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'THE DEPUTY' OPENS TOMORROW IN NEW YORK; PLEA FOR CALM JUDGMENT ISSUED

NEW YORK, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- On the eve of the American premiere of the controversial play "The Deputy"--which alleges that the late Pope Pius XII had failed to speak out in protest against the Nazi mass-murder of Jews--a group of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish laymen and theologians, led by the editor of a Catholic magazine, issued a plea here today for calm judgment, in accord with American constitutional guarantees of free speech. The play is scheduled to open in one of the Broadway theaters here Wednesday night.

The announcement of the formation of an interfaith "right to be heard" committee was made at a press conference here this morning against the background of threats that the theater where "The Deputy" is to be put on will be picketed by Catholic lay groups, by Jewish war veterans, and by members of the American Nazi Party.

Edward M. Keating, editor-publisher of "Ramparts," a Catholic laymen's magazine published at Menlo Park, Calif., announced formation of the committee, and backed up its aims with a statement declaring that, in his opinion as a Catholic, "I believe that, as a Pope, Pius XII should have spoken out" on Hitler's efforts to obliterate European Jewry.

Members of the "right to be heard" committee, in addition to Mr. Keating, include: Dr. Abraham Joshua Heschel, professor at the Jewish Theological Seminary; Rabbi Wolfe Kelman, executive vice-president of the Rabbinical Assembly of America (Conservative); Dr. John C. Bennett, president, Union Theological Seminary (Protestant); Dr. Robert MacAfee Brown, professor of religion at Stanford University; Gordon Zahn, a professor at Loyola University, a Catholic institution, in Chicago; Arthur A. Cohen, author and editor for the book publishing firm of Holt, Reinhart & Winston; Thomas P. McDonnell, book editor of the Catholic Pilot, Boston; and Martin Marty, an editor of Christian Century (Protestant).

Appeal Asks for 'Fair Hearing' for Author and Producer of Play

"Because of the controversy surrounding this play," a statement issued by the committee said, "we wish to declare our united concern that it receive a fair hearing without prior efforts at suppression, intimidation or pre-judgment. Most basic to our position is the guarantee of free speech under the Constitution of the United States, and there is no free speech where men will not listen with open minds. Equally important is the right of the individual conscience to reveal itself without fear of immoderate reaction.

"'The Deputy' is no ordinary play, dealing as it does with the issue of the personal responsibility of all men when faced with grave moral as well as historical issues. If we pre-judge or harshly criticize the actions of the author, how then can we deny him the equal right to judge the historical figures of his play.

"Various productions of 'The Deputy' in Europe, especially in Basle, and Paris, have been greeted with violence and demonstrations of the most serious nature. This sort of thing must not happen in our democratic society. And yet there are efforts now being undertaken to achieve discord and even street demonstrations are being threatened by various small but vocal organizations whose influence and actions in no way match those of the vast majority of our people, Catholics, Jews and Protestants--and all Americans whose calm readiness to see the play as it exists and not as some might imagine it, gives great hope for peace on the night of February 26.

"However, the people of good will are often too silent and that is why we, the undersigned, take this formal and united action to plead to everyone to grant Rolf Hochhuth, the author of the play, the producer, Herman Shumlin, and his company an open and fair hearing before expressing any opinion one way or the other. This present effort of ours is in no way an endorsement of the play; nor can it be construed as a criticism of the play. We have no opinion one way or the other for the very reason that we have not yet seen the play."

Production of Play Would Not Worsen Catholic-Jewish Relations

At the press conference today, Mr. Keating said that he is not judging the American production but that his reading of the play in advance led him to the belief that the drama "raises questions about the basic, underlying conditions" existing in the world during the Hitler era. "Mr. Hochhuth's greatest indictment," he stated, "is against all men who

didn't speak up. When a great moral issue is involved, men should speak out. This includes not only the Pope, who should have spoken out, but also Jews right here in the United States, also humanity as a whole."

He denied that production of the play would worsen Catholic-Jewish relations in this country. "Exactly the opposite will happen," he predicted. "It will force Catholics to face up to this issue. They don't know the play, have never seen it, most of them have never read it. They are reacting only to advance notice about its alleged 'indictment' of a Pope."

