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WORLDWIDE SATISFACTION GREET'S EXONERATION OF JEWS FROM DEICIDE CHARGE

RCME, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Worldwide satisfaction with the statement of the Ecumenical Council this weekend, absolving the Jews of all times--whether in the era of Jesus or in later days--of the ancient charge of deicide, and condemning anti-Semitism, found its echo here today following the official closing by Pope Paul VI yesterday of the third session of the Council. (An official summary of the text of the declaration was published in the JTA Daily News Bulletin of November 19.)

The final vote on the document exonerating the Jewish people from guilt for the crucifixion of Jesus by the Romans will be taken when the Ecumenical Council reconvenes at the end of next year, or early in 1966. The preliminary vote on the declaration, taken Friday, was 1,651 in favor, 242 in favor but with reservations, 99 against, and four abstentions. The large vote in favor leaves no doubt that the declaration will be adopted at the final voting during the next session.

Those prelates who favored the document conditionally have now until next January to file whatever slight modifications of the text they might seek. But it was seen here as highly significant that those modifications will be studied by the very body which was responsible in the first place for the drafting of a strong text favoring improved relations with the Jewish people, as envisaged by the late Pope John XXIII and entrusted to the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity, headed by liberal Augustin Cardinal Bea.

Cardinal Bea's secretariat will prepare a further text which is to be voted at a second reading of the document at the next session of the Council, in 1966. Meanwhile, however, the Church is on record of having adopted an official Ecumenical Council document which, in the opinion of most observers, is stronger and more balanced than the original draft presented by Cardinal Bea in December of 1962. That draft was never debated.

When the declaration is finally approved, it will become an appendix to the schema entitled "De Ecclesia," which deals with purely theological matters. Thus, it was pointed out here, the declaration dealing with relations with the Jewish people will be firmly grounded on a theological basis, rather than linked with any possible political interpretation; Cardinal Bea himself underscored the theological character of the document when he presented it for balloting at Friday's session:

Cardinal Bea, Initiator of the Document on Jews, Hailed by Prelates

Presenting the document on the Jewish issue, Cardinal Bea told the prelates: "We are dealing here with God's plan of salvation, with recognizing His benefits, with condemnation of past hatred and injuries, and with avoiding the same in the future." He was seen as alluding clearly to the sufferings of the Jewish people through the ages, due to the charge that it was the Jews who killed Christ, when he continued:

"Thus the Church and also the Council must carry out its mission and may not remain silent. In judging the necessity of this declaration, it must be remembered that it is of great importance that the Church, the Christian world and public opinion should have its attention called to the problems set forth in this declaration."

Obviously expressing a hope that, with this declaration adopted, anti-Semitism and other hatreds of that type would be banned by the Church, Cardinal Bea said: "The importance and extreme value of this declaration is in the fruits to be hoped for. For the first time in conciliatory history, principles dealing with non-Christians are set forth in solemn form, and the dialogue of the Church with the 1,000,000,000 non-Christians has thus begun." The billion peoples to which Bea referred included Moslems, Buddhists and other non-Christians also mentioned in the declaration.

Applause greeted Cardinal Bea when he concluded his presentation. He was hailed by the vast majority of the prelates, not only as the initiator of the document but also as the champion of a cause for the development of firmer, friendlier relations between all Christians and the Jewish people.

When the final vote on the declaration as a whole was tabulated, it was seen that the document had received more than the necessary two-thirds of the total of 1,996 votes cast. The victory for Bea, and for the United States and other American bishops who led in the fight for a liberal document on relations with the Jews, was clear and unambiguous.

MAJOR U. S. JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS WELCOME ECUMENICAL COUNCIL STATEMENT

NEW YORK, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Leaders of 14 major Jewish organizations issued a joint statement welcoming the overwhelming vote at the Ecumenical Council on the declaration proclaiming the Jewish people blameless in the crucifixion of Jesus and expressing hope that this action "will mark the continuation of a process that will contribute to effective elimination of anti-Semitism."

