



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXXI - 46th year

Thursday, October 1, 1964

No. 189

VATICAN DRAFTING NEW AMENDMENTS TO DOCUMENT ON JEWISH RELATIONS

ROME, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- The Vatican Secretariat for Christian Unity began work today on amendments to strengthen the declaration on Catholic-Jewish relations, a press panel sponsored by American bishops here revealed.

The Secretariat will work with a list of 70 amendments submitted prior to the opening of the current, third session of the Ecumenical Council, plus a large sheaf of related proposals offered to strengthen the declaration in the two days of Council debate on the draft declaration, Monday and yesterday.

The Secretariat, under the chairmanship of Augustin Cardinal Bea, prepared and submitted to the second Council session, last week, a version which absolved Jews, past and present, of blame for the Crucifixion of Jesus. It also strongly condemned anti-Semitism stemming from the deicide charge. That draft was not voted on at that session. The version was revised by the Coordinating Commission of the Vatican in the interval between the second and third Council sessions, and disclosure of the changes evoked widespread criticism, not only among Jews but also among Catholic clergy and laymen.

U.S. Cardinals Focus on Need for Changes After Plea by Bea

The revised draft was criticized for diluting the absolution clause, referring only to Jews of the present; for dropping the word "deicide" and for a statement of the traditional Christian hope for "reunion" of Jews with Christianity. Many Jewish theologians interpreted that clause as a bid to Jews to convert. Cardinal Bea, in introducing the revised text, made it plain he was dissatisfied with the changes, citing them in detail and urging reinstatement of the original stronger version.

The majority of the American bishops, led by Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston, Albert Gregory Cardinal Meyer of Chicago, and Joseph Elmer Cardinal Ritter of St. Louis, spoke urgently and eloquently of the need to revise the draft to make it acceptable "to our Jewish brothers." The theme was heard repeatedly that, against the background of the use of Christian anti-Semitism to persecute Jews over the centuries, a strong statement was long overdue.

The American bishops were supported by key members of the Secretariat, including Archbishop John Carmel Heenan, the Primate of England, and Archbishop Franjo Šeper of Zagreb, Yugoslavia. They pleaded for elimination of any language which might possibly be regarded by Jews as a bid for conversion, stressing the need for Catholics to understand Jewish sensitivity on that point.

The amendments to be prepared by the Secretariat will be submitted as soon as possible to the Council for action. A spokesman for the Secretariat indicated that the Secretariat will submit a declaration amended on the basis of the "overwhelming opinion" in support of strengthening the declaration. Earlier it had been indicated that it would be several weeks before the Council would take up the draft.

Baptist Leader Lauds Cardinals; Sees Interfaith Progress in U. S. A.

ROME, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- Brooks Hays, former lay president of the Southern Baptist Convention and now chairman of the Brotherhood Committee of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, lauded here today the efforts of American bishops at the Ecumenical Council to strengthen the proposed declaration on Catholic-Jewish relations.

Mr. Hays, who had a private audience yesterday with Pope Paul, said he had been invited by the Pope to attend the Ecumenical Council session tomorrow as an observer. He is a former U. S. Representative from Little Rock, Ark.

He spoke with enthusiasm about the declaration on Jews and added that "my Catholic friends will understand my pride as an American over the eloquent declarations by American cardinals and bishops" on both the declaration on Jews and that on religious freedom.

Mr. Hays, who is also President Johnson's consultant on racial questions, added that the "liberalization" toward which the Catholic church was now moving with a "universalistic spirit" was also the fruit of Catholic thought in other continents, and particularly in the United States.

Discussing his work as NCCJ brotherhood chairman, he said he had made a tour of the United States at the request of the late President Kennedy and that he could report that a

"concrete spirit of brotherhood" existed between all three religious denominations--Catholic, Jewish and Protestant--united in defense of freedom and of civil rights; He expressed the opinion that the Council declarations on religious freedom and on the Jews would have a great effect, and would help to eliminate prejudice and anti-Jewish positions.

Syria Voices Formal Opposition to Ecumenical Council Action

LONDON, Sept. 30: (JTA) -- A formal protest against Ecumenical Council consideration of a draft declaration to absolve Jews of blame in the crucifixion of Jesus has been made to Catholic hierarchy leaders in Syria by Premier Salah Bitar, it was reported here today from Damascus.

