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VATICAN ISSUES STATEMENT ON ECUMENICAL COUNCIL DECLARATION ON JEWS

ROME, June 14, (JTA) -- Obviously perturbed over a report published this weekend in the United States that the Vatican draft of a declaration on the attitude of the Catholic Church toward the Jews--to be adopted at the forthcoming session of the Ecumenical in September--has been drastically watered down, and that the part in the drafted declaration absolving Jews of the responsibility for the Crucifixion of Jesus has been deleted, the Vatican issued a statement yesterday which reads:

"Referring to certain information published in the press concerning the project of the Declaration de Judaïs (Declaration on the Jews), the Secretariat for Christian Unity specifies that the text of this declaration is still under study and has therefore not been sent to the Council Fathers. If modification should have to be made, they would have the purpose to harmonize its terms with the whole of the Council's doctrinal schemata."

The statement was issued by the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity of which Augustine Cardinal Bea is the head. The Declaration on the Jews, as drafted under Cardinal Bea's direction, stated that the Jews as a people could not be held solely responsible for Jesus' death on the cross, but that the responsibility rested on all "sinful mankind." The statement issued by Cardinal Bea's office yesterday leaves open the question of whether the portion on Jewish responsibility in the Crucifixion might be deleted or even undergo a change.

Text of Declaration to Be Discussed on June 26 by Vatican Body

Competent observers here consider it unthinkable that the part absolving the Jews from deicide should be eliminated from the Declaration, since this would actually nullify the sense and the intent of the document on Catholic-Jewish relations. The text of the Declaration is still to be discussed by the Vatican Coordination Commission for approval prior to being printed and distributed among the 2,300 prelates who will attend the Ecumenical Council session to be reconvened in September. The Coordination Commission is scheduled to meet on June 26;

The reason for the possible elimination of references to the Crucifixion was reported to be the belief in some Vatican circles that any statement openly favorable to Jews might be misconstrued by Arabs as implying support for Israel. However, it was pointed out here today that the Crucifixion issue is irrelevant to the Moslem religion and can therefore not provoke any opposition on the part of the Arabs. Mention was also made here of the statement made recently by Pope Paul VI to a delegation of the American Jewish Committee in which he indicated that he associated himself with the view expressed in New York by Cardinal Spellman who declared that Jews of today should not be held responsible for the Crucifixion of Jesus.

Cardinal Bea, meanwhile, returned today from a visit to the United States where he was the guest of Cardinal Cushing of Boston. Cardinal Cushing, along with Francis Cardinal Spellman and other American Cardinals, has predicted that the declaration absolving Jews of the responsibility for the Crucifixion would be adopted at the forthcoming session of the Ecumenical Council.

ESHKOL TO REPORT TO ISRAEL CABINET ON U. S. VISIT; RETURNS TODAY

JERUSALEM, June 14: (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, who arrived in Switzerland on Friday with Mrs. Eshkol for a few days' rest following his 12-day visit to the United States, is expected to return to Israel tomorrow. Immediately upon the Premier's return to Israel, the Cabinet will hold a special meeting to hear a report of his visit to the United States.

Meanwhile, it was announced here today that Premier Eshkol will confer with President Charles de Gaulle, Premier Georges Pompidou and other key French Government officials during a visit to Paris beginning June 28. Details of the Premier's 12-day visit to France were released here by authoritative sources. He will also meet with French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville, Defense Minister Pierre Messmer and others. Accompanied by Mrs. Eshkol, Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres and other members of his entourage, the Premier will arrive at Paris airport.

The Premier will be guest of honor on June 29 at a luncheon tendered by the French Premier at his official residence. During the second day of his visit, the Premier also

will confer separately with President De Gaulle and with the French Foreign Minister. The French Israeli Friendship Association will give the Premier a luncheon on the third day during which he will also meet with a number of French Cabinet ministers and other personalities.

He will speak at a July 1 luncheon organized by the French diplomatic press and the Foreign Press Association. In the evening he will be host at a dinner tendered by Israel Ambassador Walter Eytan in honor of the French Cabinet Ministers and other French personalities. Several thousand members of France's political, artistic and business worlds will be introduced to the Premier at a garden party that evening arranged by Mr. Eytan.

