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EX-NAZI GENERAL TESTIFIES ON INHUMAN CONDITIONS IN EXTERMINATION CAMP

FRANKFURT, March 5. (JTA) -- The barns used to house thousands of prisoners at the Birkenau section of the Auschwitz murder camp were described today by a former SS general as inadequate for cows.

The testimony was given at the trial of 22 former Auschwitz camp personnel by Dr. Joachim Caesar, who headed the agricultural and research branch of the SS. He told the jury that the barracks-like buildings used for cattle at Auschwitz were of the same type as those into which as many as 1,200 prisoners were kept at Birkenau. The trial of the 22, charged with involvement in the wartime slaughter of between 3,000,000 and 4,000,000 victims, most of them Jews, is the biggest in West Germany since the Allied Nuremberg trials.

Another witness was Dr. Wilhelm Mench, a former SS doctor at Auschwitz who was acquitted of war crimes charges by a Polish court in 1946. Dr. Mench, testifying for the second time, repeated his statement that none of the camp doctors had been compelled to participate in the selection of inmates for the camp's gas chambers. The witness, who was assigned to the camp by the SS Hygienic Institute in Berlin, testified that he objected to taking part in any action which led to the death of prisoners and "I got away with it."

Asserting that he remained in the camp to help prisoners, he testified that "there was plenty of good that one could do to help and prevent even worse excesses without exposing oneself." He also told the court that not only officers but enlisted men also helped select prisoners for the gas chambers, a statement of vital importance in the case because of assertions by defendants who were enlisted men that only officers performed this task.

He also repeatedly deflated the common argument, widely heard in war crimes trials, that SS officers at the camp had no leeway in their actions because they would have been killed or imprisoned for disobedience. He was asked specifically what would have happened to any SS doctor or officer refusing to obey orders to take part in the selection of prisoners for death or in the killings. He replied crisply: "Nothing would have happened." He has been described by survivors as one of the few humane physicians at the camp.

PEACE IN MIDDLE EAST IS NEARER NOW, GOLDA MEIR SAYS IN LONDON

LONDON, March 5. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, expressed the belief today that peace in the Middle East "is nearer now than it ever was" because of the announced Arab intention to withhold military attack until victory was certain. She told a press conference that while the Arab countries were waiting, Israel was growing stronger: "and so attacking Israel becomes a less and less attractive proposition and consequently peace is nearer."

She told representatives of the international, British and Israeli press that Israel's massive irrigation project, which will tap the Jordan River, would start "as soon as our engineers tell us the project is completed" which "will be some time in 1964." She also noted that the Arab rulers had warned they would oppose the project by force. She said that "nobody in international relations dared or threatened hitherto to cut off water resources."

Warning that such threats were "tantamount to an attack on one's territory," she expressed the hope that "the Arabs will think better of it. To us it would be something very serious," she stated. She noted that Jordan went ahead with its proposed share of the regional water project developed by the late Eric Johnston as a special emissary of the then President Eisenhower ten years ago, and that Israel made no objections. "If they can do it, why not us?" she asked.

Says Israel Is For Abolition Of All Military Weapons

Stressing that the Arabs get ultra-modern arms under more convenient conditions than Israel does, Mrs. Meir said that quality was more important than quantity in the

relative arms capabilities of Israel and the Arab countries. At the same time she pointed out that "Israel is for the abolition of all nuclear weapons, and indeed all conventional weapons, as well."

The friendship between France and the Arab countries in no way affects the deep friendship of the Government and people of France toward Israel, she said; "We never wanted exclusivity. As a matter of fact, we want friendship with the Arabs too, so why should we object to other people being friendly with them?" she stated. As to the Soviet Union, Mrs. Meir said that she herself could see no change in the attitude of the Soviet Union, adding "I wish I did. I know some people do seem to sense a change."

Touching on Israel's efforts to obtain an understanding with the six-nation European Common Market, She said: "Israel's goal was association with but not membership in the Common Market."

ISRAEL RABBINATE SENDS TRANSPORT OF MATZOH BY PLANE TO MOSCOW JEWS

TEL AVIV, March 5. (JTA) -- More than half a ton of matzoh was dispatched by plane yesterday to Moscow by Israel's Chief Rabbinate after an urgent request was received from officials of the synagogue in Marina Roscha, a Moscow suburb.

ISRAEL PLANS TO END GRANTING AUTOMATIC CITIZENSHIP TO IMMIGRANTS

JERUSALEM, March 5. (JTA) -- Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro said today the Government would soon present an amendment to the Law of Return, which would end the existing procedure of automatic citizenship to immigrants who are Jews.

He did not indicate the length of the waiting period the Government will propose as a condition before citizenship will be granted. He did stress that the change would reduce the possibility of Israel being used as a refuge by criminals and prevent individuals from emigrating to Israel with the sole aim of acquiring citizenship and a passport.

MAJOR U.S. JEWISH GROUPS URGE ISRAEL GOVT. TO RESIST PRESSURE

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA) -- A group of major American Jewish organizations thursday cabled Israel Prime Minister Levi Eshkol urging him to resist pressure by "extremist religious groups" in the United States supporting legislation that would abridge religious freedom in Israel.

