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SENATE HEARS MEMBERS BACKING SEVERANCE OF AMERICAN AID TO NASSER

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- A question of whether the Administration can muster enough Senate votes to defeat the anti-Nasser amendment passed by the House loomed today as senators took the floor to serve notice that they will not heed Secretary of State Rusk's pro-Egyptian appeal.

Sen. Wayne Morse, Oregon Democrat, said in a Senate speech that he would support and fight for the House amendment severing shipment of surplus commodities to Egypt. The amendment is attached to an agriculture appropriations bill. The senator stated that "when Col. Nasser spit in the eye of the United States," Nasser himself terminated the 1962 surplus commodity agreement.

Sen. Morse said that an anti-aggression amendment incorporated into foreign aid legislation two years ago, if needed by the Executive Department, would have already been applied because of Egyptian offenses. According to the senator, Nasser's insults, aggression, and attacks on American property proved that "those who demand tribute from the United States will get away with it."

Sen. Frank J. Lausche, Ohio Democrat, agreed that Congress must not permit United States aid to flow to a nation "slapping us in the face." He said American assistance must be terminated to those "who tear down our flag, attack our embassies and burn down our libraries."

ESHKOL APPEALS 'TO ALL PARTIES' TO DROP THE 'LAVON AFFAIR' ISSUE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol appealed "to all parties concerned" to "leave the Lavon Affair alone" and drop that issue, over which he resigned from the Government recently, resuming the Premiership only when he obtained full support for his disagreement on the matter with former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion.

Addressing a faction of his Mapai Party, composed of Israelis in the academic field, Mr. Eshkol used an unaccustomed emotional tone when he told the gathering that no one ever informed him he would be expected to reopen the Lavon affair when he assumed the post of Prime Minister. He noted that neither of his two predecessors in that post -- Mr. Ben-Gurion or Moshe Sharett -- "did so when in office."

"There is such a thing as morality among friends," he declared. "I should have been told beforehand that I would be expected to do what others did not do." In his opinion, the Premier added, "the majority of the people in the nation does not want a reopening of the Lavon affair."

During the discussion period, when members of his audience pointed to the "enduring influence" of Mr. Ben-Gurion on many members of Mapai, Mr. Eshkol replied: "We should be able to put a stop to the biggest myth of all. There were cases in which our movement did reject Ben-Gurion's position, and he accepted our ruling."

Asked whether Pinhas Lavon's formation of his independent political group, Min Hayesod, would affect Mapai's plans for realignment with Ahdut Avodah, Mr. Eshkol said that development would have no negative effect. "Ahdut understands that there is no place for deserters in such an alignment," he said.

MAPAI LEADER GETS POST OF MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Chaim Zadok, a Mapai member of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, was today named Minister of Commerce and Industry, a portfolio held until now by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir.

The new appointment raises the number of Mapai Cabinet Ministers to 12. It is assumed that the other coalition partners -- the National Religious Party and Ahdut Avoda -- consented to the appointment. Mr. Zadok, a lawyer who has been a member of the Knesset since 1959, was chairman of the committee which drew up recent income tax reform.

U. N. BODY RECOMMENDS ACTION TO CHECK VIOLATIONS OF RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

GENEVA, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- The establishment of a United Nations Conciliation Committee, before which governments can be brought on charges of violation of religious rights, was recommended here by a United Nations body for the first time in history. The recommendation, which must ultimately be approved by the UN General Assembly, was approved by a vote of 11 in favor with two opposed and one abstention as the three-week long religious freedoms debate was concluded here today by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

The negative votes in the 14-member body were cast by the Soviet Union, which has been fighting the adoption of a religious freedoms Convention for several years; and by Mexico which is constitutionally opposed to the practice of any religion. Poland, which has been on the whole supporting the USSR's fight against a religious freedoms document, abstained. The United States, Britain and France were among those who approved the proposal.

The adoption of the proposal for what may ultimately be an International Court of Religious Freedoms came as a culmination to the Subcommittee's approval of a United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance. Many of the basic articles in the Convention are aimed directly against the USSR's denial of religious rights to Jews in the Soviet Union.

Under the rules for implementing the Convention, Sir Arcot Krishnaswami, of India, proposed the formation of the Conciliation Committee, before which any state that has ratified the Convention may bring charges against any other such state. These charges will have to be subjected to probing by the committee, which will have to report on the issue. The state found guilty of religious freedoms violations could, then, take the matter to the International Court of Justice for an advisory opinion. It was Sir Arcot's proposal that was finally adopted.

Under the Convention, all states-- including the Soviet Union-- will have to permit to all practitioners of religion the fullest rights to practice their beliefs, to conduct schools for teaching their faith, to organize national and regional groupings propagating their faith, to make available the dietary articles needed by those religious practitioners, to permit association with like-minded religious groups abroad, and to permit pilgrimages to holy shrines abroad.

The entire Convention was considered by all members of the Subcommittee-- except the Soviet representatives-- as a historic milestone in United Nations affirmation of the rights of all people everywhere-- including the Jews in the USSR-- to enjoy fullest religious rights.