Mr. Eshkol will be the luncheon guest, in his capacity as Israel Defense Minister, of French Minister Messmer on July 2 and will visit the local Jewish community center in the afternoon. For the next three days, the Israeli Premier will visit industrial, agricultural and military sites outside of Paris. He will then have a rest until July 8 when he will be guest of honor at a luncheon given by the Fonds Social Juif Unifié, the central Jewish welfare agency. On July 9, the Premier and his party will leave for Israel.

TESTS ON WATER CARRIER PROJECT FROM LAKE TIBERIAS TO NEGEV CONTINUE

TEL AVIV, June 14: (JTA) -- Tests continued today all along the 70-mile section of the National Water Carrier project from Lake Tiberias to the southern terminal of the northern section at Rosh Haayin.

Rosh Haayin is also the starting point of the Yarkon-Negev portion of the huge pipeline project which taps the Jordan River through Lake Tiberias. It was disclosed that water was flowing through the southern section to settlements in the Negev.

JEWISH CLAIMS CONFERENCE LEADERS CONFER WITH GERMAN CHANCELLOR

WASHINGTON, June 14: (JTA) -- Leaders of the Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany conferred here yesterday with West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, urging him to reopen the filing deadline--under the amendment to the Federal Indemnification Law proposed in Bonn--for the benefit of Nazi victims who through no fault of their own are barred from registering their claims under the existing legislation. This concerns primarily Nazi victims who came out from the Iron Curtain lands after October 1953.

The meeting of the Jewish leaders with Chancellor Erhard took place in the German Embassy here. The Claims Conference delegation was composed of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president; Jacob Blaustein, senior vice-president; Moses Leavitt, treasurer; and Saul Kagan, special consultant of the Claims Conference.

The delegation also urged the Chancellor to take immediate steps to correct serious deficiencies in the proposed amendment to the Federal Restitution Law presently before the West German Parliament.

JEWISH SCIENTISTS REPORTED CONSTITUTING LARGE PERCENTAGE IN RUSSIA

NEW YORK, June 14: (JTA) -- Jews still account for a high fraction of the leading scientists in the Soviet Union as indicated by the numbers of Jewish names among the lists of persons nominated for election to the Soviet Academy of Science, it was reported today in the New York Times.

While Jews constitute about 1.5 per cent of the population of the Soviet Union, well over 10 per cent of the persons nominated to full membership or corresponding membership in the Academy, appear to be Jewish. Academy membership is considered the highest mark of recognition of achievement among Soviet scientists.

Of the 103 persons nominated for election to full membership in the academy, 16 have Jewish names. Of the 438 persons nominated for election as corresponding members, 58 have Jewish names, the Times reported. The percentages of Jewish names among the nominees appear to be highest in the fields of chemistry, mathematics and physics and lowest in geology, biology and some of the humanities. While eight of the 32 persons nominated for full membership in the fields of mathematics and physics appear to be Jewish, none of the nine geologists or eight biologists appear to be a Jew.

Among the Jews nominated for full membership are two mathematicians, Izrail Moiseyevich Gelfand and Mark Grigorievich Krein. Among the physicists nominated are Benzion Moiseyevich Vul, Vitaly Lazarevich Ginzburg, Gersh Itskovich Budker and Isaak Yakovlevich Pomeranchuk.

JEWS IN AUSTRALIA APPEAL TO MOSCOW ON ANTI-JEWISH DISCRIMINATION

MELBOURNE, June 14: (JTA) -- A resolution urging the Soviet Government to take immediate steps to restore Soviet Jewry to full cultural and religious rights was adopted here today at a mass meeting on the issue called by the Australian Jewish Board of Deputies. The resolution was cabled to the Soviet Embassy in Canberra for transmission to Moscow.

JOINT DISTRIBUTION COMMITTEE AIDED 410,000 NEEDY JEWS IN 1963

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- More than 410,000 needy Jews in 26 countries received relief, welfare and other aid from the Joint Distribution Committee during 1963, Moses A. Leavitt, JDC executive vice-chairman, reported today in the agency's annual report. Nearly 90,000 were in Moslem countries, over 86,000 in Israel and the balance in Europe and other areas. This is the greatest number reported to have been aided by the agency since the days of the camps for displaced persons, Mr. Leavitt said.

