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'OPERATION SHALOM' MARKS SECURITY ARRANGEMENTS FOR POPE'S VISIT

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- President Zalman Shazar today told leaders of the Christian communities that he hopes that the visit next week of Pope Paul VI would bring peace and understanding.

The President, who on New Year's day received the heads of Israel's Christian communities, said that "hope has been planted in the hearts of many by the Ecumenical Council in Rome." He voiced the hope that the Pope's historic pilgrimage would "mark the opening of a new period characterized by growing closeness and understanding among churches and religious communities."

(In Rome, the Vatican's radio station, broadcasting in many languages, reported President Shazar's remarks to its worldwide audiences.)

Meanwhile, here, security arrangements for the Pope's visit were completed today by Yehouda Prag, assistant inspector-general of police, who is in charge of "Operation Shalom"--the code name given the special preparations for guarding the Pope.

"Operation Shalom," it was revealed, will consist of three separate squadrons of Israeli police supplemented by security personnel from other branches of the Israeli service. One squadron will guard the area in the north, including Nazareth, and the surrounding regions. Nazareth is virtually an all-Arab city. There, and in the environs, the squadron will be on the alert against any possible manifestation by Communists.

The second squadron will concentrate on Jerusalem, guarding particularly Mount Zion and the Mandelbaum Gate area. The Pontiff will leave Israel for Jordan via the Gate. The third squadron will accompany the Pope's convoy and entourage from the moment the Pontiff enters Israel until he leaves. The Pope's visit to Israel, according to the detailed police schedule, is expected to take exactly 11 hours and 50 minutes.

More than 400 of the 800 foreign journalists accredited to cover the visit next week of Pope Paul VI, have already arrived in Israel, it was reported here today. Some of the journalists will arrive with the Papal party when it crosses into Israel at Megiddo, and, according to the Jordanian press, they will be permitted by the Jordanian authorities to re-enter Jordan at the Mandelbaum Gate when the Pope crosses into the Old City.

ISRAEL'S NEW CHIEF OF STAFF TAKES FORMAL COMMAND OF ARMED FORCES

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Israel's new Chief of Staff, Yitzhak Rabin, took formal command of the country's armed forces today in ceremonies at the Prime Minister's Office here during which he was also promoted to the rank of Major General. He succeeds Maj. Gen. Zvi Tzur, who resigned to engage in study abroad and subsequently to take up a civilian post.

After the installation ceremonies, the new Chief of Staff was received by President Zalman Shazar, and left for the Staff Headquarters, where military takeover ceremonies were held.

In his first order of the day, Maj. Gen. Rabin stressed the need for increased alertness on the part of Israel's Defense Forces, and for more preparedness and training so that they could continue to be a deterrent force capable of striking back deep into enemy territory if attacked. Special parades were held at all army installations to mark the event.

EUROMART OFFICIAL ARRIVES IN ISRAEL; IS OPTIMISTIC ON NEGOTIATIONS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Jean Rey, the member of the Commission of the European Economic Community in charge of foreign relations, arrived here yesterday to study Israel's economic development. He conferred today with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, Foreign Minister Golda Meir, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, Deputy Premier Abba Eban and David Horowitz, Governor of the Bank of Israel.

It is understood that Israel pressed its demands for an overall customs arrangement with the European Common Market on 37 export items. M. Rey expressed optimism here over the outcome of Israel's negotiations for some form of general agreement with Euromart.

FIRST DESALINATION PLANT IN ISRAEL STARTS OPERATION IN EILAT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The running-in of the first desalination plant in Eilat to utilize the method invented by Israeli scientist Alexander Zarchin has been started, and three other units will be completed and run-in in the next two months, it was announced here today by officials of Desalination Plant Company, Ltd. which is developing the process.

The developing company is jointly owned by the Israeli Government, the inventor and Fairbanks-Whitney, Inc. of Wisconsin, with 37, 13 and 50 per cent of the shares respectively.

The announcement said that, by March, Eilat will have 1,000 cubic meters of desalinated water per day from all four units. Construction of the units was started in May of last year. The cost of production of the sweet water will be one Israeli pound (33 cents) per cubic meter.

The officials said that the desalination of waters from the Mediterranean Sea would be cheaper than Red Sea water, since it is not as hard. They said that Fairbanks-Whitney is now designing a plant that will produce almost double the quantity of drinking water compared with the capacity of the present experimental plant at Eilat.

ISRAEL'S DIAMOND EXPORTS REPORTED REACHING \$103,000,000 IN 1963

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Israel's diamond exports reached \$103,000,000 in 1963, representing a 26 per cent increase over the previous year, it was reported here today.

About 9,000 workers are currently engaged in diamond production in this country. The Ministry of Commerce and Industry, however, has made arrangements for providing increased training facilities, since the demand for larger diamonds is growing and requires a higher standard of workmanship.

The foreign currency income from tourism in Israel reached \$39,000,000 during the first nine months of 1963, representing a 47.4 per cent increase over the same period in the previous year, it was reported here today.

