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GERMAN PARLIAMENT LIBERALIZES COMPENSATION LAW FOR NAZI VICTIMS

BONN, June 25; (JTA) -- The Bundestag, West Germany's lower house, approved yesterday amendments to the 1957 compensation law to liberalize provisions for claimants who lost personal effects in Nazi-occupied countries during the war. Approval is expected by the Bundesrat, the upper house.

The 1957 law, called BRUEG, provided for compensation to victims who had lost household furniture, securities, gold, jewelry and similar personal possessions if the claimants could prove that their lost property had been shipped to Hitler's Reich. Thousands of such victims, advised that it would be impossible to provide such proof, did not file claims.

The Conference on Jewish Material Claims, however, submitted documentation later to West German officials that the Nazis had ordered that all such loot be shipped to the Reich and the BRUEG law was amended to set up a special fund of 400,000,000 marks (\$100,000,000) to pay compensation for such losses. Jewish organizations immediately protested that the fund was too small. The legislation approved yesterday doubled the fund to \$200,000,000.

Another liberalization approved yesterday provides that claimants are to receive 100 per cent compensation on accepted claims for proven losses of such personal possessions. Previously the law had provided for 100 per cent payments on such claims for a fixed ceiling--originally 20,000 marks--and 50 per cent on approved claims above that ceiling.

The Bundestag and the State Parliaments, which are represented in the Bundesrat, are expected to discuss the amended law in the middle of July. The State Governments, under the law, are responsible for partial payments of such claims.

PUNISHMENT OF AUTHOR OF 'JUDAISM WITHOUT EMBELLISHMENT' REPORTED

PARIS, June 25; (JTA) -- The Ukrainian Academy of Sciences, sponsor of the virulently anti-Semitic book, "Judaism Without Embellishment," was reported here today as asserting that those responsible for its publication had been punished, and that measures had been taken to prevent repetition of any similar incident.

The Kiev academy sent a letter to that effect to the Paris left wing movement, MRAP, the Movement Against Anti-Semitism and Racism and For Peace. The content of the letter was published today in the Paris Yiddish Communist daily, "Neue Presse."

According to the Academy letter, T. Kichko, author of the book, was never a member of the Academy, having been employed as a writer of "vulgarization" books. The letter asserted that the Academy itself had no role whatever in the publication of the book.

The name of the Academy appears in the book as sponsor. After worldwide protests this spring, Soviet authorities condemned the book, and said that they withdrew it from circulation.

Belgian Jewry Appeals to Moscow to End Anti-Jewish Discriminations

BRUSSELS, June 25; (JTA) -- The first conference in Belgium representing the entire range of organized Jewish life met today to discuss the situation of Soviet Jewry.

Representatives of more than 50 organizations and communities adopted a resolution urging the Soviet Government to grant Russian Jews the same religious and cultural rights enjoyed by other national and religious minorities. The delegates also called on the Soviet Government to "put an end to the defamatory campaign against Judaism and Jews in the press and various Soviet publications."

The conference stressed the "disproportionate number" of Jews among Soviet citizens sentenced to death for alleged economic offenses. The delegates also noted the anti-Semitic insinuations in Soviet press reporting on the economic crimes trials.

The conference appealed to the Soviet authorities on purely humanitarian grounds and in conformity with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights to allow Soviet Jews, wishing to do so, to rejoin relatives in Israel. The conference also decided to bring the resolutions to the attention of the Belgian Government, to ask the Government to intervene with the Soviet authorities and also to bring the problem of anti-Jewish discrimination in the Soviet Union before appropriate international organizations.

BILL BANNING GERMANS TO WORK ON ARMS ABROAD PASSES FIRST READING

BONN, June 25: (JTA) -- The first reading of a draft proposal to forbid West German nationals to work on certain types of weapons projects in other countries, submitted by the Social Democrats, took place in the West German Parliament today. The draft was transferred to the Parliamentary Legal Commission for further consideration.

The draft listed a variety of weapons and other armaments to be banned for the nationals in foreign countries. The list is similar to that in the Brussels Agreement of October 1954 which is part of the West German law on armament control of April 1961.

