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PRECIDENT JOHNSON WARMLY WELCOMES ESHKOL; SAYS U. S. 'ADMIRE' ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, June 1. (JTA) -- President Lyndon B. Johnson today welcomed Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol with an unusually warm tribute to Israel's achievements and expressions of support of Israel's security and Middle East peace objectives.

The President said he was aware of the problems which Israel faces with the neighboring Arab countries and was also aware of the fact that Israel wants to live in peace with its neighbors. He stressed that he believes that the Arab-Israeli problems could be peacefully resolved and that it is "imperative" to resolve them peacefully.

President Johnson lauded Israel's progress, which he said is "greatly admired" by all Americans. He said that Israel met and mastered "monumental" economic problems, and has "shown all the world how to use science and technology to improve man's life on the planet."

Calling Israel "a symbol of courage and strength of her people," the President said that the United States is proud of the aid given to Israel and is prepared to continue its contributions to technical advancement of Israel, particularly in the field of desalination of water in which Israel is so much interested.

Mr. Johnson expressed confidence that Prime Minister Eshkol's visit to this country will result in increased understanding between the United States and Israel and will strengthen the "already cordial relations" between the two countries. He welcomed the opportunity to exchange views with Mr. Eshkol on common interests and common objectives.

The President noted that like the United States, Israel is interested in the building of a better world in which every nation can develop its resources in freedom and peace. He said that he is pleased to have Mr. Eshkol come to the United States and emphasized that this is "the first official visit by a Prime Minister of Israel" in this country, although other Israeli Prime Ministers had visited the United States informally several times in the past. "It gives me great pleasure to say 'Shalom,'" he told Mr. Eshkol.

Eshkol Moved by Johnson's Warmth; Conveys Thanks for U. S. Aid

Prime Minister Eshkol seemed deeply moved by the warm words of President Johnson. Persons who witnessed similar receptions of foreign dignitaries all agreed that this was one of the warmest accorded by President Johnson. The welcome was conducted on the White House lawn, amidst martial music, saluting cannon, and formations of troops. The Prime Minister and his party were landed on the White House grounds in President Johnson's private helicopter. Mrs. Lyndon Johnson, smiling graciously, presented a bouquet of flowers to Mrs. Eshkol. Present at the ceremony were Israeli diplomats and many State Department officials of high rank.

Prime Minister Eshkol, expressing appreciation for the spirit in which he was welcomed by the President, said that Mr. Johnson's friendship was "of deepest encouragement" to the people of Israel. "This moment will always remain with me," he said. He emphasized that the aid and sympathy given to Israel by successive U. S. Governments, and by the people of the United States, "are engraved for all time on the tablets of our renewed nationhood." He conveyed thanks to all Americans on behalf of the people of Israel.

Johnson and Eshkol Meet Privately; Hold Secret Conversation

The President and Mr. Eshkol spent 20 minutes together alone in a top secret exchange. The entire meeting of the two leaders lasted one hour and 20 minutes. Participants later revealed that the President showed great understanding and sympathy for Israel's problems. Premier Eshkol had an opportunity to explain the whole range of Israel's views on international matters.

The President was reported to have displayed knowledge and insight into Israel's problems and voiced admiration of Israel's achievements. He appeared extremely pleased to meet Mr. Eshkol and discuss with him in a man-to-man manner, questions of crucial interest to the two countries.

A formal dinner was served tonight in honor of the Prime Minister and Mrs. Eshkol at the White House tendered by President and Mrs. Johnson. A luncheon honoring Mrs. Eshkol was served aboard the U. S. S. Sequoia today by Mrs. Dean Rusk, Acting Secretary of State. George Ball gave a luncheon at the Department of State in honor of Prime Minister Eshkol.

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FULL TEXT OF PRESIDENT JOHNSON'S WELCOMING ADDRESS TO PREMIER ESHKOL

WASHINGTON, June 1. (JTA) -- Following is the text of President Johnson's welcoming speech to Prime Minister Eshkol delivered at the White House lawn ceremony:

"Mr. Prime Minister, ladies and gentlemen; I am very happy, Mr. Prime Minister, to welcome you to our country. Your predecessors have visited my country informally several times in the past, but this is the first official visit by a Prime Minister of Israel. We are pleased that you have come. My countrymen greatly admire the progress made by your people. You have met and mastered monumental problems of economic survival. You have shown all the world how to use science and technology to improve man's life on the planet.

