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CONFERENCE OF EUROPEAN RABBIS APPEALS TO MOSCOW FOR SOVIET JEWS

ROME, March 11. (JTA)-- A two-day Conference of European Rabbis ended today with a decision to submit a memorandum to the Soviet Government, expressing grave concern about the religious situation of Soviet Jewry, "who are denied religious freedom guaranteed by the Soviet constitution."

The resolution, which will be given to the Soviet Ambassador in Rome, also asked the Soviet Government to permit the baking of matzoh in state factories which the Government halted in 1962 and 1963, as well as for this year.

Rabbi A. Rose, of Britain, cited a memorandum from official sources showing a decrease in the number of synagogues in Russia from 450 in 1954 to 96 in 1963. He said that large Jewish communities had been left without a single house of worship.

The memorandum expressed special concern about the difficulties facing Russian Jews in obtaining matzoh. These difficulties create hardships which have not been resolved, the memorandum declared, by recent authorization to Russian Jews to receive matzoh shipments from abroad. The memorandum also asked the Soviet Government that permission be given for the manufacture of ritual articles and for publication of essential religious literature and prayerbooks.

The memorandum also asked authorization to permit ties for Russian Jews with Jewish organizations in other countries, and appealed for adequate government measures to halt anti-Semitic propaganda. The memorandum cited a "nefarious" book, "Judaism Without Embellishment," published in Kiev in 1963 by the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences.

The rabbis were guests of honor at a reception tendered by Italian Jewish leaders, at which Fausto Pinigliani, president of the Rome Jewish Community, stressed that the time and place of the conference might prove to be well-chosen in view of "present hopes for understanding and approach among the monotheistic religions." Judge Piperno, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, discussed Soviet discrimination against Russian Jews.

GOLDA MEIR PLEASED WITH DECISION OF EUROPEAN MINISTERS ON ISRAEL

BRUSSELS, March 11. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, described today as "an important step forward" the mandate of the Council of Ministers of the European Economic Community offering Israel tariff concessions on a number of its exports to the six Euromart countries. Negotiations on the proposals will begin between EEC negotiators and Israel at a third round of talks, on March 19.

Speaking at a press conference, Mrs. Meir expressed the hope that the Council's directives would serve as a basis for a wider agreement with the EEC and enable Israel to find a "just solution" to its economic problems.

Mrs. Meir concluded today a three-day visit to the Belgian capital, during which she was received in audience by King Baudouin, and conferred with many leading Belgian officials, as well as with Dr. Walter Hallstein, president of the EEC executive committee. She told the press conference that she had found "a great deal of comprehension and friendship toward Israel during all my contacts here."

She reiterated Israel's willingness to "talk at any time, and with all Arab states, collectively or singly, on all possible differences between us." She said that, if the Arab leaders were not ready to open specific peace negotiations, Israel was ready, nevertheless, to negotiate "on any single item of mutual interest." She reiterated also Israel's willingness to accept total disarmament of the Middle East area under international control.

Prime Minister Leo Lefevre headed the dignitaries who attended a luncheon tendered to Mrs. Meir by Amiel Najjar, Israel's Ambassador to Belgium. Others included Paul-Henri Spaak, the Foreign Minister; Paul Struye, president of the Senate; Msgr. Oddi, the Apostolic Nuncio, here; the Ambassadors from several countries, various Cabinet Ministers as well as leaders of the European Common Market.

A reception tendered to Mrs. Meir last night by the Zionist Federation of Antwerp turned out to be a mass meeting. Before the reception, she was guest of honor at a dinner tendered by the Zionist Federation of Belgium attended by Zionist leaders and Jewish organization representatives. She discussed the problems of Zionism at the dinner and the need to guarantee the survival of Judaism by reinforcement of aliyah to Israel.

SOVIET NEWSPAPER VOICES CHARGES AGAINST ISRAELI EMBASSY IN MOSCOW

LONDON, March 11. (JTA) -- Charges that the Israeli Embassy in Moscow was being used for the distribution of "political literature alien to the Soviet people" were made in the Soviet capital by Trud, organ of the USSR labor union movement, according to a Moscow dispatch received here today.

