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NINE PERSONS SENTENCED TO DEATH AT MOSCOW TRIAL; SIX ARE JEWS

LONDON, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Six Soviet Jews and three non-Jews were sentenced to death at the conclusion of the big Moscow "economic crimes" trial involving an alleged "ring" of 24 "black marketeers," dispatches from the USSR capital reported here today. A seventh Jewish defendant, named Shakerman, had been tried separately, sentenced to death, and has already been shot, the Moscow dispatches reported.

In addition to the nine death sentences, Moscow reported, four of the convicted men were given 15-year prison terms, while 10 others received lighter sentences.

The Moscow trial was the largest mass proceeding yet held in the USSR's series of court cases for alleged "economic crimes," which resulted in scores of death sentences, the vast majority of the capital punishments being meted out to Jews.

When the case against the 24 men was revealed in Moscow last October, Izvestia, the official organ of the USSR Government, identified two of the "ring leaders," named Shakerman and Roifman, as Jews. Izvestia called for a "show trial," demanding death sentences even before the trial got under way. However, the trial had been held behind closed doors. It was closed to Western news correspondents, although select reporters for the controlled Soviet press were admitted.

STATE DEPARTMENT URGES WORLDWIDE APPEAL ON SOVIET ANTI-JEWISH POLICY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- The State Department has suggested that serious thought be given to a "united appeal of private religious organizations representing world-wide Jewry and, if possible, other religious groups" in an effort to ease restrictions placed upon Soviet Jewry by the Moscow government. The suggestion was made in a memorandum prepared by the State Department at the request of Senator Kenneth B. Keating, New York Republican, who disclosed its full contents in a speech on the Senate floor today.

Sen. Keating, in his request to the State Department, urged U. S. action to prevent excesses against Soviet Jews. He said that, although the reply he received from the Department in some respects is satisfactory and straightforward in its admission of anti-Semitic activities in the Soviet Union, it still "leaves the major issue unresolved."

The State Department memorandum concedes that the Jewish community of the Soviet Union, whether regarded as a religious group or as a nationality, suffers serious hardships. But the Department adds that "there is no evidence that the authorities intend to incite the public to acts of anti-Jewish violence. Rather, they seem to be using popular anti-Semitic sentiments for their own purposes." The Department feels, according to the memorandum, that action by the United States through diplomatic channels would not be useful, indeed might harm Soviet Jews, in view of the suspicions of double-loyalty cast upon them by Moscow.

Senator Keating in his speech expressed satisfaction that the State Department has given further thought and attention to this problem, but stated that he was "disturbed by the Department's reluctance to put the full and appropriate measure of blame upon the intensive activities and campaign by the Soviet Government itself."

Says Active Anti-Semitic Bias Makes Soviet Jews Apprehensive

The State Department, in its memorandum on the situation of Soviet Jews, noted that in the past year or two, "there have been growing indications of an active anti-Semitic bias which have made the Soviet Jews apprehensive for their future." The memorandum also stated that, "while all observers agree that Soviet Jews are being placed under increasing restrictions with regard to religious worship, the U. S. Government has no information indicating that Soviet Jews fear physical persecution of the type and magnitude which was directed against them during Czarist times or during the immediate postwar period under Stalin."

The State Department memorandum noted, however, that "in the recent past, Soviet press coverage of economic crimes has indicated that Jews are being sentenced,

often to death, in disproportionately large numbers." The memorandum also noted that "the number of synagogues is being quietly reduced. Press treatment of synagogues and of references to Jewish identity generally has almost always placed them in an unfavorable context. Worship is circumscribed not only by the paucity of synagogues and rabbinical training, but by restrictions affecting traditional foods and customs."

Declaring that Jews, regardless of religious practice, are treated in the Soviet Union as a nationality listed in all their identity documents, the State Department memorandum underscored that, at the same time, "distinctive language activities and community institutions (of the Jewish population) have now been reduced almost to zero" and that there is also "a strong pressure toward assimilation, and a marked assimilation in practice."

The Department also maintains that the existence of Israel makes Soviet Jews vulnerable to official attack on grounds of divided loyalty. Soviet Jews are also suspect for having ties with Western Jewry. As for the "economic crimes" trials, the memorandum stated that "the publicity given such trials would surely buttress already existing anti-Semitic prejudices through the association of identifiably Jewish persons with alleged criminal violations."

After citing the Department's arguments against formal U. S. diplomatic intervention on behalf of Soviet Jews, the memorandum concludes: "since the fate of Soviet Jewry is of concern to the world community, serious thought might be given to a united appeal of private organizations representing worldwide Jewry and, if possible, other religious groups."

NAZI-LIKE ANTI-SEMITIC BOOK PUBLISHED IN U. S. S. R. REACHES U. S.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- A publication bearing the official imprimatur of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic, which attacks Jews and the Jewish religion by using Nazi-like caricatures and an extensive glossary of crude anti-Semitic diatribes, was shown at a press conference here today by Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee. Mr. Abram is also the United States representative at the United Nations Subcommittee on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

The 190-page, paper-back book, entitled "Judaism Without Embellishment," was reported by Mr. Abram to have been published in 12,000 copies. He said two copies were available in the Western world. The publication bears the imprint of the Academy of Sciences of the Ukrainian Soviet Socialist Republic. The author of the book is M. K. Kychko. It carries the imprint "Kiev, 1963."