AUTHOR OF 'THE DEPUTY' REFUSED PERMISSION TO RESIDE IN BASEL

BASEL, Switzerland, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Rolf Hochhuth, the German author of the controversial play, "The Deputy," which attacks Pope Pius XII for failure to denounce the mass killing of the Jews by the Nazis, has been refused permission to continue residing in Basel. He has appealed to the Basel Cantonal Government against this decision. Last year the Canton of Zug refused Mr. Hochhuth permission to live there on the grounds that his presence might disturb the peace.

MOSCOW RELIGIOUS JEWS REPORTED RENTING PREMISES TO BAKE MATZOTH

LONDON, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The Jewish religious community of Moscow is organizing the baking of matzoth this year in specially rented premises in a suburb of the Soviet capital, according to a Moscow dispatch received here today by the Daily Worker, the organ of the British Communist Party.

The dispatch stated that the information about the Jewish communal matzoh bakery came from the Novosti Press Agency, an official Soviet government news service. Novosti is quoted as declaring that "matzoth will be prepared with the community's own resources" and that "each religious community, depending on local conditions and possibilities, is ensuring supplies" of matzoth.

Novosti is further quoted as stating that, last year, the Tbilisi Synagogue, in Soviet Georgia, conducted a bakery that produced 100 tons of matzoth. According to the news agency, the synagogue in Marina Roshcha near Moscow, last year "ensured supplies for its congregation on a collective basis," while the congregation at Moscow's Central Synagogue was told by Rabbi Jehuda Leib Levin, its spiritual leader, "how to prepare matzoth at home."

FIRST JEWISH WITNESS TESTIFIES AT AUSCHWITZ TRIAL; DESCRIBES HORRORS

FRANKFURT, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The first Jewish survivor of Auschwitz-Birkenau to testify at the trial here of the 22 death factory guards and medical personnel took the witness stand today, as the proceedings entered its third month. Before the trial is over, 200 witnesses, most of them Jewish, some from Israel and the United States, are expected to take the stand.

Today, that group of survivors was led off by Dr. Otto Wolken, 60, of Vienna, a Jew who had been an inmate at the Birkenau camp, whence Jews and others were fed into the gas ovens. Dr. Wolken told the court he had kept written records of his Birkenau experiences, burying his documents and recovering his papers after the war.

The Jewish physician told the court that, very often, the members of the Gestapo in charge of the camp "could not sleep until they had beaten a few victims to death." Conditions varied in accordance with the "mood" of the guards and with the ebb and flow of the success or failure of the Nazi armies on the various war fronts," he said. "They acted like animals in the Stone Age," he testified, "like animals who had tasted blood."

As a doctor, he said, he had to make out formal reports about deaths. But he had been given orders. A victim who starved to death had to be listed as having died of a heart attack. Persons shot by the Nazis had to be listed as having been killed "while trying to escape."

Into a space designed for 300 persons, he testified, the Nazis squeezed 1,200 victims. "There was no water," he said, "no food, nothing to eat--and, for the sick, no medicine." At one time, he said, he had one aspirin tablet. Prisoners with a temperature of 100 degrees were allowed to lick the tablet once; those with higher temperatures were given "two licks."

Judge Overcome by Horrible Details; Trial Interrupted

As Dr. Wolken went on to describe the horrors of the camp, speaking in a low, calm, matter-of-fact voice, one of the nine judges, Werner Hummerich, clutched at his heart and seemed about to collapse. Presiding Justice Hans Hofmeyer suspended the trial, after only 90 minutes of Dr. Wolken's testimony, saying that Judge Hummerich "was just overcome by what we have been hearing."

One of the 22 defendants, Robert Mulka, sat today among those of his group who are under detention. Friday, he had been re-arrested in court on new charges of murder. Until now, he had been free in \$12,500 bail on charges of "complicity in murder." The new charges allege that he had, personally, shot three Auschwitz prisoners with his pistol.

