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TRIAL OF AUSCHWITZ KILLERS OF MILLIONS OF JEWS STARTS TODAY IN GERMANY

FRANKFURT, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- The trial of 22 former officers of the Auschwitz murder camp where an estimated 4,000,000 victims--mostly Jews--were annihilated starts here tomorrow. It is expected to be the biggest and most important of the Nazi war crimes trials since the Nuremberg tribunals of the late 1940's.

Eleven of the defendants are charged with multiple murders, and 11 with numerous counts of aiding and abetting murders. They will be tried in a hastily built court in the City Council chamber of Frankfurt.

All of the defendants were members of the infamous SS staffs on liquidation camps during the war but since then most of them have regained positions as respected and prosperous residents of the cities in which they live. They include several unskilled laborers, farmers, white collar workers, prosperous businessmen, a pharmacist, an agronomist, a gynecologist, two dentists, a civil engineer, a butcher and a heating engineer.

Evidence against them has been collected in 88 thick volumes of documents assembled by a prosecution team headed by Dr. Hans Grossman, district attorney. In the five years of pre-trial investigation, Frankfurt prosecutors questioned 1,300 witnesses from around the world. More than 200 of them are expected to be called during the six to eight months the trial is expected to last.

Two New York Jews to Testify as Witnesses; Called by Prosecution

Two New Yorkers are among the witnesses who will give evidence. They are Hillel Weltman of Brooklyn, N.Y. and Norbert Wollheim of Fresh Meadows, N.Y. Mr. Weltman was one of those contacted by the prosecution to give evidence.

Some of the defendants were low-ranking SS enlisted men who committed some of the worst atrocities in the tragic history of the scores of Nazi murder camps. Two of the defendants--Robert Mulka, 68, and Karl Hoecke, 52--were adjutants to the two most notorious commandants of the Auschwitz-Birkenau camp complex, Rudolf Hoess and Richard Baer. Hoess was tried and hanged by Polish officials in the first Auschwitz trial. Baer, who was discovered living under an assumed name as a lumberjack near Hamburg, died of a heart ailment in a Frankfurt jail last June awaiting trial.

Other defendants are Wilhelm Boger, 57, a guard platoon leader at Auschwitz from 1942 to 1945 and Hans Stark, 42, a cellblock guard at the camp. Boger escaped while being taken to Poland for trial in 1946 and lived in semi-hiding until 1959 when he was again arrested. He is charged with having selected inmates for shipment to the gas chambers and execution and participation in shootings at the block wall between cellblocks 10 and 11, as well as with having personally murdered more than 100 inmates many of whose names are known. Stark is charged with nearly 300 counts of murder.

Klaus Dyluski, a member of a guard company, Peri Broad, 52, and Johann Schobert, 41, all are charged with countless murders. Schobert was charged with sending hundreds of inmates to the camp ovens and with shooting dozens of victims. Bruno Schlage, 60, took part in the executions. Frank Hofman, 57, a former SS captain, was charged with killing hundreds of inmates.

Cswald Kaduk was charged with gassing and shooting more than 1,000 inmates. Stefan Baretzki, 44, was accused of killing dozens of inmates. Heinrich Bischoff, 59, was implicated in numerous executions, Arthur Breitweiser, 53, was accused of being an accessory in many of the killings. Dr. Frank Lucas, 52, was charged with being an accessory as a camp doctor.

Dentist Willi Frank, 56, and Dentist Willi Schatz, 58, were both charged as accessories to murder. Dr. Viktor Capesius, 56, a pharmacist, was charged with participation in murders, Josef Klehr, 59, was accused of multiple murders. Herbert Scherpe, 56, Hans Nierzwicki, 58, Amiel Hantel, 61 and Gerhard Neubert, 58, all were charged with similar crimes.

List of Auschwitz Guards and Executors Discovered by Coincidence

It was disclosed that pure coincidence was credited with starting the Auschwitz investigation in December 1958. Shortly before then, Emil Vulkan, a former Auschwitz inmate, visited Thomas Knielka, a reporter of the Frankfurter Rundschau, to complain about anti-Semitic

incidents in the Restitution and Compensation Office for Hesse in Wiesbaden. Vulkan also wanted public notice to speed up his own restitution case.

