



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

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Vol. XXXI - 46th year

Friday, October 30, 1964

No. 210

JOHNSON EXPRESSES 'DEEP CONCERN' OVER POSITION OF JEWS IN RUSSIA

NEW YORK, Oct. 29. (JTA) -- President Johnson declared last night that "the position of the Jewish community in the Soviet Union is a matter of deep and continuing concern to me, to this administration and to millions of thoughtful people throughout the United States."

The President stated his views in a telegram to a protest meeting of 2,500 leading New York Jews, representing 26 major national and local Jewish organizations, which was sponsored by the New York Conference on Soviet Jewry. The meeting ended with a march by the participants to the Soviet Mission to the United Nations, where an unsuccessful effort was made to give Mission officials a list of 18 requests for action by the Soviet Government to restore cultural and religious rights of the 3,000,000 Russian Jews.

President Johnson's message was read to the meeting by former Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy, who is running as Democratic candidate for the U.S. Senate from New York. Sen. Kenneth B. Keating, New York Republican Senator, also attended the meeting. Both spoke on the plight of Soviet Jewry, and Sen. Keating later joined the procession to the USSR Mission.

In his message, President Johnson warned that "we cannot ignore the existence of religious or racial persecution anywhere in the world." He noted that "anti-Semitism in Russia is a long-standing historical tragedy. Its roots go deep into the Czarist era." He said there have been periods of "relative restraint" in mistreatment of Russian Jews "but in the Soviet Union today, there is grave governmental, social and economic pressure against Jewish cultural and religious identity."

Cites U. S. Action at United Nations on Soviet Anti-Semitism

"All responsible officials in our government continue to search for practical methods of alleviating the position of Soviet Jews," he added. "Thus in February of this year, I instructed Mrs. Marietta Tree, the United States representative on the Human Rights Commission, to propose an article on anti-Semitism. Over the vigorous objections of the Soviet delegate, the following article was adopted for consideration by the UN General Assembly this fall: 'States-parties condemn anti-Semitism and shall take action as appropriate for its speedy eradication in the territories subject to their jurisdiction.'"

The President asserted that "the moral judgment of millions of people throughout the world cannot be ignored by any government."

Mr. Kennedy said that, if he was elected, he would press for a Senate resolution condemning anti-Semitism. He also said that he would "urge the United Nations Commission on Human Rights to take action and condemn these practices. This issue should be put on the agenda of American foreign policy for action by all appropriate government agencies and the United States Information Agency," he declared.

Sen. Keating told the gathering that "as an American and as a Christian, I welcome this opportunity to join you in speaking out against violations of the sacred human rights of religious worship and I pledge my fullest support in your efforts to preserve these sacred rights."

When the procession neared the Soviet Mission, four Jewish leaders and Sen. Keating tried to gain admission. Someone inside refused to open the door and instructed the callers to place an envelope containing their petition under the door. The group waited a few minutes after doing so but the door remained closed and they left. The marchers dispersed a few minutes afterwards.

FRENCH PARLEY APPEALS TO MOSCOW ON JEWS; RUSSELL STRESSES INJUSTICE

PARIS, Oct. 29. (JTA) -- A one-day conference on the situation of Soviet Jewry, attended by French progressive and left-wing leaders chosen for their known friendliness to the Soviet Union, appealed today to the new Soviet leadership to "revert to true Leninist principles" of equal treatment for all, without racial or religious distinctions.

The conference opened with a message from Lord Bertrand Russell who called particularly on the left-wing movements to make their voices heard on "the intolerable persecutions

reserved to Soviet Jews;" Lord Russell twice appealed to Nikita Khrushchev when he was Premier on behalf of Russian Jewry, and has taken part in other protests for Soviet Jewry.

"Treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union causes great worries," the British philosopher said in his cable. "It is intolerable that Communist party publications in a number of different Soviet Republics should contain anti-Semitic material comparable to that of Der Stürmer." (The worst Jew-baiting publication of the Nazi-era in Germany.)

The philosopher added that "the denial of the usual cultural facilities, as well as the harassing and the charges of 'parasitism' which only serve as pretexts for anti-Semitic campaigns" in the Soviet Union "have made a strong impact on all those who oppose the cold war and are active in favor of international understanding."