JDC's welfare and rehabilitation operations cost \$29,216,000 in 1963, Mr. Leavitt disclosed; For its programs in some 30 countries in 1964, JDC has adopted a budget of \$30,769,000; JDC has spent almost \$780,000,000 in its global assistance programs since its inception in 1914. The agency will celebrate its 50th anniversary in December.

JDC receives the bulk of its funds from the campaigns of the United Jewish Appeal. Mr. Leavitt also reported a substantial grant from the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany, as well as smaller contributions by Jewish communities in Canada, South America, and by a number of governmental and inter-governmental agencies; Funds from the Claims Conference represent German reparations and are used for assistance to Nazi victims.

In an introduction to the report, Edward M. M. Warburg, JDC chairman, observed that many of the problems confronting Jews in distressed areas had their origins "years ago, decades ago--in the agonies of war and Nazism--even centuries ago--when masses of Jews fled from the Spanish Inquisition to the then hospitable lands of North Africa." It is a report of work done in one year, Mr. Warburg said. "But also,--and the point is--all the more pertinent as JDC approaches its fiftieth anniversary, to be marked at the end of 1964--it is a chapter of history," he added.

The report also contains a statement by Sol Satinsky of Philadelphia, chairman of the JDC National Council, on the agency's Community Information Program. Mr. Satinsky observed that there was a "greater knowledge and a greater closeness to JDC than in past years, a greater awareness of its scope and a sensitivity to its problems," Mr. Satinsky attributed this to the Community Information Program, in which overseas personnel visit American communities to provide eye-witness reports on latest developments in Europe, North Africa, and the Middle East, including Israel.

Mr. Leavitt reported that Jews in Moslem countries continued to be among the neediest in 1963; Despite the steadily shrinking Jewish population in Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, the number of Jews requiring assistance in those countries remains close to 66,000. Aid to Jews in all Moslem countries totals almost 90,000.

JDC aid in Israel continued to increase, the report emphasized. In 1963 JDC provided some form of assistance to almost 86,500 men, women and children. This compares with 84,000 assisted during 1962 and 78,000 in 1961. Close to 49,000 were cared for by Malben, JDC's welfare program on behalf of aged, ill and handicapped newcomers to Israel; JDC-supported ORT schools in Israel provided vocational training for 18,900 students in 1963. In Europe, JDC assisted a total of 83,000 needy Jews in 1963;

JEWISH STUDENTS IN FRANCE SHOWING STRONG IDENTIFICATION WITH JUDAISM

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- Jewish university students in France are showing a strong, positive identification with Judaism and a growing desire to learn more about Jewish history and traditions, according to a survey made public here today by the American Jewish Committee.

The French survey is one of ten such studies being carried out in five countries as part of an extensive investigation of post-war Jewish life and attitudes in western Europe. The studies are being conducted by Community Service, an agency created in 1958 by the American Jewish Committee's Foreign Affairs Department, the Alliance Israelite Universelle of France and the Anglo-Jewish Association of England.

Jewish youth in France today are "ready and willing to assume their Jewish identity," the survey concluded. Of those queried, 94 per cent gave an affirmative answer to the question, "Do you consider yourself Jewish?" with more than two-thirds of this percentage asserting further that it was "essential" to them to be Jewish. About three-quarters of the students condemned attempts to hide Jewish origins, and 62 percent disapproved of conversions to other religions.

The report emphasized that such identification with Judaism "represents a sharp reversal of the attitudes of previous generations in France, when there was a strong tendency to drift away from Judaism." The survey was made at the University of Paris, where Jews comprise more than six per cent of the student body in the four colleges studied--law, humanities, science and medicine.

The practice of religion is not considered essential to being Jewish, according to the responses of about 80 per cent of the youth, including many who regarded themselves as religious. A small proportion, about ten per cent, attend synagogue regularly, while some 40 per cent go to services about three times a year, although more than half fast on Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement.