During the conversation, the former inmate told the reporter about some documents he had found on the street in front of the SS headquarters in Breslau on May 8, 1945, after the building had been set afire by Allied bombardment. The documents apparently had been blown out of the building by the bombing. Vulkan had saved them in a neat bundle for 15 years.

Knielke took the documents to Dr. Fritz Bauer, Hesse Chief Prosecutor, who discovered that they were lists of which Auschwitz guards had supervised which executions. The case that involves suspects from all parts of West Germany began then and there.

EX NAZI-OFFICER SENTENCED FOR FALSE STATEMENT ON DEPORTATION OF JEWS FROM HUNGARY

FRANKFURT, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Adolf Plunck, 54, Hamburg, a former SS major, was sentenced today to two months in jail with probation for making false statements in court that the SS unit for which he worked in Hungary in 1954 had not participated in the wartime deportation of Jews.

Although he was not under oath when he made the statement to an investigating magistrate, he was still liable under West German law. He made the false statement during a pre-trial investigation of charges against former SS Lt. Col. Hermann Krumei, aide to Adolf Eichmann. Krumei is scheduled to be tried here next year.

Plunck had been told that he did not have to give self-incriminating evidence and therefore did not need to give false testimony for his own protection, the judge ruled in imposing sentence. His unit was implicated in the deportations during the trial of Eichmann in Jerusalem.

BRITISH PRIME MINISTER REITERATES GOVERNMENT OPPOSITION TO ARAB BLACKLISTING TACTICS

LONDON, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Sir Alec Douglas-Home declared in the House of Commons today that he was "satisfied" that the Government could give to the 49 British firms blacklisted last week by Jordan and Syria "all the help that they need."

The Premier made the statement in reply to a question from Arthur Henderson, Labor MP, who had asked what steps the Premier was taking to coordinate the activities of the various Government departments affected by the blacklisting.

He said he agreed that the blacklisting actions were inconsistent with the principles of the United Nations Charter and deplorable, adding: "I have deplored many times here and in the House of Lords mixing up politics with economic relations."

In a related development, Arthur Lewis, another Labor deputy, asked the Secretary of State for Industry, Trade and Regional Development what official discussions he had had recently about the introduction of "racial discrimination" into normal trade in Britain and to what extent these discussions included the question of political discrimination.

Edward Ducann, the Minister of State, said in a written reply that "it has been made clear through the ambassadors of certain countries concerned" that the British Government "strongly resents any attempt to exert pressure on British companies for political reasons." He added that he had "no evidence in this connection of pressure for racial reasons."

SENATOR JAVITS TELLS SENATE U.S.I.A. IS NOT CATERING TO ARAB PREJUDICES AGAINST JEWS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, declared yesterday on the Senate floor that the United States Information Agency had no policy of catering in its overseas films to the political prejudices of Arab countries. The USIA has no such policy pertaining to its material nor will it ever adopt one," he told the Senate.

In the House, however, Rep. Leonard Farbstein, New York Democrat, said he would seek legislation authorizing the agency to include a non-discrimination clause because of the controversy over the reported deletion from a USIA documentary of a scene showing a rabbi. Rep. Farbstein said earlier this week he would seek a report from the agency on the reported deletion.

Rep. Farbstein said today that he had faith in USIA director Edward R. Murrow but that he felt that guidelines should be clearly stated for the agency to follow in view of its activities in Arab countries.

U.S. SUPREME COURT BAN ON PRAYERS COULD BE REVERSED, JUSTICE GOLDBERG SAYS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Supreme Court Justice Arthur J. Goldberg said today that a number of Supreme Court decisions have been reversed by American public opinion and this could also be done in the case of the Supreme Court's decision on prayers in public schools.

Mr. Goldberg commented on this controversial subject at ceremonies marking adoption of the United States Bill of Rights in the National Archives Building. He said that "power is derived from the people. They can always adopt an amendment reversing the court. Whether this would be wise, as a matter of policy, is another question." The Supreme Court ruled last June that Bible reading and prayers, as required exercises in public schools, were unconstitutional.

\$20,000,000 HOUSING PROJECT FOR ISRAEL CONCLUDED; AMERICAN FIRMS PARTICIPATE

NEW YORK, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- A \$20,000,000 housing project for Israel, involving seven major American insurance companies; the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc.; the Intercontinental Associates Inc., an American housing company established by a group of prominent real estate men headed by Jack D. Weiler of New York; and the Israel Economic Development Corporation (Chail), Ltd., was concluded this morning after an all-night teletype session with a group 6,000 miles away gathered around a teletype station in Tel Aviv.