The Government issued a communique, reporting that the Premier made the protest in meetings with Msgr. Leopold Tealli, acting internuncio, and with heads of the Catholic Church in Damascus. He told the Catholic leaders that the Syrian Government "does not subscribe to the theory that the matter is purely religious" and that Zionists were "exploiting" the matter at a time when the Arabs were making renewed efforts to bring the "Palestine question" to world notice.

It was also reported that the Syrian Government plans to bring up the issue at a conference of heads of "non-aligned states" which will open in Cairo on October 5. The government's goal is to enlist wider opposition to the proposed Council action.

SYRIANS OPEN FIRE, WOUND ONE ISRAELI; COMPLAINT FILED WITH U. N.

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30: (JTA) -- Syrian gunners opened fire today on a tractor on an Israeli field east of Haon, on the eastern shore of Lake Tiberias, slightly wounding one Israeli.

The field work was resumed by the Israelis after the shooting, and continued until darkness with no further interference. Israel complained to the United Nations Israel-Cyrian Mixed Armistice Commission. The site of the attack is an area which has always been cultivated by Israeli farmers.

PERES AGREES WITH EGYPTIAN ON DANGER OF ANTI-ISRAEL ATTACK

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30: (JTA) -- Deputy Defense Minister Shimon Peres said here today that he agreed with a recent statement by the Egyptian Chief of Staff that attacking Israel would be "an unwise move on the part of the Arabs, in view of Israel's military strength. He said that the establishment of a Palestinian army was an attempt by the Arab states to relieve themselves of "responsibility."

ISRAELIS CELEBRATE SIMCHAT TORAH WITH TRADITIONAL FESTIVE RITES

JERUSALEM, Sept. 30: (JTA) -- Israelis throughout the country concluded the Simchat Torah holiday here with singing, dancing and merrymaking in the streets. Here, the famed "hakafot" procession of Torah scrolls started at Heichal Shlomo, the Chief Rabbinate Center, and made its way to the President's home, where President Zalman Shazar joined in the festivities. Also taking part in the celebration were Chief Rabbis Isser Yehuda Unterman and Yitzhak Nissim, and Religious Affairs Minister Zorach Warhaftig.

On Mount Zion, special Yizkor memorial prayers were recited for Israeli military personnel who had fallen during the War of Independence, and for the members of the Jewish settlement who fell in the Second World War. The traditional Shmini Atzeret prayer for rain was recited opposite the Old City of Jerusalem at the closest point on the Israeli side of the border of the site of the ancient Temple.

CENTRAL AMERICAN JEWS ESTABLISH FEDERATION, ELECT PANAMANIAN

GUATEMALA CITY, Sept. 30: (JTA) -- A Federation of Central American Jewish Communities was established here last night at the closing session of a convention attended by some 100 delegates from six Central American nations. Woodrow de Castro, a prominent Panamanian lawyer, was named president of the Federation, and Carlos Bernhard of El Salvador was named vice-president.

In resolutions adopted prior to the close of the conference, the delegates called on the executive committee of the new Federation to affiliate with the World Jewish Congress. The delegates also recommended that the Federation call on the Secretary-General of the United Nations to intervene in an effort to secure religious and cultural freedom for the Jews of the Soviet Union.

In an address at an earlier session of the conference, Leo Dultzin, of the Jewish Agency, announced that the forthcoming World Zionist Congress to be held in Jerusalem in December would be largely devoted to relations between Israel and Jewish communities abroad.

FORMER SS GENERAL GIVEN 15 YEARS FOR SENDING JEWS TO TREBLINKA

MUNICH, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- Former SS General Karl Wolff, the highest ranking former Nazi to be tried in West Germany, was sentenced today to 15 years at hard labor on conviction of having organized the deportation of 300,000 Jews from occupied Poland to the Treblinka death camp.