BRITISH JEWS URGED TO APPROACH SOVIET PREMIER ON HIS LONDON VISIT

LONDON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- The Jewish community of Great Britain was urged here last night to mobilize its forces and make "a united approach" to Soviet Premier Kosygin, when the latter visits here soon, on the question of the denial of religious and cultural rights to Jews in the USSR. The proposal was made at a meeting of the executive council of the Anglo-Jewish Association by Maurice Edelman, president of the association. He is a Labor member of Parliament.

"The subject of Soviet Jewry," said Mr. Edelman, "continues to cause deep distress. It had been hoped that the new leadership in the Kremlin would bring a more enlightened and humane attitude toward the Russian Jewish minority, but the contrary appears to be the case. Since the removal of Mr. Khrushchev, there has been a renewed anti-Israel propaganda drive in the Soviet press. The new rulers have shown no inclination to put an end to the racial and religious discrimination against the Jewish community."

Conference of Jewish Intellectuals Appeals to Moscow on Jews

PARIS, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- An appeal to the Soviet Union to allow Russian Jewry to rebuild religious and cultural life, and to allow USSR Jews who wish to do so to rejoin their families in Israel and in other countries, was adopted here today at the closing session of a four-day conference held by Jewish intellectuals from several European countries and the United States.

The conference, conducted by the French section of the World Jewish Congress, attracted the participation of Jewish writers, artists, teachers and other cultural workers from England, France, Belgium, Denmark, Switzerland and America. The proceedings were conducted in Yiddish.

ISRAELI COURT SENTENCES YOUNG ARAB TO 10 YEARS FOR ESPIONAGE

HAIFA, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- A young Arab villager whose home is in Galilee was sentenced by the Haifa District Court today to 10 years' imprisonment, after he was convicted of having been a spy. According to the charge, he was recruited for service in the Egyptian intelligence while he was in Europe. His name was not disclosed.

BILL IN U. S. SENATE AGAINST ARAB ANTI-ISRAEL BOYCOTT HAILED IN KNESSET

JERUSALEM, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Deputy Prime Minister Abba Eban today praised in Israel's Parliament a bill before the United States Senate submitted by Sen. Harrison Williams, New Jersey Democrat, which would prohibit the giving of information to bodies conducting a boycott against a country maintaining friendly relations with the United States

Replying in the Knesset to a Herut motion on the inadequacy of the Government policy with regard to the Arab boycott, Mr. Eban announced that Israeli importers will receive a list of foreign companies which have yielded to the Arab boycott. He said that any transactions with such firms will need the Government's prior confirmation.

Declaring that the Israel Government will intensify its anti-boycott activity, Mr. Eban said that Israel was "not powerless," noting that the country's imports equaled one-third of the total imports of all the Arab states and there were many products where Israeli imports exceeded those of the Arabs. He also told the Knesset that many governments have openly expressed their opposition to the activities of the Arab boycott office, some even advising firms in their countries to resist such Arab pressures.

GOLDMANN SENDS CONDOLENCES TO LADY CHURCHILL ON BEHALF OF WORLD JEWRY

LONDON, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, today sent a message of condolence on the death of Winston Churchill to Lady Churchill. The message declared:

"On behalf of Jewish communities all over the world, I extend to you and your family deepest sympathy in your sad bereavement. The Jewish people mourn the loss and revere the memory of Sir Winston Churchill, who, in his compassion for humanity, was among the first to recognize in Hitler's onslaught against Jewry the threat to democracy and the world at large and to speak and fight with valiant courage against Nazi barbarism. His unflinching support for the creation of a Jewish state will never be forgotten."

Expressions of sympathy were also sent to Lady Churchill by Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie on behalf of the Standing Committee of the Conference of European Rabbis, which he serves as president. The message declared: "The rabbis of the Conference, representing many European countries which bore the full brunt of Nazi tyranny, are conscious of Sir Winston's noble inspiring leadership which always constituted a ray of hope even for those in the darkest terror of oppression."

GERMANY CLEARS FORMER NAZI WHO SOUGHT TO SABOTAGE KILLING OF JEWS

BONN, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- A former member of Hitler's SS, who died in a French prison in 1945 after being convicted as a war criminal, was officially cleared here yesterday and declared an anti-Nazi. The man was Kurt Gerstein, commemorated in Rolf Hochhuth's drama, "The Deputy," as the SS officer who tried single-handedly to sabotage the Nazi program for the annihilation of Jewry.

The fact that Gerstein had attempted to sabotage the Nazi plans was first brought out in a German court in 1950. He had the assignment to procure the cyanide which was used for gassing Jews in the murder camps. The German court found, 14 years ago, that, while he did try to act humanely, he should have quit the SS when he found that he could not prevent the crimes committed by the Nazis.

Last year, his widow called for a re-examination of her late husband's record. Yesterday, after a lengthy probe, Prime Minister Georg Kiesinger, of the State of Baden-Wurttemberg, officially declared Gerstein "rehabilitated." This is believed to be the first case of the formal rehabilitation of a German previously condemned as a war criminal.