He asserted that it was a particular duty of leftist groups and organizations to speak out on the issue "so as not to let the cold war partisans have the exclusive moral responsibility for protests directed against the intolerable persecutions."

Unhindered Soviet Anti-Jewish Propaganda Cited at Conference

Jacques Nanted, the rapporteur for the conference, then reported on a new Soviet publication which he said openly incited to hatred. He said it represented Jews as "the hereditary enemies" of the Ukrainians. He also described a short story, published in October 1963, in "Dniipro," the organ of the Ukrainian Young Communist movement, which overtly and directly portrayed Jews as hating and despising their non-Jewish fellow-citizens "in the same way," according to a review "as the thief hates and despises his victim."

The rapporteur proceeded to describe a somber picture of cultural and educational discrimination affecting Russian Jews. He warned that some of the anti-Semitic innuendos which have appeared recently in the Soviet press were similar to the charges emanating from the "Doctors' Trial" staged during the Stalin regime which sought to link Soviet Jews with "imperialist espionage."

Daniel Mayer, chairman for the meeting, told the participants that "all persons here have been voluntarily chosen from among friends of Russia. None of those present harbors the slightest anti-Soviet or anti-Communist sentiments." As such, said Mayer, the president of the International League for the Rights of Man, "it is our duty to help the new Soviet leaders to draw up a catalogue of their tasks in the spirit of a return to Leninist principles. It would be unacceptable that the planned return to Leninism should be realized in all fields but one--that of anti-Jewish discrimination."

The former French Cabinet Minister stressed that the anti-Jewish measures could not be considered as falling entirely within the Soviet ideological war on religion because "as far as Jews are concerned, it is something far more complex--education, culture, and language--all that binds a man to his fellow human beings and to life itself."

ESHKOL REFUSES TO BACK LAVON FOR CANDIDATE IN NATIONAL ELECTIONS

TEL AVIV, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- Negotiations for an alignment of Premier Levi Eshkol's Mapai with the Ahdut Avodah, another labor group, were snagged today over what initially had been a secondary issue:

The issue was the place of Pinhas Lavon, a Mapai leader and central figure in a 10-year controversy over responsibility for a disastrous security mishap which occurred when he was Defense Minister. Forced out of office in the controversy, he continued his fight for vindication. That fight led to a head-on clash with then Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.

The complicated alignment proposal called for an independent Ahdut Histadrut faction within a joint Mapai-Ahdut electoral bloc and Mapai consent to postpone electoral reforms to which Mapai had been committed under Mr. Ben-Gurion's leadership as Premier.

The snag was the disclosure that Mr. Eshkol was not prepared to fight to have Mr. Lavon's name included in the joint Mapai-Ahdut list for the next general elections to Parliament and to Histadrut. Non-inclusion in turn raised the prospect that Ahdut would not continue with alignment talks and that Lavon's followers in Mapai might quit their party and join Ahdut which has consistently championed Mr. Lavon's case in the simmering controversy of the 1954 mishap. Mr. Ben-Gurion's followers in Mapai and Histadrut oppose alignment if Mr. Lavon's followers walked out of Mapai.

Meanwhile, the opposition left-wing Mapam party called on Ahdut to discontinue the talks with Mapai and to join with Mapam. Lavon followers in Mapai will meet next week to decide on a final course of action.

NEW BRITISH GOVERNMENT TO MAINTAIN CLOSE RELATIONS WITH ISRAEL

LONDON, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- Frank Cousins, the Minister of Technology in Britain's new Labor Government, emphasized today that the Government would maintain close and friendly relations with Israel in the spirit of the Labor party's approach to the international relations.

He made the statement at a luncheon in the House of Commons with a delegation of the executive of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation. The luncheon was given by Trade Union members of Parliament.

ISRAEL SUPREME COURT REVERSES RULING OF RABBINICAL HIGH COURT

JERUSALEM, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- Israel's Supreme Court reversed today a ruling of the Rabbinical High Court which had ordered a woman to accept a divorce from her husband.

