pro perfidis Judaeis," or "Let us pray for the perfidious Jews." The Pope's order was implemented by the Sacred Congregation of Rites.

Dr. Goldmann Takes Issue with Report on Ecumenical Council

NEW YORK, Oct. 17, (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, in his capacity as president of the World Jewish Congress, today issued a statement taking issue with a New York Times report from Rome declaring that the declaration on Catholic-Jewish relations--now being printed by the Vatican for distribution among the Fathers attending the Ecumenical Council--was ready for submission at the first session of the Council last year but was tabled because Dr. Goldmann had announced in Rome that Dr. Chaim Wardi, director of Christian affairs for the Israeli Ministry of Religion, would attend the Ecumenical Council as an unofficial observer representing the Congress.

Dr. Goldmann declared the "whole story is completely wrong." He said that Dr. Wardi was never appointed as unofficial observer to the Ecumenical Council and Dr. Goldmann never announced his appointment. Some Israeli papers, he stated, reported about the intention of the World Jewish Congress to appoint Dr. Wardi and an Italian News Agency took over this story.

Dr. Goldmann pointed out that he was always aware of the fact that an observer to the Council has to be invited by the Council and that the World Jewish Congress has no possibility to appoint such an official observer.

"As a matter of fact," Dr. Goldmann said, "on several occasions I advised Cardinal Bea not to pursue the idea of inviting Jewish observers to the Ecumenical Council because of the opposition of Jewish Orthodoxy to it and the likelihood of an internal Jewish conflict whether to accept such an invitation or not which would only be harmful from the point of view of improving Jewish-Catholic relations which all Jewish organizations wish to bring about."

SENATE BODY BACKS SALE OF SURPLUS ISRAELI CURRENCY TO AMERICANS

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The Senate Foreign Relations Committee today voted approval of an amendment to the Foreign Assistance Authorization Bill to let the U.S. Embassies in Israel and a number of other countries sell surplus local currencies to American citizens for dollars at current exchange rates. The amendment was proposed by Sen. George A. Smathers, Florida Democrat.

The United States hopes to stem in this way the flow of dollars spent abroad by tourists. The amendment covers situations overseas where local currencies piled up through American aid and sales of surplus commodities are in excess of American Government needs. The measure would let the United States collect dollars for some of the so-called counterpart funds.

Under the existing law, counterpart funds can only be used in the local country of origin. Committee sources said the countries affected would be Israel, the United Arab Republic, Burma, India, Indonesia, Pakistan, Poland and Yugoslavia. A considerable amount of surplus Israeli pounds was held by the United States Government in Israel, it was reported.

BEN-GURION URGES 17 YEARS OF EDUCATION FOR EVERY ISRAELI PUPIL

TEL AVIV, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Former Premier David Ben-Gurion, addressing last night 3,000 delegates and guests at the annual convention of the Mapai Party, stressed the need for Israel to bridge the educational gap between its population of Western origin and those of its residents who had come from the less-developed African and Asian regions.

Receiving an overwhelming ovation from his party adherents, Mr. Ben-Gurion said he would not touch on political or security problems "which are in good hands." Instead, he told his party that Israel must become "an academic-labor nation." He demanded that every Israeli receive at least 17 years of education, from the age of 3. The last two or three years of an Israeli's education, he said, must be devoted to the learning of a profession or trade.

Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, told the convention that Mapai had "a very dark future if it continues to deal with day-to-day problems, in which there are already appearances of a lack of the just and human approach." He urged that Mapai renew ideologic discussions "to refresh our way of thinking and study practical views."

Messages of greetings and support were received by the convention from the Socialist International and from Harold Wilson, leader of the British Labor Party. The Socialist International noted, in its message, that its recent congress at Amsterdam had called on the Soviet Government to cease anti-Jewish discrimination, and to permit emigration for purpose of family reunification.

The message of the Socialist International expressed "warmest thanks" for Mapai's participation in the Socialist movement. "We would like the delegates to the Mapai convention to know," the message declared, "that an important service was rendered to the Socialist International by the distinguished representative whom Mapai put at its disposal for a mission to Africa, Latin America and Malta. These were important political assignments which Mapai helped us to fulfill."

Mr. Wilson, in his message, cited his "happy recollections" from his visit to Israel. He recalled that, prior to becoming the head of the British Labor Party, "I was able to get an insight into the work of both Mapai and Histadrut," the Israeli federation of labor. "I saw in Israel," he stated, "democratic Socialism put into practice by men and women who not only believed in their fate but lived it." His message was read by Capt. E. Shurt, the British Labor Party's chief whip in the House of Commons, who came here to represent the British Labor Party.