"Today, Israel is a vital, prosperous land, a symbol of the courage and the strength of her people. The United States is proud to have assisted in this high enterprise. We are prepared to continue our contributions to technical advancement in Israel, particularly in the field of desalination of water; We are aware, Mr. Prime Minister, of the problems of political adjustment that Israel faces with her neighbors. We know that you want to live in peace with those neighbors, and we believe it not only possible but imperative that those problems be peacefully resolved, bringing justice to all as well as security for all.

"We welcome this opportunity to exchange views with you on matters of mutual interest. We share many common objectives, Mr. Prime Minister, chief of which is the building of a better world, a world in which every nation can develop its resources and develop them in freedom and peace; I am confident this visit will result in increased understanding between us and a strengthening of our already cordial relations."

Text of Premier Eshkol's Response to the President's Greeting

"Mrs. Eshkol and I are deeply grateful for your kind invitation and warm welcome. It is a privilege to meet the statesman on whom destiny has laid so vast and historic a responsibility. In the short time since you, Mr. President, assumed your exalted office, your deep dedication to peace, to freedom and to the welfare of ordinary people have aroused hope and confidence throughout the world.

"The prophet Malachi, almost three thousand years ago delivered this eternal message: 'Have we not all one father; hath not one God created us.' In face of the danger to human survival in our time, this lasting truth, and with it, the sense of common destiny is cutting across the barriers of hostility and ideology which divide nations."

"From Jerusalem, the city of immortal prophecy, and peace, I bear with me the best wishes of the people of Israel, to you Mr. President, the first citizen of this great country. You fulfill the injunction of our sages, to love peace and pursue peace.

"Mr. President, from this great center of government, here in Washington, symbol and repository of democracy, there has constantly come forth a message of encouragement to nations in their struggle for liberty and the affirmation of human values; The aid and sympathy tendered to us by successive United States Governments, and by the people of the United States, are engraved for all time on the tablets of our renewed nationhood." Through you, Mr. President, I wish to convey from the people of Israel to the people of the United States, a heartfelt message of good will and of best wishes for their happiness and welfare."

"Mr. President, this moment will always remain with me. For me, it is symbolic of the providential change which has taken place in the fortunes of my people--of the transition within so short a time, from the tragedy, which only two decades ago engulfed one-third of my people, to the new epoch of independence and construction which commenced with the rise of Israel."

"Only lasting faith in the fulfillment of prophecy enabled us to survive tribulation down the ages. In our time, it has been given to us to reaffirm in independence the ancient unbroken link between the people of Israel and the land of Israel. It is our belief that just as the prophecy of the restoration of Zion is being fulfilled, so too, will the prophecy of universal peace be vindicated.

"Mr. President, I thank you from the heart for your friendship, which is a source of the deepest encouragement to my people, as it faces the future with faith and hope."

KHRUSHCHEV'S VISIT TO EGYPT BROUGHT INCREASED ARAB-ISRAEL TENSION

JERUSALEM, June 1. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Golda Meir told the Cabinet yesterday that Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev's visit to Egypt last month had contributed to increased tension in the Middle East.

Reporting to the Cabinet on the visit, it was understood that Mrs. Meir stressed that, despite Mr. Khrushchev's relatively moderate anti-Israel pronouncements, the danger lay in their being misconstrued by the Arabs as a sign of Soviet support even of Arab aggression.

During the Cabinet meeting, Religious Affairs Minister Zorach Warhaitig said that members of the Bene Israel community from India are considered Jews for all intents and purposes and that there were no difficulties about their marrying other Jews and that there was no discrimination whatsoever.

POPE PAUL DISAPPROVES OF BLAMING JEWS FOR CRUCIFIXION OF JESUS

NEW YORK, June 1. (JTA) -- Pope Paul VI, during the audience he gave last Saturday to a group of leaders of the American Jewish Committee, indicated that he does not believe that Jews should be held responsible for the crucifixion of Jesus by declaring that he fully associates himself with the views expressed by Francis Cardinal Spellman in the latter's address delivered at the American Jewish Committee's annual dinner in New York on April 30.