ABBA EBAN WELCOMED BY MEXICAN OFFICIALS ON START OF STATE VISIT

MEXICO CITY, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- Israel's Deputy Premier Abba Eban arrived here last night for an official state visit to Mexico at the invitation of President Alfredo Lopez-Mateos. He was welcomed on his arrival by Mexico's Foreign Minister Gorostiza and other senior Mexican Government officials, leaders of the local Jewish community and organizations, and members of the Israel Embassy staff.

Noting the support by the Mexican Government 15 years ago when Israel was admitted to membership in the United Nations, Mr. Eban hailed the increasingly close relations developed between the two countries over the years. "I hope my visit may help strengthen our relations in the sphere of cultural and technical cooperation, mutual increase of tourism and other fields," he declared. Mr. Eban is scheduled to be received by the President during his visit here and to address the national Congress.

NOTED BRITISH RABBI, CHIEF CHAPLAIN TO BRITISH FORCES, RESIGNS

LONDON, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- The resignation of Rabbi Isaac Levy as spiritual leader of the Hampstead Synagogue, one of the largest in Britain, was the latest development today in a continuing doctrinal dispute in British Orthodox Judaism. Dr. Levy also resigned as Chief Chaplain to Her Majesty's Forces.

The resignations became effective immediately but Dr. Levy told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency he would remain in the Hampstead pulpit until the end of this year, so that the congregation would have time to find a new Minister. He said this would be difficult because not many rabbis were able to lead such a large, important and sophisticated congregation. Dr. Levy will become director of the Jewish National Fund of Britain, with which he has been associated for many years in an honorary capacity.

No official explanation was given for the resignations but it was recalled that, as a member of the Council of Jews' College, Dr. Levy had supported the appointment as principal of Dr. Louis Jacobs, an appointment vetoed by Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie.

Dr. Levy also sided with Dr. Jacobs in the latter's struggle with Chief Rabbi Brodie over interpretations of Jewish religious law, which led to Rabbi Jacobs' removal from the pulpit of the West End Synagogue. The latter is one of the largest member synagogues of the United Synagogue, the principal organization of Orthodox Jewish congregations in Britain, which is also the parent body of the Hampstead Synagogue.

Dr. Levy told the JTA that his resignation resulted from "accumulated frustration" over the years, and that his backing of Dr. Jacobs was one of the reasons but not the sole one. He hinted that the United Synagogue officials had caused him more trouble than the theological disputes.

LARGE-SCALE HOUSING IN ISRAEL AIMED TO AID U. S. EMIGRANTS

NEW YORK, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- A large-scale housing project aimed specifically at solving the housing problems of American immigrants will be built by the Jewish Agency for Israel in cooperation with the Government of Israel, it was announced here today by Abraham Cygiel, director of the Agency's absorption department.

Predicting an increase in immigration to Israel from the United States, Mr. Cygiel told a press conference that the 20,000 new apartments being built in the program will meet the standard of living demanded by American Jewish immigration.

The apartments, ranging in area from 650 square feet to 1,100 square feet are priced from \$8,350 to \$16,700, and are available for as little as \$1,000 down with carrying charges from \$35 to \$60 per month. Mr. Cygiel said that, after two years, the immigrant may, if he wishes, give up the apartment and receive a refund covering the entire down payment. He noted that similar credit terms are available for apartments for immigrants built by private builders.

Predicting that immigration into Israel will be larger this year than in 1963, Mr. Cygiel said that there are 30,000 to 40,000 jobs open in Israel for physicians, pharmacists, chemists, construction and industrial engineers, bookkeepers and accountants, teachers, nurses and laboratory technicians.

U. S. - ISRAEL DESALINATION PROJECT HAILED BY STUART UDALL

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- Secretary of the Interior Stuart Udall today welcomed the activities here of a joint American-Israel desalination team, and stressed the importance America attaches to the project.

Mr. Udall said that any necessary help would be granted. Today Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman tendered a luncheon for the experts. Among those in attendance were Prof. Glenn Seaborg, chairman of the U. S. Atomic Energy Commission, and Myer Feldman, president Johnson's personal adviser on Israeli affairs.

The desalination team earlier this week visited a desalting project at Wrightsville Beach, N. C. Tomorrow, talks will be held with representatives of the General Electric Co., with a view to a possibility of a bid on a nuclear desalting plant to be erected in Israel.