U.S. Urged to Ask Germany to Recall Its Arms Experts from Egypt

FALLSBURG, N. Y. June 25. (JTA) -- The Rabbinical Council of America appealed today to the United States to intercede with West German authorities to withdraw German scientists "who are helping Egypt to develop a missile and rocket program intended to destroy Israel."

The appeal was made in one of a series of resolutions adopted at the closing session of the Orthodox organization's annual convention here. The rabbis, in another resolution, asked the State Department to make "every effort" to protect American firms and business from the Arab boycott and to withhold United States aid from Arab states while the boycott was maintained.

The Postmaster-General was asked, in another resolution, to stop the mailing of all hate literature. The rabbis also asked liberalization of United States immigration laws, and called on the Soviet Government to grant "unqualified religious freedom to Russian Jews." They also called on all local Jewish federations to stop immediately the functioning of Jewish Centers on the Sabbath.

ISRAEL GOVERNMENT INTRODUCES BILL ON MISSION SCHOOLS IN KNESSET

JERUSALEM, June 25: (JTA) -- Justice Minister Dov Joseph introduced last night in Parliament a bill which would curb activities of Christian mission schools in Israel by imposing prison terms for "direct persuasion of minors to convert to another religion."

A private member's bill to curb such activities was rejected by the Knesset last night. Offered by Rabbi Shlomo Lorencz of the ultra-Orthodox Agudat Israel party, the measure would have banned registration of minors for religious schools of denominations other than those of their parents except with approval by the head of the child's religious community. Zalman Arrane, Education Minister, spoke against the measure on the grounds that it would allow religious authorities to "usurp" the competence of parents.

The Government bill, which was not immediately debated but which is expected to be passed, would ban conversion of minors without the consent of both parents, forbid the conversion of adolescents against their will even with approval of both parents, and permit minors to be converted only to the religion of at least one parent.

BRITISH PREMIER QUERIED IN COMMONS ON ARAB REFUGEE RELIEF FUNDS

LONDON, June 25: (JTA) -- Prime Minister Douglas Alec-Home declared in Commons today, during debate on the British contributions for the relief of the Arab refugees, that the British Government had taken steps to assure that its contribution reached those whom it was intended to benefit.

He made the statement in reply to a question from a deputy who said there was concern about "over-centralization" of the funds of the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for the refugees and asked if the Government could take a new initiative in the UN to make sure that the money went to intended beneficiaries.

The Prime Minister also disclosed that, after the United States, Britain was "far in advance of any other country" in its contributions to UNRWA. He said that UNRWA spent in 1963 \$35,186,888 and that the British had contributed 1,928,572 pounds (\$3,015,000) to that total.

The Prime Minister also said he did not agree that the Arab refugee problem was a "legacy of the Palestine situation," a reference to the fact that Britain ruled Palestine under a League of Nations mandate until 1948. He said "It is a legacy of the Arab-Jewish quarrel."

SENATE COMMITTEE CONFIRMS SOLIS HORWITZ AS ASSISTANT SECRETARY

WASHINGTON, June 25. (JTA) -- The Senate Armed Services Committee today confirmed the appointment of Solis Horwitz, 53, as Assistant Secretary of Defense for Administration, a newly created post.

Mr. Horwitz, who is of the Jewish faith, is originally from Pittsburgh, Pa. He worked with President Lyndon Johnson when Mr. Johnson was Senate Majority Leader and chairman of the Senate Preparedness Subcommittee.

RACIAL CRISIS IN U. S. BROUGHT SLIGHT INCREASE IN ANTI-JEWISH PROPAGANDA

ST. LOUIS, June 25. (JTA) -- The racial crisis in the United States has resulted in a slight increase of anti-Semitic literature during the past year but does not represent any new threat to the security or status of the Jews in this country, it was reported here today at the opening session of the five-day convention of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, coordinating body of six national Jewish organizations and 72 Jewish community councils in major American cities.

