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ARGENTINE POLITICAL PARTY DEMANDS ACTION AGAINST ANTI-SEMITIC GROUPS

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 4: (JTA) -- A delegation representing the Democratic Progressive Party, a small, right-wing Socialist group, met with President Arturo Illia here today and gave him a memorandum concerning anti-Semitic activities in this country. The delegation then held a press conference during which stiff Government action against anti-Semitic groups and hatemongering activities was demanded.

The delegation, headed by the general secretary of the party's metropolitan section, Andrew Caamano, said the President turned over the information they gave him to the Minister of the Interior. At the press conference they charged that a campaign is under way in this country "artificially creating anti-Semitism." They said they demanded that the Government immediately take the following actions:

"1. Implement the 1963 decree, banning the Tacuara and Guardia Restauradora Nacionalista, two outstanding anti-Semitic groups, as well as other dangerous organizations;

"2. Punish members of the armed forces who carry on hate campaigns;" (This item was linked to Brig. Gen. Gilberto Hidalgo Oliva, a retired Air Force officer, who has been prominently identified in this country with anti-Semitic movements.)

"3. Immediate expulsion from this country of Hussein Triki, representative of the Arab League in Argentina, and banning the Journal Nacion Arabe, a hate sheet edited by Triki, for its anti-Semitic incitements;

"4. Warn all foreign ambassadors in Argentina against interfering in this country's national affairs;

"5. Stiffening the penal code so as to make possible the punishment of hatemongers."

Meanwhile, today, a statement issued by the Christian-Jewish Confraternity Association declared that "anti-Semitism in our country seems to follow a deliberate purpose--to create a climate of fear and to promote actions whose nature is not quite clear." Efforts are being made here, the statement continued, "to bring Middle East problems here and to confuse Judaism with Zionism or to confuse the Jewish people with the Israeli people." The statement was signed by the Rev. Adam Sosa, a leading Protestant clergyman here, and by Grand Rabbi Guillermo Schlesinger of the Congregacio Israelita.

ARAB STATES LAUNCH ATTACK ON JOHNSON FOR HIS DESALINATION PROGRAM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4: (JTA) -- The Arab states have launched a defamatory attack on President Johnson's desalination program which commenced recently in Israel, following an agreement between President Johnson and Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

Attacking the joint American-Israel survey to advance the use of nuclear energy for desalination, the Arab broadcasts of recent days have mounted an attack on President Johnson for "support of Zionist aggression."

The Damascus radio service vilified the Johnson plan, stating that "although desalination of sea water was adopted as its object, this is merely used as a cover by the American-Zionist agreement to conceal more far-reaching cooperation and a more dangerous effect on Arab existence."

The broadcast, following the line of others emanating from Cairo, Amman, and other Arab capitals, said President Johnson was now affirming "organic ties with Zionist imperialism" through the guise of the desalting plan.

Notice has been taken by Washington authorities of editorials like one appearing in Al-Bath, of Damascus, which alleged "to expose" the Johnson plan. It said "the agreement was signed at the same time Israel was plotting over the Jordan River waters. This confirms America's open support of the Zionists against Arab waters, and its determination to back Zionism in its unceasing aggression against Palestine."

"Implementation of the agreement," said the Arab editorial, "involves effective participation by America in developing Israel's technical ability so as to double its economic and military potential. America's contribution to the desalination of sea water will strengthen the enemy's position to absorb new Zionist immigrants in the Negev and other parts of

occupied Palestine. The development of Israel's technical and manpower capability, in addition to formalizing Zionist occupation of Palestine, will encourage the occupation enemy to carry out new expansionist adventures."

These views followed the same line taken by Arab diplomats in complaints registered with American embassies in Arab states. The White House, however, has issued orders for full speed on the desalination plan, visualizing it as an undertaking which will ultimately benefit not only Israel but other lands as well. President Johnson has asked that he be kept informed on the survey's progress.

JEWS FROM INDIA CHARGE ISRAEL WITH DISCRIMINATION; PLAN DEMONSTRATION

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4. (JTA) -- Leaders of the Bnei Israel community which originated in India and are now in Israel today rejected a proposal made by President Zalman Shazar aimed at meeting their demands over what they felt was discrimination against them in the administration of the marriage regulations by the Chief Rabbinate.