KNESSET REJECTS OPPOSITION NON-CONFIDENCE MOTIONS OVER LAVON AFFAIR

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The Knesset, Israel's Parliament, today rejected opposition motions of non-confidence in the Government over the recent statement by Agriculture Minister Moshe Dayan with regard to the Lavon affair.

The motions, which were defeated by a vote of 61 to 37 with 11 abstentions, were presented by Herut, the Liberals and the Communists. Herut charged that Mr. Dayan's statement damaged the security interests of the nation and asserted that the Cabinet as a whole must bear the responsibility.

In the debate on the motions, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol justified Mr. Dayan's right to correct distorted press reports of his views but he added that Mr. Dayan himself regrets that some of the sentences in his Knesset statement exceeded permissible bounds. The Premier said he shares this regret but reiterated that the Agriculture Minister's statement neither disclosed security secrets nor disputed the findings of the Ministerial Committee over the affair, which, he said, is closed.

ISRAEL CABINET APPROVES MEASURES TO PREVENT ABUSES OF PASSPORTS

JERUSALEM, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The Cabinet yesterday approved recommendations submitted by a Ministerial Committee aimed at the prevention of abuses of Israeli passports by persons living abroad.

It is understood that the proposed measures would affect the current procedure of granting newcomers passports immediately and the renewal of passports of Israelis who reside abroad for extensive periods. Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro is expected to give full details of the measure when he presents the Ministry's budget to the Knesset, Israel's Parliament.

MIAMI PARENTS APPEAL TO U.S. SUPREME COURT ON FLORIDA BIBLE RULING

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Four parents of Miami schoolchildren--two Jews, one Unitarian, and one agnostic--appealed to the U. S. Supreme Court today against a ruling by the Supreme Court of Florida which upholds a state law requiring daily Bible reading in the public schools.

The appeal also seeks reversal of the Florida court's ruling which sustains recitation of the Lord's Prayer in classrooms, permits the conduct of religious programs as part of graduation exercises, allows a religious census among public school pupils, and sets up religious tests as a qualification for the employment of teachers.

The U. S. Supreme Court outlawed Bible reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer in public schools in rulings handed down last June, in cases involving such practices in Pennsylvania and in Maryland. An appeal presented to the high tribunal then against the Florida Supreme Court ruling resulted only in a high court decision that the Florida bench reconsider the entire issue in the light of the decisions affecting Pennsylvania and Maryland.

However, last month, the Florida Supreme Court ruled again in favor of the state statutes, permitting Bible reading and other religious practices. The appeal to the U. S. Supreme Court today was filed on behalf of the four Miami parents by Leo Pfeffer, general counsel of the American Jewish Congress.

HABIMAH CANCELS ROAD TOUR BECAUSE OF INCREASED OUT-OF-TOWN COSTS

NEW YORK, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Habimah, the National Theatre of Israel, currently having a successful engagement at the Little Theatre here, will be unable to fulfill its anticipated road tour because of mounting out-of-town costs, according to the Little Theatre Inc., the American sponsor of the tour. The New York engagement will end with the last performance of "Each Had Six Wings" which will be given on March 22.

The Habimah was originally scheduled to give presentations in Washington, Boston, Montreal, Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Rochester, Chicago, Toronto, Detroit, Hartford, Cincinnati, Providence, Philadelphia, Los Angeles and San Francisco. It won excellent notices in New York where it is being filled to capacity almost every evening.

ISRAEL FINANCE MINISTER CONFERS IN WASHINGTON WITH HIGH OFFICIALS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Israel's Minister of Finance Pinhas Sapir arrived in Washington for a number of meetings with high level U. S. and international banking officials.

Mr. Sapir met with David Bell, head of the U. S. Agency for International Development and reviewed problems of American development assistance to Israel. He also met the director of the U. S. Export-Import Bank, Mr. Linder and with Secretary of the Treasury, Douglas Dillon.

SEN. JAVITS HEADS ADVISORY BOARD OF U.S. FRIENDS OF HEBREW UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- U. S. Senator Jacob K. Javits has assumed the chairmanship of the National Advisory Board of the American Friends of the Hebrew University, it was announced today by Lionel R. Bauman, president of the organization.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE TRAINING PROGRAM OPENED IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- A year-long program for intergroup and community workers, financed by the Eleanor Roosevelt Foundation, was opened in Washington this weekend with the initiation of a ten-day seminar conducted by the Human Relations Institute of the American Jewish Committee.