American Jewish leaders who signed the statement, said that they were mindful of "the dedicated leadership provided by American cardinals and bishops in concert with like minded colleagues in other parts of the world in the achievement of this significant result;" The statement adopted at a meeting here under the chairmanship of Label A. Katz, reads:

"Jews of the world note with satisfaction the action of the Ecumenical Council in approving so overwhelmingly the schema on the relation of the Church to the non-Christian religions; We realize that the vote of the Council is an initial approval and the final promulgation must await the fourth session of the Council.

"When the Council fathers will have voted finally on this declaration and upon its promulgation the Catholic Church will have made an historic contribution to the advancement of harmonious relations among the peoples of the great faiths.

"We are encouraged to hope that formal promulgation of the schema will mark the continuation of a process that will contribute to the effective elimination of anti-Semitism and will lead to better understanding among all peoples. We reiterate our belief in the distinctive role of Judaism as a separate faith community in making its contribution to the achievement of the common goals of humanity."

The statement was signed by representatives of the following organizations: The American Jewish Committee; American Jewish Congress; Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith; B'nai B'rith; Central Conference of American Rabbis; Jewish Labor Committee; Jewish War Veterans of the U. S. A.; National Community Relations Advisory Council; Rabbinical Assembly; Rabbinical Council of America; Union of American Hebrew Congress; Union of Orthodox Congregations of America; United Synagogue of America; and World Jewish Congress.

Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, commenting on the action by the Ecumenical Council, said the implementation of the schema would depend on the Catholic Church itself, which would have to remove from its religious texts and liturgy "whatever bias and anti-Semitism exists, particularly as related to the deicide charge." The American Jewish Committee, at the invitation of Cardinal Bea, had submitted to the Vatican three memoranda on anti-Jewish bias in Catholic religious texts and materials.

Shad Polier, chairman of the Governing Council of the American Jewish Congress, in welcoming the schema, said that the significance of its adoption "lies in the implicit undertaking by the church that--through the daily teachings in its schools, in the sermons of its priests throughout the world, and in the revision of textbooks and other church documents--its communicants will be taught that anti-Semitism is incompatible with Catholicism and is contrary to the basic tenets of that religion."

Interfaith Parley on Bias in Religious Textbooks Opens in Chicago

CHICAGO, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Leading Catholic, Protestant and Jewish educators gathered here today for a national two-day conference devoted to efforts for overcoming interfaith misunderstandings in religious educational materials. The parley was sponsored by the Religious Education Association of Metropolitan Chicago and the local chapter of the American Jewish Committee.

A joint, trifaith statement on the purposes of the conference, which has been addressed "to the dilemma of the contradictions of the past," was issued by the parley's program steering committee. Members of the committee are the two co-chairmen, Dr. Marcus J. Priester, professor of Christian Education at the McCormick Theological Seminary, and Rabbi Herman E. Schaalman, of Emanuel Congregation here; and Sister Mary Fredericus, dean of studies at Rosary College.

The statement noted that "while efforts have been made to advance intergroup understanding in the top levels of church leadership, religious education in the lower levels has often undermined this understanding. This conference will represent a major effort toward bringing religious education into harmony with these higher ecumenical and interreligious purposes."

ISRAEL EMBASSY IN ROME DENIES SEEKING EXTRADITION OF 'MAN IN TRUNK'

ROME, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- The Israel Embassy here today denied persistent rumors claiming that Israel has sought the extradition of Mordechai Louk, alias Joseph Dahan. He is the man rescued last week when Egyptian diplomats tried to abduct him, after he had been slugged, doped and placed inside a trunk addressed as diplomatic air mail to the Egyptian Foreign Ministry in Cairo. The Israel Embassy stated flatly that the question of extraditing Louk has not been even discussed with Italian officials.

DR. GOLDMANN CONDEMNS GERMAN CABINET DECISION ON NAZI CRIMINALS

LONDON, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- West Germany's decision not to extend the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes was strongly condemned last night by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, in an address opening the meeting of the European executive of the WJC here.

