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### SOVIET REPLY ON ANTI-SEMITIC BOOK REJECTED BY FRENCH COMMUNISTS

PARIS, March 25. (JTA) -- Attacks on the Soviet Union over the publication of an anti-Semitic book reached a new peak today among French Communist and pro-Soviet groups. The target of the unprecedented criticisms was "Judaism Without Embellishment," published last year in Kiev by the Ukrainian Academy of Science, which has been condemned in the West as an incitement to anti-Semitism.

The highlight of the new denunciations was the rejection today by *Neue Presse*, the Yiddish-language newspaper of the Jewish section of the French Communist party, of a reply sent to it by Novosti, the Soviet Press Agency. The *Neue Presse*, in the first criticism ever made by the Jewish section of Soviet policy, had denounced the book and sent a formal request to Novosti for an explanation of how it came to be published under formal Soviet auspices.

The Novosti reply was not printed by *Neue Presse* today in its entirety. The published portions indicated that Novosti had replied that T. Kichko, author of the book, had acted under the rights guaranteed by the Soviet Constitution to conduct anti-religious propaganda, just as the same Constitution guaranteed the rights of religious worship.

Novosti conceded that Kichko had not "carried out his task in the best way." The Novosti reply claimed that the book was being used to stir up anti-Soviet propaganda. News of the book was first made public in the West last month by the American Jewish Committee in New York.

#### Demand Immediate Withdrawal of Book; Insist on Investigation

Rejecting the reply, *Neue Presse* declared: "We maintain that the book ought to be withdrawn immediately from circulation as harmful to the USSR, that an investigation ought to be made as to how it was possible that the book and its cartoons could have appeared and that proper measures ought to be taken to see that such books should not be permitted to appear in the Soviet Union." The demands were without precedent in Communist history.

Pressing its attack, *Neue Presse* also featured a criticism published yesterday in *L'Humanite*, the official organ of the French Communist party, which had reprinted the original *Neue Presse* attack on the book, in another precedent-making development in Communist party relations with the Soviet Union. *Neue Presse* printed a photographic reproduction of the *L'Humanite* article on its front page, stressing the backing of the entire Communist party.

Another extraordinary development in the spreading controversy was the joining in on criticisms of the Soviets by the Movement for Peace and Against Anti-Semitism, which has previously followed an undeviating policy of defending the USSR and permitting criticism of the West. The MRAP announced it was asking competent Soviet authorities for information on the book.

#### Request Punishment of Book's Author and Publisher

The morning newspaper, *Liberation*, which also follows the Communist party line, not only published a statement of support of MRAP but also asked that those responsible for publication and distribution of the book be punished "in accordance with Soviet laws against the promotion of racism." The newspaper called for sentences of one to three years in labor camps or two to five years of forced labor for the perpetrators.

A mass meeting called by Jewish writers and journalists here last night adopted a resolution calling on the Soviet Union to confiscate all copies of the volume and to take action against the author. An official of the Organization France-USSR, set up to advance favorable relations between the two countries, announced that the issue would be taken up with Alexei Adjubei, son-in-law of Premier Khrushchev and editor of *Izvestia*, the official organ of the Government, who is coming to Paris March 30 as a guest of the organization.

Officials of the organization indicated they would take up other Soviet religious issues with Mr. Adjubei. These were presumed to include the problem of the Soviet harassment of Russian Jews seeking matzo for the coming Passover and the entire Soviet anti-religious campaign. The organization may also ask for approval for a delegation to visit the Soviet Union on the religious issues.

## COMMUNIST PARTY IN ITALY DENOUNCES SOVIET ANTI-SEMITIC BOOK

ROME, March 25. (JTA) -- The Communist Party of Italy followed today the lead of the Communist parties of France and the United States in denouncing "Judaism Without Embellishment," the anti-Semitic book published by the Ukrainian Academy of Science.

The Italian party took its stand in its newspaper, "Paese Sera," which declared editorially that no excuses could justify the pamphlet's "classical anti-Semitic" cartoons. The editorial echoed Western charges that the cartoons were reminiscent of those published by Julius Streicher, most rabid of the Nazis, in his "Der Stuermer." The editorial said the cartoons were inexcusable regardless of the text.