The Pontiff told the American Jewish Committee delegation that Cardinal Spellman had "spoken my sentiments," it was revealed here today by Morris B. Abram, president of the Committee who headed the delegation, which returned today from Rome to New York. Addressing a press conference, Mr. Abrams said that Pope Paul informed the delegation that Cardinal Spellman's talk at the American Jewish Committee's dinner had been forwarded to him and that he read it with much satisfaction.

Cardinal Spellman in his address dealt with anti-Semitism and condemned the spreading of bigotry. With regard to the crucifixion issue, he stated: "Responsibility for the crucifixion of Jesus belongs only to those individuals who were present at the time and cooperated with His death. It is simply absurd to maintain that there is some kind of continuing guilt which is transferred to any group and which rests upon them as a curse for which they must suffer." He added that "anti-Semitism can never find a basis in the Catholic religion."

Pope Paul, in declaring to the American Jewish Committee delegation that these are also his own sentiments, made it clear that he backs the statement on Catholic-Jewish relations which is now being prepared for submission to the forthcoming session of the Ecumenical Council in September.

The delegation received by the Pope included, in addition to Mr. Abram, who is a U. S. member of the United Nations Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities; Ralph Friedman of New York, chairman of the American Jewish Committee executive board; Philip E. Hoffman of Newark, N. J., chairman of its board of governors, Dr. John Slawson of New York, executive vice-president, and Mrs. Leonard M. Sperry of Los Angeles, a member of the executive board.

Action Center to Combat Religious Prejudice to Open in Rome

At today's conference, Mr. Abram also revealed plans for the creation in Rome of a research and action center to analyze and combat prejudice, especially as it arises in the teachings of different faiths. Mr. Abram said that the Pope, when informed of the plans, indicated his approval and gave his blessing to Mrs. Sperry, widow of the American Jewish Committee leader, in whose memory the center is being established.

To be known as the Leonard M. Sperry Center for Intergroup Cooperation, the new institute will promote examination of religious texts and teaching materials in different parts of the world in order to determine in what light they portray various religious groups and ethnic minorities, including Jews. Initial financing of the Center program has been assured by Mrs. Sperry and the family and friends of the late Mr. Sperry.

Detailing the aims of the Sperry Center, Mr. Abram told the press conference that in addition to examination of texts and teaching, the Center will conduct a long-range program of sociological and psychological research aimed at counteracting prejudices found in religious texts and teaching materials. In the United States alone, the American Jewish Committee has stimulated and encouraged a series of self studies of religious teaching materials, including: a study of Protestant teachings at Yale Divinity School, a survey of Catholic textbooks at St. Louis University, a Jesuit institution, and an examination of Jewish teachings at Dropsie College of Hebrew and Cognate Learning.

The Sperry Center will be established in the International University of Social Studies, Pro Deo, in Rome. Mr. Abram expressed the American Jewish Committee's view that Rome, the scene of Pope John XXIII's challenge to men to establish a new order in human relations, is an appropriate location for a Center devoted to such purposes. Pope John enunciated this call at the opening session of the Ecumenical Council in 1961.

As a result of the audience with Pope Paul, Mr. Abram said, the American Jewish Committee feels greatly encouraged about the prospects of the forthcoming session of the Ecumenical Council adopting the decrees concerning religious liberty and Catholic attitudes toward Jews and other non-Christian groups. "Pope Paul told us that he wished for peace among all religions, that he hoped the Council would help bring peace and friendship between the Church and the Jews, and that it would repeat the sentiments expressed in the statement he read to our delegation," Mr. Abram said.

CONVENTION OF ARGENTINE JEWRY DENOUNCES ARAB HATE PROPAGANDA

SANTA FE, Argentina, June 1. (JTA) -- The national convention of the DAIA, the representative organization of Argentine Jewry, today denounced Arab anti-Jewish propaganda in Argentina and branded "anti-Zionism" as "merely a perfidious form of anti-Semitism." In a resolution adopted at the closing session of the convention, the 170 delegates from 17 Argentine communities protested the hate campaign being carried out by the Arab League agents in Argentina.