The Bnei Israel leaders, who heard President Shazar's proposal at a meeting at the President's house attended by Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim, decided to continue their sit-down strike and fasting and to hold a mass demonstration tomorrow. One of the members of the Bnei Israel who has been fasting since last week, was ordered hospitalized today.

The proposal, which was backed by the two Chief Rabbis and the Minister for Religious Affairs, Dr. Zorach Warhaftig, declared that the "Chief Rabbinate reiterates its announcement that Bnei Israel of India are Jews in every sense. Questions put at the time of marriage according to the 1962 Chief Rabbinate directives apply to immigrants from every distant land and in no way discriminate against the Bnei Israel."

It was pointed out that, in the past two years, there was no case in which Bnei Israelites encountered any difficulties in marrying members of other Jewish communities. It was felt here that the President's proposal ought to have satisfied the Bnei Israelites and that their decision to continue the struggle appears now to be devoid of any real basis.

Explaining their rejection of President Shazar's proposal, Bnei Israel leaders said that the fact that questions put to their members at the time of marriage applied to all immigrants from distant lands constituted an attempt to "extend the scope of discrimination."

Leaders of the Liberal Party, meanwhile, announced their intention of seeking a special session of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, which has recessed for the summer, to deal with the Bnei Israel problem, to "condemn discrimination in any form" and to call upon the Rabbinate to annul directives regarding Bnei Israel's personal status.

FOUR ARAB FAMILIES CHOOSE TO LIVE IN ISRAEL; REFUSE TO OPT FOR JORDAN

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4. (JTA) -- Four out of six Arab families occupying homes in a section of the village of Beit Safafa, on the Jordanian border, south of Jerusalem, opted today to let Israel find other homes for them in Israeli territory, rather than live under Jordanian jurisdiction.

The opportunity to choose between living in Israel or in Jordan was given the six Arab householders yesterday after an unusual agreement reached by Israel and Jordan, peacefully ending a dispute before the United Nations Jordanian-Israeli Mixed Armistice Commission.

The dispute started several weeks ago, after an incident along the unmarked Beit Safafa border. To prevent further incidents, Israel told the United Nations it would build a fence around its section of the village. Jordan objected to the fence. Finally, the Israelis agreed that they would cede to Jordan a small tract of land, 30 feet by 45 feet, so as to settle the border. There have been other minor border rectifications between the two governments, in which one side or the other had agreed to cede small sectors so as to eliminate further disputes.

This time, however, there were six houses involved, all occupied by Arabs. Both sides agreed to let the householders choose between living on one side or the other. The four Arabs who chose Israel were being relocated today in undisputed Israeli territory. The two who opted for Jordan were assured by Israel they would be entitled to certain compensation.

The Herut Party protested against this agreement today, demanding that the Foreign Affairs and Security Committee of the Knesset (Israel's Parliament) hold a special meeting to discuss the issue. The Knesset is now in recess for the rest of the summer.

CONGOLESE REBEL FORCES TO RELEASE ISRAELIS TAKEN AS WAR PRISONERS

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4. (JTA) -- Two Israelis, who were taken prisoner by rebel forces in the Congo, will be freed, it was announced today by a spokesman for the Israel Foreign Ministry who said that the two were not connected with the operations of any official Israeli Government or commercial agency.

It is understood that the Foreign Ministry sought the assistance of the Government of Burundi where the Congolese rebels are represented. Israel also enlisted the aid of a Belgian advisor to Burundi's King who was here attending the conference of Agudat Israel.

MOSCOW COMMUNIST COMPLAINS TO LORD RUSSELL ON TREATMENT OF SOVIET JEWRY

LONDON, Aug. 4. (JTA) -- Complaints by Soviet citizens, including members of the Communist Party, about the suppression of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union have been received by Lord Bertrand Russell, the noted British philosopher, it was revealed here today when Lord Russell made public the contents of a letter from a Moscow war veteran protesting against the "forced assimilation" of Soviet Jews.