The editorial asked the Soviet Government to "isolate" copies of the book which, it said, in the final analysis spreads anti-Soviet propaganda, on the basis of Soviet laws banning anti-Semitism.

In the same issue, the Moscow correspondent of the newspaper reported that the quantities of matzah baked in the Soviet capital would not satisfy the needs of Moscow's Jews. The correspondent warned that "bureaucratic restrictions" on matzah provisions tended to deny the value of Soviet affirmations of religious freedom in the Soviet Union.

### Jewish Culture Congress Protests Soviet Book on Jews

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- The World Congress for Jewish Culture protested sharply today to Soviet authorities against the publication of the anti-Semitic book, "Judaism Without Embellishment," demanding that distribution of the book be halted, and that those responsible for its production and dissemination be investigated.

The protest was sent by the WJC to Anatoly F. Dobrynin, Soviet Ambassador in Washington, and to the Soviet Writers Union in Moscow. At the same time, the Congress demanded that Soviet Jews be granted full rights to pursue Jewish culture, teach the Yiddish language, issue Jewish publications, newspapers and other literature, and carry on distinct Jewish communal activities of the type granted to other nationalities in the USSR.

## U. S. JEWISH GROUPS ASK KHRUSHCHEV TO INTERVENE FOR RELEASE OF MATZOTH

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- Premier Khrushchev's personal "intervention to insure the prompt distribution of matzah parcels" sent by American and other Jews to Jews in the USSR and now being detained by Soviet authorities was urged today in a cable to him by the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The cable sent to the Kremlin in Moscow, was signed by Lewis H. Weinstein of Boston, on behalf of 24 major national Jewish organizations, stating that they "represent the majority of America's 5,500,000 Jews." The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry will convene April 5-6 in Washington to show an expression of unity in protesting growing religious and cultural discrimination against Jews in the Soviet Union.

"We wish to express our profound disappointment and regret over the information reported in the Soviet press indicating that shipments of matzah from abroad to Soviet Jewish families are being detained by customs authorities in Moscow," the cable said. "Unless release of these shipments is forthcoming immediately, these parcels cannot arrive in time for the Passover observance. We urge your intervention to insure prompt distribution of the matzah parcels now being detained.

"We are also dismayed over the campaigns reportedly being conducted in the Soviet press designed to intimidate recipients of these parcels and to force them into refusing or returning the matzah packages sent. We understand shipments of matzah for Passover were authorized and that import licenses were issued to numerous companies throughout the world by Soviet authorities. We ask for immediate cessation of any acts of harassment aimed at Jewish families receiving these packages."

## MRS. HALPRIN TO HEAD JEWISH AGENCY IN NEW YORK UNDER ROTATION PLAN

JERUSALEM, March 25. (JTA) -- Mrs. Rose Halprin will serve as the next chairman of the Jewish Agency executive in New York, it was announced here today following a meeting of the Jewish Agency executive. She will succeed Dr. Emanuel Neumann in accordance with the rotation arrangement adopted by the last Zionist Congress.

The executive also decided today to appoint a committee to discuss proposals for commemoration projects for the late Louis Lipsky, Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Aaron Zisling. The executive will meet again in June.

## EGYPTIAN AIR FORCE CAPTAIN WHO DEFECTED TO ISRAEL EXPLAINS REASON

TEL AVIV, March 25. (JTA) -- Captain Mahmoud Hilmi, the Egyptian Air Force pilot who startled both Israel and the Arab world last January by defecting to Israel in his plane, told a press conference today that he did so because he opposed Egypt's participation in the Yemen civil war.

Asked why he chose Israel, he replied: "I had two possibilities, an Arab country or Israel. The Arab countries are unstable, therefore I chose Israel."

### ARCHBISHOP OF CANTERBURY ABSOLVES JEWS FROM CRUCIFIXION BLAME

LONDON, March 25. (JTA) -- The Archbishop of Canterbury declared today that it was wrong to try to place the blame for the crucifixion of Jesus on the Jews alone. The Archbishop, Michael Ramsey, made the statement in a letter to the London Diocesan Council for Jewish-Christian Understanding.

