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PRESIDENT JOHNSON STRESSES ISRAEL'S NEED OF WATER AT WEIZMANN DINNER

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Expressing his "affection" for Israel's achievements, President Lyndon Johnson told an audience of 1,700 guests at the annual dinner of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute here tonight that the United States "has begun discussions with the representatives of Israel on cooperative research in using nuclear energy to turn salt water into fresh water." He especially emphasized the importance of water to Israel's development.

Without mentioning the Arab opposition to Israel's water development plan, the President said: "Water should never divide men--it should unite them. Water should never be a cause of war--it should always be a force for peace." He stressed that Israel needs water for irrigation, for consumption, for industry and recreation "and all of its other uses."

Telling the audience that he "shares the pride in Israel's achievements," President Johnson declared: "I speak the warm sentiments uttered by every American President since Harry Truman. And in the desires and hopes of these Presidents, I say to you and to the world that I would not underestimate the complexity of all the age old Middle East rivalries and hostilities. But the basic hope of the United States for this area is not so complex and not so different from that of all mankind. It is inscribed in the ancient writ of the prophets and on the modern buildings of the United Nations. It is simply a desire for the day when 'Nation shall not lift up sword against nation nor shall they learn war any more.'"

'Living Memorial' to Kennedy Announced At Dinner

The dinner, attended by some of the nation's leading figures in science, industry and communal affairs, was highlighted by an official announcement of the creation of a "Living Memorial" to the late President Kennedy, and the posthumous presentation of an Honorary Fellowship which was voted to him by the Weizmann Institute last November, and which he was to have received personally. President Johnson accepted the Honorary Fellowship on behalf of the late President from Dewey D. Stone, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Weizmann Institute.

The "Living Memorial" will be in the form of 46 John F. Kennedy Fellowships--one for each year of Mr. Kennedy's life--which will be awarded annually to qualified scientists from all over the world who wish to engage in research and study at the Weizmann Institute. A Scientific Committee headed by Lord Rothschild will advise on the annual selection of applicants.

More than \$500,000 was raised through the \$250-a-plate dinner for the Kennedy Fellowship Fund, according to Abraham Feinberg, president of the American committee, and Meyer W. Weisgal, the Weizmann Institute's chief executive officer.

Johnson Lauds Weizmann Institute as A Scientific Institution

President Johnson opened his address by paying tribute to the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann, "a great son of the Jewish people," as well as to "one of the most exciting creations of the Republic of Israel, the Weizmann Institute of Science."

"The great name of Chaim Weizmann," he declared, "does not belong to the Jewish people alone. It has enriched the moral treasury of our age." He said that Dr. Weizmann's selection as the first President of Israel "reinforced the unbroken moral tradition that linked Dr. Weizmann to the great prophets of an unforgetten past."

"The Weizmann Institute is a source of pride to every friend of Israel," the President stressed. "It is an international scientific institution in the fullest sense of the word. To its buildings come students from all over the globe. It has helped make Israel one of the foremost scientific resources of the world."

"Israel knows well the importance of science," he continued. "At its birth in 1948, this tiny nation faced monumental problems of economic survival. Only a fifth of its meager territory was fit for cultivation. Yet it was called upon to sustain a population that doubled in 10 years."

"One of its earliest and most important scientific problems was the same problem that has troubled so many nations of the globe, and so many parts of this country, including my

This problem is water; water for irrigation, water for consumption, water for industry and recreation and all of its other uses.

"Our own water problems in this country are not yet solved. We, like Israel, need to find cheap ways of converting salt water to fresh water. So, let us work together. This nation has begun discussions with the representatives of Israel on cooperative research in using nuclear energy to turn salt water into fresh water.

"This project poses a challenge to our scientific and technical skill. I promise me early and easy results. But the opportunities are so vast, the stakes are so high, it is worth all our efforts and all our energy. For water means life and opportunity and prosperity for those who never knew the meaning of these words. Water can banish hunger, reclaim the desert, and change the course of history. We are equally ready to cooperate with other countries anxious to cure water shortage.

