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KNESSET RECOGNIZES BNEI ISRAEL RIGHTS AFTER MODERATION PLEA BY ESHKOL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 17: (JTA) -- After an ardent plea to the Israeli Rabbinate by Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, who requested moderation in regard to the discriminations against which the Bnei Israel community of Indian Jews has been protesting, the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, today voted a resolution upholding the Government's stand. The resolution declared that the Bnei Israel Jews are to be considered Jews in every respect, including matters of personal status; endorsed the Eshkol statement; and called upon the Bnei Israel to end the sitdown strike which they have been conducting in front of the Chief Rabbinate here for the last two weeks.

The resolution was voted after a hot, four-hour debate by the Knesset, which had sat in special session to which it had been recalled from its summer recess to deal with the Bnei Israel controversy. The measure did not name the rabbinate specifically, but clearly urged the rabbinate to remove the feelings of discrimination prevalent among the Bnei Israel.

In his statement, Mr. Eshkol had called on the Chief Rabbinate to "take public opinion into consideration and find a way to remove the very cause or reason for the feeling of deprivation or discrimination" which had led to the demonstrations protesting the marriage procedures decreed by the rabbinate, affecting the Bnei Israel.

The Premier stressed that, since the problem of marriages between members of the Bnei Israel and other Jews had been solved two years ago by the Rabbinate, there has not been a single case in which such marriages have been prevented. He said it was clear, however, that the Bnei Israel community and a large segment of the population does not accept the existence of instructions issued by the Chief Rabbinate Council regarding the procedures for performing marriages involving members of the community.

Mr. Eshkol also expressed the Government's regret and condemnation "regarding the improper, irresponsible and tactless manifestation which was introduced into the street demonstrations." He was referring to an effigy portraying Sephardic Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim which was carried by some Bnei Israel demonstrators and burned during last week's incidents.

After reading the Government statement, the Premier added: "The greatness of Jewish laws and judges throughout generations was that they answered the needs of historical circumstances, and we are entitled to expect solutions in the spirit of the 'Love of Israel' that would enable the ingathering of the exiles."

He indicated the issue had wider ramifications in view of the hope for a greater number of immigrants from Jewish communities of various countries, many of whom have been unable to follow strictly the precepts of Jewish religious law. He said that the immigration and integration of such communities should be facilitated, rather than obstructed.

CELLER, OTHER LEADING DEMOCRATS DEMAND PARTY AID TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17: (JTA) -- Three members of the Democratic Party's Platform Committee today backed a strong pro-Israel plank which they urged for adoption by their party's national convention. The Platform Committee opened its hearings in Washington today, preparing to draft the planks on which the entire convention is to vote next week, at Atlantic City.

Speaking up for a strong pro-Israel policy by the Democratic Party were Congressman Emanuel Celler, of New York, who is chairman of the House Judiciary Committee; John E. Powers, of Massachusetts; and Rep. Harris B. McDowell, of Delaware, a member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. Celler spoke after testimony regarding a firm United States stand on Arab-Israel issues had been presented to the committee by I. L. Kenen, executive director of the American Israel Public Affairs Committee. Mr. Celler not only backed Mr. Kenen's proposed platform plank, but also suggested that the United States advance loans to Israel to finance acquisition of arms, in view of the Soviet Union's continued supply of arms to Egypt.

Mr. Powers, pointing out that he was not a Jew, expressed agreement regarding adoption of a pro-Israel plank. Telling the committee that he visited Israel last year,

he stated that Israel must be supported because it is "the only friend we have in the Middle East;" Rep. McDowell spoke up after the committee had heard anti-Israeli testimony from Harold B. Minor, former United States Ambassador to Lebanon, and a former official of the State Department. Appearing on behalf of the Citizens Committee on American Policy in the Middle East, Mr. Minor alleged that "minority groups" exert "pressure" relating to U. S. policy on the Near East, and voiced regret that "preferential treatment" is allegedly given to Israel;

Calling for a "pro-American policy," Mr. Minor requested elimination of the proposed pro-Israel plank, questioned Israel's water development program, which the Arab states are opposing, and called for a program that would "repatriate" the Arab refugees, letting them "return" to Israel, and grant them compensation from the Israel Government.

