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RIBICOFF CALLS ON DEMOCRATIC PARTY TO DENOUNCE SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM

WASHINGTON, Aug. 19. (JTA) -- A strong Democratic Party platform plank, voicing sharp protest against Soviet anti-Semitism, was urged today by Senator Abraham Ribicoff, Connecticut, who testified on behalf of 24 Jewish organizations. He appeared before the full Platform Committee and outlined a stand identical with a resolution he had submitted in the Senate, co-sponsored by 63 other Senators.

He asked the Democratic Party to express the conscience of the American people and "call attention to an old problem that has flared up recently in virulent form, the persecution of Soviet Jews." "It is especially appropriate," he said, "that the party of human dignity and of peace take an official stand on the Soviet Government's systematic policy of attrition against the 3,000,000 Jewish citizens of the USSR." The Soviet policy, said Sen. Ribicoff, aims "to shatter, pulverize and gradually eliminate Jewish historical consciousness and Jewish identity."

His testimony was similar to that which he gave August 10, in an appearance as a witness before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee on behalf of his resolution on this issue, which is backed by 24 Jewish organizations. Those organizations, comprising the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, represent the majority of the 5,500,000 Jews in the United States. George Maislen, chairman of the Conference steering committee, also testified before the Platform Committee.

Soviet Jews Seen Deprived of Cultural, Religious Rights.

In Senator Ribicoff's testimony, the Platform Committee was presented with six specific points underscoring the anti-Semitic campaign pressed or condoned by the authorities of the Soviet Union. These points were:

1; The deprivation of cultural rights: Though the 3,000,000 Soviet Jews are officially recognized as a nationality, they are the only nationality deprived of the basic cultural rights accorded to all the others--their own newspapers, for example, publishing houses, books, language, or theater.

2; The deprivation of religious rights: Unlike all other religious denominations in the Soviet Union, Jewish congregations are not permitted to maintain nationwide federations or other central organizations. No Hebrew Bible has been published since 1917; there is an extreme shortage of prayer books and indispensable religious articles. Synagogues have been forcibly closed down in many cities and towns; the one rabbinical seminary in the country is permitted no more than three or four students;

3; The anti-Jewish propaganda campaign: This policy is conducted within the charged atmosphere of a virulent press and propaganda campaign against Judaism. In this campaign, Jews are represented in traditional anti-Semitic stereotypes. Judaism as a religion is vilified.

Discrimination Practiced in Education, Emigration

4; The scape-goating of Jews: Jews have been used as scapegoats for the economic ills that plague the country. Of the 195 people sentenced to death for such crimes, at least half, and possibly more, have been Jews.

5; Discrimination in education and employment: The proportion of Jews in higher education, science and the professions has been declining from 13.5 per cent in 1935 to 3.1 per cent today. Jews have virtually disappeared from the diplomatic service, and know that they cannot aspire to leading positions in economic, industrial, technical and engineering work.

6; Refusal of the right to emigrate: Jews who wish to leave the Soviet Union to be reunited with their families abroad are forbidden to do so.

"Soviet Jews," Sen. Ribicoff concluded, "surely have the right to walk in dignity--no less than their fellow citizens of other nationalities and religions. They are deprived of this right--and the Democratic Party of the nation that is the leader of the free world has the obligation to protest in the name of human decency. I hope the Platform Committee will include this protest in the Democratic Platform of 1964."

In his statement, Mr. Maislen, who is also president of the United Synagogue of America (Conservative), told the Platform Committee: "It is not important which party we

represent, what faith we belong to or what our professional association might be--the cultural and religious oppression being carried on by the Soviet Union against its approximately 3,000,000 Jewish citizens is a crime that demands the universal protest of humanity; it is a moral and humanitarian issue, and not a political debate which concerns us.

"American Jews have a right to look to our government and our political leadership for support in taking all practical steps to help solve this grave problem." As one of the great political parties in our country, with an historical tradition of concern for oppressed minorities, we urge you to pledge our support in continuing to mobilize the forces of the Democratic Party to aid the fight against Soviet anti-Semitism."