The report said that "the volume of anti-Semitic literature in circulation and the frequency of anti-Semitic utterances increased somewhat during the past year, chiefly in the general context of the racial confrontation." It attributed the increase of anti-Jewish propaganda to such organizations as the Klu Klux Klan, extremist right-wing segregationist movements and George Lincoln Rockwell, whose organizations are infiltrated with all types of bigots making the Jew a target;

Gratification was expressed by the NCRAC that the campaigns by hate groups did not receive much attention in the public media. The report said that evidence continues to prove that "anti-Semitic hostility is at an ebb." It was anticipated that such controversial issues as the proposed Becker Amendment, which would restore prayer in the public schools, and the Broadway production of "The Deputy," a play critical of the late Pope Pius XII in remaining silent on the persecution of the Jews by the Nazis, might have produced some anti-Jewish utterances;

"Despite the intensity of the controversy that raged over the play, 'The Deputy,' it remained virtually free of religious bigotry," the NCRAC reported today to the convention. "Even bitter controversy over the Becker Amendment, notwithstanding its emotionalism, produced no significant anti-Semitic charges even from quarters where they might have been expected to develop."

Rabbis Discuss Jewish Stand Toward Ecumenical Council

Addressing the convention at its first session today, two rabbis expressed the view that the Catholic attitude towards Jews is a problem of Christian conscience which must be solved by the Church through its deliberations at the Ecumenical Council or by other actions. Rabbi Max Routtenberg, president of the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative), and Rabbi Shubert Spero, member of the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox), expressed the opinion that America's Jewish community should not press the Vatican for the adoption of the proposed Schema on Jews and religious liberty.

Rabbi Routtenberg said that at this juncture in the proceedings of the Ecumenical Council Jews are "interested spectators and not participants, even though we Jews are deeply affected by the deliberations although we are not directly involved." He stressed that the adoption of a statement "is something which the Catholic Church will have to work out on its own, resolve its inner tensions and conflicts;"

"We believe it is vital for the Church to achieve this goal, for its own integrity, for its own influence and prestige in the civilized world. It faces the danger of becoming irrelevant, an anachronism, in an age that is seeking to find the links of our common humanity and to forge mankind into a fellowship of love and mutual understanding," he said.

"If the Church, at its next session, finds it impossible to present a clear, forthright, courageous statement on the 'Jewish question,' or on religious liberty, and is compelled to hold on to doctrinal views that perpetuate prejudice and passion and feed the emotional fires of anti-Semitism--that is a matter for the conscience of Christian churchmen," Rabbi Routtenberg declared.

Rabbi Spero stated that "there can be no doubt that certain teachings of the Catholic Church have for centuries bred and encouraged hostility toward the Jew with utterly destructive consequences for the Jewish community," adding "should the Church rescind or modify or correct these teachings in a manner which would tend to neutralize the hostility, every person of good will, Jew or non-Jew, would consider it a good and important development;"

Rabbi Routtenberg and Rabbi Spero concurred that failure by the Ecumenical Council to adopt a Schema on the Jews would not bring about a lessening of the desire for dialogue and cooperation between Jew and Catholic. Both religious leaders praised the late Pope John for his initiative in bringing about a new era in interreligious cooperation and understanding. They also lauded him for having laid the foundation which has brought about the entire discussion now being conducted by the Vatican Council.

A. D. L. REPORTS ENACTMENT OF ANTI DISCRIMINATION LAWS IN NINE STATES

NEW YORK, June 25. (JTA) -- New laws barring racial discrimination in employment, housing, and places of public accommodation have been enacted in nine states during the past two years according to a report on legislative developments in the field of civil rights made public today by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. In addition, five states have strengthened existing laws; two have repealed laws prohibiting interracial marriages; and numerous cities have passed civil rights ordinances, the report said;

AMERICAN-ISRAEL PAVILION TO COUNTERACT JORDAN AT WORLD'S FAIR

NEW YORK, June 25: (JTA) -- Because the Jordan Pavilion has persistently refused to remove its controversial anti-Israel mural, the American-Israel Pavilion announced today that it will display a blown-up reproduction of this mural along with a poem stressing peace.