Mr. Abram charged that the book is a "hodgepodge of misinformation, distortion, malicious gossip and insulting references to Jews and Judaism." He said the book "venomously attacks Jewish holidays and the ethics of Judaism as well as age-old Jewish traditions and practices."

One cartoon in the book, shown by Mr. Abram, displays a hook-nosed character wearing phylacteries and dipping into a platen of money, and is captioned "All Sorts of Swindlers and Cheats Find Refuge in the Synagogue." Another caricature shows three men lighting under a Star of David and is captioned "The Swindlers in Religious Articles Sometimes Wage Battles Among Themselves Over the Division of the Spoils." A third illustration shows a hook-nosed man licking a boot embellished with the swastika and is captioned "During the Years of Hitlerite Occupation, the Zionist Leaders Served the Fascists."

The book declares that the Talmud denigrates work, advocates business, morally degrades man. It adds that the Talmud also scorns labor and the laborer, and divides people into masters and servants. A foreword to the book, written by a Professor A. Vedensky, states that the reader "will learn a great deal of the subtleties of insidious Jewish morals."

Mr. Abram, who said he will pass on the book to the State Department, declared he would also take up the matter with Boris Ivanov, Soviet member of the U. N. Subcommittee. He noted that the book was obtained from a traveler in the Ukraine who brought it to the American Jewish Committee.

120,000 JEWS REPORTED RESIDING IN ODESSA; HAVE ONLY ONE SYNAGOGUE

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- There are today about 120,000 Jews residing in Odessa, one of the largest cities in the Soviet Union, and they constitute about 17 per cent of the entire population, the New York Times reported today in a cable from Odessa. The correspondent added that this is the fourth largest Jewish population among Soviet cities.

"The city has only one synagogue," the report said. "The big building, next to the gasworks in one of the city's leading quarters, is run down on the outside, but inside it is well kept." The correspondent found about 90 Jews in the synagogue last Saturday, all of them elderly.

JEWISH GROUPS URGE U.N. COMMISSION TO ACT ON RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., Feb. 26. (JTA) -- The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, currently in session here, was asked today by the B'nai B'rith and the Board of Deputies of British Jews to pay more urgent attention to an agenda item which calls for adoption of an international instrument banning all forms of religious discriminations. "It is by no means too soon," stated the two organizations in a memorandum submitted to the Commission, "to establish an effective and meaningful standard of achievement" in the area of religious freedoms.

At the same time, the World Union for Progressive Judaism, which represents Jewish Reform groups in a number of countries, also nudged the Commission on this issue through a separate statement. Both memoranda were seen here as having the effect of reminding the U. N. body that it should move forward toward debating a proposed Draft Declaration and Convention calling for the elimination of all forms of religious intolerance.

The Commission, which is now in its second week of a scheduled month-long session, has been tied up so far with debate on a companion declaration, banning all forms of racial intolerance. The debate on that draft, however, has been so lengthy and minute that it was feared the body may not even reach the religious item before its four weeks are up, on March 13.

The B'nai B'rith-Board of Deputies memorandum filed here by the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations, which represents both, called the Commission's attention to the fact that the item dealing with religious freedoms has been on the U. N. agenda in one form or another since 1960.

NAZI TESTIFIES HOW JEWISH CHILDREN WITNESSED KILLING OF PARENTS

BRUNSWICK, Germany, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Otto Kielhorn, a Nazi storm trooper during World War II, described in court here today, during the trial of five former SS officers charged with murdering 5,200 Jews in Pinsk, Poland, how the Nazis forced Jewish children to watch their parents being massacred.

Testifying for the prosecution, Kielhorn said the Pinsk Jews had been rounded up, robbed of their valuables, and forced to strip down to their underwear. While the children watched, he said, the parents were killed. Then, he said, the "children were driven into the line of fire of light machineguns," and all were murdered.

AUSCHWITZ COMMITTEE APPEALS TO GOVERNMENTS TO REFUSE ASYLUM TO NAZIS

PARIS, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- An appeal to all governments of the world to help bring former Nazis to justice was issued here today by the International Auschwitz Committee, which concluded a two-day conference at which 100 delegates represented death camp survivors from 14 countries.

The appeal requested that no government give asylum to ex-Nazi war criminals, aid in their apprehension, and amend statutes of limitation so that no former Nazi criminal would go free even if his crime had gone undiscovered for a number of years. West Germany was one of the countries to whom the appeal was addressed.

COMMUNIST COUNTRIES BUY LARGEST PART OF ISRAEL'S POTASH OUTPUT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- East European countries in the Communist bloc have signed agreements to purchase the largest part of the 400,000-ton annual output of potash from the Dead Sea Works, it was revealed here today.