ISRAELI WINS GOLD MEDAL OF INTERNATIONAL ARCHITECTS ASSOCIATION

MEXICO CITY, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Israel's contemporary town and neighborhood planning became one of the leading subjects of the Conference of the International Architects Association held in Mexico City at which Aryeh Sharon, head of the Israel delegation, was awarded a gold medal in recognition of outstanding architectural achievement. He was also elected to the world executive of the Association.

The lecture of Mr. Sharon on modern concepts of large-scale planning received illustrated full-page coverage in leading Mexican newspapers. A special conference held by the Israel Embassy here, in which members of the Israel delegation gave additional explanation on Israeli town planning and architectural design, was attended by a large turnout of conference participants. The Israeli delegation also included M. Kuhn and N. Zolotov.

THREE MORE JEWS SENTENCED TO DEATH IN RUSSIA FOR 'ECONOMIC CRIMES'

LONDON, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Three more Jews have been sentenced to death in the USSR for alleged "economic crimes," it was reported in the Soviet press, received here today.

The latest issue of Tashkenskaya Pravda, published in Tashkent, capital of Uzbekistan, reported that four men have been given the death sentence, naming the following: Krendel, Lvovsky, Lemeshev and Turdyev. No first names were given. Of the four, all but Turdyev are Jews.

A copy of the Komsomolskaya Pravda, organ of the Communist youth party in the Soviet Union, was also received here today, showing that this newspaper has deliberately underscored a Jewish name among "economic criminals." In an article condemning such crimes in general, the youth organ mentioned only one name as the "latest example." The name was Margolis, clearly Jewish.

15,000 CELEBRATED SIMHAT TORAH IN MOSCOW RALLY; 10,000 IN LENINGRAD

PARIS, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Large Jewish crowds assembled to celebrate Simhat Torah last week in front of the synagogues of Moscow and Leningrad, it was reported here today in the influential daily, Le Monde.

The paper said that in Moscow, 15,000 Jews, a majority of whom were young people, sang and danced in front of the synagogue. The crowd, which, in spite of official anti-Jewish measures, tried to openly demonstrate its attachment to Judaism, was far larger and more enthusiastic than in previous years.

The open-air demonstration, which was watched by thousands of onlookers, reached its climax when the crowd broke into the popular Israeli song, Hevenu Shalom Aleichem (We Brought Peace).

In Leningrad, the president of the local Jewish community announced that the synagogue will be open only for four hours from four to eight o'clock in the evening. Some 10,000 persons crowded into the synagogue and into neighboring streets. Two hours later, 30 to 40 militiamen tried to disperse the crowd under the pretext that the noise was disturbing the quiet of an adjacent hospital. However, no one was arrested and the crowd dispersed quietly shortly before midnight.

ROME JEWS CLOSE SHOPS MARKING 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF NAZI DRIVE

ROME, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The collaboration of Jews and Italians in the partisan fighting against the Nazis here during World War II, and the efforts by many Italians, including priests and nuns, to rescue Jews from Nazi deportations, were recalled here yesterday in solemn ceremonies marking the 20th anniversary of the beginning of the Nazi campaign to exterminate Italian Jewry.

The majority of the shops in the Jewish quarter of the city were closed for the afternoon, when the ceremonies took place at the Portico Ottavio. That is the site at which the Nazis rounded up the first batch of 2,000 Jews in Rome marked for extermination, on the morning of October 16, 1943. In the presence of many thousands of Romans, including not only Jews but also members of Italy's highest courts and delegations representing the Parliament, Defense Ministry and the Army, the principal address was delivered by Judge Sergio Piperno, president of the Union of Jewish Communities of Italy.

Noting that at least 2,000 Jews fought the Germans in the Italian partisan units, Judge Piperno pointed out that seven Jewish partisans received gold medals for their heroism. Among the seven was the youngest partisan hero, 13-year-old Franco Cesano, who got his award posthumously, when he was raised to the rank of captain.

But Italians fought the Nazis alongside the Jews, Judge Piperno recalled. "The German atrocities," he said, "provided the occasion for the genuine Italian soul to prove its solidarity, to excel in helping the persecuted." He quoted Father Bernadetto, an Italian priest who helped reopen Rome's Great Synagogue after the liberation in 1944, saying that "monks and nuns opened their monasteries to Jews." In the Franciscan monastery on the Isle of Tiber, facing the ghetto, 400 Jews were saved from the Nazis, Judge Piperno stressed.

The Jewish leader pointed out that the Nazis were particularly bent on annihilating Jewish children. Of 8,000 Jews deported, he said, only 600 survived--but of the 1,400 Jewish children among the deportees, not one returned.