Thousands of fair visitors, including many Jews, have paid an admission price of 50 cents to enter the Jordan Pavilion, to see the much publicized mural, it was reported today. The reproduction of the Jordanian display at the American-Israel Pavilion will be placed in the courtyard where there is no admission fee.

The accompanying poem, titled, "Peace Through Understanding"--the World's Fair theme--was written by Harold S. Caplin, chairman of the board of the America-Israel World's Fair Corporation. His effort, which is patterned on the inscription under the objectionable Jordanian mural, begins: "Before you enter have you a minute to spare to hear a word on Israel and enjoy seeing our dream?" The Jordanian original begins: "Before you go, have you a minute to spare to hear a word on Palestine and perhaps right a wrong?"

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY TO EXPAND; WILL CONSTRUCT NEW BUILDINGS

NEW YORK, June 25: (JTA) -- Expansion plans for the Jewish Theological Seminary were approved in principle by the executive committee of the institution's board of directors at a meeting held today. New facilities endorsed by the committee include living quarters for faculty and students, a library, and other needed educational buildings.

The Committee indicated that no time schedule for the construction of the new facilities could be given at this time, since financial arrangements have not been completed. The committee was making an announcement at this time in order to honor its moral commitment to residents of the Morningside community to keep them informed of developments affecting housing in the area. The land occupied by two buildings in this area will be required for the new construction.

OPENING OF SCHOOLS IN INDIANAPOLIS COINCIDES WITH ROSH HASHANAH

INDIANAPOLIS, Ind., June 25: (JTA) -- The Jewish Community Relations Council reported today it had made special arrangements with local school officials to deal with problems arising from the fact that the opening day of public elementary and high schools this fall coincides with the second day of Rosh Hashanah.

The affected schools are in Indianapolis and in three adjoining townships. The announcement noted that some Jewish parents had pre-registered their children for the fall semester at the end of the spring 1964 semester. Others, particularly those with children entering a new school in the fall, were alerted to the problem.

The Council said it had arranged with officials of the various schools for special registration periods during the week prior to Rosh Hashanah.

YEHUDA GILL NAMED AMERICAN DIRECTOR OF ISRAEL INVESTMENT AUTHORITY

NEW YORK, June 25: (JTA) -- The appointment of Yehuda Gill as North American director of the Government of Israel Investment Authority was announced today by Israel's Economic Minister to the United States, Nachum Shamir. Mr. Gill succeeds Abraham R. Taiber, who served in that post since September 1961.

Mr. Gill was born in Israel and graduated with an LL.B. degree in Law from the University of Tel Aviv. Prior to Israel's War of Liberation, he was a member of the Haganah and later served in both the Infantry and Air Force as a captain. In his most recent post in Israel, in the Ministry of Commerce, Mr. Gill was in charge of bringing new industries into Development Areas, where priority is being given to establishment of industry.

TWO JEWISH LEADERS PRESENTED WITH HIGH AWARDS BY GERMAN PRESIDENT

FRANKFURT, June 25: (JTA) -- Rabbi I. E. Lichtigfeld, chairman of the Rabbis Conference, and Prof. Herbert Lewin, director of the Offenbach's Women Clinic and chairman of the directorate of the Central Council of German Jews, were awarded here High Orders of Merit by President Heinrich Lübke. The awards were presented to the two Jewish leaders by Prof. Ernest Schuette, the Hesse Education Minister, in a special ceremony.

SOUTH AFRICAN FEDERATION OF SYNAGOGUES ELECTS NEW CHIEF RABBI

JOHANNESBURG, June 25: (JTA) -- Rabbi Bernard Casper, Chief Rabbi of Johannesburg's United Hebrew Congregations, was elected today Chief Rabbi of the Federation of Synagogues of Transvaal, the Orange Free State and Natal in South Africa. Rabbi Casper was formerly the Dean of Students at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. Dr. Israel Bersohn, president of the Federation of Synagogues, paid tribute to Rabbi Casper's contributions to local religious life.