PAMPHLET VIEWS EXTREMISM, LINK BETWEEN RIGHT AND ANTI-SEMITISM

NEW YORK, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- A pamphlet in question and answer form, entitled "What Is Extremism," was issued here today by the American Jewish Committee, charging in a foreword that "under the banner of breaking a conspiracy, the extremists of the right have licensed themselves to break the law." The foreword explained that there is "one important difference" between extremism of the right and that of the left: "In contrast to the Communists who openly oppose us," it declared, "the extremists of the right pose as patriots. They intimidate by slander, terrorize by rumor, disturb the peace and incite to violence."

Noting that "virtually all of the groups that are violently segregationist or anti-Semitic are extremist," the pamphlet stated that "more often than not, the anti-Semites upbraid the rest for not equating Judaism with communism and publicly blaming the Jews for all evil." Extremist groups, the pamphlet said, sometimes incite anti-Negro violence and foment anti-Semitism at the same time.

Answers to questions in the pamphlet included statements about the tactics of extremists, whether extremists and conservatives are alike, the size of the extremist camp, a brief analysis of the John Birch Society, and a listing of a number of other extremist groups. The pamphlet also asked whether there is a coalition of extremist groups, stating: "There have been no formal mergers so far; but the civil-rights revolution, as it touches more and more communities, appears to be bringing the racists and other extremists under one umbrella."

At the same time today, Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, announced the publication by the AJC's Institute of Human Relations of a monograph on "Crime and Race: Conceptions and Misconceptions" by Dr. Marvin E. Wolfgang, a prominent sociologist and specialist on crime.

Z.O.A. CPENS 67TH CONVENTION TODAY; 1,000 DELEGATES ARE EXPECTED

WASHINGTON, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- More than 1,000 delegates assembled here today for the opening tomorrow of the 67th annual convention of the Zionist Organization of America. The convention will have the theme "America-Israel--Common Frontier of Democracy." Dr. Max Nussbaum, president, will make the keynote address at the opening session.

The convention will honor Myer Feldman, special counsel to President Johnson, at the final session on October 4. He will receive a citation noting the award of a scholarship grant to a student for a full course of study at Kfar Silver, the ZOA agricultural training school near Ashkelon.

The agenda for the four-day convention includes issues affecting the future of American Jewry, the Zionist program in this country and in Israel, the promotion of American settlement in Israel, the position of the Jews in Russia, and developments relating to Israel and the Middle East.

JOSEPH J. SCHWARTZ HONORED FOR POSTWAR JEWISH RESCUE WORK

TEL AVIV, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- A reunion of Jews who gathered other Jews from the DP camps in Europe, and smuggled them into Palestine, today honored Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, who was European director of the Joint Distribution Committee during the postwar era. The former members of the European Escape Route Organization assembled at Mann Auditorium to present Dr. Schwartz with an "Illegal Immigration Year" medallion.

Moshe Sharett, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, described how the postwar rescue operations were carried out. Other speakers were Shaul Avigur, who headed the "Hammosad," by which the "illegal" immigration network was known, and Asher Ben Nathan, former Vienna leader of such immigration, who is now director general of the Israel Defense Ministry.

Mr. Ben Nathan described the cooperation between the Palestinian Jewish underground and JDC officials, an effort in which JDC had the code name of "Aunt Betty." He also reported there had been a form of cooperation about which the JDC had never been informed. Palestinian Jews used the JDC name on rescue operation vehicles without JDC authorization.

NEW LIBRARY AT HEBREW UNIVERSITY TO MEMORIALIZE SAUL LEVY

NEW YORK, Sept. 30. (JTA) -- Establishment of a library to house a collection of texts and papers for the use of students in the Institute of Accountancy and Department of Business Administration of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem was announced here tonight at a dinner of the Metropolitan New York Accountants Committee of the American Friends of the Hebrew University. The facility will be called the Saul Levy Memorial Library. The late Mr. Levy was president of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants.

Leon H. Keyserling, chairman of the President's Council of Economic Advisors during the Truman Administration, delivered the principal address at the dinner; Archibald U. Braunfeld, chairman of the committee, presided.