JEWS WARNED NOT TO RESPOND WITH BITTERNESS TO NEGRO ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- A leader of the American Jewish Congress voiced confidence today that Negro anti-Semitism, which he described as growing, would be rejected by the overwhelming number of American Negroes. The same leader, Shad Polier, warned, however, of "tragic consequences" if Jews should respond with bitterness, hostility and anti-Negroism, "a product no less terrible than anti-Semitism." He spoke at a meeting of the Governing Council, the policy-making body of the American Jewish Congress, of which he is chairman.

In his report, Mr. Polier declared: "The Negro in striking out against the Jew is assaulting a white world which he believes has short-changed him and which he believes is determined to take advantage of him. This growing phenomenon has taken place despite the active role of Jews in supporting the Negro's just demands for full equality."

"I do not dismiss Negro anti-Semitism. But I am equally concerned lest Jews react to it by alienating themselves from the struggle for racial justice. Such a response will be self-defeating and can serve only to fuel the fires of anti-Semitism and civil strife in our country." The American Jewish Congress leader said he did not regard Negro anti-Semitism as "either pervasive or enduring."

NEGRO CLERGYMEN'S ASSOCIATION ENDORSES HASIDIC CAR PATROLS IN BROOKLYN

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- An association of Negro clergymen endorsed this week-end the unarmed car patrols organized by Hasidic Jews in the crime-ridden Crown Heights section of Brooklyn.

The group, representing 72 Negro churches in Brooklyn and Long Island also pledged the participation of the Negro congregations in the fight against crime in New York City. The number of Negroes taking part in the roving radio-equipped cars of the Hasidic Jews would be increased.

The endorsement was considered significant because Negro groups in the area initially indicated a belief that the Hasidic patrols, originally called the Maccabees, might be a vigilante effort aimed at Negroes. The Negroes now say that the citizens patrols are helping to reduce crime in the community. About 20 Negroes are now riding in the patrols.

ABRAHAM MOSS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF BOARD OF DEPUTIES OF BRITISH JEWS

LONDON, June 14. (JTA) -- Alderman Abraham Moss, a former Lord Mayor of Manchester and an active leader in the communal affairs of British Jewry, was today elected president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews. He succeeds Sir Barnett Janner, Labor Minister of Parliament, who held the post for the past nine years.

Alderman Moss, who is 64, has given a lifetime of service to Jewish welfare work and Jewish education. He has been vice-president of the Board of Deputies for two terms and a member for the past 40 years. While not affiliated with the Zionist movement, Alderman Moss is utterly devoted to Israel and connected with the Jewish State in many personal and public ways.

No change of policy is expected in the Board of Deputies with the election of the new president. Alderman Moss, like Sir Barnett Janner, is in favor of cooperation with international Jewish bodies but without getting too closely identified. It is, therefore, not expected that under the new president, the Board will join the World Jewish Congress or evolve any other radical policy.

YOUNG LEADERS FROM 24 COMMUNITIES TO GO ON U. J. A. STUDY MISSION

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- A group of 84 young American Jewish communal representatives from all parts of the United States will fly to Israel on July 9, as members of the Fourth Annual Young Leadership Mission of the United Jewish Appeal, it was announced here today. They will make an intensive three-and-a-half week survey of immigration absorption needs in Israel, and refugee aid programs in France and Italy.

Membership in the mission, which is led by Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, UJA executive vice-chairman, is by invitation to men and women in the 25-to-40 age group who have demonstrated leadership potential in their home communities. The mission members come from 24 cities throughout the United States, and each member is paying his own way.

A. PHILIP RANDOLPH PRESENTED WITH 1964 HISTADRUT HUMANITARIAN AWARD

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- A. Philip Randolph, president of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and a leader in the civil rights movement, was presented last night with the 1964 Histadrut Humanitarian Award at a dinner of the National Committee for Labor Israel attended by some 600 labor and civic leaders. The award, a bronze plaque, was presented by Joseph Schlossberg, president of the National Committee. Mr. Randolph was cited for his "outstanding services in promoting understanding between the peoples of the United States and the State of Israel."