This transaction involved \$9,000,000 of 15-year secured notes purchased by a group of insurance companies headed by Aetna Life Insurance Company, which took the major share. The others include New England Mutual Life Insurance Company of Boston; Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company of Philadelphia; State Mutual Life Assurance Company of America of Worcester; and Phoenix Mutual Life of Hartford, all four of whom participated in previous deals of similar character. The Fidelity Mutual and the Provident Mutual, both of Philadelphia, completed the lending group.

This total loan made possible the construction by Intercontinental Associates, Inc., of 4,000 immigrant housing units which will take care of approximately 17,000 new immigrants, some of whom will arrive in Israel this year. These apartments are leased simultaneously to the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. which is responsible for immigration, absorption and rehabilitation of immigrants to Israel. The Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. also guarantees the entire transaction.

This type of financing of low cost housing for Israel immigrants was originated in 1962 by a group known as American Associates, Inc., headed by Mr. Weiler. This was quickly followed by a second transaction of a similar nature known as United Associates, Inc. The transaction concluded today is the third in the series, and accounts in the aggregate for 8,000 housing units over a period of two years.

Negotiations for the formation of Intercontinental Associates and its loan from the insurance companies were conducted, as in the two previous instances, by Gottlieb Hammer, executive vice-chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. Guzik and Bouksstein, represented the borrowers, and Simpson Thatcher and Barlett acted as special counsel to the lending companies.

Weiler Gratified with Confidence Exhibited by U.S. Firms

Intercontinental Associates, Inc., which provided the equity capital of \$1,500,000, was organized by a group of well-known real estate experts. In addition to Mr. Weiler, they are: Charles B. Benenson, Irwin S. Chanin, Aron Chlewich, Abe Gevirtz, Samuel Lemberg, Solomon N. Petchers, Lawrence Schacht, Milton Schwartz, and Benjamin H. Swig of San Francisco.

Mr. Weiler, on behalf of the Associates, stated: "Two years ago we pioneered in establishing a pattern for immigrant housing which we hoped would relieve the Jewish Agency from the harrowing pressures of finding the means to finance large-scale immigrant housing. We are gratified to note the confidence which these seven major insurance companies have exhibited in the American Jewish community by making this loan."

Mr. Weiler further noted that, "while the Israel housing budget for the coming year is in excess of \$100,000,000, the transaction today is a significant contribution in the sense that it further demonstrates the willingness of the American Jewish community to continue to give generously to the United Jewish Appeal in order to provide adequate shelter as well as other basic needs for Israel's newcomers."

The balance of \$9,500,000 of the financing of this deal was provided by Israel Economic Development Corporation (Chail) Ltd., of Tel Aviv, which purchased the junior stock of International Associates, Inc.

TAX DEDUCTIBILITY OF GIFTS TO AMERICA-ISRAEL FOUNDATION CONFIRMED IN WASHINGTON

NEW YORK, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Contributions to the America-Israel Cultural Foundation are tax deductible, it was announced today by Samuel Rubin, president, and William Mazer, chairman of the board. The Foundation had recently received an official letter from the Internal Revenue Service reconfirming the Foundation's tax deductible status. In a statement issued to contributors, the two leaders disclosed that the method of operation for the cultural programs of the Foundation had recently been reviewed and approved by the Service.

"You may have read a recent report issued by the Internal Revenue Service regarding tax deductibility of contributions to certain charitable organizations," the statement said. "We are pleased to advise our contributors that our method of operation and our cultural program have been reviewed and approved by the Internal Revenue Service. In their official letter they reconfirm tax deductibility of all contributions made to the America-Israel Cultural Foundation."

The Foundation promotes cultural exchanges between the United States and Israel, supports cultural projects, and provides scholarships in the arts for gifted young Israelis. A ruling published by the Internal Revenue Service had raised question as to the future tax deductible status of gifts to some American organizations that raise funds for foreign philanthropies.

