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AMERICAN JEWISH GROUPS ASSAIL BONN'S STAND ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

NEW YORK, Dec. 23; (JTA) -- The West German Government was accused today by the leaders of 18 major American Jewish organizations of "evasion of its moral responsibilities" for refusing to extend the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes. The charge was contained in a letter to Gerhard Schroeder, West German Foreign Minister, who had rejected an invitation to meet with Jewish leaders on this issue during his visit to the U. S. earlier this month.

The letter was the latest in an exchange of correspondence between the American Jewish leaders and Dr. Schroeder. It was mailed last Friday and made public here today to permit what a spokesman termed "a proper interval for its receipt in Bonn." Label Katz, president of B'nai B'rith and acting chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, signed the letter in behalf of the groups represented in the Conference.

The German statute of limitations for all crimes, including murder, runs 20 years. Under present German law, German war criminals against whom no judicial act has taken place would be free from prosecution on May 8, 1965, the twentieth anniversary of V-E Day.

In their letter, the Jewish groups also assailed the West German Government for its "disregard" of appeals to recall West German scientists "participating in the development of missiles for the United Arab Republic." They cited the "declared intention of Egypt to use these weapons in a war of destruction against Israel."

"In spite of a provision in the West German constitution barring the participation of German citizens in the manufacture of weapons intended for use in an aggressive war, the German Government has failed to act in this matter," the letter to the West German Foreign Minister pointed out.

Stress Germany Has Obligations to Survivors of Nazi Holocaust

"The West German Government's evasion of its moral responsibilities with respect to the extension of the statute of limitations and the withdrawal of German scientists from Cairo undermines our confidence in your government's awareness of the as yet unredeemed obligation of the German people to history and to the survivors of the Nazi holocaust," the letter to Dr. Schroeder declared, adding:

"Until your government has demonstrated its clear understanding of this obligation and its readiness to discharge it in these two major areas of Jewish and general humanitarian concern, Germany's claim to a genuine rebirth and a new moral posture must be vigorously rejected."

The American Jewish leaders compared West Germany's refusal to extend its statute of limitations covering Nazi war criminals with the actions of other European governments. "Only last week," the letter noted, "the French National Assembly approved unanimously legislation which declares that 'crimes against humanity, as they are defined by the United Nations resolution of February 13, 1946, and by the charter of the International Tribunal (at the Nuremberg Trials), are not subject to a statute of limitations by their very nature.'"

"We had hoped that West Germany's signature to the United Nations Genocide convention constituted recognition of this principle which supports the broadest respect for human life," the letter declared. Copies of the correspondence were sent to Secretary of State Dean Rusk and to West Germany's Ambassador to the United States, Karl-Heinrich Knappstein.

The Jewish groups were sharply critical of a telegram from Dr. Schroeder, dated Nov. 24, in which the German official said it was "very unlikely that a substantial number of hitherto unknown Nazi criminals will be discovered in the future." In their reply, the Jewish leaders disputed this claim sharply, terming it "necessarily speculative." "Moreover," they stated, "it contradicts the estimates of many leading authorities who believe that the number may run into the many thousands."

Dr. Schroeder also noted, in his Nov. 24 telegram to the Presidents' Conference, that the German Government had issued a "worldwide appeal for assistance in bringing

to justice all Nazi criminals." The German official said in his telegram that "we hope very much that this appeal will bring the results that you and we hope for."

The telegram from Dr. Schroeder said that after World War II Allied courts had sentenced more than 5,000 persons for war crimes and that up to January 1, 1964, West Germans had investigated the records of more than 30,000 persons and brought 12,882 persons to trial. Currently, he said, some 750 criminal proceedings were pending.

"This statistical approach is irrelevant," the Jewish leaders declared in their reply. "It invokes quantitative criteria that are altogether unrelated to the moral issue at stake. Whether there be many or few, every Nazi criminal guilty of mass atrocities and genocide must be brought to justice."

