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U.N. BODY ADOPTS DOCUMENT OUTLAWING RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Jan. 28. (JTA) -- An official United Nations body today adopted a formal document which, for the first time in the history of the UN--and probably for the first time in the history of the world--would outlaw all forms of religious intolerance and make it mandatory upon all governments to extend fullest freedoms for the practice of all religions.

The document was adopted by the Human Rights Commission's 14-member Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, by the overwhelming vote of 12-0, with two abstentions. The abstentions were cast by the Russian and Polish members of the group who, spearheading a years-long fight by the Communist bloc at the UN, fought hard against passage of the instrument voted today.

There were two reasons for the Communist opposition. Openly, they insisted that a document dealing with religious freedoms must also protect atheists and other non-believers from persecution by religious elements. Covertly, they opposed the move because many of the clauses in the adopted document aim directly at the USSR's discrimination against Soviet Jewry.

The document adopted today was entitled Draft Declaration and Draft Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance. A declaration is merely an enunciation of high principles. A convention, however, would become an international treaty when it is ratified by a sufficient number of member states.

The Declaration-Convention was adopted after a motion for its passage in principle had been introduced by Morris B. Abram, the United States member of the subcommission, who is chairman of the executive board of the American Jewish Committee; and Peter Calvocoressi, the British expert in the group. All members of the subcommission serve officially as individual experts but, nonetheless, represent the thinking of their governments.

The draft adopted today was a revision of an earlier document prepared by Aroot Krishnaswami, of India, who, in redrafting, accepted many amendments proposed in separate earlier drafts by Mr. Abram and by Mr. Calvocoressi. Boris S. Ivanov, of the Soviet Union, and Wojciech Ketrzynski of Poland, fought to the very end against adoption of the Krishnaswami text. They were supported today--as they had been throughout the long debates on this issue--by procedural rulings handed down by Hernan Santa Cruz, of Chile, chairman of the subcommission.

May Take Two Years Before the Document Can Become Effective

The document as adopted will now go to the subcommission's parent body, the Commission on Human Rights, which is scheduled to convene here February 17 for a series of sessions to last a full month. The religious item is second on the full commission's provisional agenda, first place being given to a previously adopted Convention for the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Intolerance.

Two years ago, the Communist bloc in the United Nations succeeded in putting through resolutions in the General Assembly, separating racial bias from religious intolerance. Since that move, the Communists have been using every parliamentary device possible to keep a religious-freedom document from even being debated.

It was expected here today that the full Human Rights Commission will adopt today's draft or--possibly--even make it more liberal. From the Commission, the document will go to the Economic and Social Council and, finally, to the General Assembly. Thus it will take at least two years before the instrument can become international law. However, most members of the subcommission hailed Dr. Krishnaswami and his chief supporters, including Mr. Abram and Mr. Calvocoressi, for today's success.

Throughout the debates on religious freedom in the last two years, culminated by the discussions at this year's subcommission session, which opened nearly three weeks ago, worldwide Jewish organizations, as well as Israel through an official observer assigned to the UN subcommission, have been insisting on the adoption of precisely the kind of document that finally emerged victoriously today. Jewish organizations, including those from Israel, and other champions of religious freedoms have constantly voiced sharp criticisms during these debates against officially condoned anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union--without mentioning the USSR by name.

U.S. AND BRITAIN START DISCUSSIONS ON MIDDLE EAST IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- High level discussions between the United States and Britain on the situation in the Middle East and Africa started in Washington this week, it was learned here today.

A State Department spokesman described the talks as among those being held from time to time between the two countries on matters of mutual interest. The British delegation to the talks is headed by Deputy Under Secretary of State Sir Geoffrey Harrison. The U.S. team is headed by Assistant Secretary of State for Near East and South-east Asia P. Talbott and by Assistant Secretary of State for Africa G. M. Williams.

The talks will last four days, the first two being devoted to Africa and the last two to the Middle East. No specific decisions on particular issues are expected, as the main purpose of the talks is an exchange of evaluations and a coordination of attitudes to the extent possible.

ISRAELI CRITICIZES BONN FOR FAILURE TO SEEK BAN ON GERMAN SCIENTISTS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Golda Meir last night expressed regret and astonishment at the failure of the West German Government to submit to the Bundestag, the lower house of Parliament, a bill aimed at barring German scientists from working in arms development in other countries. The Bonn Government had been under pressure to introduce such a bill since the activities of German scientists working on Egyptian unconventional arms projects came to light last year.

Replying in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, to a question by Herut Deputy Chaim Landau, Mrs. Meir said the Israeli Government has done everything necessary under the circumstances but she expressed regret and astonishment that the Bonn Government has not yet succeeded in passing legislation prohibiting West German citizens from working in arms development in countries aimed at attacking other countries.

The Knesset accepted Mrs. Meir's proposal not to debate the issue of the German scientists working in Egypt and agreed to pass the matter on to the Foreign Affairs Committee. Asserting that the Bonn Government could have passed such a law if it had wanted to do so, Mrs. Meir told the Knesset that the Israel Government would judge such legislation by its actual results if the law were passed.

