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SENATE HEARS PLEA TO SUPPLY ISRAEL WITH AMERICAN DEFENSE ARMS

WASHINGTON, May 7. (JTA) -- Senator Hugh Scott, Pennsylvania Republican, today urged the Government to re-examine its foreign policy positions in the Middle East and consider supplying defense arms to Israel.

Speaking in the Senate, Mr. Scott expressed his deep concern "over the deteriorating situation in the Middle East today, where Western positions of strength are in jeopardy from the imperialistic designs of Egypt's President Nasser." Noting that Nasser maintains 40,000 of his Soviet-equipped troops in Yemen and from there also initiates attacks on Aden, Mr. Scott said that Nasser is pursuing his goal of "driving Israel into the sea," and rotating his troops in Yemen is part of his effort to build up a battle-hardened army.

"I am very much concerned that American foreign aid is permitting Nasser to divert other funds to purchase Soviet military supplies and to engage in this imperialistic war in Yemen," the Senator said. "Now is the time for the Johnson Administration to re-examine its whole Middle East policy. I urge specifically that the United States cut off all aid to Egypt. I further urge that the President consider the possibility of providing Israel with military defense equipment, as was done with the Hawk missile in 1962, to balance the advantage that Egypt now has from the aid flowing from both the United States and the Soviet Union."

BRITISH PARLIAMENT DEBATES NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUE IN ISRAEL AND EGYPT

LONDON, May 7. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Alec Douglas-Home declared today in the House of Commons that the British Government had no evidence that either Israel or Egypt was trying to produce nuclear weapons or was likely to have such weapons soon.

He made the statement in reply to questions from Arthur Henderson, Labor MP; Harold Wilson, Labor Party leader; and Jo Grimmond, Liberal MP. The discussion was the first on the issue since reports developed, in connection with the CENTO Council of Ministers meeting in Washington last week, that Egypt was developing nuclear warheads for its missile program with the aid of West German scientists.

"An agreement to ban the dissemination of nuclear weapons is important for the security not only of the Middle East but the whole world," the Prime Minister said; "We are trying to achieve such agreement at the Geneva disarmament conference;" He added that recent anti-British speeches and declarations by President Nasser of Egypt "inevitably caused a setback to our efforts, but we will not be diverted either from our peaceful purposes or our duty to protect friends to whom we have treaty obligations."

Work of German Scientists in Egypt Considered 'Real Danger'

Mr. Henderson suggested, in the debate, that the real danger was in the fact that West Germany scientists were working in Egypt on the development and production of rockets and other missiles. He said this could only lead to the intensification of the "missile race" between Israel and Egypt, and upset the balance and stability of the Middle East. He then asked the Prime Minister: "Would you not agree that this underlines the urgency of President Johnson's proposals for securing an agreement on freezing production of nuclear delivery weapons?"

The Prime Minister replied that "it may be more important to get a non-dissemination agreement, but we have no evidence that Israel or Egypt is trying to produce weapons of this kind."

Liberal leader Grimmond said that, while those countries were not producing weapons now, they would soon be in a position to do so. He asked whether this situation did not make it necessary for Britain "to look at the Tripartite Declaration about arms in the Middle East;" He also asked the Prime Minister whether he would consult with the other signatories to that declaration--the United States and France--"to see if it can be made a reality."

The Prime Minister said that conditions in the Middle East "do not depend on our goodwill alone. There must be reciprocity, and we have seen precious little of this; It is not at present the Government's view that Israel or Egypt is likely to get nuclear weapons soon."

Mr. Wilson reminded the Premier that the Labor Party had warned the Government two years ago about the dangers inherent in West Germany scientists working in Egypt, and that the Labor Party had asked the Government to take up the matter urgently with Bonn.

JEWISH REPRESENTATIVES TESTIFY IN BONN PARLIAMENT ON INDEMNIFICATION

BONN, May 7; (JTA) -- Representatives of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany and of Jewish refugee organizations in Israel, Britain, France and the United States protested yesterday in the West German Parliament that proposed changes in federal indemnification laws for victims of Nazism were inadequate.