MOSCOW EXPECTS WESTERN POWERS TO SEE THAT BONN PROSECUTES NAZIS

MOSCOW, Dec. 23; (JTA) -- The Soviet Government said today it expects the United States, Britain, and France to take all measures to see that West Germany punishes Nazi war criminals who may be exempted from prosecution after May 8. A statement distributed by Tass news agency commented on the expiration of the statute of limitations in West Germany and the need to extend the period in which Nazi criminals may be brought to justice.

BCNN REFUSES TO GUARANTEE SAFETY OF GERMAN SCIENTISTS LEAVING EGYPT

BONN, Dec. 23; (JTA) -- A spokesman for the West German Interior Ministry declared today that the Federal Government could not guarantee the safety of German scientists if they quit their work in Egypt and returned home.

The issue was posed by Dr. Wolfgang Pilz, a leader of the German scientists and technicians working in Egypt on advanced weapons systems. In an interview in a West German newspaper, Dr. Pilz demanded such guarantees. The spokesman said that the German police who would have the responsibility of safeguarding the scientists would be those under control of the individual state governments and not of Bonn.

Dr. Pilz set three conditions for a possible return to West Germany of the scientists. One was an expression of public "regret" from Israel for alleged attacks on German scientists by Israeli "agents." Another was a life pension for Dr. Pilz former secretary who lost her sight when a parcel addressed to Dr. Pilz exploded in Cairo a few years ago. The third was the guarantee for the safety of any returning scientists.

In a related development, a neo-Nazi Munich newspaper, the Deutsche National Und Soldaten Zeitung, violently assailed A. Rosenberg, chairman of the West German Federation of Trade Unions, for his advocacy of legal measures to control the activities of the scientists. The newspaper accused "the German Jew" of playing with fire and asked, in a banner headline: "Is Rosenberg Betraying German Interests?"

The trade union leader has maintained that West Germany has a duty to see to it that Germans did not help other countries prepare for war. He has said that no one has demanded that the government bring back the scientists with "a lasso" and that means could be found to achieve that goal if the will was present to do so.

TWO FORMER NAZI GUARDS SENTENCED FOR MASS MURDER OF JEWS IN CAMP

TUEBINGEN, Germany, Dec. 23; (JTA) -- Two former S. S. guards of Stutthof concentration camp near Danzig were today sentenced for mass murder of Jewish inmates;

Otto Haupt, former master sergeant in the S. S., was sentenced to 12 years for aiding in the murder of 220 inmates; Former sergeant Bernhard Luedtke was sentenced to six years for aiding in the murder of 91 inmates;

THREE ISRAELI POLICEMEN WOUNDED IN GUN BATTLE WITH JORDANIANS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23; (JTA) -- Three Israeli policemen were wounded in a gun battle with Jordanian troops on Mt. Scopus when Israel sought to make a humanitarian gesture to Jordanian civilians under supervision of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization.

After exchanges of fire the UNTSO managed to intervene to save the three wounded. One was seriously hurt; The Jordanian fired from the top of Augusta Victoria tower in a deliberate abuse of arrangements made by UNTSO for Jordanian civilians to work on fields.

AMERICAN CITIZENS WILL NEED NO JORDANIAN VISAS, WASHINGTON ANNOUNCES

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Jordan will no longer require that American citizens obtain visas, the United States was notified, apparently meaning that Americans will be admitted regardless of religion.

ISRAEL'S NEW GOVERNMENT BEGINS FUNCTIONING; NEW MINISTRY ESTABLISHED

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Israel's new Cabinet began its functions today, after the shortest and calmest government crisis in Israel's history. Premier-deisnate Levi Eshkol submitted his new Cabinet to Parliament and won a vote of confidence nine days after he resigned.