Deputy Special Counsel to the President, Myer Feldman, addressed the first session of the seminar on behalf of the Roosevelt Memorial Foundation. Mr. Feldman is one of the trustees of the Foundation. He pointed out in his remarks that in civil rights Congressional action is not enough. "No law is self executing; the critical test is going to be what we do to make these policies work." For this, he said, trained workers are needed. He congratulated the American Jewish Committee on its initiative in organizing the seminar.

Among the principal panelists and consultants of the seminar are Peace Corps director Sargent Shriver, Senator Hubert Humphrey (Dem. Minnesota) and Federal Housing Administrator Robert Weaver. After the conclusion of the seminar, its participants will work for a year with Human Rights Commissions in cities and states throughout the country.

TORONTO SYNAGOGUES, JEWISH GROUPS RECEIVE U.S. HATE LITERATURE BY MAIL

TORONTO, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Scores of Toronto synagogues, Jewish organizations and Jewish individuals reported today a renewal of hate literature mailing. They said they had received letters urging them to join the National White Americans Party and party literature demanding "the arrest of all Jews involved in Communist or Zionist plots, public trials and executions."

The party was listed as having headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. In addition to the invitation to join, the envelopes contained a membership card and a multi-language anti-Jewish leaflet produced by Einar Aberg of Sweden, a known anti-Semite. The letters were mailed locally from a Toronto suburb post office box and ironically contained a post office imprint "Brotherhood Week, Believe It, Live It, Support It."

In addition to the program for arrest and execution of Jews in "Communist and Zionist plots," the letter advocated immediate sterilization of "all other Jews." The box number was known to be used by David A. Stanley, 19, a former high school student who was involved last September in the race riots in Birmingham and who has since been distributing neo-Nazi leaflets in Toronto.

ARGENTINE EXTREMISTS BLAME ARAB AGENTS FOR 'RACIST TERRORISM'

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The leader of the Alliance for National Liberation, a major Argentine nationalist movement, blamed Arab agents today for "all of the racist terrorism unleashed in our country."

The charge was made in a statement by Guillermo Patricio Kelly, known as the leader of an extreme nationalist element during the Peron dictatorship and now leader of the Alliance for National Liberation. He said in a statement that "we are ready to clear up the doings of foreign agents dedicated to the task of using violence for the anarchizing of our national community."

"Our movement," he declared, "alerts the working people, which in its majority is Peronist, about the fact that Hussein Triki, representative of the Arab League, is directly responsible, together with Raul Jassen, an Argentine journalist, for all racist terrorism unleashed in our country."

Argentine nationalism," he said, "repudiates this ideologic distortion which General Peron condemns as a provocation to national feeling. We Argentiniens are living decisive hours in the march toward national liberation and we will crush with revolutionary strength the insolence of these foreigners dedicated to pouring oil on the civil bonfire."

B'NAI B'RITH HONORS CATHOLIC COLLEGE FOR SERVICE TO JEWISH AGED

NEW ROCHELLE, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- The B'nai B'rith lodges of New Rochelle last night presented their annual Brotherhood Award to the Roman Catholic College of New Rochelle whose women students were cited for their efforts in a service program for the 130 residents of the United Home for Aged Hebrews. Mayor Alvin Ruskin attended the presentation ceremony.

DR. MOSCHCOWITZ, PROMINENT AUTHORITY ON VASCULAR DISEASE, DEAD; WAS 82

NEW YORK, Feb. 24. (JTA) -- Dr. Eli Moschcowitz, a prominent Jewish physician and an authority on vascular disease, died here yesterday at the age of 82. He was a former medical director of Mount Sinai Hospital here.

Born in Galt, Hungary, he was brought to this country as an infant and earned his medical degree from Columbia University. In 1925 he described a vascular disease involving blood clots, which is named for him. He was among the first to work in the field of psychosomatic medicine.