Under Israel law, the rabbinical courts have exclusive jurisdiction in matters of marriage and divorce involving Jews. The Supreme Court took jurisdiction on the basis of the rabbinical court's finding that the woman, Mrs. Eva Bassan, was not Jewish. The secular court held that if this was correct, the rabbinical courts had no jurisdiction.

Mrs. Bassan had originally applied to the rabbinical court for conversion to Judaism, stating that her mother was a Catholic. However, according to the findings, she did not complete conversion and was married by a rabbi without informing him that she had not been officially converted. Holding that she was not Jewish, the rabbinical court ordered her to accept her husband's divorce petition. She appealed to the secular court.

FOUR EX-NAZIS SENTENCED FOR DEPORTING 5,000 JEWS TO DEATH CAMP

HANOVER, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- Four former SS and police guards were convicted today of complicity in the wartime slaughter of more than 5,000 Jews in occupied Poland and were sentenced to prison terms of two to five years. A fifth defendant killed himself shortly before the trial opened.

The four former Nazis were found guilty in the four-month trial of rounding up and deporting the victims from the Wlodawa Ghetto to the Sobibor death camp. The five-year term was imposed on Anton Mueller, 56, former SS trooper. Former police officer Josef Schmidt, 66, was given two-and-a-half years. Former police officer Luitpold Fuhrmann, 66, and former SS guard Adolf Schaub, 51, each received two-year terms.

ECUMENICAL COUNCIL EXPERT PREDICTS ADOPTION OF DECLARATION ON JEWS

ROME, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- A prediction that the current session of the Ecumenical Council will approve a draft declaration on Jews was made today by Dr. Hans Kueng, Tuebingen University theologian and Ecumenical Council expert.

In making the prediction at a press conference, the West German theologian said that "one cannot know yet" the final form in which the draft would be adopted. Introduced in the second session, the draft was not voted on and prior to the third and current session, it was diluted. The dilutions prompted liberal prelates at the Council, led by American prelates, to demand reinstatement of the original strong version. The final draft is now being prepared for Council action.

DINNER HONORING JACK WEILER BRINGS \$3,500,000 FOR ISRAEL BONDS

NEW YORK, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- More than \$3,500,000 for the economic development of Israel was provided tonight at a dinner at the Americana Hotel inaugurating the 1964 Fall campaign of the Greater New York Committee for State of Israel Bonds. The dinner was a tribute to Jack D. Weiler, prominent Jewish communal leader, who was presented with the Israel Bond Organization's first Herbert H. Lehman Israel Award -- a bronze tablet designed by the noted sculptor Chaim Gross.

More than 1,000 business, communal, civic and religious leaders attended the dinner which ushered in an intensive city-wide effort to raise a total of \$18,000,000 in Israel bond sales by the end of the year. The Greater New York campaign is headed by William Goldfine, president of the Royal National Bank.

Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Foreign Minister Golda Meir of Israel, in messages read at the dinner lauded Mr. Weiler's years of service in Israel's cause. Mr. Eshkol's cable read: "My congratulations to Jack Weiler on the occasion of his receiving the Herbert H. Lehman award. It is fitting that Jack's years of service and devotion to the cause of Israel be honored with the award carrying the name of the late Senator Lehman. Warmest greetings to those gathered to honor a fine person, a good Jew, and a devoted leader." Foreign Minister Meir, in her cable, praised Mr. Weiler for "his magnificent leadership and untiring efforts on behalf of Israel."

CITY OF NEW YORK MARKS 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF UNITED HIAS SERVICE

NEW YORK, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- The 80th anniversary of the United Hias Service was marked by the City of New York here today when the southeast corner of Astor Place and Lafayette Street where the headquarters of the agency are located, was changed for the day to United Hias Place.

\$1,241,000 RAISED FOR N.Y. JEWISH FEDERATION AT WOMEN'S LUNCHEON

NEW YORK, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- Three hundred women, members of the Women's Division of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies, raised \$1,241,000 at a luncheon today at the Hotel Plaza. Total amount sought to underwrite the work of Federation's 116 hospitals and social service agencies for the coming year is \$22,500,000.