The representatives, along with those of non-Jewish organizations, appeared on invitation of the Bundestag indemnification committee at a scheduled hearing on changes in the law to extend its coverage to victims now excluded. The issue has been before the Bonn Parliament for years.

Two major groups of Jewish claimants are involved. One is an estimated 100,000 Jews who could not leave Iron Curtain countries until after October 1, 1953, the deadline for filing of claims. The other is some 86,000 Jews who have filed claims for illness or disability suffered in Nazi concentration camps and ghettos;

West Germany has agreed in principle to compensate Jewish victims who came to the West after the 1953 deadline, and has suggested a fund equivalent to \$150,000,000 to be used for one-time payments by Jewish claim organizations for such indemnification. Jewish organizations are asking, however, that such victims be treated on the same basis as Jewish victims who were able to file by the 1953 deadline and have requested a fund of between 2,000,000,000 marks (\$500,000,000) and 3,000,000,000 marks (\$750,000,000) for that purpose.

The other group of claimants must now prove 25 per cent disability and that the disability is due to Nazi persecution. The Jewish organizations have argued that, due to the lapse of time involved, it is virtually impossible to prove such claims. They have asked that the law be changed to make it the legal presumption that victims of such camps and ghettos suffered their illness as the result of Nazi persecution. One of the proposed amendments accepts this proposal in principle but hedges it with conditions considered crippling by Jewish organizations, who asked that the restrictions be eliminated.

ISSUE OF NAZI ESCAPE FROM PRISON TO BE RAISED IN GERMAN PARLIAMENT

BONN, May 7; (JTA) -- The opposition Social Democratic party decided today to raise in the Bundestag the issue of the escape of Hans Walter Zech-Neentwich, the Nazi who fled a maximum security jail in Brunswick to asylum in Cairo.

The former SS cavalry officer made his escape last month, four days after he received a four-year prison term for complicity in the wartime murder of 5,200 Jews in the Nazi-held Pinsk Ghetto. The West German Government has asked Egypt for his extradition but Egypt is expected to ignore the request since there is no extradition pact between the two countries.

The Social Democrats plan to ask the Government how it was possible for the former Nazi to have had his passport with him in prison, which facilitated his escape to Switzerland. They also plan to seek to learn who owned the private airplane in which the Nazi made his escape to Switzerland.

ARGENTINE REFUSES ASYLUM TO NAZI WHO FLED FROM TRIAL IN GERMANY

BUENOS AIRES, May 7; (JTA) -- A Buenos Aires court rejected today an appeal by Gerhard Bohne, who fled from West Germany to avoid trial in a Nazi euthanasia case, for political asylum in Argentina.

Bohne was one of four former officials of the Hitler program for disposing of Germans deemed unfit to live. An estimated 200,000 persons were put to death in the program. Bohne jumped bail and escaped before the trial began in Limburg.

Argentine President Arturo Illia, responding to an appeal from West Germany in March, agreed to Bohne's extradition. The former Nazi began a court fight to prevent his being returned to Limburg.

ISRAEL AFFECTED BY 'SLOW DOWN' OF POST OFFICE AND TAX OFFICIALS

TEL AVIV, May 7; (JTA) -- The lines lengthened today in front of post offices as the slowdown of postal employees, ineffect for several days, began to cause serious delays in the handling of letters and cables. It now takes several days for a letter posted in Tel Aviv for delivery in Tel Aviv to reach its destination, and three hours to send a cable. Hours of waiting also are required to buy stamps or pay telephone bills.

Tax officials also continued today, for the second day, a similar slowdown which is causing a sharp drop in state income. A teachers' strike meanwhile was averted for another two weeks, to provide more time for settling teacher demands.

Officials of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, and the Civil Service Authority were studying means to settle the disputes. Pinhas Sapir, Trade and Commerce Minister, indicated he was considering bringing before the next Cabinet meeting the question of the deterioration of labor relations in the civil service.

CHIEF SUPREME COURT JUSTICE DEFENDS BAN ON PRAYERS IN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, May 7. (JTA) -- Chief Justice Earl Warren defended today the Supreme Court's ruling outlawing prayers in public schools. While the House Judiciary Committee continued its third week of hearings into proposed constitutional amendments that would void the Court's ban against prayers and Bible-reading in the public schools, the Chief Justice touched on the prayer decision in an address at the dedication of a bell tower in the Episcopal Cathedral here.