"This would be a part of a general program for pooling experience and knowledge in this important field. The International Atomic Energy Agency is a focal point in this program. In this way we can demonstrate the constructive meaning of man's mastery of the atom. We can pool the intellectual resources of Israel, America and all mankind for the benefit of all the world. And we can better pursue our common quest for water."

SOVIET LICENSES FIRMS ABROAD TO ACCEPT MATZOH PACKAGES FOR RELATIVES

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- While the Soviet Union ban on the baking of Matzoh remains in force, selected private parcel service firms in the United States, Canada and Israel were reported today to have been licensed by the Soviet Parcel Trading Organization to accept matzoh parcels for relatives in the Soviet Union on a commercial basis.

Soviet commercial attache in the United States, Eugene S. Shershev, today said that in the United States five firms are licensed to accept such parcels. He named those firms as the Central Parcel Service, Chicago; Globe Parcel Service, New York and Philadelphia; Package Express and Travel Agency, Brooklyn; Union Tours Parcel Service, New York; and Cosmos Parcels Express Corporation.

In Israel, the Peltours Company, which serves as the agency in Israel for the Soviet Intourist Corporation, said today that it had received a cable from Moscow permitting the sending of parcels of matzoh to relatives in the Soviet Union. The cable indicated that senders abroad may pay customs duties at the point of shipment so that recipients will not have to pay such charges.

Jack E. Levine, chairman of the social action committee of the Free Sons of Israel, charged today that a number of packages sent privately last year to Soviet Jews had "disappeared." He said "a few" of the parcels did get through.

'TRUSTEE' OF AUSCHWITZ CAMP ADMITS BRUTAL ACTION AGAINST INMATES

FRANKFURT, Feb. 6, (JTA) -- One of the 22 ex-Nazi defendants on trial here for the mass murder of Jews and others at Auschwitz and Birkenau, during World War II, justified some of his brutal actions, when he testified under oath today, by the claim that "they were bad people--after all, they stole bread and shoes."

The witness was Emil Bednarek, 56, the only one of the 22 defendants who had not been a member of either the SS or the Gestapo. He was himself an inmate at Auschwitz for five years, serving as a trustee throughout the period 1940-45. Ethnically a German, he had served awhile in the Polish Army, had crossed over to the German side, and was arrested four years ago as a suspected Nazi when some former Polish inmates of Auschwitz recognized him in Bavaria, where he ran a small cafe.

He insisted he had never, as charged, hit Jews who had refused to go peacefully into the gas chambers. He said he had never given any prisoners the "cold shower treatment," which involved dousing naked prisoners with water in midwinter, then letting them freeze to death outdoors. He denied he had beaten prisoners in Block Eight at Auschwitz, where he was "top elder," until the inmates died.

The court heard overall denials from the next witness also, a piano builder named Gerhard Neuberg, who had served for two years as a medical corpsman run by the SS at Auschwitz. Neuberg, 54, admitted he had been an assistant to a physician in one of the camp hospitals. But he insisted he had never "selected" any of the prisoners who had been sent to the gas ovens. That job, he said, was done by a doctor who came every Tuesday to pick for death those patients who were "too sick."

PROSPECTING OF URANIUM STARTED IN NEGEV; BASED ON FINDINGS IN 1962

JERUSALEM, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Prospecting for uranium was begun today in the vicinity of Arad in the southern part of the country. Phosphates containing the raw material used in nuclear fission were found in the area in 1962. Arad is a new city in the Negev Desert, where large-scale developments are under way.

ATTORNEY DEFENDING AUSCHWITZ GUARDS ACCUSED OF HELPING NAZIS

BONN, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- One of the attorneys defending the 22 former Auschwitz guards now on trial in Frankfurt was accused today of having himself helped to condemn victims to Nazi concentration camps.

Dr. Herman Stoltzing of Frankfurt called the charge, made by the Polish Organization of Nazi victims, "pure nonsense." The group asserted that Stoltzing persecuted many Poles and demanded severe sentences against them as a public prosecutor under the Nazi regime. The group said that in May 1942, Stoltzing had prosecuted a defendant in Bromberg in Nazi occupied Poland who eventually was sentenced to death.