The author of the letter, whose name was not disclosed, asked Lord Russell to approach Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev on the matter and to forward the complaint to the Moscow Yiddish publication, "Sovietish Heimland." The British philosopher, who exchanged correspondence some time ago with Premier Khrushchev on the situation of Soviet Jewry, sent copies of the letter, without the signature, to the organ of the Soviet writers union "Literaturnaya Gazeta," as well as to "Sovietish Heimland."

The author of the letter, a member of the Communist Party, who said that he was writing on behalf of "a great number of people," noted that although there are about 3,000,000 Jews in the USSR, "they do not have a newspaper in Moscow, Kiev, Minsk or in other centers, there are no Jewish libraries or schools where those who want to can learn the Jewish language; no clubs, theaters or other centers of cultural activity, and no public organization to serve the Jewish population."

"To our deep sorrow," the Moscow letter continued, "it is impossible and even pointless that we should put the problem to the Soviet Government or any other responsible organization. We want nothing more than to receive the same rights as Jews in Poland, Rumania and Czechoslovakia."

The writer of the letter informed Lord Russell that Jews in Russia had read the British philosopher's communication to Premier Khrushchev concerning discrimination against Jews in the USSR at the trials dealing with economic crimes. In his own letter to "Literaturnaya Gazeta" and "Sovietish Heimland," referring to the recent complaints by Soviet citizens, Lord Russell said:

"These Soviet citizens wish to enjoy the right to a full cultural life in the Soviet Union; They are Jews and they feel that they are denied the means of living a complete and satisfying life in the Soviet Union because they are denied the cultural facilities made available to all other national and minority groups in the USSR."

Asking the magazines to publish his own letter as well as the copy of the letter from the Soviet citizen, Lord Russell added: "I write because I am concerned for justice and for the good name of the Soviet Union; Unless people who are concerned for both raise their voices, the case of peaceful coexistence and the pursuit of peace and general understanding between peoples and nations will be harmed by silence."

MOSCOW SYNAGOGUE GETS NEW CHAIRMAN; CHANGE MADE BY AUTHORITIES

LONDON, Aug. 4; (JTA) -- A Moscow Jew named Mikhailovich, whose first name was not given, has been appointed chairman of the management committee of the Central Synagogue in Moscow, the Soviet press reported today. Soviet experts here say they know the name as that of a man "working closely with the authorities and doing their bidding."

Several weeks ago, Nahum Paler, chairman of the synagogue's management committee, was removed from his post, and a caretaker committee of three men was named to conduct the synagogue's affairs. Now, the Moscow report indicated, Mikhailovich will succeed Mr. Paler.

(In New York, meanwhile, there was a report today that a fire in Moscow's Central Synagogue, two weeks ago, destroyed several of the Holy Scrolls in the house of worship, and caused much other damage. The fire had reportedly been started by a Molotov cocktail tossed into the synagogue. The Soviet press has to date failed to report either the fire or any arrests resulting from the Moscow police investigation of the action.)

EX-GESTAPO OFFICER TO GO ON TRIAL FOR MASS MURDER OF JEWS IN TARNOPOL

GRAZ, Austria, Aug. 4; (JTA) -- The Graz district court announced today it would try soon Friedrich Lax, a former Gestapo officer, on charges of taking part in the mass murders of thousands of Jews and other victims in the Nazi-held Tarnopol district of Poland.

Mr. Lax was discovered by H. Salzmann, a Jewish banker and former native of Graz, who recognized Lax as the former Gestapo deputy chief in Tarnopol and reported him to the authorities; Lax disappeared after the war but settled a few years ago in Graz, living openly under his own name.

WEST GERMANY AGREES TO PAY \$250,000 TO SWEDISH VICTIMS OF NAZISM

STOCKHOLM, Aug. 4. (JTA) -- Sweden and West Germany signed an agreement here today, under which the Bonn Government agreed to pay reparations totaling 1,000,000 Deutschmarks (\$250,000) as compensation to Swedish subjects who were victims of Nazi persecution during World War II. It is not known at this time how many Jews may qualify as beneficiaries under the agreement.