Without mentioning the court's ruling specifically, the Chief Justice noted that the constitutional provision for separation of church and state was aimed at protecting not only the state but also religion. Under the United States Constitution, he said, "the interaction of religion and state is made informal and free, and not non-existent, as some claim." This interaction, he added, "is as fruitful as Americans have the will and the strength to make it."

B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League entered a sharp dissent today before the House Judiciary Committee against the proposed constitutional amendments dealing with religion in public schools. Rejecting the proposed constitutional change, Seymour Grabard, chairman of the ADL's Special Committee on Church-State Relations, told the committee that government formalization of religious practices would "downgrade the essentially voluntary nature of prayer" and would create "a watered-down secularistic kind of religion which would compete with and cheapen" true religious practices.

Rabbis Register Opposition to Prayers in Public Schools

Two other Jewish organizations today expressed objections to a constitutional overturn of the Supreme Court's bans against school prayers and Bible-reading. The New York Board of Rabbis telegraphed Rep. Celler stating that the Board opposes alteration of the First Amendment: "Prayer and religious observance," the rabbis stated, "should be practiced in the home, synagogue and church, surely not in public schools where they can and have become a divisive, rather than a unifying, factor among Americans."

The Workmen's Circle, a Jewish fraternal Order with more than 70,000 members, informed the committee that it opposes specifically the proposed constitutional amendment on this issue being pressed by Congressman Frank Becker, New York Republican. The organization told Rep. Celler that the Becker draft would in effect force a religious type of segregation in the public schools and is "especially repulsive."

Opposition to the draft amendments was also voiced before the committee this afternoon by Dr. Frederick Schiottz, president of the Lutheran Church. He warned that such an alteration in the American Constitution could affect the status of Christians in new African and Asian nations which might "imitate American action" by "crippling the minority Christian churches."

Compromise in Dispute Over Prayers Discussed by Congressmen

Meanwhile, the idea of a compromise in the dispute over public school prayers, in the form of a Congressional Declaration instead of a Constitutional Amendment, was being discussed behind the scenes in the House Judiciary Committee. This suggestion now has reached a stage where it was offered for discussion by the chairman of the Committee, Rep. Emanuel Celler, who is known as a firm opponent of the proposed Constitutional Amendment. Mr. Celler noted that he has not yet decided, personally, to endorse the suggestion.

Under the idea, Congress would pass a resolution--without force of law--declaring the sense of Congress that voluntary, non-denominational prayers are not contrary to the Constitution. A Federal court in New York recently ruled that the Supreme Court decision does not forbid prayers in schools when they are not supervised by the school. The suggested resolution would, in effect, tell the Supreme Court that Congress hoped it would uphold the New York court decision.

Many members hope that such a resolution would ease the pressure on Congress to amend the Constitution to permit prayers in public schools. Many members feel caught between their desire to respond to the vocal demand for school prayers, on the one hand, and their grave concern that any prayer amendment would dilute, if not seriously undermine, the Constitutional guarantees of religious freedom and separation between church and state.

CHRISTIAN-JEWISH RELATIONS CONSIDERED MOVING TO GREATER UNDERSTANDING

BOSTON, May 7. (JTA) -- Christian-Jewish relations are moving toward "new and higher levels of understanding and practical cooperation," B'nai B'rith president Label Katz told a banquet audience celebrating the 10th anniversary of the Amos Lodge of B'nai B'rith here tonight.

Mr. Katz attributed the "growing maturity" of interfaith activities to the spirit of religious liberalism advanced by the late Pope John XXIII and his successor, Paul VI. In place of the shallow notion that interfaith activity has to play down individual distinctions, and build on the idea that religions are similar to each other, "we are learning now the virtues of religious pluralism which affirms the validity of differences and distinctions," Mr. Katz asserted.

AMERICAN MUTUAL FUND FOR INVESTMENTS IN ISRAEL OFFERS SHARES TO PUBLIC

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- Shares in the Israel American Diversified Fund, Inc., a newly formed, open-end diversified investment company, are now being offered to the public following registration with the Securities Exchange Commission, it was announced today by Lawrence G. Laskey, president of the Fund.