Stoltzing admitted he was a public prosecutor in Bromberg from June 1941 to October 1942, but insisted he had nothing to do with political cases. To the charge that, as prosecutor, he had demanded that an accused man be sent to the Mauthausen death camp, the attorney said: "I did not even know that there was a concentration camp in Mauthausen until the end of the war." He is defending Robert Mulka and Karl Joecker, two former SS adjutants at Auschwitz, and Emil Bednaerk, a former Auschwitz trustee, in the Frankfurt trial.

ISRAELI SENTENCED FOR AIDING NAZIS WILL APPEAL AGAINST COURT RULING

TEL AVIV, Feb. 6. (JTA) - The attorney for Hirsh Barenblatt, the conductor of the Israel National Opera who was sentenced yesterday to five years' imprisonment on charges of collaborating with the Nazis and handing over Jews for extermination, announced today that he will appeal within the next 15 days against what he described as a "severe sentence." The attorney's request for the release of Barenblatt pending the appeal was rejected by the court.

The five-year sentence was imposed for the major charge of handing over Jews to the Nazis. Concurrent shorter terms were imposed for the charges emanating from his position as chief of the Jewish police in the Bendzin Ghetto.

Barenblatt, who was married several months ago to a young opera singer, cried out "Why? why?" when hearing the verdict, stressing that he was acquitted on the same charges by a Polish court. The judgment of the Israeli court, however, noted that the "cries of children demand punishment," indicating that Barenblatt's most outrageous act was discovering the hiding place of Jewish orphans and handing them over to the Germans to be shipped to a death camp.

AMENDMENT LIFTING BAN ON RELIGIOUS BIAS DEFEATED IN CONGRESS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The House of Representatives today defeated an amendment to delete the word "religion" from the public accommodations section of the Civil Rights Bill. The amendment was defeated by a vote of 156 to 64.

The amendment, which was offered by Rep. Thomas G. Abernethy (D. Miss.), would have made possible a continuation of discrimination against religious minorities, including Jews, at such places as hotels, motels and resorts.

Urging that the amendment be defeated, Congressman James C. Gorman (D., Calif.) said: "Religious freedom is a most important freedom, and it cannot exist if we permit discrimination against one because of his religion, and all that this amendment does is permit it (discrimination) to exist."

MONTREAL STUDENTS SAY THAT SPREAD OF NAZI LEAFLETS IS 'JOKE'

MONTREAL, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Nazi leaflets which appeared on the campus of McGill University and Loyola College today were called a "joke" by a group of students. The students made themselves known today to university authorities, apologizing for their action, and promising that no more of the leaflets will appear.

However, the more serious issue of "hate" mailings to university students is still under investigation. The university has begun a probe of the matter in conjunction with postal authorities, and the Community Relations Department of the Canadian Jewish Congress is making a collection of the material and the plain brown envelopes in which it is sent.

"We are helping various government authorities in locating the source of this material," a department official disclosed today. He said most of the literature comes from the United States, but that some of it is printed in Canada.

Several McGill professors have voiced their concern. Prof. W. E. Lambert said that the "hate" campaign is not to be laughed at. "It may well attract those people who are now slightly biased towards its ideas," he said. Prof. Maurice Pinard, of the sociology and anthropology department, thought that the present unrest in Quebec might have something to do with the campaign. Prof. Saul Frankel said: "The increasing intolerance towards the French on the part of some English-Canadians may be important here. The same people become just as receptive to anti Jewish or anti Negro literature."

DETROIT FEDERATION RAISED \$40,000,000 IN 8 YEARS; FISHER HONORED

DETROIT, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- The Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation raised \$40,000,000 in the last eight years, allocating half of the total to overseas relief and rehabilitation. Max M. Fisher, president of the Federation, reported last night as Detroit's central Jewish body held its 38th annual meeting here. During the period, Mr. Fisher has been president of the Federation for the last five years, and headed the Allied Jewish Campaign during the three preceding years.

