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VATICAN OFFICIAL SAYS ECUMENICAL COUNCIL WILL 'SPEAK' ON JEWS

ROME, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- A high Vatican official today told a press conference here that it would be a "heavy disappointment" to the world and also "most tragic" if the Ecumenical Council now in session would not adopt a statement on Catholic-Jewish relations condemning anti-Jewish persecutions and absolving the Jews from guilt for the crucifixion of Jesus. He said that the Council "will speak on Jews."

The official, Msgr. John Osterreicher--a consultant member of the Vatican's Secretariat for Christian Unity--revealed that the Secretariat is receiving many letters and messages "from all sides" urging the issuance of a statement on Christian-Jewish relations by the Ecumenical Council. Indicating the possibility of such a statement, he said that the Council will speak not only for the sake of the Jews, but also for the sake of the Catholic Church "because the Church has a common heredity with the Jews and it must contribute to care for it."

Summarizing the substance of the requests received by the Secretariat for the adoption by the Ecumenical Council of such a statement, Msgr. Osterreicher said the statement should include:

1. A declaration that the history of the Church started with the patriarch and prophet and that the Church is deeply rooted in the Old Testament which is a continuation of ancient Israel. The main distinction of the Church outlook is that it embraces all humanity and it is "impossible" to forget the fact that it was Jewish expectations which Jesus came to fulfill.

2. It should point out that it is unjust to charge one people with guilt which is that of all humanity's, a reference to the crucifixion of Jesus.

3. The Church must contribute to the reparation of injustices and persecution done to the Jews in which so many Christians participated through silence or inaction. This was necessary to prevent similar horrors in the future.

Broadly, Msgr. Osterreicher stated, the Church should condemn any manifestations of hatred and any persecution against Jews, though such condemnation might be expressed also in more general ways in other conclusions of the Vatican Council.

Says Rejuvenation of Church Requires New Attitude Towards Jews

The Vatican official said that fears that Arabs might consider such a statement as taking sides in the Arab-Israel antagonisms were not justified, or at least were exaggerated, because the Council would not under any circumstances touch the political field. In any case, he declared, "the real wisdom is now to speak, whether it is opportune or inopportune," and in fact, "the Council will speak."

He stated that Protestants had made more progress in approaches to the Jews and to do likewise had become necessary to the Catholic Church from the ecumenical point of view. A rejuvenation of the Church, he added, requires a change in its attitude toward Jews.

The Vatican official pointed out that two Council Fathers--Msgr. Seper of Yugoslavia and Bishop Zenecevdov of Holland--had asked the Council to vote on the subject of Catholic-Jewish relations. The latter, in his appeal, had recalled the time linking the Church with the "people of those faithful loved by God, the God of their Fathers."

Replying to reporters' questions about the timing of the statement, he said he could not answer but that when it was accomplished, he hoped that public opinion all over the world would greet it.

Another question was whether the topic of relations between the Church and Jews would remain within the province of the Secretariat for Christian Unity or be turned over to a future Secretariat for non-Christian Religions. He said that Pope Paul wanted the present Secretariat to continue to handle the matter on grounds that the Jewish religion was a biblical one and, therefore, did not belong with other non-Christian religions.

ISRAEL'S CHIEF RABBI INTERVENES TO PREVENT NEW SABBATH CLASHES

TEL AVIV, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim was reported today to have intervened in the spreading controversy over zealot Sabbath demonstrations in Jerusalem by opening secret talks with leaders of the ultra-Orthodox Jews here.

Rabbi Nissim reportedly discussed with leaders of the Neturei Karta a plan to divert Sabbath traffic which now proceeds on a road which skirts the orthodox Mea Shearim section of Jerusalem. The road carries traffic through the Mandelbaum Gate which separates old and new Jerusalem.

The reports were that if the Government would show a real interest in the proposal, and indicate readiness to implement it, the ultra-zealot sect might consider dropping plans for new demonstrations next Saturday. Rabbi Nissim was said to have discussed the plan with Neturei Karta representatives and asked them to maintain complete secrecy until authorities have a look at it.

Israel's Parliament voted yesterday to turn the problem over to a committee after Premier Levi Eshkol reported that a Ministerial Committee was studying the possibilities of an alternate route for the Mandelbaum Gate traffic.

Israel Deputy Minister Says Both Camps Must Show Tolerance

NEW YORK, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- "Tension between orthodox and non-orthodox circles in Israel has reached a critical point. It is now the duty and responsibility of both these camps to control emotions, to calm spirits, and to call for tolerance," said Yitzhak Raphael, Deputy Minister of Health in the Israeli Government, at a reception that was held in his honor by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of America.

"Resorting to demonstrations and violence will not lead to any solutions. All efforts toward negotiations and mutual persuasion should be resumed. Orthodox Jewry has to determine carefully how to conduct its struggle in order to strengthen the influence of Torah in Israel, and in order to avoid a worsening of relations between groups and individuals who hold conflicting opinions," he declared.