SUPREME COURT REVERSES FLORIDA COURT RULING ON BIBLE READING

WASHINGTON, June 1. (JTA) -- The Supreme Court today abruptly reversed a Florida Supreme Court ruling that permitted Bible reading and recitation of the Lord's Prayer in public schools; The High Court cited its decisions of last term that devotional exercises of this kind are an "establishment of religion" forbidden by the Constitution; Florida law requires Bible reading but does not mention other practices.

A group of Miami parents also objected to baccalaureate programs questioning children about their religious affiliation and that of their parents; and a religious test for teachers. The Court's brief order today dismissed these complaints "for want of properly presented Federal question." Members of the complaining group are either Jewish, Unitarian or agnostic.

The case came to the U.S. Supreme Court last term after Florida tribunals had struck down such state practices as use of the school premises after hours for Bible instruction, exhibition of religious films in the schools, and presentation of Christmas, Easter and Chanukah programs. The U. S. Supreme Court sent the case back for further consideration in light of its decision on Bible reading and the Lord's Prayer. But the Florida Supreme court approved the practices a second time on the ground that their purpose was to encourage good moral training rather than to promote religion. The State Court cited remarks to this effect by the State Legislature in the preface to the statute.

The action today was in the form of a brief, unsigned opinion. Justice Potter Stewart dissented; He said the court should have heard arguments on the case. Stewart was the sole dissenter in the two previous decisions that states may not provide for religious devotions in public schools.

Justice William O. Douglas and Justice Hugo L. Black joined the others in reversing the prayer and Bible reading aspects of the case, but they thought a substantial question was presented as to a religious test for teachers. They noted that applicants are required to answer the question, "Do you believe in God?" They said religious attitudes are also considered in making promotions. The court ruled some time ago that a religious test may not be made a requirement for state office. The case concerned a Maryland man who sought a notary public's license.

C. J. F. W. F. OVERSEAS DELEGATION TO ASSESS JEWISH NEEDS ABRCAD

NEW YORK, June 1; (JTA) -- The third overseas delegation of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds will go to Europe and Israel on June 29 to undertake a comprehensive three-week appraisal of philanthropic programs, needs and problems of paramount interest to American Jewry, it was announced here today.

Led by Louis Stern of Newark, CJFWF president, and by Irving Kane of Cleveland, past president and current chairman of its Overseas Services Committee, the delegation of outstanding lay and professional community leaders will survey the work of overseas institutions and agencies in England, France and other countries of Western Europe, and in Israel. Following its return, the delegation will present its findings and recommendations to U. S. and Canadian Jewish communities, and to the General Assembly at St. Louis in November.

Serving on the delegation with Mr. Stern and Mr. Kane are; Mrs. Joseph Cohen of New Orleans, M. E. Glass of Cleveland, Lawrence E. Irell of Los Angeles, Judge Theodore Levin of Detroit; A. Louis Oresman of New York and Mrs. Oresman; Louis P. Smith of Boston, Cecil Usher of Montreal, Melvin S. Zaret of Milwaukee, Henry L. Zucker of Cleveland, Philip Bernstein and Louis D. Horwitz, both of New York. Members of the delegation are going at their own expense.

Like its predecessor missions in 1958 and 1961, the delegation will explore ways and means to help utilize American experience overseas most effectively, and strengthen the progress toward self-support. It will place emphasis on prime health, welfare and educational needs. Many of these problems are continuously being examined in the course of the Council's ongoing budget information and consultation process with the United Jewish Appeal, the Jewish Agency for Israel, Inc., and the Joint Distribution Committee.

In Israel, the study will include analysis of the backlog of unabsorbed immigrants, of which 200,000 are on public assistance rolls; the continuing high rate of immigration, programs for self-support and rehabilitation, financing, debts, and assets. Other aspects of the mission study in Israel will include an assessment of youth training and integration programs, the role of American Jewish philanthropy in educating social workers, teachers, physicians and other professional workers, and an analysis of problems created by the loss in 1965 of German Material Claim funds now available to Israel organizations.

The group, moreover, will direct its attention to the implementation of other programs initiated at the recommendation of the two previous CJFWF overseas delegations. Among these is a recently completed study of philanthropic fund-raising potentials in Israel jointly sponsored by the Council and the Jewish Agency, Jerusalem.