The organizations charged that the extremist groups sought "by coercion" to deprive Jews in Israel of full religious freedom. The message was signed by: Morris B. Abram, president, American Jewish Committee; Dr. Joachim Prinz, president, American Jewish Congress; Lubel Katz, president, B'nai B'rith; Rabbi Leon I. Feuer, president, Central Conference of American Rabbis; Rabbi Theodore Friedman, president, Rabbinical Assembly; Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and George Maislen, president, United Synagogue of America.

Noting that the "overwhelming majority" of American Jews support "the basic Jewish position of separation of church and state and freedom of religious belief, practice and instruction for all," the organizations cited the support they had given to the Draft Declaration on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance adopted last January by the United Nations Sub-Commission on the Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

"We cannot allow the actions of one segment of American Jewry to convey the impression that the Jewish community is prepared to endorse positions directly contrary to the spirit of that declaration," the organizations stated.

"We reject the attempt of the extremist religious elements to polarize the American Jewish community into two opposing groups -- religious and secularist -- and their claim that they and they alone represent the Jewish religious community," the cable added. "The truth is that in the American Jewish community there are several recognized and acknowledged religious constituencies."

"We abhor any attempt by governmental authority -- in the United States, in Israel, in the Soviet Union or anywhere else in the world -- to interfere with the expression of religion in all its aspects," the message concluded. "We know, Mr. Prime Minister, that you as well as the majority of your government and of the people of Israel who seek to establish a genuine democracy fully agree with our position. We express the hope that Israel will resist the attacks of the religious extremists and assure full religious freedom for all."

NAZI VICTIMS IN ISRAEL PROTEST NEW BONN COMPENSATION LEGISLATION

TEL AVIV, March 5. (JTA) -- Hundreds of survivors of the Nazi regime attended a meeting last night to protest pending new legislation for West German compensation payments. They demanded that Jewish survivors from eastern Europe be given more time to present demands for compensation and restitution.

ELEVEN AMERICAN BANKERS LEAVE FOR ISRAEL ON STUDY MISSION

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA) -- Eleven Americans prominent in banking and investment circles left tonight on a two week Bankers Study Mission to Israel under the auspices of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. The eighth of such bankers missions to Israel, which were originated in 1949, the group will study problems pertaining to the resettlement and rehabilitation programs of the Jewish Agency and will advise the Agency with respect to its financial procedures.

The Mission will stop over in Europe en route to Israel. During their stay in Israel the group will be meeting with leading officials of the Israel Government, the Jewish Agency, and representatives of all sectors of the Israel economy. Gottlieb Hammer, executive vice-chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc. who is leading the mission, said before departure:

"American banking and insurance interests have cooperated with the Jewish Agency in financing its programs since the establishment of the State of Israel. In extending credit to the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., which is the principal beneficiary of the United Jewish Appeal, American bankers have helped make possible the continuance of the Jewish Agency's programs at a pace commensurate with the needs of the moment. Thus, the loans extended by them have not only been sound financial transactions but they have also served one of the greatest humanitarian programs in the history of voluntary philanthropy."

The mission includes: Raymond T. Andersen, vice president, Bankers Trust Company, New York; Raymond Clausen, vice president, Northwestern National Bank, Minneapolis; Robert S. Emison, vice president, First National City Bank, New York; Edgar B. Galloway, vice president, National Bank of Detroit; Harry A. Gentner, financial secretary, Provident Mutual Life Insurance Company, Philadelphia; Ralph F. Miller, second vice president, The Penn Mutual Life Insurance Company, Philadelphia; John E. Motz, president and director, Mercantile-Safe Deposit and Trust Company, Baltimore; Elmer L. Nicholson, president, The Fidelity Mutual Life Insurance Company, Philadelphia; Keith M. Urmy, senior vice president, Chemical Bank New York Trust Co., New York, and John A. Waage, senior vice president, Manufacturers Hanover Trust Company, New York.

DR. NEUMANN STRESSES SIGNIFICANCE OF W. Z. O. ACTIONS COMMITTEE SESSION

NEW YORK, March 5. (JTA) -- "The forthcoming annual session of the Actions Committee of the World Zionist Organization, which opens in Jerusalem on March 14, will be of special significance," Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Jewish Agency-American Section, declared today on the eve of his departure for Israel. "This will be the first session of the Actions Committee since Levi Eshkol became Prime Minister.

"Since his accession, Premier Eshkol has given repeated expression to his deep interest in the World Zionist Organization and the problems and tasks which confront it both in Israel and in the Diaspora," Dr. Neumann pointed out. "The Prime Minister has done so most emphatically in his highly significant utterance at the recent meeting of the Central Committee of Mapai. This augurs well for the future and foreshadows a new chapter in the relationship between the Movement and the Government of Israel. The Prime Minister's utterance on this subject is also most timely in view of the fact that the role of the Zionist movement in the Diaspora will be a major theme in the deliberations of this session of the Actions Committee."