"The decision of the Government of the Federal German Republic," Dr. Goldmann said, "means that large numbers of Nazi criminals will go scot free after expiration of the 20-year time limit for prosecutions, next May." He suggested that the West German Government follow the practice of Britain and the United States where, he asserted, persons charged with murder "are not protected by any statute of limitations."

Turning to the problem of German scientists employed by the Egyptian armaments industry, Dr. Goldmann "deplored" that Germany had so far failed to take adequate steps to secure the recall of German scientists and technicians from Egypt. "These Nazis," he declared, "are not only a threat to Israel but also to world peace."

On the question of indemnification of Nazi victims, Dr. Goldmann stated: "I appreciate the great efforts made by the Federal German Government to mitigate, by compensation and indemnification, the hardships endured by the survivors of Nazi persecution. I trust that this noble action will be adequately completed by generosity in dealing with those thousands of persons who have so far received no compensation at all or have only been partially compensated." Dr. Goldmann was referring, in particular, to those Jews who reached the West after 1953 and who are excluded by existing German legislation from submitting claims for compensation.

Protests Mount in Germany on Government's Decision; Jews Seek New Law

BONN, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Protests mounted here today among Germans objecting to the Cabinet's decision against extending the statute of limitations for prosecution of major war criminals beyond next May. At the same time, the Ministry of Justice announced today that 16 leading Nazi war criminals, each of them a gauleiter, are freed and have not faced trials.

Newspapers continued today to carry letters of protest against the Cabinet's decision. A number of such letters appeared in today's popular Sunday newspaper, Die Welt am Sonntag. Meanwhile, the Government's chief spokesman again announced today that a worldwide appeal has been issued for information, including documentation, names and addresses, relating to any war criminals who may have sought refuge in other countries.

The Central Council of Jews of Germany called on the West German Federal Government today to introduce a new statute of limitations which would limit prosecution for murder to 30 years after the crime. The Council called for the change to be enacted by next May when the current 20-year statute of limitations will expire for Nazi war criminals.

Belgium Extends Punishment Term for Convicted Nazis by 10 Years

BRUSSELS, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- The Belgian Chamber of Deputies this weekend adopted a new law which extends by 10 years the statute of limitations for death sentences imposed for crimes during the Second World War against the security of the state which were handed down by Belgian courts but not yet executed because the criminals have not been extradited from various countries.

The decision by the Chamber, which was approved by a vote of 148 to five with four abstentions, followed a sharp debate during which strong opposition to the measure was voiced by partisans of Leon Degrelle, the number one Belgian war criminal who has been living in Spain since the end of the war.

GURFEIN HOPES NEW CONGRESS WILL ACT ON BILLS RELAXING IMMIGRATION

NEW YORK, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Murray I. Gurfein, president of United Hias Service, called upon the new Congress to give priority to bills which would eliminate over a five-year period the present immigration quota system based on the national origin of the applicants. He made this plea addressing the annual meeting of the worldwide Jewish migration agency's Council of Organizations held at the Hotel Commodore. The meeting, which was attended by more than 1,000 delegates, marked the 80th anniversary of United Hias Service.

The proposed immigration legislation, Mr. Gurfein told the audience, would provide greater opportunities for Jewish migrants from Eastern Europe and other parts of the world to rejoin relatives in the United States. He stressed that the proposed bills were recommended by the late President Kennedy and supported by President Johnson and many members of both parties in the Congress.

James P. Rice, executive director of United Hias Service, reported that the agency's "original estimates of the number of migrants we would assist in 1964 had to be revised upward from 5,800 to 8,800, since we have increased sharply our resettlement help to Jews from North Africa, while our aid to Jews from Eastern Europe has also risen significantly."

In addition to migration aid, Mr. Rice said the agency will render other related services to 38,000 persons. "This means that this year over 51,000 men, women and children will request and receive important services from our agency," Mr. Rice pointed out.