Mr. McDowell took sharp exception with Mr. Minor's presentation; He told Mr. Minor that the American public and its elected representatives would be "remiss in their responsibilities as citizens" if they did not concern themselves with foreign policy; He affirmed that he disagreed with Mr. Minor's testimony when the latter had said that Americans had "no business getting involved in drafting platforms bearing on foreign policy matters;" He insisted that "Near Eastern peace is a vital concern for all Americans;" A Near Eastern plank is important, he declared, "because the Democratic Party is the majority party, reflecting the present Administration."

Kenen Praises Administration; Lists Specific Proposals

In his testimony, Mr. Kenen said it was necessary to reaffirm and strengthen the Democratic Party's 1960 platform because of the growing danger of Arab aggression. He told the committee that President Nasser of Egypt had recently threatened war against Israel, and is continuing to receive Soviet weapons; He praised the 1960 Democratic plank on the Near East and said the Administration had taken concrete measures to implement it;

"The Administration," he said, "has acted to deter aggression in the Near East. It has stimulated development to raise living standards; it has helped to maintain the arms balance; it has worked to end boycotts and blockades; The United States has made gains in the Near East in the effort to win the friendship and understanding of the various peoples of the region; The relationship between the United States and Israel has been further consolidated and has reached a new level of understanding."

Mr. Kenen urged inclusion in the platform of these points: Support for President Johnson's recent commitment to oppose aggression in the Near East; Continuing economic aid to Israel and the Arab states to help raise living standards; Steps to prevent an arms race and to prevent a military imbalance resulting from Soviet arms shipments; Support of American businessmen in their resistance to the Arab boycott; Unrestricted use of the Suez Canal; Support for the Eric Johnston plan to divide the waters of the Jordan-Yarmuk water system; Commendation of President Johnson's plans for the joint U. S. -Israel program for the desalination of water; Resettlement of Arab refugees in lands where there is room and opportunity for them; and Encouragement of direct Arab-Israel peace negotiations.

LOS ANGELES GROUP ISSUES GUIDELINES FOR JEWISH ROLE IN ELECTION CAMPAIGN

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Guidelines cautioning against "Jewish involvement" in the Presidential campaign of this year, in cases where appeals to voters may be made on religious or ethnic grounds, were issued here today by the Community Relations Committee of the Jewish Federation-Council of Los Angeles. Joseph Roos, executive director of the Community Relations Council, issued the following suggestions to all Jewish organizations here:

1. Endorsement of individual candidates by Jewish organizations should be avoided.
2. Presentation of awards and citations by Jewish organizations to candidates or avowed candidates should be avoided.
3. If a Jewish organization wishes to conduct a discussion by candidates in the campaign, equal opportunity should be given to all major candidates or their representatives.
4. Individuals solicited for endorsement of campaign advertising should ascertain in advance the text of the proposed copy.
5. Individuals who permit their names to be used by candidates or campaign organizations should insist that no mention should be made in election context of their past or present affiliations with Jewish organizations;
6. Jewish organizations and individuals should make no assertions that a candidate's record implying antagonism toward Jews or to issues in which Jews have an interest, unless such assertions have been substantiated by a responsible Jewish agency;

HADASSAH PARLEY HEARS CONDEMNATION OF ARAB MEDDLING IN FREE COUNTRIES

LOS ANGELES, Calif., Aug. 17. (JTA) -- A ranking world Zionist leader said tonight that it should be made clear to the Arab governments that intimidation, threat of boycotts and interference in local political matters of independent states will not be tolerated. Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the Jewish Agency for Israeli-American Section, and former national president of Hadassah, condemned Arab meddling in the internal affairs of the United States and Great Britain, and charged that Arab diplomats and agents in Latin America are now engaging not only in anti-Zionist activity but also in anti-Jewish pursuits.