"The important fact is that the crucifixion was the clash between the love of God and the sinfulness and selfishness of the whole human race," the Archbishop wrote. "Those who crucified Christ are, in the true mind of the Christian Church, representatives of the whole human race and it is not for anyone to point a finger of resentment at those who brought Jesus to his death but rather to see the crucifixion as the divine judgment upon all humanity for choosing the ways of sin rather than the love of God. We all must see ourselves judged by the crucifixion."

### ANTI-JEWISH REMARKS IN SO. AFRICAN PARLIAMENT DEPLORED BY NATIONALISTS

JOHANNESBURG, March 25. (JTA) -- A Member of Parliament of the governing Nationalist party declared in Parliament today that the party was not anti-Semitic and that if efforts were made to spread anti-Semitism in South Africa, they should be "knocked on the head as one kills a snake."

J. E. Labuschagne also said that all sections of the South African population must work together for peace and prosperity and he paid tribute to the part Jews played in those goals and to their contribution to the common welfare.

He made the statement in reply to a query by J. Higerty, the Opposition Chief Whip who had asked Premier Henrik Verwoerd if he approved the anti-Jewish comments made by some Nationalist deputies in Parliament last week and what steps he was taking to end such comments. The Whip said that Jewish MP's were elected not as Jews but as representatives of their constituencies and that it was "shocking" that they had been subjected to such "racial aspersions."

While the Premier did not reply, observers felt that Labuschagne was speaking for the Nationalist party. Another Nationalist deputy, Blaas Koetzee, accused Higerty of trying to make a political issue of anti-Semitism. He alleged that there was more anti-Semitism among the opposition parties than among the Nationalists.

### EX-NAZI OFFICER SAYS HE WAS SENT TO FRONT FOR REFUSING TO KILL JEWS

BRUNSWICK, W. Germany, March 25. (JTA) -- A former SS Major told a court trying five other former SS officers on charges of slaughtering 5,200 Jews today that he had been court-martialled for refusing to obey a wartime order to round up Jews and shoot them.

Franz Klaus, 63, was a prosecution witness against the five former officers of the Second Cavalry Regiment of the SS. They are accused of complicity in the killing of the Jews in Pinsk in White Russia. The five defendants have contended that refusal to obey orders to kill the Jews in Pinsk would have meant their own execution.

Klaus testified that he was reduced to the rank of private and sentenced to five years in jail for his refusal. The sentence was later commuted to permanent service in front-line "suicide commando" squads on the Russian front.

Former General von Dem Bach-Selowski, now serving a life sentence for the murder of Jews and partisans during the war, also testified. He said "I doubt if Gestapo head Heinrich Himmler would ever have put up for court-martial an officer who refused to obey such orders." He said this was so because such action would have made public knowledge of the fact that such orders were being issued. He added that "maybe Major Klaus did not realize he was risking his life."

### Germans Reported Apathetic to Testimony at Current Nazi Trials

LONDON, March 25. (JTA) -- The Germans are reacting with apathy to the repeated descriptions of "the most staggering brutalities" emerging from testimony at current West German trials of Nazi war criminals, the Manchester Guardian reported today from Bonn.

The Guardian correspondent reported that very few Germans he had questioned on one occasion had read beyond the headlines of a 32 column inch story of testimony at the mass murder trial in Frankfurt of 22 former Auschwitz camp personnel. The story described eye-witness testimony of dogs tearing at the bodies of women inmates in Auschwitz.

At the 12,000-student University of Bonn, the subject of the trials comes up frequently in private conversations but it has not been discussed recently in public forums, he reported, "and most students do not read details of newspaper reports on the trials."

He added that he had found that many Germans were taking a legalistic view that such trials were now "inadvisable" because courts should not convict on testimony taken 20 years or more after the events. Others, he reported, think that the investigations have taken such a long time because former Nazi party members have been covering up for one another.

## CONVERSION TO JUDAISM GROWING AMONG PERSONS SEEKING INTERMARRIAGE

CHICAGO, March 25. (JTA) -- Evidence of a growing interest in conversion to Judaism "by prospective spouses of Jews" has been reported by the chairman of a Chicago project to provide classes for prospective converts under Conservative auspices.