The vote for the new Government last night was 59 to 36, with all the opposition parties voting against, except Mapam, which abstained. With one exception, the new Cabinet was identical with the prior one. After the vote, the Cabinet members took the oath of office. The change in the new Cabinet was the appointment of Akiva Govrin, former Minister for Foreign Trade, as Minister of a new Ministry of Tourism. A cabinet committee decided on the new Ministry.

Replying to charges in the debate which preceded the vote, Premier Eshkol sharply rejected assertions by Liberals that an alignment between Mapai and Achdut Avodah would affect the Israel economy, particularly foreign investments. He said the Government policy would continue to be one of encouraging all forms of economic initiative, whether from the labor or private sector.

Mr. Eshkol had sought such an alignment in preparation for elections to the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, and for the next general elections in 1965. The project became entangled in the struggle over the renewed Lavon issue, and was abandoned.

EBAN URGES WESTERN POWERS AND RUSSIA TO GUARANTEE ISRAEL'S BORDERS

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Israel's Deputy Prime Minister Abba Eban today bracketed the Soviet Union with the Big Three Western Powers in calling upon the leading members of the United Nations to join in guaranteeing the territorial integrity of all Middle Eastern states, including Israel.

Addressing 100 representatives of newspapers, radio and television at the Overseas Press Club here, Mr. Eban deplored the renewed calls for war against Israel voiced by the Arab states, and said: "It would be salutary if the United States, the USSR, Britain and France would reconfirm the territorial integrity of all the states in the Middle East. Such a reaffirmation could play a decisive role in ending the tensions in that region of the world."

Asked to comment on a statement made in the House of Commons yesterday by Britain's Premier Harold Wilson, who had stated that Britain would like to see an agreement that would make the Middle East a nuclear free zone, Mr. Eban replied:

"That attitude on the part of Great Britain is new to me. I heard nothing like that in my recent conference with the Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Mr. Patrick Gordon Walker. Denuclearization of the Middle East would, of course, be welcome. But the immediate problem in our region is not denuclearization, since there are no nuclear arms in the Middle East. The immediate problem is, rather, the stabilization of the balance of arms and the avoidance of the escalation of conventional arms in the region."

THREE-DAY WORLD CONFERENCE OF KEREN HAYESOD OPENS IN JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- The theme that Israeli Jews were making proportionally higher contributions to the costs of immigration and absorption, as compared with Jews in other countries, was stressed by speakers at the opening session here today of the three-day world conference of Keren Hayesod.

Dr. Israel Goldstein, world chairman, said that in absolute figures, the ratio of such contributions was two to one in favor of the Israeli Jews, despite an increase of Keren Hayesod income of 20 per cent in the past four years. He urged Jewish communities outside of Israel to "shake off" the routine approach and to realize the enormity of the task involved in providing for newcomers to Israel.

Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir lauded world Jewry's contributions but stressed the heavy burdens borne by Israel in facing security problems. He said these posed a strain on Israel's budget "far out of proportion to the country's size."

Dr. Nahum Goldmann said a "radical change" in the level of contributions by World Jewry was imperative. He said giving for Israel was not philanthropy. It must be realized that no Jewish community was safe unless Israel became "the center of our existence as guaranteed since 'none of the major and fundamental problems on which Israel's future depends has been solved.'"

ISRAEL'S 'MAN IN TRUNK' ACCUSED OF CONSPIRING WITH AN ENEMY

TEL AVID, Dec. 23. (JTA) -- Mordecai Louk, the Israeli rescued in Rome recently from a trunk in which Egyptians had tried to ship him to Cairo, was formally charged here today with "conspiracy with an enemy." He will now await trial on that grave accusation.

REFORM CONGREGATION BACKS ITS RABBI WHO PROCLAIMED HIMSELF AN ATHEIST

DETROIT, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- The 140-member Reform congregation of the Birmingham Temple in suburban Detroit came to the defense today of its rabbi who has proclaimed himself from the pulpit to be an atheist;

Rabbi Sherman T. Wine has also challenged a number of traditional Jewish positions in his sermons; No issue of revoking his ordination for alleged heresy has been raised because Reform Judaism has no such procedures. The congregation is not affiliated with the Union of American Hebrew Congregations or any other Jewish religious grouping.