TASS DENIES THERE IS ANTI-SEMITISM IN USSR; HITS 'SOME' U. S. SENATORS

LONDON, Aug. 19. (JTA) -- Tass, the official Soviet news agency, today issued a heated denial of the existence of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, and contrasted the life of Jews in Russia with that of Negroes in the United States. Tass said that allegations by "some United States Senators" concerning maltreatment of Soviet Jews were attempts "to divert world public opinion from America's own race troubles."

"Some" U. S. quarters, "Tass said, "have made it a habit to resort to insinuations against the USSR every time there is an outburst of racist terror in the United States." Comparing the lot of Jews in the USSR with Negroes in the United States, Tass asked: "Are they (the Jews) attacked by police dogs (in Russia) or are the Negroes of Texas or Alabama? Are they (the Jews) being lynched?"

Attempting to answer charges that Russian Jews are singled out and harshly punished for alleged "economic crimes," Tass said: "Some people who are sentenced by Soviet courts from time to time for different crimes are Jews. It is common knowledge that criminals in any multinational state may be of different nationalities. They may include Jews, too. The same happens in the United States."

Tass insisted that the Soviet Union was among the few countries without the "so-called Jewish problem," adding that Jews were granted absolutely equal rights with other citizens after the 1917 Soviet revolution. The statement declared that, while Jews represented only 1.08 per cent of the Soviet population, 20 Jewish scientists were among the 131 winners of Lenin prizes in science and technology this year. It also said that five of the 28 new members of the Soviet Academy of Sciences were Jewish.

MARRIAGE BANNED BY TRADITIONAL JEWISH LAW RECOGNIZED BY ISRAEL GOVT.

JERUSALEM, Aug. 19. (JTA) -- The Ministry of Interior today recognized, as man and wife, a "cohen" (a Jewish male, traditionally considered as descended from the ancient priestly family) and a divorcee, despite the fact that such marriages are banned by the Torah. The couple, Mrs. Shnitza Garfunkle, a divorcee, and Yerahmiel Haklai, a cohen, were registered as man and wife by the registration office in Ramat Gan.

While no clergyman officiated at the wedding, conducted two years ago, the couple followed the traditional marriage procedure involving the presentation of a ring before two witnesses. Their request for recognition of the marriage had been rejected in numerous hearings before civil and rabbinical courts.

Although the Interior Ministry ordered the registration of the couple as man and wife, it has begun legal action against the couple and the witnesses involved, since the ceremony was carried out by unauthorized persons.

Joseph Ben Menashe, attorney for the couple, and one of the leaders of the League Against Religious Coercion, said today that he was now seeking to drive a deeper wedge between the State and religion. He said he has applied to the District Court in Haifa for a declaratory judgment concerning the status of four couples living on communal farms who have been married at private ceremonies because of ideological objections to rabbinical marriage.

The application, to be heard in October, has been opposed by the Attorney General on the ground that rabbinical courts have sole jurisdiction in such matters.

IRISH PRIME MINISTER PLEDGES FULL EXCHANGE OF DIPLOMATS WITH ISRAEL

DUBLIN, Aug. 19. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Sean F. Lemass said here today that only economic considerations and lack of trained personnel prevented Ireland from exchanging diplomatic and consular representatives with Israel. In an interview with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Premier Lemass said that Ireland, which recognizes Israel both de jure and de facto, does not have "many diplomatic representatives or even consular officers. Our diplomatic service is not extensive at all for economic reasons, and also for lack of trained officials to go around."

Mr. Lemass pointed out, however, that his country planned to extend its diplomatic and consular services "as the years go by" and that "Israel is, of course, included in these plans."

HADASSAH ADOPTS \$9, 840, 000 BUDGET; MRS. JACOBSON NAMED PRESIDENT

LOS ANGELES, Aug. 19. (JTA) -- A resolution urging the United States Government to make sure that no American aid is used to advance preparations for aggressive war was adopted here today by the 50th annual convention of Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization of America. The measure was clearly aimed at withdrawal of U. S. aid to Arab states preparing for war against Israel. Another resolution called on the U. S. Senate to adopt a pending resolution introduced by Sen. Abraham A. Ribicoff, condemning anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union.