Mrs. Halprin spoke to 2,000 delegates at the 50th national convention of Hadassah at the International Hotel here. She asserted that anti-Israeli, anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish activities of the Arabs take on different patterns. She cited as examples Egypt's mobilization of German scientists to develop weapons for Israel's destruction; Arab boycott threats in Britain and other parts of the world; the Arab pressure to prevent the election of Lord Mancroft to the presidency of the London Chamber of Commerce; and Arab anti-Israeli, anti-Zionist and anti-Jewish activities in Argentina. "Surely the time has come--indeed it is long past due--when it should be made clear to the Arabs that intimidation, threat of boycotts, interference in local political matters of independent states will not be tolerated," she said.

Addressing herself to the Zionist movement, Mrs. Halprin said that Zionist concepts are as valid today as they were before the establishment of Israel. She declared: "Zionism has within it the tools for assuring Jewish survival; it strengthens the unity of the Jewish people. Through its support of the State of Israel, Zionism gives the community there the opportunity of creating again its own cultural image and contributing through this to the mainstream of world civilization. Education of the Jewish masses, their commitment to Hebraic ideas and ideals, are still major pillars in the tasks ahead for Zionist fulfillment."

\$10,924,354 Raised in Fiscal Year; Survey Analyzes Status of 300,000 Members

At another session, Mrs. Mortimer Jacobson, national treasurer of Hadassah, reported that, during the last fiscal year, ending June 30, 1964, Hadassah raised \$10,924,354 for its programs in Israel and in the United States. The Hadassah budget for the 1963-64 fiscal year was \$9,840,000.

At still another session, Mrs. Benjamin Gottesman, member of Hadassah's national board, and editor of the Hadassah Magazine, released results of a nationwide survey which disclosed that Hadassah's 300,000 members are a well-read, highly educated, religiously affiliated group of Americans. More than half of them joined Hadassah 15 years ago or earlier and two-thirds are between 25 and 54 years old. Eighty-six per cent are married, and nine per cent are widowed, one-third are employed as teachers.

The survey was conducted for the Hadassah Magazine by Dr. Edgar Gunther, of New York. Other facts about Hadassah women revealed by the survey were: 36 per cent have mothers who belong to Hadassah, but only 12 per cent of their daughters do; the Hadassah family comprises 2.2 children, and 60 per cent of them are 10 years old or younger; 85 per cent are members of a temple or synagogue -- a much larger percentage than is found in the rest of the American Jewish community; one-half attended college.

EGYPT, JORDAN REPORTED PLANNING TO STRENGTHEN ARMY ON ISRAEL BORDER

LONDON, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan, who is currently in Egypt on what is described as a one-week "private visit," is believed to have included the strengthening of Jordan's military position on the Israel border among the subjects discussed with Egyptian President Nasser, it was reported here today from Cairo. The professed aim of the discussions is the establishment of close cooperation between the two governments, in preparation for the meeting of heads of Arab states scheduled for September 5 in Alexandria.

WORLD REFORM BODY MEETS IN HOLLAND; PLANS NEW SEMINARY IN FRANCE

AMSTERDAM, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The World Union for Progressive Judaism today decided to establish a seminary for youth leaders and religious teachers for German Jewish youth and Algerian Jewish refugees in France. The Reform Jewish body announced the decision at the organization's conference being held at the Anne Frank Home here.

Reports were delivered by Rabbi Lionel Blue, recently appointed director for European Jewish youth work; Rabbi Henry Brandt, of Leeds; Rabbi Doy Marmur, of London; and Rabbi Jaap Soetendorp, of Amsterdam.

SENATE GETS RESOLUTION CALLING FOR END TO FURTHER ASSISTANCE TO EGYPT

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Senator Bourke Hickenlooper, of Iowa, the ranking Republican on the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, today introduced a resolution calling on the President to consider severing diplomatic relations with the Yemen Arab Republic, and withholding further assistance to Egypt.

RIBICOFF TO PRESS BILL AGAINST SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM IN U. S. SENATE

WASHINGTON, Aug. 17. (JTA) -- Senator Abraham Ribicoff, Connecticut Democrat, today made known that he will seek Senate approval of his resolution condemning Soviet anti-Semitism, by offering it as an amendment to the foreign aid authorization bill now pending. Mr. Ribicoff is acting with the support of 24 Jewish organizations.