Trud was reported as specifically accusing Abraham Agmon said to be the First Secretary at the Israeli Embassy, of handing out "nationalist, Zionist literature." The newspaper also accused Mr. Agmon of "collecting rumors and yarns about Soviet reality."

GENERAL DORI REPLIES TO BEN-GURION ON CONDUCT OF WAR OF LIBERATION

TEL AVIV, March 11. (JTA) -- General Yaacov Dori who, as Israel's first Chief of Staff, directed the armed forces in the 1948 War of Liberation, expressed the opinion today that some Israeli failures in the war might have been avoided if there had been more unity between political and military commanders.

The General, who is now president of the Technion, thus ended a silence of several days in the dispute between Israeli military leaders and former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion over the conduct of that war. The dispute was precipitated by Mr. Ben-Gurion in an interview he gave to the newspaper Haboker in which he was reported as saying that he believed that if Gen. Moshe Dayan, now Agriculture Minister, had been in command of the 1948 operations, Israel's borders would have been "different" and its military achievements "greater."

In the 1948 war, Gen. Dayan led a strikingly successful commando unit and, as Chief of Staff, he commanded Israel's forces in the defeat of Egypt in the 1956 Suez campaign. The Ben-Gurion statement was seen as downgrading the military achievements of former commanding generals, including Gen. Dori; Maj. Gen. Yigal Allon, commander of several important fronts in 1948, now Labor Minister; Gen. Yigael Yadin, an archeologist who was Chief of Operations and later Chief of Staff, and others.

With the exception of Dori, the military leaders struck back with charges that the decisions which prevented the total liberation of Palestine in 1948 were political and not military and therefore were the responsibility of Mr. Ben-Gurion as Prime Minister and Defense Minister during the war.

Doubts Ben-Gurion's Evaluation; Regrets Slight to Commanders

Unlike his colleagues, Gen. Dori today indicated he did not believe that it was only political orders which prevented the capture of all of Palestine. "With our meager forces and lack of equipment, we did marvelously but we also suffered serious defeats, such as in the old city of Jerusalem and at the Latrun pass," he said. "These might have been avoided had there been more unity between the political and military commanders."

He also denied emphatically an allegation by Mr. Ben-Gurion that he kept Mr. Ben-Gurion from getting to know Gen. Dayan during the war. Gen. Dori said: "I never prevented or objected to any direct contact between the Minister of Defense and army commanders, although this was not customary with the Army command."

General Dori also commented on Mr. Ben-Gurion's assertion that Gen. Dayan could have achieved greater results had he been Chief of Staff in 1948. Gen. Dori said that Mr. Ben-Gurion "could never prove this evaluation, in which there is more doubt than probability." He added that he regretted the fact that Mr. Ben-Gurion, in praising Gen. Dayan, had to slight others.

The former Premier, who is in Tiberias, maintained complete silence over the growing reaction to his statement, which included a request by the Herut party for a Parliamentary investigation into the conduct of the 1948 war.

EGYPTIAN AGENT PLANTED IN ISRAEL AS JEW SENTENCED TO 18 YEARS

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- An Egyptian agent who was planted in Israel as a Jew was sentenced today to 18 years' imprisonment after pleading guilty to eight of nine counts of an espionage charge. Kaborak Jacobian was arrested last December after having been under surveillance for several months by Israeli security agents.

6,000 EMPLOYEES OF ISRAEL'S FINANCE MINISTRY HOLD ONE-DAY STRIKE

TEL AVIV, March 11. (JTA) -- Six thousand employees of Israel's Ministry of Finance walked off their jobs today in internal revenue offices and customs stations in a one-day warning strike to support demands for higher salaries. The internal revenue offices were closed for the day and airport arrivals passed through Lydda Airport without a customs check.