The Hadassah resolutions were adopted as the jubilee convention came to a close after four days of deliberations, attended by 2, 000 delegates. The organization adopted a \$9, 840, 000 budget for its 1964-65 programs of activities in Israel and in the United States. The delegates also unanimously elected Mrs. Mortimer Jacobson, of New York, as president. She succeeds Mrs. Siegfried Kramarsky, who has held the top post for the last four years. Mrs. Jacobson has served in various important capacities in Hadassah for the last 25 years.

In accepting the presidency, Mrs. Jacobson declared that "Zionism, as a dynamic and ongoing interpretation of Jewish history, must continue to remain meaningful to our membership. Our task is to help unite Jewry, not only in philanthropy, but in the preservation of the eternal doctrine of Jewry."

In the resolution dealing with U. S. foreign aid, Hadassah urged that "caution be exercised to ensure that American aid is not used to advance preparations for aggressive war, thus subverting the intent of the American people." The resolution also noted with satisfaction "Israel's effective use of United States aid in peaceful economic endeavors."

In the resolution supporting Mr. Ribicoff's Senate resolution condemning Soviet anti-Semitism, the delegates "vigorously protested the calculated assaults against the cultural and spiritual life of the Jews within the Soviet Union," adding that "our aim is to mobilize American public opinion into a moral force, and to arouse our Government to exert its influence to the end that this unconscionable wrong will be righted. We urge also that the Soviet Government permit its Jewish citizens to reunite with their families abroad."

Call for Direct Arab-Israel Peace Talks; Earmark \$8, 340, 000 for Israel

Another resolution called upon the Johnson Administration "to use its influence and leadership to bring the Arab states and Israel to the peace table, by making it clear that the United States will safeguard the integrity and independence of all states in the Near East, and that the United States favors direct Arab-Israel peace negotiations to settle issues in dispute."

Of the \$9, 840, 000 budget adopted by the delegates, \$8, 340, 000 was earmarked for the organization's programs in Israel. These included \$3, 470, 000 for the Hadassah Medical Organization; \$2, 300, 000 for Youth Aliyah; \$1, 000, 000 for the building fund of the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center in Jerusalem; \$700, 000 for the Jewish National Fund; and \$600, 000 for Hadassah's vocational education program.

At an earlier session, Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the Keren Hayesod, financial arm of the World Zionist Organization, told the delegates that 500, 000 Jews in various parts of the world are still waiting to emigrate to Israel, "not counting the potential from the Soviet Union, regarding which there can be only speculation and hope."

Noting that 90 per cent of the Jews of Egypt, Iraq, Syria and Yemen are now in Israel, and that "some of the rescue operations have been precarious," Dr. Goldstein added that Israel's "number one social problem" is the integration "of many times 12 different tribes separated by language, culture, customs, experience and outlook." He said that every Israel Government jurisdiction, both national and local, "every public body and every organ of public opinion, is dedicating its efforts to closing the gap, to achieving a unity across diversity, and to giving the underprivileged not only equality of opportunity but the prior special care required to bring them up to a point of being able to benefit more fully by the dispensation of equality."

Need Seen for Absorption of 25, 000 Children in Israel in Five Years..

Mrs. Max Schenk, Hadassah's national Youth Aliyah chairman, told the delegates that Youth Aliyah is preparing to absorb 25, 000 children and youth from North Africa, Iran and Eastern Europe in Israel within the next five years. Hadassah conducts its youth rehabilitation and education program in Israel through Youth Aliyah. She said that there is an assumption that immigration from North Africa and Iran will continue through the 60's; in addition, during the 60's, she said, "Youth Aliyah shall continue the absorption of children and youth from Eastern Europe, and there is a hope that this will continue in the 1970's."

At another session, Mrs. D. Leonard Cohen, national chairman of the Vocational Educational Committee, announced that two new departments have been opened at Hadassah's Brandeis Vocational Center, in Jerusalem. They include a tool and die-making

department in the printing school, the first of its kind to be installed in a vocational school in Israel, she said.

Mrs. A. P. Schoolman, national chairman for the Henrietta Szold Institute in Israel, reported that the Institute has received 300,000 Israeli pounds (\$100,000) from the United States Office of Education for three studies in pedagogy, to be carried out jointly with Israel's Ministry of Education. The completion of these studies will take from three to five years, she said.