The resolution was submitted on August 10 to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, which has so far taken no action. Sixty-three other Senators have joined with Senator Ribicoff in co-sponsoring the measure. It is presumed that they would now support its adoption in the form of the amendment conceived by Sen. Ribicoff.

State Department sources indicated meanwhile that they doubt the wisdom of the Senate expression on this subject in any form. They said it was an intervention into the domestic affairs of the Soviet Union which would evoke resentment and prove counter-productive.

When the Ribicoff resolution was submitted before the Foreign Relations Committee, it met moves to broaden the wording to include Soviet discrimination against Moslems and Christians. This would weaken its value as a specific expression against growing anti-Semitism.

The amendment would contain the same wording as the original resolution. The main point would be the expression by Congress of the charge that "the Soviet Union is persecuting Jewish citizens by singling them out for extreme punishment for alleged economic offenses, by confiscating synagogues, by closing Jewish cemeteries, by arresting rabbis and lay religious leaders, by curtailing religious observances, by discriminating against Jews in cultural activities and access to higher education, by imposing restrictions that prevent the reuniting of Jews with their families in other lands, and by other acts that oppress Jews in the free exercise of their faith."

JEWISH WAR VETERAN DENOUNCES SOVIET PERSECUTIONS; PLOFSKY ELECTED

HOLLYWOOD, Fla., Aug. 17. (JTA) -- American Jews will continue to devote themselves to mustering world opinion against "the heinous acts" of the Soviet Union in carrying out its anti-Semitic policies, Daniel Neal Heller, outgoing national commander of the Jewish War Veterans of the United States, declared here this weekend at the closing session of the organization's national convention.

Asserting that "the Soviets are committed in toto to the destruction of Jewish life," Mr. Heller said that "reports coming out of the Soviet Union from private confidential sources have revealed that the 3,000,000 Jews are in virtual captivity, unable to worship, or move about freely, and are being weeded out of many forms of gainful employment." Ralph Plofsky, 50, of White Plains, N.Y., was elected the new national commander of the organization.

KLUTZNICK URGES PRIMACY OF JEWISH EDUCATION; KATZ HITS SOVIET UNION

STARLIGHT, Pa., Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The primacy of advancing Jewish education above other endeavors was urged on Jewish youth here today by Philip M. Klutznick, honorary president of B'nai B'rith. Addressing 150 B'nai B'rith Youth Organization leaders attending an intensive, seven-week leadership training conference at the Sam Beber Leadership Village, Mr. Klutznick told the youths:

"The key to Jewish survival -- and indeed the key to world survival -- lies in the willingness of people to understand the role of education in civilization. The great problems of our era, we now recognize, can only be solved by the transference of knowledge -- not by the transference of dollars. If this is true for the world, how axiomatic it must be for the Jews of the world who have so long resisted attacks and oppression. Knowledge and knowledge alone can make you free and dignified. Education is the key to the advancement and progression of all that Judaism and Jewish life stand for."

In another session, Label A. Katz, president of B'nai B'rith, discussed some of the discriminations now practiced against Jews in the Soviet Union. "Soviet Jews," he said, "are subject to a subtle policy of discrimination in employment, education, and major sectors of public life. A few especially brilliant Jews still hold high positions in professional, cultural, and economic life, but Jews have virtually disappeared from key 'security-sensitive' areas such as the armed forces, diplomatic corps, and membership in legislatures. The proportion of Jews in higher education, science, and the professions has been declining for many years. In many universities and advanced institutes, a quota system prevails; A generation ago, Jews comprised about 13 per cent of all students in higher education; Today, that figure is reduced to three per cent."

INDIANA TEMPLE DEDECRATED BY VANDALS; POLICE INCREASE PATROLS IN AREA

MICHIGAN CITY, Ind., Aug. 17. (JTA) -- The Michigan City police department announced today it has detailed additional patrols in the vicinity of Sinai Temple, to discourage a repetition of an incident last week in which obscenities and other markings were found on the walls of the temple. Terming the incident an "outrage," a police spokesman attributed the desecration to "juvenile vandals."