ESHKOL CONSIDERS CREATION OF MINISTRY FOR SCIENCE AND RESEARCH

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol suggested today, in presenting his office's 16,500,000 pound (\$5,300,000) budget, he was considering the desirability of the creation of a special Ministry for Science and Research. He reviewed the wide range of activities under way in such research in Israel and stressed the need for more research and for continuous planning for expansion in the field. He also reviewed the progress achieved in developing Arab villages.

A report by Premier Eshkol on the number of Jewish children attending Christian missionary schools in Israel was questioned today by Religious Affairs Minister Zorach Warhaftig who said the number was higher by 480 than the 900 reported by the Premier. He also said there were 29 Christian school kindergartens as against the 11 listed by the Premier. Mr. Eshkol asked the Cabinet to refrain from discussion about the figures which he admitted were hard to get in exactitude.

ABOLITION OF 'SHEKEL' TO BE PROPOSED BY ZIONIST ACTIONS COMMITTEE

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- Abolition of the shekel as one element of a plan for organization reform of the world Zionist movement will be proposed to the World Zionist Actions Committee meeting here, it was announced by Yaacov Tsur, chairman of the Committee.

Instead of representation by the shekel, membership in Zionist federations and movements will be the determining factor. The plan was drafted by a committee headed by Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive. The plan also proposes separation of the executive of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization, which are identical, with possible coopting of new members to both executives.

Another proposal, announced by the World Zionist executive member Zvi Lurie, which will be brought before the Actions Committee and later to the next World Zionist Congress, calls for creation of a World Jewish Assembly for Zionism and Israel to comprise non-Zionist groups. The Jewish Agency executive will hold a plenary meeting here on Thursday and a joint meeting Sunday with the Israel Cabinet to discuss coordination problems.

RECOGNITION OF DIVORCES BY U.S. RABBIS SEEN POSSIBLE IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, March 11. (JTA) -- Belief that a settlement acceptable to all concerned would be found concerning the refusal of the Israeli rabbinate to recognize Jewish divorces granted by American Conservative rabbis was voiced today by Dr. Zorach Warhaftig, Israel's Religious Affairs Minister.

The Rabbinical Assembly of America, representing the Conservative rabbinate, disclosed last month it had engaged Gideon Husner, former Israeli Attorney General, to examine the possibility of legal action on the issue. The rabbinical group said it intended to force the issue to a conclusion.

Dr. Warhaftig said that he would take the issue up with the new Chief Rabbinate which he said would be elected next Tuesday. He said the Sephardi Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim, and Tel Aviv's Chief Rabbi, Isaac Untermann, were the principal candidates.

BRONFMAN OUTLINES PLAN FOR \$100,000,000 ENDOWMENT FUND FOR HEBREW U.

LONDON, March 11. (JTA) -- A plan for an endowment fund of \$100,000,000 for the Hebrew University was outlined here today by the originator of the idea, Allan Bronfman, president of the Canadian Friends of the Hebrew University, and vice-chairman of the University Board of Governors.

Mr. Bronfman explained the plan at a reception given in his honor and that of Justice Samuel Friedman, counselor of the University of Manitoba and member of the Hebrew University board. He said that he had noted that the great universities of the western world had large endowments established by wealthy persons as a basis of their income. He felt that this was not likely to happen in the case of the Hebrew University.

The answer, he said, was an endowment fund to be assembled by gifts from Jewish families throughout the world. Such a fund, he said, would produce some \$5,000,000 to \$6,000,000 annually in income in perpetuity and cover about half of the university's present annual expenditures. He added that there would be a direct link between contributors to the proposed fund and students benefiting from it so that the family connected with a particular student would follow its progress.

CONDITIONAL PEACE REACHED IN STRIKE OF N.Y. JEWISH SOCIAL WORKERS

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA) -- A "conditional" peace between striking employees of six Jewish casework agencies here and the committee representing the agencies was achieved today--but the three-week-old walkout remained in effect pending the insistence of the strikers that their employers agree to exercise no "reprisals" against those who had gone on strike.

SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL CALLS FOR NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON INTERMARRIAGE

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America decided to take measures against the spreading of intermarriage that jeopardizes the survival of American Jewry, it was announced here today. The first step in this direction was a call for a national conference of all Jewish religious leaders on the question of intermarriage. The call was issued by Rabbi Uri Miller, president of the Synagogue Council.

Rabbi Miller said that such a conference, sponsored by the religious establishment of American Jewry, would spotlight the problem and project all its aspects "so we will be able to confront it intelligently." He said that the conference would take place in New York "sometime later in the year," no specific date was set yet. The Synagogue Council of America is the national coordinating body of the three major branches of the Jewish religious community, Conservative, Orthodox, and Reform. It represents the three rabbinic and the three lay religious organizations.

The announcement said that last week Rabbi Uri Miller met with the President, Zalman Shazar of Israel. In a lengthy conference Mr. Shazar urged the president of the Synagogue Council to call the conference on intermarriage as soon as possible. The President of Israel said that he would send a special emissary who would represent the Jewish State at the conclave should the conference on the subject be held under the auspices of the Synagogue Council of America.

"The question of intermarriage has been on the agenda of American Jewish religious leaders for a good many years," Rabbi Miller said. "It's high time to unite all forces so we will be able to overcome this threat to Jewish survival." He stressed that "the problem of intermarriage is not a question which was suddenly raised by the recent studies and reports in numerous publications. Rather it is a problem of permanent concern of the Jewish religious community."

U. S. ORTHODOX RABBIS REJECT CHARGE OF SEEKING TO 'COERCE' ISRAEL GOVT.

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Council of America, an Orthodox group, today joined the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations in taking issue with the seven major Jewish organizations which last week cabled to Israel's Premier Levi Eshkol to resist pressure of "extremist religious group" in the United States.

The seven organizations charged that these "extremist religious groups" are seeking by coercion to deprive Jews and non-Jews in Israel of full religious freedom. In a letter addressed to the seven organizations by the two Orthodox groups they termed the cable to Mr. Eshkol "a scurrilous attack and a complete fabrication" and demanded a retraction.

"We can only assume that you were referring to our request that the effort to convert Jewish children in Israel through material blandishment be curtailed," the letter of the Orthodox groups stated, asking whether the organizations which sent the cable to Premier Eshkol approved of "taking advantage of poverty and ignorance and utilizing them to proselytize our young children." The seven organizations are the American Jewish Congress, the American Jewish Committee, B'nai B'rith, the Central Conference of American Rabbis, the Rabbinical Assembly, the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, and the United Synagogue of America.)

LEADERS OF JEWISH ORTHODOX CONGREGATIONS RECEIVED BY PRESIDENT JOHNSON

WASHINGTON, March 11. (JTA) -- President Johnson and his Deputy Special Assistant, Myer Feldman, yesterday met with a group representing the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. The group was headed by Moses Feuerstein, president.

Following a luncheon sponsored at the Senate by Florida Democrat George A. Smathers, the group met at the White House to present President Johnson with a single copy of the Pentateuch for his personal library. During the ceremony, a traditional benediction was given by the Orthodox group.

1,700 NEW YORK HIGH SCHOOL PUPILS BEGIN HEBREW LANGUAGE CONTEST

NEW YORK, March 11. (JTA) -- More than 1,700 pupils representing 50 senior and junior high schools which include Hebrew in their curriculum began competing today in the annual Hebrew language contest held at Hunter College. The contest, conducted on seven different levels, is being administered by the Hebrew Culture Council of the Jewish Education Committee of New York and the American Association of Teachers of Hebrew in cooperation with the Hebrew Department of Hunter College.

More than \$1,250 in prizes will be awarded, including cash stipends provided by the Free Sons of Israel. The Hebrew Culture Council is offering 12 partial scholarships to the Israel Summer Seminar, a seven-week study tour of Israel and Europe for high school students.