The Soviet Union, which suspended trade relations with Israel during the Sinai campaign, in 1956, and has never re-established trade with this country, may re-purchase some of this potash from the Soviet satellites, it was believed here today.

Reports that the Soviet Union has ordered large quantities of Israeli potash directly have been denied. But it is believed the USSR may want Israel's potash, which is the principal component of fertilizer--a product needed by the Soviet Union now in view of heavy grain shortages.

JORDANIAN INFILTRATOR KILLED ON BORDER; ISRAELI PATROLMAN INJURED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- One Jordanian Arab infiltrator was killed and one Israeli border patrolman was injured, in two incidents along the Jordan border last night.

A group of Jordanians attacked an Israeli tractor driver at Ein Yahav, a settlement in the Araba sector, near the main highway leading southward to Eilat. In this exchange, an Israeli patrol returned the fire but not until one Israeli soldier had been wounded.

In the second instance, in the same area, an Israeli border patrol intercepted a group of infiltrators who had come in from the Jordanian side. Here, one Arab was killed and a second captured.

POLICE UNIT STATIONED AT THEATER DURING OPENING OF 'THE DEPUTY'

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Thirty policemen and a number of policewomen today patrolled the street in front of Brooks Atkinson Theater to prevent disturbances at the controversial play "The Deputy" which was scheduled to open tonight. Picketing by members of the American Nazi Party and other anti-Semitic groups was anticipated. Measures to prevent disturbances inside the theater were also taken.

Meanwhile, Herman Shumlin, co-producer and director of the Rolf Hochhuth drama which accuses the late Pope Pius XII of staying silent when he knew Hitler was carrying out mass murders of European Jewry, denied that any significant changes had been made in the part played by the stage "Pope." There had been reports that some of those lines had been deleted to satisfy objections from some Catholics. Mr. Shumlin said the only changes made during rehearsals had to do only with the dramatic "effectiveness" of certain lines.

Michael Myerberger, who owns the theater where "The Deputy" is playing, said that about \$100,000 worth of tickets have been sold in advance, and that extra personnel had to be stationed in the box office to expedite the sale of tickets.

PURIM OBSERVED IN JEWISH SCHOOLS AND IN SYNAGOGUES THROUGHOUT COUNTRY

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Major rabbinical organizations issued Purim statements today stressing the theme of the victory of freedom over tyranny marking the festival of Purim which began at sundown this evening. The holiday commemorates the downfall of Haman, the ancient Persian Minister who sought to wipe out the Jewish population.

Religious Jews in cities throughout the country ushered in the festival with special services in synagogues featuring the traditional reading of the Book of Esther amid the din of children's noisemakers. Nearly all Hebrew day schools and synagogue religious schools scheduled special programs featuring costume plays and parties in line with the joyous spirit of the occasion.

PRINCETON STUDENT CHASTISED BY UNIVERSITY PRESIDENT FOR ANTI-SEMITISM

PRINCETON, N. J., Feb. 26. (JTA) -- A Princeton University honor student, who received the university's "Freshman Honor Prize" only last Saturday in a ceremony on the campus attended by 1,000 persons, was upbraided today by the president of Princeton, Dr. Robert A. Goheen, for an anti-Semitic attitude.

The student, Paul J. Ponomarenko, of The Bronx, whose parents are Russian and who was born in Poland, wrote a letter to the student newspaper, published two days before he was publicly honored, questioning the significance of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising against the Nazis, asserting that the Jewish "drive" to get non-Jews to believe 6,000,000 Jews had been murdered by the Nazis is only an "image" set up by Jews, and stating that Jews have advanced the story about the Warsaw Ghetto rebellion to counter fears that Jews would be called "cowards."

"This fear," he alleged, "is based on a deep-seated feeling of inferiority in physical conflict and military affairs that the Jews have always had."

Dr. Goheen, writing to the student newspaper, stated that the Ponomarenko letter "patently speaks from blind prejudice and is utterly foreign both to the intellectual and moral ideals of the university. It is an old but sadly persistent fact that high intelligence and moral sensitivity, intellect and wisdom, do not necessarily go together."

The campus newspaper also printed 10 other letters on the issue raised by the student. All but one of the letters were critical of the honor student. Ponomarenko, who is not only an honor student but also manager of the varsity baseball team, has, however, not retracted. Instead, he said today: "I am repulsed that the suffering of the Jews has been so overplayed."

TORONTO POLICEMEN CHARGED WITH MISCONDUCT FOR ARRESTING RABBI

TORONTO, Feb. 26. (JTA) -- Four of eight Metropolitan Toronto police officers, found by a royal commission to have arrested a New York rabbi illegally in 1962, have been charged with conduct unbecoming an officer, Metro chairman William Allen reported today. He said at a meeting of Metro council the disciplinary action had to await the outcome of civil action, which Rabbi Norbert Leiner brought against the policemen.

A royal commission conducted by Mr. Justice Dalton Lells into the circumstances of Rabbi Leiner's arrest on Jan. 26, 1962, found the arresting officers subjected the rabbi to foul and abusive language. It was determined that sergeant of detectives Alvin Sproule struck the rabbi in the face twice without justification.