Dr. Neumann also expressed his "profound satisfaction" with the large measure of agreement and unity achieved by the American Jewish community in dealing with the urgent problem of Soviet Jewry. He paid special tribute to the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations, as well as to the Synagogue Council of America and the American Jewish Committee for reaching unanimous agreement regarding the convening of a National Conference on Soviet Jewry, sponsored by twenty-four national organizations.

"American Jewry has thus shown a gratifying capacity for united action on a particular problem of prime importance to the Jewish people. It is to be hoped that if this trend is nurtured and strengthened it will lead to a more far-reaching integration of the American Jewish community," said Dr. Neumann.

EBAN MEETS WITH STATE SECRETARY RUSK AND OTHER U. S. OFFICIALS

WASHINGTON, March 5. (JTA) -- Israeli Prime Minister Abba Eban today concluded two days of meeting with top Administration officials and congressional leaders.

Yesterday Mr. Eban met with Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Under Secretary of State Averell Harriman. Today he conferred with Presidential assistant for national security affairs McGeorge Bundy and with Assistant Secretary of State for International Organizations Harland Cleveland. He also met with a group of Democratic and Republican Senators at the invitation of Sen. Stewart Symington, Democrat of Missouri.

\$2,267,485 RAISED AT OPENING OF PHILADELPHIA'S JEWISH APPEAL DRIVE

PHILADELPHIA, March 5. (JTA) -- The 1964 Allied Jewish Appeal was launched here last night with gifts and pledges totaling \$2,267,485. It was announced at the campaign inaugural dinner attended by more than 200 communal and business leaders at the Warwick. It was the largest opening figure in the past 12 years, according to Leonard Goldfine, campaign general chairman. The opening figure last year was \$1,803,113.

Mr. Goldfine said the total was made up of pledges announced at the dinner and preliminary solicitation in the campaign's eight fund-raising divisions. The aim of the 1964 campaign, which will run until May 20, is to top last year's total of \$4,405,847.

Abba Eban, Deputy Prime Minister of Israel, told the dinner gathering that the Jewish State was in need of economic assistance despite many encouraging factors in its economy. He declared that Israel's abnormal economic situation was compounded by the need to keep its military defenses strong; the absorption needs of its immigrant population and the need to guarantee Israel's future with "an extremely high level of scientific and technological advancement."

The AJA is sponsored by the Federation of Jewish Agencies of Greater Philadelphia. Federation president is former Municipal Court Judge Nochem C. Winnet; Donald B. Hurwitz is executive director. Samuel Melnick is AJA campaign director.

CANADIAN CHURCH LEADER DEMANDS POLICE ACT ON ANTI-SEMITIC MATERIALS

TORONTO, March 5. (JTA) -- James R. Mutchmor, Moderator of the United Church of Canada, demanded today that anti-Semitic attacks be investigated by the Royal Canadian Mounted Police. The United Church is Canada's largest Protestant denomination. The Moderator is the church's highest officer.

"Though the source or sources of these unfair assaults may be hard to locate, law enforcement officers in Canada, and particularly the RCMP, should get at the root of this trouble," Dr. Mutchmor said. He expressed the opinion that pamphlets accusing Jews of being part of a Communist conspiracy were printed to inflame the gentile world into hatred against the Jews.

"Tensions today are running high. Hot heads and crackpots are indulging in wild words and false slogans. The public may be led to believe that a scapegoat must be found," Dr. Mutchmor warned. "Our Jewish fellow citizens could be cast in this role to their hurt and our guilt. This is no time for fairminded Canadians to join in any hue and cry against the Jewish people."

INTERNATIONAL TRADE UNION CONFEDERATION ACCEPTS HISTADRUT PLAN

BRUSSELS, March 5. (JTA) -- A plan by which trade union members would be able to contribute toward the development of emergent nations, based on the experience of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, was approved today by the executive board of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions.

Mrs. Y. Simhoni, head of the Histadrut International Department, and Gideon Neeman, the Histadrut European representative, described the approach as Histadrut representatives at the executive board meeting, which was attended by members from Lebanon and Tunisia.

The board voted unanimously to set up a committee of experts to prepare a plan for cooperative enterprises, vocational training and other socio-economic activities through which workers would be able to assist in such programs. Trade Union leaders from Africa, Asia and Latin America said the program might well become a turning point for the free labor movement and several members referred to Israel's work in the field, particularly in the Afro-Asian Institute.

Victor Reuther, an American labor leader, who recently returned from a visit to African countries and Israel, said that the Histadrut had an "outstanding experience" in the field. Mrs. Simhoni promised Histadrut's full cooperation in implementation of the new project.

HARTFORD CHURCH AND SYNAGOGUE EXCHANGE ARRANGEMENTS ON BABY-SITTING

HARTFORD, Conn., March 5. (JTA) -- Congregants of Emanuel Synagogue and Horace Bushnell Church will complete a year of exchange arrangements on baby-sitting when synagogue members provide that service to the church worshippers this coming Easter. The idea was originated at a synagogue PTA meeting and approved by Rev. Philip Ramstad and his congregation.

The idea was first tested last Easter when four women synagogue members provided nursery care for church members' children so the adults could attend Easter services. Volunteers from the church later did baby-sitting for Jewish families during High Holy Day Services.