7,000 JEWS IN ITALY TO BENEFIT FROM GERMAN PAYMENTS TO NAZI VICTIMS

ROME, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Plans to distribute to victims of Nazi deportations the \$10,000,000 West Germany agreed to pay Italy were advanced today by promulgation of regulations for the distribution by presidential decree.

The beneficiaries will be Italian citizens who were deported for reasons of race, anti-Nazi activities or political reasons. Victims of Nazi persecutions in general also will be indemnified. Claims must be submitted to the Italian Treasury by July 20 this year. An estimated 20,000 persons, of whom 7,000 are Jews, will be beneficiaries.

A special Ministerial Commission will be named to implement the agreement. The commission will establish the number of months each deportee was interned as well as for those who died during the deportation or within two years after the end of World War II.

A minimum of 12 months of internment will be set for payments. The total \$10,000,000 will be divided by the total number of months of internment to determine the indemnification amount for a month of internment and each beneficiary will receive this amount multiplied by the number of months of internment determined for him. The individual amounts are expected to average \$500.

By rough estimate, the indemnity for each month of deportation will amount to \$40. Persons already indemnified under the West German Loss of Freedom Law will be excluded from the new distribution. However, it was stressed that all other claims have been explicitly reconfirmed in the Italian-West German treaty of June 2, 1961 if the claimants are individually eligible, regardless of the waiver in the 1947 Italian peace treaty with the Allies. Those victims who were refused compensation because of that waiver have until July 30 of this year to seek reopening of their cases.

10,000 IMMIGRANTS ARRIVED IN ISRAEL FROM FREE COUNTRIES LAST YEAR

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Some 10,000 immigrants arrived in Israel last year from the free countries, 6,000 of them from Latin America, it was reported here today by a spokesman for the Jewish Agency immigration department. An increase in the number of immigrants from these countries is expected during the current year.

WORLD JEWISH CONGRESS DISCUSSES JEWISH SITUATION IN RUSSIA

PARIS, Jan. 28, (JTA) -- The European executive of the World Jewish Congress met here today to review the current situation of the Jewish communities in the Soviet Union and North Africa. The meeting also considered developments in Catholic-Jewish relations following the last session of the Ecumenical Council and the visit of Pope Paul VI to Israel. Also reviewed were the activities of the WJC in the field of human rights at the United Nations and the Council of Europe.

The meeting also heard reports of the activities of international anti-Semitic Nazi-Fascist groups and on the prosecution of war criminals in West Germany. P. Dreyfus-Schmidt of France, Jacob Halevy and Dr. Joseph Sagal of Britain presided at successive sessions of the meeting which was attended by representatives of communities and affiliated organizations in Austria, Britain, France, West Germany, The Netherlands, Ireland, Italy and Sweden.

CZECH MINISTRY OF CULTURE TAKES OVER JEWISH MUSEUM IN PRAGUE

LONDON, Jan. 28, (JTA) -- The Czech Ministry of Culture and Education has taken over the Jewish Museum in Prague which had been previously under the authority of that city's Municipal Council, it was reported here today from Prague.

In turning over the operation of the museum to the Ministry, the Municipality reported that 327,000 persons had visited the exhibits last year. The report said that two-thirds of the visitors were tourists from abroad--East and West Germany, France, Italy, the United States, Canada, Sweden and other countries.

The museum, which contains a large collection of relics and documents relating to Jewish life in the Middle Ages and the Renaissance era, is currently preparing to exhibit in London paintings and drawings by Jewish artists in the Theresienstadt Ghetto. The museum also plans to exhibit in the United States a collection of drawings made by children in wartime Theresienstadt, where the Nazis deported Jews from Germany. The latter exhibit was already shown in a number of countries, including Israel.

TORONTO LABOR TO SEEK LAW CHECKING ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA MATERIAL

TORONTO, Jan. 28, (JTA) -- The Toronto Labor Committee for Human Rights intends to ask the Ontario Provincial Government for a law that will force purveyors of anti-Semitic material to identify themselves on their propaganda, G. Eamon Park, chairman, said today.

He told the Toronto Labor Conference on Human Rights that the proposal stemmed from the appearance in Toronto of thousands of copies of a pamphlet which said that President Kennedy was assassinated "by Marxist Lee Oswald, who was silenced by Jew Jacob Rubenstein before he could expose that communism is Jewish."

He said one of the problems in dealing with such material was the anonymity of it and that "we should act now to end the secrecy behind the sources of this scurrilous literature." He added that there were precedents for such a proposal citing federal and provincial election laws requiring political parties and candidates to state the issuing source and authority for printed election materials.

MANY JEWISH FIRMS IN PANAMA REPORTED SUFFERING MATERIAL DAMAGE

NEW YORK, Jan. 28, (JTA) -- Many Jewish businessmen suffered "considerable material damage" through vandalism and robberies in Panama during the recent outbreaks of conflicts there in connection with disputes between Panama and the United States, according to a report received here today by the World Jewish Congress.