Rabbi Nathan Levinson said that the requests of many such would-be converts had prompted the Chicago region of the Rabbinical Assembly of America to start the classes which are being held at the College for Jewish Studies. He said that the prospective converts are accompanied by their future spouses, thus making it possible for both "to more fully understand the precepts of Judaism."

Rabbi Harold I. Stern of Skokie, one of the instructors, said that he had come to the conclusion that the number of intermarriages in which the ceremony is performed by a Christian clergyman "is on the decline." He added that this proved the pessimists were wrong "who are writing off the Jewish community as inevitably assimilating completely into the non-Jewish environment."

He said that the fact that non-Jews were willing to accept Judaism and to bring up their children as Jews was "a reflection of the increased concern of our Jewish people for the survival of our ancestral faith."

## CALIFORNIA RABBIS ISSUE CODE ON JEWISH FUNERALS; STRESS SIMPLICITY

LOS ANGELES, March 25. (JTA) -- A 10-point guide for Jewish funerals, issued by the Board of Rabbis of Southern California, has been endorsed by all Jewish funeral directors in Los Angeles, the Board announced today.

A simple funeral service of reverence and spiritual significance is called for in the guide, Rabbi Marvin Bornstein, president of the board, said. The board includes Orthodox, Conservative and Reform rabbis. The 10 points cover procedures for the mourning family to observe.

Among the points are rejection of pre-funeral chapel visitation and viewing of the body as "contrary to Jewish traditions" and the avoidance of elaborate food and drinks at the customary "Meal of Condolence" after the burial services.

## ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK TO OFFER 300,000 SHARES IN THE UNITED STATES

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- Israel Discount Bank Limited, the second largest commercial bank in Israel, filed today with the Securities and Exchange Commission a registration statement covering a proposed public offering of 300,000 "A" Ordinary Shares. The shares will be offered by an underwriting group headed by Kuhn, Loeb & Co. Incorporated.

The offering will represent the first distribution to the public outside Israel of shares of Israel Discount Bank. In April 1963, the Bank offered shares for the first time to the public in Israel and simultaneously placed a limited number of shares with private investors in the United States. Prior to that time, the shares of the Bank had been privately held. The "A" Ordinary Shares are traded on the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange. The bank, which was founded in 1935, conducts a general banking business, both domestic and international, through 96 branches in Israel and a branch in New York.

## BANK LEUMI DECLARES DIVIDEND; SHARES WERE OFFERED IN U.S. IN 1963

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- The board of directors of Bank Leumi le-Israel, has authorized the distribution of a special 10 per cent stock dividend and the payment from 1963 earnings of a final cash dividend of six and one-half per cent of par, bringing the total dividend for 1963 to 12-1/2 per cent which the bank has been paying since 1953, it was announced here today by Gideon Strauss, executive vice-president in charge of American Operations of the bank. Shares of the bank were offered in the United States in 1962 and 1963.

## IRVING GROSSMAN, PROMINENT YIDDISH ACTOR AND PRODUCER, DEAD; WAS 63

PALM BEACH, Fla., March 25. (JTA) -- Irving Grossman, a prominent actor and producer in the Yiddish theater, died here of a heart attack at the age of 63. Mr. Grossman, who lived in New York City, was on a visit here to see his wife, actress Diana Goldberg, who was scheduled to open in the starring role of the play, "Milk and Honey."

Born in Boston, Mr. Grossman appeared on the stage in his teens as a protege of the Yiddish stage star, Boris Thomashefsky. He was a former president of the Hebrew Actors Union, a unit of Actors Equity.

## DR. LEOPOLD GLUSHAK, NEW YORK ZIONIST LEADER, DEAD; WAS 75

NEW YORK, March 25. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Dr. Leopold Glushak, a specialist in eye, ear and throat diseases who was an early leader of the Zionist movement in the United States. He died yesterday, aged 75. The Estonia-born doctor organized the Seventh Zionist District in New York in 1923. He was chief of clinic at the Hospital for Joint Diseases for many years and an assistant clinical professor at the New York University Medical Center.