Mrs. Harry P. Fierst, Jewish National Fund chairman, reported that, at the request of Hadassah, JNF will plant 10,000 Jerusalem pines along the road leading to the Hadassah-Hebrew University Medical Center.

The convention elected six national vice-presidents. They are: Mrs. Charles T. Cohen, Milwaukee; Mrs. Fierst, of New York; Mrs. Edward A. Lusterman, New York; Mrs. Max N. Matzkin, Waterbury, Conn.; Mrs. Murray M. Shernoff, New York; and Mrs. Milton Silverstein, Chicago.

Mrs. Schenk was elected national treasurer; and Mrs. Hy Salpeter as national secretary. Both are from New York, as is Mrs. Walter Brecher, who was elected national recording secretary.

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY LISTS ISRAEL AS 50-75% UNDER COMMUNIST CONTROL

NEW YORK, Aug. 19. (JTA) -- The State of Israel is 50-70 per cent under Communist influence, according to the John Birch Society's "Scoreboard," published in the July-August issue of its publication, "American Opinion." By the same yardstick, the right-wing group holds that the United States, too, is in the 50-70 per cent Communist control category.

Among Israel's neighbors, Syria is listed as 100 per cent under Communist influence; Yemen is considered 90-100 per cent under Communist control; Egypt is listed at 80-100 percent, as is Iraq; Lebanon and Saudi Arabia are described as 60-80 per cent under Communist control; and Jordan at 20-40 per cent.

The Israel "score" increased by 10 per cent from the 1958 Birchite appraisal because of Israel's alleged failure to deal sternly with Soviet espionage scandals, the "probably permanent retirement of (David) Ben-Gurion from political life," and Israel's toleration if not encouragement of "race war" in Africa.

The publication carries an article on the Middle East by Samuel L. Blumenfeld, a New York editor, in which Israel is described as "a little country sitting on the eastern shore of the Mediterranean, created in part for the purpose of keeping the Arabs busy fighting a phantom while the Council on Foreign Relations-Kremlin combine takes over lock, stock and barrel with little or no resistance from the natives."

The article says Israelis "are controlled by a Socialist clique which has monopolized political power from the early days of Jewish colonization." It describes Prime Minister Levi Eshkol as Russian-born, and asserts that "in the past decade, he has been chiefly responsible for the Socialist economic policies in Israel, which have driven many of Israel's most productive citizens to emigrate to other countries."

N. Y. POLICE DEPT. BANS RELIGIOUS, ETHNIC LABELS FOR 'WANTED' SUSPECTS

NEW YORK, Aug. 19. (JTA) -- Walter Arm, Deputy Police Commissioner in charge of community relations, announced today that the New York Police Department has reaffirmed orders not to state a suspect's presumed religion or ethnic identity in "wanted" circulars. He said this type of description "has no value in a search."

Commissioner Arm made this statement following several inquiries into a recent circular in which one suspect was described as "apparently Jewish," and another as "German" or "Irish." He admitted that this was a mistake, and asserted that supposed religious and ethnic origins have been eliminated from "wanted" circulars for several years. A recent check revealed that, of the 225 "wanted" circulars issued since the beginning of 1963, ethnic descriptions were given in four cases.

BLACK JEWS FORM GROUP TO COUNTER ANTI-SEMITISM AMONG U.S. NEGROES

NEW YORK, Aug. 19. (JTA) -- The formation of a special committee to improve understanding between America's Jewish communities and the country's Negroes was announced here today by a spokesman for Zaad Rishon, an organization seeking to integrate the more than 40,000 American black Jews into the mainstream of Jewish life.

According to the announcement, the new committee will combat anti-Semitic agitation being conducted among Negro communities. Zaad Rishon is also in the process of forming other committees to deal with employment, education and cultural problems faced by New York's black Jews.

Zaad Rishon (First Step), recently formed, said today that, while officers have not yet been formally elected, the group's leaders include several rabbis as well as Rabbi Alexander Bernstein of the Jewish Theological Seminary and Dr. Werner Cahnman, a Jewish sociologist, of Rutgers University. Rabbi Moshe Paris, of Ethiopia, who is chairman of New York's Black Rabbis' Advisory Board, is acting as Zaad Rishon's consultant.