CONGRESS OF ZIONIST STUDENTS TOLD OF JEWISH TIES TO WEST EUROPE

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The Jewish communities and congregations in Western Europe must be maintained, not only because the Jewish people in the area have strong ties with "old Europe," but also because "they are of great interest to the State of Israel," Denmark's Chief Rabbi Max Melchior declared here.

Rabbi Melchior delivered the major address, last night, at the opening here of the International-European Zionist Students Congress. He told the students: "I will not be the last chief rabbi in Denmark, and I am not willing to wind up the Danish Jewish community or stimulate its members to emigrate to Israel."

Emphasizing the strong ties with the general communities by Jews in Western Europe as well as by Jews in America, Dr. Melchior declared: "I am very much attached to Israel. But I don't wish to abandon my critical attitude toward the State of Israel and its foreign policy." Among those attending the opening session of the congress was Brig. David Shaltiel, Israel's Ambassador to The Hague.

SEVEN INJURED, 30 ARRESTED IN FIGHT OVER 'THE DEPUTY' PLAY IN PARIS

PARIS, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- At least seven persons were injured, and 30 were temporarily detained by police, when fighting last night again interfered with the performance of "The Deputy," the play by German dramatist Rolf Hochhuth, which criticizes the late Pope Pius XII for failing to protest against the Nazi annihilation of European Jewry.

The performances of "The Deputy" have been subjected to violent demonstrations inside the theater since it opened. This time, as the second act was on, some members of the audience started shouting abusively. Several youths leaped onto the stage and started fighting the actors. When policemen mounted the stage to break up the fighting, the demonstrators battled the police.

After the stage had been cleared, the play continued, but there were frequent further demonstrations by members of the audience. The play finally limped to its end. Police authorities have threatened several times to close down the play due to the public disturbances.

MEMORIAL TO 10,000 SLOVAK JEWS KILLED BY NAZIS UNVEILED IN BRATISLAVA

LONDON, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- A memorial to the 10,000 Jews murdered by the Nazis in the city of Bratislava, Czechoslovakia, was unveiled there in the presence of Government officials and representatives of the Jewish community, it was reported here today from Prague.

JEWISH GROUPS SATISFIED WITH U.S.I.A. EXPLANATION OF FILM SCENE

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The leaders of nine major national Jewish organizations today expressed satisfaction over the explanation offered by the United States Information Agency in reply to charges that the Agency had deleted from a television film on President Johnson a scene showing a rabbi out of fear that the film would meet with disfavor in the Middle East.

Replying to a letter on the matter written to each one of the organizations by Donald M. Wilson, acting director of the USIA, the groups' leaders said that they were "impressed" by the evidence in the letter that the USIA "has faithfully reflected the American nation with its ethnic and religious segments to peoples in all parts of the world."

Ascribing the original allegation to "a misunderstanding" between the agency's television officials and television writers Rod Serling and Bill Froug, Mr. Wilson explained in identical letters to the nine organizations that, although "a reference was made to placement problems in the Middle East in connection with a suggestion of possible inclusion of footage of a rabbi," the matter "quickly became academic when Rod Serling himself changed the concept of the program--entirely for artistic reasons."

Noting that it was the policy of the USIA to treat fairly with all ethnic and religious segments of the American society, Mr. Wilson said that "nonetheless, to the extent there has been any misinterpretation of this clear Agency policy by our officials and to guard against any future misunderstanding, I have reaffirmed our policy to all department heads."

The joint reply by the organizations, which was transmitted to Mr. Wilson by Lewis H. Weinstein, chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, and Rabbi Uri Miller, president of the Synagogue Council of America, was signed by the heads of the following organizations: American Jewish Congress, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans of the United States, Rabbinical Assembly of America, Rabbinical Council of America, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America and the United Synagogue of America.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON ATTENDS DEDICATION CEREMONY OF TEXAS SYNAGOGUE

AUSTIN, Texas, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- President Johnson, addressing the dedication ceremony of the new Agudas Achim conservative synagogue here, Monday, reiterated the need for brotherhood among all Americans.

Fulfilling a promise made while he was Vice-President, Mr. Johnson flew here from his Johnson City ranch. He spoke of the need for spiritual leadership as well as of the heavy obligation and responsibilities of the Presidency. Explaining his views on religion, the President told members of the congregation that it was "wise to separate church and state but men of government should not divorce themselves from religion."

CONTRIBUTIONS TO AMERICAN TECHNION SOCIETY REMAIN TAX DEDUCTIBLE

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The American Technion Society announced today that contributions made to it for its programs, both in the United States and in Israel, remain tax deductible, in accordance with a recent ruling of the Internal Revenue Service.

An earlier Internal Revenue Service ruling on tax deductions for charitable contributions does not adversely affect the tax exempt status or the deductibility of gifts made to the American Technion Society, B. Sumner Gruzen, president of the Society, asserted.