WARBURG STRESSES LARGER J.D.C. NEEDS FOR 1964 AT GENEVA PARLEY

GENEVA, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- The economic and social dislocations in the countries in which the American Joint Distribution Committee operates, coinciding with swelling Jewish populations in France and Israel, pose problems which may require a larger JDC budget for 1964 than in 1963, Edward M.M. Warburg, JDC chairman, said here today.

He also told the 19th Annual JDC Country Directors Conference that "unless additional sums are made available to us, we will unquestionably be faced with the impossibly difficult problems of setting priorities for human needs in carrying out our programs for the coming year." Charles H. Jordan, JDC European director, was chairman for the conference.

Reports were presented from officials responsible for operating programs in 27 countries last year in which aid was provided to 277,000 men, women and children in a wide range of welfare services at a cost of \$30,000,000. Most of these funds are provided through the United Jewish Appeal.

Supplemented by a report by Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice-chairman, on a recent visit to Israel, the data presented indicated that the major problems facing the JDC are in Israel, France and the Moslem countries of North Africa and that 75 per cent of JDC funds are spent in these three areas.

Mr. Leavitt said that the mounting pressure of social problems in Israel is screened by its booming economy. He indicated that among the most critical of those problems were the absorption of newcomers from the North African countries and the education of their children.

MOSCOW JEWISH EDITOR, APOLOGIST FOR SOVIET POLICY ON JEWS, COMES TO U.S.

NEW YORK, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Aron Vergelis, editor of the Sovietische Heimland, the only Yiddish-language periodical published in the Soviet Union, is coming to the United States next month, it was revealed here today. Mr. Vergelis has been the principal unofficial Soviet apologist in the last year in regard to the situation of Soviet Jewry.

He is coming to the United States as a member of a delegation of prominent Soviet writers being sent here by the Soviet Government as part of a cultural exchange team.

RUSSIA WILL PERMIT NO JEWISH EMIGRATION, ARAB REPORT CLAIMS

LONDON, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- The Soviet Union has informed the Government of Syria and Iraq that it will not permit Russian Jews to emigrate to Israel, according to Arab League reports from Damascus today.

ANTI-JEWISH FEELINGS REPORTED GROWING AMONG MOSLEMS IN NORTH AFRICA

CHICAGO, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Some North African leaders in Tunisia, Algeria and Morocco are attacking Israel and Zionism as a political tactic in domestic politics and to regain prestige in the Arab world, it was reported here today at the opening session of the four-day meeting of the national executive board of the American Jewish Committee.

While not leveled against Jewish citizens or residents, these attacks "have helped create an accumulation of ill-will among Moslems toward their Jewish neighbors," the report stressed. "The anti-Israel, anti-Zionist attacks," the report stated, "demonstrated the continued proclivity of North African political leaders and political parties--even those considered moderate in the past--to use such tactics to discredit political opponents to bolster wavering popularity or to regain prestige with neighboring Moslem states and the Arab world."

In the midst of the general instability in North Africa, marked by real and alleged plots to topple regimes, and by border hostilities, there have been renewed attacks on Israel and Zionism in all three North African countries: In Algeria, the authorities proclaimed the existence of an anti-Algerian "Israeli plot." In Tunisia, Prime Minister Bourguiba has lashed out against Israel in messages to students; in Morocco, the Conservative opposition Istiqlal party stepped up its propaganda against Israel and Zionism in a line that was followed by other Moroccan political elements.

The report stressed, however, that despite anxiety felt by the Jewish communities in the three countries, "the anti-Israel campaign appears not to have affected their basic security and fundamental rights." The report said that of the 500,000 Jews who lived in North Africa 15 years ago, about 165,000 remain today. Recent mass migration has meant the disappearance of "Jewish communities which traced their history back for centuries." There are today 130,000 Jews in Morocco, 30,000 in Tunisia and approximately 5,000 in Algeria.

SEN. HART CALLS FOR SUPPORT OF PROPOSAL TO REVISE IMMIGRATION LAWS

CHICAGO, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Senator Philip A. Hart, Michigan Democrat, called last night for support of President Kennedy's proposal to revise immigration laws.

"The use of a national origins system is without basis in either logic or reason, and this system of admitting aliens was conceived in a period of fear, racism and isolationism," the Senator said. Senator Hart spoke to more than 400 persons at the 27th annual dinner meeting of the Jewish Welfare Fund of Metropolitan Chicago held here.

Under the existing system of annual quotas governing immigration, a specified number of aliens from each foreign country are allowed to enter the United States. "We do not seek larger numbers of immigrants," said Senator Hart. "We seek a law which speaks the spirit of welcome that is inherent in American history."

Morris Glasser, president of the JWF, gave an accounting of the stewardship of the distribution of the \$3,200,000 expected to be received this year from the Combined Jewish Appeal. Other speakers included David Silbert, president of the CJA; Joseph L. Gidwitz, president of the Jewish Federation, and Samuel A. Goldsmith, executive vice-president.

THREE-DAY CONVENTION OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND OPENS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Oct. 31. (JTA) -- Some 500 delegates from all parts of the United States attended the opening session here tonight of the three-day triennial Assembly of the Jewish National Fund of America.