U. S. JEWISH LEADERS MEET WITH GERMAN ENVOY ON STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS

NEW YORK, Jan. 28. (JTA) -- Leaders of 20 Jewish organizations associated in the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations met today with German Ambassador Karl Heinrich Knappstein at the office of the Conference, and expressed to him their "profound sense of moral outrage" over the German Government's decision last November not to extend the statute of limitations beyond this coming May 8. Following this date, Nazi criminals against whom no judicial act has been taken will be immune to prosecution and punishment.

Members of the Conference of Presidents told Ambassador Knappstein that they were distressed at the failure of the German Government to see this issue as a moral one. The Ambassador was also asked to convey to his Government the dismay of Jewish leaders at the continued participation of German scientists in the development of weapons of mass destruction for the United Arab Republic.

"The prospect that mass murderers guilty of one of the most heinous crimes against humanity will escape justice and will be free to walk the streets of Germany after May 8 is abhorrent to the seared conscience of mankind," Lewis H. Weinstein, chairman of the Conference of Presidents, stated.

RABBIS AND PRIESTS CONCLUDE FOUR-DAY JEWISH-CATHOLIC COLLOQUY

LATROBE, Pa., Jan. 28, (JTA) -- Twenty-six leading rabbis and priests concluded here today a four-day colloquy in the spirit of ecumenicism, based on the liberal Catholic precept that holds that spiritually "we are all Semites."

Sponsored by the American Benedictine Academy and the National Conference of Christians and Jews, the sessions were devoted toward an effort to develop a "religiously-oriented theory of religious liberty." The chief purpose was stated by the Most Rev. William G. Connare, Roman Catholic Bishop of the diocese of Greensburg as an effort to probe "our common roots that literally jump from every page of the Old Testament."

Seeking to identify the similarities, rather than the differences, between Jews and Christians, the discussions included such topics as "Evaluating the Past in Jewish-Catholic Relations," "The Meaning of Israel as Idea and Reality," "Freedom of Conscience in a Pluralistic Society" and "The Role of Church and Synagogue in Shaping Public Order." The conference was held at the St. Vincent Archabbey here, and was declared highly beneficial by the priests and scholars.

FEDERAL COMMISSION CHARGED WITH REQUIRING RELIGION IN BROADCASTS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 28, (JTA) -- A member of the Federal Communications Commission--the Government agency regulating the broadcasting industry, including all of radio and television--accused the commission itself here last night of intruding unconstitutionally into the field of religion.

Addressing a convention of the National Association of Religious Broadcasters, FCC member Lee Loevinger disagreed with the commission's long-standing rule that religious programming is a required feature in public service programming. The FCC, he said, "has gone far beyond the limits that have been marked by the Supreme Court as permissible Government action in the field of religion."

DR. SCHECHTMAN REPORTS ON HIS RESIGNATION FROM JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE

NEW YORK, Jan. 28, (JTA)-- Dr. Joseph Shechtman, chairman of the Zionist Revisionists of America, today explained at a press conference the reasons for his resignation from the executive of the Jewish Agency for Israel of which he has been a member since April 1963. He blamed the Mapai and the Confederation of General Zionists for the move.

Declaring that "the Revisionists were entitled to have two representatives in the executive" and that "the Mapai demanded complete exclusion of the Revisionists from the executive" during the session of the World Zionist Congress which was held early this month in Jerusalem, Dr. Shechtman said in a press statement:

"In order to mollify Mapai, the Confederation suggested that we agree to have only one representative in the executive. This was of course entirely unacceptable to us. We asked for no more than what is our right. We could not accept less and submit to second class membership in the Zionist Organization.

"When, because of the stalemate, the election of the executive was turned over to the forthcoming session of the General Zionist Council, I could not in good conscience remain a member of the executive; I could not condone the injustice which was meted out to the Jabotinsky movement which contributed so much to Zionism and to the rise of Israel. I resigned from the executive and my resignation stays."

MARIE SYRKIN ELECTED TO AMERICAN SECTION OF JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE

NEW YORK, Jan. 28, (JTA) -- The election of Marie Syrkin to the American Section of the Jewish Agency executive was announced today by Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the American Section. Miss Syrkin will replace the late Louis Segal as the representative of the Labor Zionist Movement.

Miss Syrkin, long active in Labor Zionist circles, is a well-known writer and lecturer. She is the editor of the "Jewish Frontier" and an associate professor of humanities at Brandeis University. Among the books she has written are: "Blessed Is the Match," an account of the Jewish resistance movements under the Nazis; a biography of her father, "Nachman Syrkin: Socialist Zionist," and "Golda Meir - Woman With A Cause."

ABRAHAM WALKOWITZ, LEADING AMERICAN JEWISH PAINTER, DIES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 28, (JTA) - Abraham Walkowitz, a leading Jewish painter known for his impressionistic scenes of New York City and for his portraits of the famed dancer, Isadora Duncan, died here yesterday at the age of 84.

Born in Siberia, Mr. Walkowitz was brought to the United States in 1889, and subsequently studied art in New York and in Paris. His first major exhibition was held in New York in 1912, and his works were later shown throughout the United States and in Israel. He was the author of numerous books on art.