During that eight-year period, Mr. Fisher reported, increasing attention has been given by the community to Jewish cultural activities, and a program has been implemented for the strengthening and protection of Jewish rights. Other advances noted by the Federation president included the doubling of the bed capacity of Sinai Hospital; the addition of a 40-bed psychiatric department at the Schiffman Clinic; the construction of the new Jewish Center and the expansion of the Center's services to the aged; the planning of an additional Home for the Aged building; and the affiliation of the Beth Yehudah afternoon schools with the United Hebrew Schools. The annual Federation meeting also marked the 45th anniversary of the United Hebrew Schools.

Mr. Fisher paid high tribute to Isidore Sobeloff, executive vice-president of the Federation, who is leaving his post here, to become the executive head of the Jewish Federation Council of Los Angeles, for his years of "identification with the Detroit Jewish community and with its distinguished record of growth." He noted that, when the Federation was founded in 1926, it had 3,185 members, whereas the membership in 1963 totaled 25,000. In 1926, Mr. Fisher said, the Federation had nine incorporating agencies, including the United Hebrew Schools and the Allied Jewish Campaign. Today, he reported, the Federation has 13 member agencies, while its Allied Jewish Campaign supports a total of 55 local, national and overseas agencies and services.

Mr. Fisher expressed the confidence that Mr. Sobeloff will continue to help "strengthen the American Jewish scene." He announced formally that William Avrunin, Federation's associate director since 1948, will become executive director.

Mr. Fisher was given the 1964 Fred M. Butzel Memorial Award "for distinguished communal service." The award was presented to him by Judge Theodore Levin, chairman of the Federation's executive committee. At the meeting, also, Mr. Fisher extended anniversary greetings to the United Hebrew Schools. Acknowledging that tribute were David Sairan, president of the UHS, and Albert Elazar, superintendent of the schools.

HADASSAH HONORS BELGIUM'S QUEEN MOTHER FOR AIDING YOUTH ALIYAH

NEW YORK, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- Belgium's Queen Mother Elisabeth today was awarded Hadassah's Henrietta Szold Award for 1964--which includes a citation and a \$1,000 gift--on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the founding of Youth Aliyah.

More than 1,000 leaders and members of Hadassah, attended the conference at New York Hilton Hotel where Belgian Ambassador Andre Forthomme accepted the Szold award on behalf of the Queen Mother. The presentation was made by Mrs. Siegfried Kramarsky, national president of Hadassah.

Queen Mother Elisabeth was honored for "her commitment and dedication to the cause of Youth Aliyah," which, the citation stated, "helped to deliver countless thousands of the children of Israel from the hands of evil and destruction into the hands of healing and salvation." The actual presentation of the Henrietta Szold Award to the Queen Mother will be made on March 10, at the Chateau de Stuyvenberg in Brussels, by a delegation to be headed by Mrs. Kramarsky.

Moshe Kol of Jerusalem, world head of Youth Aliyah, told the conference that, within the next five years, Youth Aliyah plans to absorb 25,000 children--between the ages of 13 and 17 years--from three world areas: North Africa and Asia, Eastern Europe and Latin America. He said that the first 5,000 children will be taken into Youth Aliyah between April 1, 1964 and March 30, 1965. This, he noted, will be 1,000 more than the 4,000 normally absorbed into Youth Aliyah annually.

EXHIBITION OF HEBREW BOOKS PUBLISHED IN ISRAEL OPENS IN GENEVA

GENEVA, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- An exhibition of Hebrew books published in Israel, sponsored jointly by the education and culture department of the Jewish Agency and the Geneva Jewish community, was opened here today in the presence of Chief Rabbi Alexander Sairan and leaders of the Geneva Jewish community.

Among the books on display were translations from many languages and works on history, philosophy and art with the main emphasis on religious and educational works. The collection also includes parchments and a compilation of the writings of soldiers who fell in Israel's War of Independence.

HISTORY OF ANTWERP JEWS PUBLISHED IN FLEMISH IN BELGIUM

ANTWERP, Feb. 6. (JTA) -- A history of the Jews of Antwerp by the Belgian Jewish historian, Ephraim Schmidt, was published in Flemish here today. The book will be translated into French and possibly into English, soon.