At a recent "godless" Chanukah Sabbath service, Rabbi Wine, who is 36, declared that Judah Maccabee was not as great a figure as he is portrayed in Jewish history. He said it was "absurd" to believe that "all Greeks were adulterers and murderers and all Jews were good." He also said that the premise that there would be no morality in the world if it were not for the Jewish-Christian tradition "is for the birds." He also expressed the belief that the Hellenist, or Greek, Jews of the Maccabean period were "the Reform Jews of their day."

Mrs. Suzanne Velick, Temple secretary, issued the congregation's statement in support of Rabbi Wine which asserted that all religions have concerned themselves with the problem of human destiny and have tried to help man understand and control his future. To solve this problem, the statement said, "man needs to know the truth about himself and the world in which he lives. He can best do this through use of the common sense or empirical method."

"Commonsensical people invite every idea to be tested by the evidence of human experience," the congregation statement continued. "If the idea passes this test, it is worthy of belief. We at Birmingham Temple are committed to the use of this empirical method in the discovery of essential truth. Like the men of science, our minds are open. There is no belief we are unwilling to alter if the evidence proves us wrong."

The statement emphasized that the congregations "will also use all customs and ceremonies that can effectively symbolize the values we hold sacred. We want to preserve whatever in Judaism is both rational and humanistic," it declared.

PARENTS CONSIDER BAR MITZVAH PARTIES TOO SOPHISTICATED FOR CHILDREN

CMAHA, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- A group of 50 parents of Bar Mitzvah and Bas Mitzvah candidates, meeting informally at the request of their rabbis, agreed that the parties held in connection with the religious ceremonies were, in most cases, too sophisticated for the child participants;

The majority of the parents also agreed that the children in this age group were attending too many parties. Most of the parents also indicated their support for eliminating all such social gatherings for seventh and eighth grade children. They agreed unanimously that the number and type of such parties should, as a minimum, be curtailed;

Since the group, consisting of members of the three congregations, met informally, no policy decisions were made. The parties discussed were defined as "boy-girl gatherings, in homes or public facilities, involving social dancing, for seventh and eighth grade public school children."

CAMDEN JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL PROTESTS 'RELEASED TIME' PROPOSAL

CAMDEN, N.J., Dec. 23, (JTA) -- A statement opposing a plan for "released time" in the public schools of neighboring Stratford Borough was adopted here by the Camden Jewish Community Relations Council, which also expressed dissatisfaction with the manner in which the Stratford Board of Education plans to poll parents on this issue.

Morton C. Jacobs, chairman of the JCRC, said in the statement that figures have shown that, in some school districts where "released time" is permitted, so that pupils may attend religious instruction in church schools, only 25 percent of the children use the "released" hour for such religious school attendance. Those children who remain in school, he said, receive no instruction during that hour.

MONTREAL SCHOOLS TO RELEASE JEWISH PUPILS FROM RELIGIOUS ASSEMBLIES

MONTREAL, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- The Protestant School Board of Greater Montreal assured the Canadian Jewish Congress today that Jewish pupils would be excused from school assemblies of a religious nature being conducted by laymen in one of the Protestant schools here. The CJC had protested that such assemblies are felt by some parents to be of "an evangelic nature."

J. N. F. IN ISRAEL GIVES CHRISTMAS TREES TO CHRISTIAN INSTITUTIONS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- The first of more than 3,000 Christian clergymen and pilgrims to participate in Christmas celebrations throughout Israel, began arriving here today. The Jewish National Fund has begun distributing Christmas trees free of charge to all major Christian organizations and institutions as well as to foreign embassies and legations and United Nations missions;