Defense Minister Andreotti, another of the principal speakers at the ceremonies, told the assemblage that "the highest Italian authorities here join you in a pledge of solidarity. We pledge that similar atrocities will never recur here." The ceremonies were concluded with the recitation of the kaddish by Chief Rabbi Elio Toaff. After the rites at the Portico Ottavio, services were conducted in the Great Synagogue, where Rabbi Toaff repeated the kaddish, joined by the crowded congregation.

JEWISH SEMINARY GETS GRANT FOR PSYCHIATRIC TRAINING OF RABBIS

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- The Jewish Theological Seminary of America has received a Grant Award of \$98,334 from the National Institute of Mental Health to develop a special psychiatric training program for rabbis, it was announced here today. The purpose of this program is to equip Conservative Rabbis to function more effectively in their role of counselor to troubled people, without diminishing their basic identification with the rabbinical role.

It was emphasized that the aim of the program was not to equip rabbis to substitute for psychiatrists or to provide direct psychotherapeutic services. Students will be trained to recognize symptoms of mental disturbance, so that such cases can be skillfully and immediately referred to appropriate professional personnel. Yet it was considered that a clergyman, acting as an understanding listener, giving support and concern to the problems brought to him, can provide relief to the moderately disturbed person.

TEMPLE EMANU-EL PRESIDENT SUES APARTMENT BUILDING ON BIAS CHARGE

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Alfred Bachrach, president of Temple Emanu-El, and Mrs. Bachrach, filed suit in Supreme Court here yesterday for \$320,000 in damages against the management of a cooperative Park Avenue apartment building, charging that they had been refused the right to buy an apartment in the building because they were Jewish. The Bachrachs asked for \$250,000 in punitive damages and \$70,000 in other damages they said they incurred for having to buy an apartment in another building.

The Jewish couple charged that they had made a \$10,000 down payment on an apartment in the building at 1001 Park Avenue in April 1960 but later that year they were denied the right to pay the balance. The defendants denied the charges. A hearing is scheduled for next Thursday.

REFORM RABBIS URGE FREEDOM FOR PROGRESSIVE JUDAISM IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- At a meeting of its executive board today, the Central Conference of American Rabbis noted with satisfaction the recent dedication of the Hebrew Union College Biblical and Archaeological School in Jerusalem. The leaders of American Reform Judaism declared there is a need in the State of Israel for the growth of a native Israeli form of Progressive Judaism and expressed the hope that such a movement would quickly flourish.

The rabbis deplored "the current impingement on the religious liberty of non-Orthodox Jews in the State of Israel by Orthodox Jewish leaders" as being contrary to the true nature of historic Judaism. The executive board, while not presuming to suggest what ought to be the relationship between the State of Israel and Judaism called Israeli attention to the successful American experience of complete separation between church and state.

BELGIAN KING RECEIVES CHIEF RABBI AND HEAD OF JEWISH COMMUNITY

BRUSSELS, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- King Badouin today received in audience at the palace Rabbi Robert Dreyfuss, Chief Rabbi of Belgium and Paul Philippson, president of the Central Jewish Consistory of Belgium. Rabbi Dreyfuss is the first Chief Rabbi of Belgium since the death in a Nazi concentration camp in 1942 of Rabbi Joseph Wiener. He was appointed last June.

J.N.F. HONORS TWO CHICAGO JEWS; PLANTS FORESTS IN THEIR NAMES

JERUSALEM, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Two members of the Chicago Jewish community were honored today when new forests bearing their names were dedicated by the Jewish National Fund in the Hills of Jerusalem.

The men are Morris Devoskin, whose name was given to a forest totaling 120,000 trees; and Theodore Lawless, whose name was given to a forest with 20,000 trees. Speakers at the ceremonies included Yaacov Tsur, world chairman of the JNF; William Robinson, JNF head in Chicago; and Rabbi Harold Tartner, of Chicago.

DR. GOLDMANN EXPRESSES GRIEF OVER PASSING AWAY OF EDMOND FLEG

NEW YORK, Oct. 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann as president of the World Jewish Congress issued a statement today expressing his deep grief at the passing away of Edmond Fleg who was the president of the French Section of the World Jewish Congress.

"Mr. Fleg," Dr. Goldmann said, "represented a unique synthesis of the loftiest Jewish traditions and ideals with the greatest achievements of French culture. He was a writer and a thinker of great originality and a deep believer in Jewish ideals and devoted to all Jewish aspirations both with regard to Israel and in the Diaspora. He was one of the leaders of the World Jewish Congress and exercised a great influence in the Jewish intelligentsia and Jewish youth in France. His passing away is a deep loss to the Jewish people."