The report, from Moises A. Mizrahi, president of the Sephardic Jewish Community of Panama, added, however, that there were no Jewish casualties in the recent rioting there. The total Panamanian Jewish population is 1,800. Most of the Jews live in Panama City, and there is a smaller community at Colon, Mr. Mizrahi reported.

MIXED MARRIAGES REACHED 16% AMONG JEWS IN RIO DE JANEIRO IN 1963

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 28, (JTA) -- Of nearly 250 Jewish marriages performed here during 1963, 16 per cent were mixed marriages, a survey conducted here by Rabbi Moses Zinguerovitch disclosed today. About one-third of these mixed marriages, the rabbi said, were entered by Jews from the Ashkenazic community, the remainder by Sephardim. Most of the mixed marriages, he declared, end in separation.

Mixed marriages here are always performed only by civil authorities. No rabbi in this country will perform a ceremony in which a Jew marries a non-Jew.

YESHIVA UNIVERSITY SPENDS \$1,250,000 A YEAR ON SCHOLARSHIP AID

NEW YORK, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Yeshiva University spends more than \$1,250,000 per year on scholarship aid to gifted students, a higher per student average than that of any other college or university in the United States, Dr. Samuel Belkin, university president, disclosed.

Addressing the university's 35th annual scholarship dinner here, Dr. Belkin said that "It is through scholarships that Yeshiva University is able to prepare our youth to meet the technological challenges of our age and to provide them with a moral and spiritual training which represents the strongest bulwark of our democratic way of life."

BROOKLYN SETTLEMENT TO BE ESTABLISHED IN ISRAEL ON J.N.F. FUNDS

NEW YORK, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- A new, five-year program for the establishment of a frontier settlement in Israel's Galilee region was voted last night at the 15th annual dinner of the Brooklyn Division of the Jewish National Fund. More than 1,200 guests, representing 300 Zionist, civic and religious groups in Brooklyn, participated in the event. The new program will raise funds for the establishment of Kiryath Brooklyn, and the project will include reclamation, afforestation and the construction of new roads.

Henry Solomon, chairman of the division's administrative committee, announced the completion of the Brooklyn Woodland in Israel, another project implemented through the JNF. The Brooklyn Woodland consists of 150,000 trees in the America-Israel Freedom Forest outside Jerusalem.

TWO U.S. JEWS GET GOLD MEDALS FOR DISTINCTION IN ARTS AND LETTERS

NEW YORK, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Two American Jews, artist Ben Shahn and playwright Lillian Hellman, were voted here today the gold medals of the National Institute of Arts and Letters, highly coveted awards granted only once in five years. The special distinctions are given to members of the Institute, a group made up of 250, which is the parent body of the American Academy of Arts and Letters.

Mr. Shahn, whose works have been acquired by many major museums, is famous for many of his contributions to the graphic arts in many media. He has often done works with Jewish themes. One of his achievements in the latter category is a set of illustrations for the Haggadah. Miss Hellman has written many plays that have been produced on Broadway and in leading theaters around the world.

QUEEN OF HOLLAND HONORS SEPHARDIC RABBI; SERVED AS CHAPLAIN IN ARMY

AMSTERDAM, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Queen Juliana today conferred Knighthood in the Order of the Dutch Lion on Dr. Salomon Rodrigues-Pereira, 76, in connection with his 40th anniversary as the Chacham of the Sephardic community in The Hague.

Dr. Rodrigues-Pereira also serves as Chacham of the Sephardic community of Amsterdam and is a former chaplain in the Dutch Army where he served with the rank of major. He is a freeman of his home town of Hilversum.

Meyer J. Keyzer, Secretary of State for International Traffic Affairs, was today named by President Charles de Gaulle of France a commander of the Legion of Honor. The honor was conferred upon the Jewish member of the Dutch Government in connection with his recent service as commercial counsellor to The Netherlands embassy in Paris.

BRAZIL'S FOREIGN MINISTER HONORED BY JEWISH INSTITUTE OF CULTURE

RIO DE JANEIRO, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- The Foreign Minister of Brazil, Joao Augusto de Araujo Castro, was honored here last night at the annual meeting of the Jewish-Brazilian Institute of Culture and Information, an organization sponsored by the Brazilian branch of the American Jewish Committee. The institute chooses one outstanding Brazilian each year for its annual citation.

CHONE GOTTESFELD, PLAYWRIGHT, DEAD; WAS STAFF MEMBER OF 'THE FORWARD'

NEW YORK, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Chone Gottesfeld, the well-known Yiddish playwright and humorist, died here yesterday after a lengthy illness. He was 73 years of age.

Born in Poland, Mr. Gottesfeld came to the United States in 1910 and had been humor editor of the Jewish Daily Forward since 1917. A former president of the Yiddish Writers Union, Mr. Gottesfeld was vice-president of that organization at the time of his death. Many of his plays were produced in New York and abroad. Among his works was "Broadway and Tel Aviv," an account of his trip to Israel. A volume of his works is to be published this year in English translation.