The convention will hear reports on plans to reclaim Israel's Galilee wastelands, the progress of the JNF Foundation and the JNF Freedom Forest in Israel. Speakers who will address sessions include Yaacov Tsur, world chairman of the JNF; Sen. Hubert Humphrey, Minnesota Democrat; Avraham Harman, Israel's Ambassador to the United States; and Brig. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, Israel Deputy Chief of Staff.

Rep. Emanuel Celler, New York Democrat, addressing the inaugural dinner tonight--at which Rep. Abraham Multer, New York Democrat, was honored for his service to the JNF--told the gathering that the new Civil Rights Bill now before Congress would be passed. Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., Under Secretary of Commerce, described to the dinner guests his recent visit to the Middle East.

Other speakers included Albert Schiff, president of the Jewish National Fund of America, and Dr. Harris J. Levine, chairman of the JNF Foundation, which raises funds for the afforestation and land reclamation programs of the Jewish National Fund in Israel through bequests and wills, the transfer of Israel bonds, and assignment of insurance. The chairman of the JNF National Assembly Committee is Mendel N. Fisher.

AUSTRIAN JEWS IN CANADA PROTEST AGAINST 'INADEQUACY' OF COMPENSATION

TORONTO, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- Austrian Jews now living here protested sharply to the Austrian Government today against the "inadequacy" of the compensation Austria is now offering to former residents of that country who suffered losses under the Nazi regime. The protest resolution was adopted at a meeting of 170 former Austrian Jews living in this city. They said there are about 300 Jews of Austrian origin in Canada.

Speakers at the meeting complained that Austria is offering "hopelessly inadequate" compensation to Nazi victims, "far lower than the amounts paid in similar cases by the West German Government." Furthermore, they said, Austria is demanding documentary proof of losses which is not available "because the Nazis did not give receipts when they grabbed Jewish property." The group named a committee to carry the complaint to the Austrian Ambassador in Canada.

36 ARRESTED IN SWISS TOWN DURING CLASH OVER 'THE DEPUTY' PLAY

BASEL, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- The most violent reaction yet to a presentation of the internationally debated play, "The Deputy," was reported today to have taken place in the small Swiss town of Olten where 36 foes of the play were arrested.

They were part of a mob which invaded the theater during the play, smashed the theater's windows and fought with spectators and ushers. The play, by West German author Rolf Hochhuth, is based on the charge that the late Pope Pius XII failed to protest publicly against the Nazi slaughter of European Jewry.

A crowd of several hundred young men gathered around the Olten theater. They booed and whistled. Some of the demonstrators ran into the theater and tangled with ushers. Others busied themselves with smashing theater windows. Police broke up the riot and dispersed a crowd of 3,000 attracted by the melee. A similar clash marked the Swiss premiere of the play in Basel last month.

CENTRAL AMERICAN JEWISH LEADERS OPEN CONFERENCE IN BOGOTA TODAY

BOGOTA, Colombia, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- Rabbinical and other Jewish leaders from all of Central America and from a number of other Latin American countries began gathering here today for the second conference of the Union of Rabbis and Union of Jewish Communities of Central America and the Caribbean Area, to be convened here tomorrow.

A seven-point agenda will be discussed by the conference, according to the sponsors. The rabbis and other community leaders will discuss: 1) the establishment of yeshivahs in all Latin American countries; 2) the spiritual situation in the Jewish schools; 3) problems of shechita and kashruth; 4) spiritual ties between Latin American Jewry and Israel; 5) marriage and divorce; 6) teaching of the Torah in the Jewish schools; and 7) the relations between the rabbis and their communities.

The sponsors of the conference are Rabbi Abraham M. Hershberg, president of the Union of Rabbis of this region and vice-president of the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada; Rabbi Meir Rosenbaum, president of the executive committee of the Rabbinical Union of Guatemala; and Rabbi David Sharabani, of Bogota, vice-president of the regional Rabbinical Union.

AGUDATH ISRAEL OF AMERICA OPENS FOUR-DAY NATIONAL CONVENTION

GREENFIELD PARK, N. Y., Oct. 31, (JTA) -- The 41st national convention of the Agudath Israel of America opened here tonight with some 1,000 delegates and guests participating.

The conclave, which will continue through Sunday, will deal with such issues as the renewal of religious tensions in Israel, the situation of Russian Jewry and the deterioration of traditional religious standards in American Jewish life. The convention will also adopt a program for the strengthening of religious observance and youth education in this country and in Israel.

BROOKS HAYS NAMED NATIONAL CHAIRMAN OF BROTHERHOOD WEEK FOR 1964

NEW YORK, Oct. 31, (JTA) -- Former Congressman Brooks Hays, currently on leave as Special Assistant to President Kennedy, has been named national chairman of Brotherhood Week to be observed next February 16-23, it was announced today, by Dr. Lewis Webster Jones, president of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, sponsors of the observance.

Mr. Hays will lead the 31st celebration of Brotherhood Week which was first organized in 1933 as a special period when Americans of all religious groups might focus their attention on the problem of living together in good will and understanding, Dr. Jones said.