Mr. Laskey indicated that this fund is unique in that it represents the only American mutual fund for investment in Israel. He said that the primary objective of this mutual fund will be to offer growth possibilities through investment in a varied group of Israeli, Israeli-oriented, and American companies.

A noteworthy consideration, pinpointed by Mr. Laskey, is that Israelis will, for the first time, be able to invest in a United States mutual fund. An initial total of 17,500 shares has been allocated by the Israel Government for sale in Israel through three prominent Israeli banks, Ellern's Bank, Ltd., Jacob Japhet & Co., Ltd. and Palestine-British Bank, Ltd., who have underwritten this portion of the Fund's shares.

At the same time, American investors will be able to participate in any economic development and growth of Israel through the Fund's portfolio of Israeli securities. "It is our hope," said Mr. Laskey, "that, as Israel's economy moves forward, the Israel American Diversified Fund, Inc., will be a contributor in financing the country's economic progress."

Israel American Diversified Fund shares initially are being offered to the public at a maximum figure of \$10 per share, representing a net asset value of \$9.15, plus a sales charge ranging from eight and one-half per cent downward, according to the size of the investment. The minimum initial purchase of shares is fixed at \$250. Payments for shares may be made in U.S. dollars or certain State of Israel Bonds.

NACHUM SHAMIR APPOINTED NEW ISRAEL ECONOMIC MINISTER IN U.S.

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- The appointment of Nachum Shamir as Israel's Economic Minister to the Embassy of Israel in Washington, was announced today by Avraham Harman, Israel's Ambassador to this country. Mr. Shamir assumes his new position effective immediately, succeeding Ambassador Aryeh Manor, who held the post for the past six years.

In his new capacity, Mr. Shamir will head Israel's economic offices in the United States, whose headquarters in New York include the Government of Israel Investment Authority, the Office of the Israel Trade Commissioner, and the Israel Supply Mission.

Ambassador Manor has served in governmental posts since 1949, when he was appointed head of the Ministry of Defense Mission in New York. In 1951, he was transferred to the Ministry of Finance, and appointed Director of the Government of Israel Supply Mission in New York, in which capacity he served until his appointment as Economic Minister to the Embassy of Israel in Washington, in November 1958. Upon his return to Israel, Ambassador Manor will join the management of Bank Leumi LeIsrael in Tel Aviv.

JUSTICE GOLDBERG ACCEPTS TWO HONORARY POSTS IN SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL

NEW YORK, May 7. (JTA) -- Arthur J. Goldberg, Associate Justice of the United States Supreme Court, was named today honorary chairman of the national advisory council of the Synagogue Council of America. The appointment was announced by Rabbi Uri Miller, president of the Council.

Justice Goldberg was also named honorary chairman of the Synagogue Statesman Award dinner, an annual event at which distinguished leaders of the Jewish community are honored for their achievements and contributions to the united religious Jewish community in America. In accepting the two appointments, Justice Goldberg succeeded the late Governor Herbert H. Lehman, who for many years expressed interest in the Synagogue Council of America. He was a pillar of the Council.

PRECIDENT JOHNSON LAUDS DR. PRINZ ON 25 YEARS OF SERVICE AS RABBI

NEWARK, May 7. (JTA) -- President Lyndon B. Johnson, in a personal message to Dr. Joachim Prinz, has hailed the Jewish leader on his 25th anniversary as rabbi of Temple B'nai Abraham here. President Johnson's message was read at a ball attended by 600 congregation members and community leaders, marking Dr. Prinz's silver jubilee with the temple. Dr. Prinz is also president of the American Jewish Congress.

"As you are honored by Temple B'nai Abraham of Newark for your 25 years of dedicated service as a spiritual leader of this synagogue," President Johnson wrote, "I am pleased to join your many friends and admirers in extending to you heartiest congratulations and greetings.

"Your valiant and devoted efforts to promote the cause of social justice in our blessed land have won for you the praise of all Americans. I am proud to add my voice to that of those who pay tribute today to your many fine accomplishments. In the years ahead, I wish you the happiness and satisfaction which are so rightfully yours."