NEW YORK FEDERATION AND MT. SINAI HOSPITAL TO BUILD \$35,000,000 MEDICAL SCHOOL

NEW YORK, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Plans for the construction of a \$35,000,000 building to house a new medical school were announced here today by Mount Sinai Hospital and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York. The building, to be either 30 stories or 40 stories in height, will house "a medical campus under one roof." The school will offer a four-year college course, a five-year postgraduate program, and separate institutes of human life and environmental sciences.

The funds for the skyscraper will come from the Federation's "City of Life" building fund, a campaign seeking a total of \$156,000,000 for new facilities for many of the Federation's 116 agencies. Mt. Sinai is a constituent agency of the Federation. According to the plans, nine buildings of the present Mt. Sinai complex will have to be razed for the erection of the new structure.

MARYLAND ATTORNEY GENERAL BARS PRAYER EXERCISE IN PUBLIC SCHOOL READ OVER LOUDSPEAKER

BALTIMORE, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Maryland Attorney General Thomas B. Finan held today that a prayer exercise in a public school was unconstitutional. However, he also indicated that a really voluntary religious ceremony might pass a court test.

The disputed prayer was read over a loudspeaker as part of a student-directed exercise at the Fort Hill school in Cumberland. Thomas G. Pullen, State School Superintendent, asked the Attorney General for an opinion.

Mr. Finan said that the situation at the Cumberland school was similar to that in a Pennsylvania school which was the basis for the U.S. Supreme Court ruling last June, barring Bible reading and prayers from public schools.

School Board Defies Objections; Orders Removal of Creche

NEW HYDE PARK, N.Y., Dec. 19. (JTA) -- A local board of education ignored protests of angry parents today in approving the removal of a nativity scene from the New Hyde Park Memorial High School.

The Board of Education of Central High School District 2 confirmed the action of district Principal Albert Caine, who ordered the removal of the creche displayed by the high school's French Club. The principal acted after Milton Levine, a trustee of both the New Hyde Park School Board and the high school board, reported to him that a resident had objected. Levine did not ask for the removal but simply asked for information on school district policy.

Some 50 parents met at the school on Monday to demand that the creche be returned and its removal investigated; several of them attended the board meeting which upheld the principal. The board also rejected criticism of Mr. Levine by the New Hyde Park school board.

HOFSTRA UNIVERSITY BOARD DECIDES TO PERMIT ROCKWELL TALKS ON CAMPUS TO STUDENTS

HEMPSTEAD, L.I., Dec. 19. (JTA) -- George Lincoln Rockwell will be allowed to speak on the campus of Hofstra University here, according to a decision voted last night at a meeting of the university's board of trustees. The leader of the American Nazi Party had been invited to speak on the campus, and the date had been set for February. Members of the faculty and of the student council had already approved the scheduled Rockwell appearance.

B'NAI B'RITH DEDICATES NEW BUILDING IN TEL AVIV; BEN-GURION ADDRESSES GATHERING

TEL AVIV, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- Former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion and B'nai B'rith President Label Katz today headed almost 1,000 members of lodges in Israel and guests, as B'nai B'rith dedicated its new building here today. Mayor Mordechai Namir and Chief Rabbi Issar Untermann were among those voicing greetings and praise of the Order's ideals and activities.

Mr. Ben-Gurion urged that every B'nai B'rith member should "adopt" one family from among the new immigrants to help raise them to Israel's general educational level. Mr. Katz described B'nai B'rith efforts to aid Soviet Jewry who, he said, were subject to "cultural and religious genocide." Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Mr. Katz were among speakers at a mass meeting held later in the Mann Auditorium, discussing the Order's program and plans for the future.

RABBINICAL COUNCIL REPORTS ON THREE YEARS' ACHIEVEMENTS OF ITS MARRIAGE COURT

NEW YORK, Dec. 19. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Council of America reported today that during the past three years its rabbinical marriage court had affected 680 reconciliations and processed 320 religious divorces.

Rabbi David L. Silver, president of the rabbinical court, said that since the court was founded in 1960, it had been "eminently successful in effectuating marital reconciliations in hundreds of cases," serving the entire Jewish community, "regardless of synagogue or personal affiliation."

Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, former president of the Orthodox rabbinical group, said that a study of divorces issued by rabbinic authorities in the United States suggested that intermarriage "is the most widely contributing factor in marital discords and dissolutions." He urged all rabbinic organizations to adopt regulations forbidding their members to perform marriages between Jews and non-Jews.