DR. KAPLAN APPEALS FOR 'JEWISH ECUMENISM' AT RECONSTRUCTIONIST DINNER

NEW YORK, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- An appeal for "Jewish ecumenism" and a new approach to Judaism as an "evolving religious civilization" was voiced here last night by Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan, famous religious philosopher and founder of the Reconstructionist movement; The 83-year-old rabbi and exponent of Judaism as a faith of "naturalism" rather than "supernaturalism" spoke to more than 400 guests at the Hotel Pierre attending the twenty-fifth anniversary dinner of the Jewish Reconstructionist Movement.

Judaism as a religious civilization, Dr. Kaplan stated, is now on the threshold of a new stage in its 4,000-year history, "a stage in the conception of God as that aspect of the cosmos which impels and helps man, both individually and collectively, to achieve salvation or self-fulfillment."

The Jewish faith, he said, is not the only religious civilization "whose very existence is being challenged" and whose "purpose and meaning have become irrelevant to the lives of those who profess it." Dr. Kaplan also advocated the idea that Jews outside of Israel should reorganize themselves "into organically functioning communities and as links in the chain of the Jewish people which is anchored to Zion, the Jewish majority in the State of Israel."

The future for Jews in the United States, as well as abroad, Dr. Kaplan declared, lies in a reinterpretation of the "contents of their religious tradition into terms of modern ethical and spiritual values that are relevant to the education of the conscience." The dinner marked the first quarter-century of Reconstructionism as well as the thirtieth anniversary of the movement's magazine, The Reconstructionist. Sharing the platform with Dr. Kaplan was Dr. Oscar Janowsky, historian and educational advisor to Jewish institutions.

JEWS THROUGHOUT U.S. OBSERVE NATIONAL MEMORIAL DAY FOR J.F. KENNEDY

NEW YORK, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Solemn ceremonies were conducted in this city and around the country by the Jewish National Fund today, commemorating the first anniversary of the martyred President John F. Kennedy, who was assassinated in Dallas on November 22, 1963.

Outstanding national leaders and artists participated in the commemorative rites at a National Memorial Day meeting at the Statler-Hilton Hotel here, under the chairmanship of Abraham Feinberg. The aim of the event, as stated by the Jewish National Fund, was "to voice the deep feelings of the American Jewish community on the tragic loss of our beloved President." A John F. Kennedy Monument is now being erected at the entrance to the Kennedy Peace Forest near Jerusalem by the people and the Government of Israel in cooperation with the Jewish National Fund.

Special commemorative services were also held in many synagogues and temples this weekend around the United States. Under the auspices of the Israel Bond Organization, more than 50 community meetings were held in various cities in tribute to the memory of President Kennedy. Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, declared in a statement read at the community meetings; "President Kennedy's service to his country and to mankind lasted only a thousand days, but his spirit will last for many years."

DR. JOSEPH J. SCHWARTZ FUND FOR LEADERSHIP TRAINING ANNOUNCED

NEW YORK, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- The establishment of the Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz Fund for Leadership Training at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem was announced today by Samuel Rothberg, chairman of the Board of the American Friends of the Hebrew University. The aims of the Fund are to encourage the exchange of faculty, students and ideas, as well as to further the teaching and research programs of the Hebrew University.

Dr. Schwartz, for whom the Fund is named, is the executive vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization. In previous years he has served as the executive head of the United Jewish Appeal and during the Second World War was director general of the European activities of the Joint Distribution Committee.

ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION SELECTS RICKOVER TO RECEIVE FERMI AWARD

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22. (JTA) -- Vice Admiral Hyman G. Rickover was today named the recipient of the Fermi Award of the Atomic Energy Commission, one of the highest scientific honors conferred by the United States Government.

The \$25,000 award, which was named for its first recipient, Enrico Fermi, was given to Admiral Rickover "in recognition of his outstanding engineering and administrative leadership in development of safe and reliable nuclear power and its successful application to our national security and economic needs."