JEVISH SCIENTIST NAMED SCIENTIFIC ADVISER TO NEW BRITISH CABINET

LONDON, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- Sir Solly Zuckerman, a prominent British scientist and Jewish leader, was named today to his third scientific post with the new Labor Government with his appointment to the staff of the Cabinet office as scientific adviser. Last weekend, Sir Solly was named adviser on scientific aspects of disarmament to Foreign Secretary Patrick Gordon Walker. He is also chief scientific adviser to Defense Secretary Denis Healey.

TWO-DAY CONFERENCE ON SCIENCE IN ISRAEL OPENS TOMORROW IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- United States officials will report this weekend on current American-Israeli efforts to develop desalination programs in Israel at the Seventh Annual Conference on Science and Technology in Israel and the Middle East. The conference will be held here Saturday and Sunday under auspices of the American Technion Society.

The conference will also pay tribute to the Institute of Technology of Haifa on the 40th anniversary of the opening of its first classes. Charles F. MacGowan, director of the Office of Saline Water of the Department of the Interior, and Milton A. Chase of the same Department, will describe the joint program, aimed at determining the applicability of nuclear energy to desalting seawater and other brackish water.

Other sessions will consider power sources in Israel and expansion of research at the Technion and other Israeli scientific institutions. The speakers will include Dr. Selman A. Waksman, Nobel Prize winner; Dr. Alex Keynan, chairman of Israel's National Council of Research and Development; Dr. John Dunning, Dean of Engineering at Columbia University; Dr. Sydney Goldstein of Harvard University, and Dr. Jacob Feld, vice-president of the New York Academy of Sciences.

CONFERENCE ON SEMITOLOGY IN MOSCOW DISCUSSES JEWISH MANUSCRIPTS

MOSCOW, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- A conference on Semitic languages was told here today by a leading Soviet language specialist that the development of Semitology, particularly deep study of Hebraistic disciplines, was a significant task for Soviet Semitologists.

The statement was made by Prof. Georgy Serduchenko to the more than 150 scientists from Moscow, Leningrad, Tashkent, Baku and Tbilisi at the Asia Peoples Institute of the Soviet Academy of Scientists. Other speakers were Prof. Iosif Vinnikov, who discussed urgent problems in Soviet Semitology, Prof. Ben Zion Grande, editor of the recently published Yiddish-Russian Dictionary, who discussed complex words in Semitic languages, Prof. Glavdia Starkova, who read a paper on the publication and studies of monuments of Jewish Arab literature in the USSR, and Mikhail Zand, who discussed modern spoken Yiddish.

Prof. Starkova noted in her report that the collections of Jewish manuscripts in Hebrew and Arabic of the Soviet Union were among the richest in the world; Moisei Ziblin discussed the eastern school of Jewish language grammarians in the tenth and thirteenth centuries and Abram Rubinstein, a Yiddish expert, discussed the paths of development of Yiddish lexicography.

NATHAN CHANIN FOUNDATION TO SPONSOR JEWISH CULTURAL PROJECTS

NEW YORK, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- The Nathan Chanin Cultural Foundation of the Workmen's Circle announced today that it would sponsor five cultural projects during the coming year.

The projects, for which \$3,500 has been allocated by the organization, are the awarding of three prizes for the best three books in Yiddish published in 1964; a prize for the best original play about Jewish life in America; five prizes for the best English translations of Yiddish literature published in magazines or newspapers during the year.

The Foundation will also sponsor lectures at American universities on Yiddish literature and the American Jewish labor movement, and an essay contest on the Jewish contribution towards civil rights in this country.

JEVISH STUDENTS AT MCGILL EXCUSED FROM TAKING EXAMINATION ON HOLIDAYS

MONTREAL, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- Jewish students at McGill University have been notified that they may be excused from taking examinations on Jewish religious holidays. The announcement, which was issued by the University's Board of Examinations, called upon students to notify the University in advance of any conflicts between the examination schedule and religious holidays.

RABBI AARON EISEMAN, FOUNDER OF JEWISH WELFARE BOARD, DEAD; WAS 85

NEW YORK, Oct. 29: (JTA) -- Rabbi Aaron Eiseman, for many years spiritual leader in a number of New York congregations, died here yesterday at the age of 85. Born in New York City, Rabbi Eiseman was a founder of the Jewish Welfare Board and of the Jewish social fraternity, Zeta Beta Tau. He retired from the pulpit in 1935.