TWO RABBIS START SERVING 60-DAY JAIL TERMS; SOUGHT DESEGREGATION

TALLAHASSEE, Fla., Aug. 4: (JTA) -- Two rabbis started their 60-day jail terms here today, after refusing as a matter of principle to pay \$500 fines upon conviction of "unlawful assembly" in connection with a sit-in at a bus terminal here during an effort to desegregate the terminal in 1961. Six Christian clergymen, white and Negro, were also in jail with the rabbis. The latter are Rabbi Israel Dresner, spiritual leader of Temple Shalom, Springfield, N.J.; and Rabbi Martin Freedman, spiritual leader of Temple B'nai Jeshurun, Paterson, N.J.

The eight clergymen were convicted in Municipal Court here in 1961. They appealed their convictions to the United States Supreme Court and, after three years of repeated petitions to the high court, their appeals were rejected on technical grounds.

The clergymen surrendered yesterday. Their attorney petitioned the Federal District Court here for their release or, alternately, for setting bond pending further Federal appeals. U.S. Judge G. Harold Carswell rejected both petitions, telling the attorney that his appeals should be taken to the local Municipal Court. However, Municipal Judge John Rudd ordered the clergymen to start serving their sentences unless they paid their fines--which they refused to do.

JEWISH WAR VETERANS ASK U.S. TO CANCEL VISA OF ARAB PROPAGANDIST

WASHINGTON, Aug. 4: (JTA) -- United States immigration authorities were asked today by the Jewish War Veterans of the U.S.A. to cancel the visa of an Arab propagandist, Dr. Mohammed T. Mehdi, and to deport him for illegal intervention in the American election campaign.

JWV national commander Daniel Neal Heller said that Dr. Mehdi, in this country only on a temporary visa, and a citizen of Iraq, threatened to organize extremist demonstrations against Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, New York Republican. This arose from the Senator's pro-Israel stand. Dr. Mehdi, secretary-general of the so-called "Action Committee on American-Arab Relations," has also spoken insultingly about President Lyndon B. Johnson's friendship toward Israel.

"This nation is suffering enough racist strife without a foreigner intruding into our domestic scene to agitate in our internal national election by fomenting religious prejudice," the JWV leader said. (Dr. Mehdi had condemned Sen. Keating for appealing to the "Zionist Jews" in an alleged opportunistic quest for votes.) He announced that the JWV would seek information on "the detailed operations of Dr. Mehdi and his agitation in the election campaign."

15 JEWISH CHAPLAINS ENTER U.S. ARMED FORCES; FIVE TO SERVE ABROAD

NEW YORK, Aug. 4: (JTA) -- Fifteen new Jewish military chaplains have entered the U.S. Armed Forces in time to officiate at Rosh Hashanah services for Jewish military personnel, it was announced today by Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the National Jewish Welfare Board Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy. They bring the total of full-time military and Veterans Administration Jewish chaplains on duty to 74. There are also more than 250 civilian rabbis currently serving as part-time chaplains.

Seven of the new chaplains have gone into the Army, five are assigned to the Air Force, and three will serve in the Navy. Two of the Army chaplains and three of those in the Air Force will have overseas assignments. The other ten will be on duty at installations in the continental United States.

J.N.F. APPROACH TO LAND ACQUISITION URGED AS BASIC POLICY FOR ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 4: (JTA) -- The need for a more basic and comprehensive Israeli land policy was stressed here today by Mendel Fisher, secretary of the Jewish National Fund of America who is currently visiting Israel. Such a policy, he said, should fundamentally pursue the classical approach of the JNF.

Commenting on the current controversy regarding public land sale to private interests, Mr. Fisher said that the JNF always considered the acquisition of land not only as a redemption but also viewed land ownership as a vital means for planning economic development. These objectives are unchanged, he noted, and must continue to be served. He felt the JNF was still the major instrument for this.

20TH ANNIVERSARY OF DEATH OF BERL KATZNELSON OBSERVED IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Aug. 4: (JTA) -- President Zalman Shazar, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and veteran labor leaders of all parties were among the 5,000 persons who attended ceremonies on the shores of Lake Kinneret commemorating the 20th anniversary of the death of Berl Katznelson, the famed philosopher of the Zionist labor movement and late editor of Davar, the Histadrut daily.

In his address at the meeting, Premier Eshkol stressed the need for unity of the labor movement, which, he said, was the desire of Berl Katznelson. President Shazar paid homage to Katznelson when he passed by his graveside along the shores of the Kinneret.