He emphasized that the domestic educational programs of the American Technion Society and its efforts to bolster higher scientific and technological education in Israel, and the programs of the Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, remain "of vital importance to this country's policy of strengthening the democratic bulwark that is represented by Israel."

THREE JEWS HONORED BY QUEEN OF ENGLAND IN 1964 LIST OF AWARDS

LONDON, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Dr. Barnett Stross, Jewish member of Parliament, has been designated for knighthood in the Queen's list of honors which was published here today. The 64-year-old physician was born in Pabianice, Poland, and has served as chairman of the Friends of the Art Museums of Israel.

Other prominent British Jews to appear on the honors list included Sir Solly Zuckerman, chief scientific adviser to the Minister of Defense, who was awarded the title Knight Commander of the Bath, and Sir Louis Halle Gluckstein, former Conservative Member of Parliament, who was named Commander of the British Empire.

LARGE PERCENTAGE OF JEWS IN QUEBEC PROVINCE SPEAK FRENCH, ENGLISH

MONTREAL, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Canadian census statistics indicate that very large percentages of Jews living in this city, as well as in the entire Province of Quebec, speak both French and English--the two official languages in this Province--according to preliminary analyses of bilingualism made by the research department of the Canadian Jewish Congress. Detailed breakdowns of bilingualism among Jews in this country are expected to be published by the Congress next year.

In metropolitan Montreal, 35.8 per cent of the Jews speak both English and French, while in the Province as a whole the ratio of bilingualism among Jews rises to 36.2 per cent. Those percentages are second only to the percentages among persons of French ethnic origin. For the Dominion as a whole, the percentage of bilingual Jews is 18.4; again second only to the percentage noted among those of French ethnic origin.

There are 2,178 Jews in Canada who claim French as their mother tongue; of that total, 1,515 live in Metropolitan Montreal. The preliminary breakdowns--all based on the 1961 Dominion-wide census statistics--show that 98.3 per cent of all Jews in the country speak English.

QUEBEC GOVERNMENT FINANCES PUBLICATION OF MANUSCRIPT ON JUDAISM

MONTREAL, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The Provincial Government of Quebec has awarded a \$2,500 grant to Rabbi J.H. Heimlich of Montreal to aid in publication of a manuscript left by his father, who died in the Auschwitz internment camp in 1944.

The manuscript left by Rabbi Joseph Heimlich was studied by specialists in Judaism who consider it to be a substantial contribution to Jewish culture and to contemporary philosophical studies. His son is now revising the manuscript and preparing it for publication. Rabbi Heimlich was a noted scholar in the Jewish community of Hungary before the war.

PUPILS IN NEW YORK JEWISH SCHOOLS START CONTEST ON COMMUNITY LIFE

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Jewish schools throughout Greater New York today began a Contest in Community Life. Participating children will be eligible for the regional contest to be held on February 9. At that time winners will be selected to vie for prizes including a \$350 U.S. Savings Bond, at the final contest on March 15. Books will be awarded to all regional participants.

The Contest in Community Life is being sponsored by the Educators' Council for Federation, a group of rabbis and principals of Jewish religious schools who spearhead the efforts of New York's 710 Jewish schools on behalf of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York.

SERVICES FOR DR. SILVER HELD IN ISRAEL; CABINET MEMBERS ATTEND

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- President and Mrs. Zalman Shazar were among the Israeli Government and Jewish Agency leaders who attended memorial services here yesterday marking the 30th day since the death of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, the world renowned Zionist leader who died last month in Cleveland. Other Israeli dignitaries taking part in the meeting included Deputy Premier Abba Eban, Foreign Minister Golda Meir, Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro and Religious Affairs Minister Zorach Warhaftig.

The ceremonies, arranged by the presidium of the Zionist General Council and the Jewish Agency executive, were also attended by a group of pupils from Kfar Silver, the agricultural school named for the late Zionist leader. Eulogies were delivered by Mr. Eban; Yaakov Tsur, chairman of the Zionist General Council; Haim Levanon, member of the Agency executive; and Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the Keren Hayesod.

WALDORF ASTORIA HOTEL IN NEW YORK ORDERS FISH FROM ISRAELI WATERS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- The Israel Fish Breeders Union today received an order from the world-famous Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York for a half ton of "St. Peter's Fish," a gourmet delicacy bred in the waters of Lake Kinneret. The order followed a sample shipment which proved successful at a special gourmet dinner held at the hotel.

MRS. SARAH FOGELMAN DIES IN NEW YORK; WAS ACTIVE IN JEWISH WORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 1. (JTA) -- Mrs. Sarah Fogelman, wife of Dr. Lazar Fogelman, editor-in-chief of the Jewish Daily Forward, died here last night. She was 68 years old.

Mrs. Fogelman emigrated to this country 40 years ago with her husband from Russia. She was an active member of the Pioneer Women and other Jewish organizations, and was a member of the executive board of the Gold Star Mothers of America. (Gold Star Mothers are those whose sons were killed in action during the Second World War or the Korean conflict.)