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THREE FRENCH CABINET MEMBERS ASSURE OF FRANCE'S FRIENDSHIP TO ISRAEL

PARIS, March 4. (JTA) -- Vice-Premier Louis Joxe and two other French Cabinet members declared today that France's policy toward Israel remained "as friendly and close as ever before." The assurances were given in rebuttal to a report in a leading French newspaper that the French Cabinet decided last week to halt active aid to Israel.

Vice-Premier Joxe, Interior Minister Roger Frey and Jean Sainteny, Minister for War Veterans and War Victims, made their statements at a meeting with Salomon Friederich, secretary general of the Alliance France-Israel. The report, which was published by L'Aurore, also said that the atmosphere at the Cabinet meeting was "unfriendly to Israel," which was reportedly blamed for the current Middle East tensions.

The three Ministers assured Friederich that the report did not have the slightest foundation in fact and that the Government's policy toward Israel was unchanged. L'Aurore itself, meanwhile, retreated slightly from its report. The newspaper asserted today that President de Gaulle "has clarified" his policy toward Israel. "This policy will perhaps be unchanged as far as fundamentals are concerned but surely will be less showy," today's report stated.

It was learned reliably that French Foreign Minister Maurice Couve de Murville will be a guest of honor Wednesday at a dinner given by Israeli Ambassador Walter Eytan, one of a series of dinners at which French Ministers and key French personalities have been the ambassador's guests.

The Israel Ambassador conferred for nearly an hour yesterday with Vice-Premier Joxe. The main subjects reportedly raised were the West German-Egyptian diplomatic crisis and problems arising from Arab plans to divert the headwaters of the Jordan River to deny the waters to Israel. Mr. Eytan also will meet with de Murville for an anticipated discussion of the Harriman talks.

West German Cabinet Meets to Discuss Middle East Developments

BONN, March 4. (JTA) -- The Cabinet met here all day today to discuss the current Middle East crisis affecting the German Government, and called in a number of senior officials from various ministries.

There were indications that disagreements developed among various members of the Cabinet in regard to further steps in the present crisis. Some of the Ministers and experts met privately, and were evidently trying to reach a consensus. An official statement on the Cabinet's decision is expected to be issued later tonight or after another meeting of the full Cabinet scheduled to be held tomorrow.

Meanwhile, State Secretary Karl-Gunther von Hase, spokesman for the Government, today clarified a statement made last week about Germany's decision to cut off economic aid to Egypt. He explained that the decision does not mean that obligations of aid to Egypt, made in the past, would be severed. He said Bonn would still continue to make good on those earlier aid commitments if Nasser does not carry out his threat to refuse to pay Egypt's debts to Germany.

Meanwhile, State Secretary Karl Carstens of the Foreign Office here told the Parliament today that legal proceedings are underway against agents mobilizing West German scientists for work in Egypt. The proceedings are being prepared by the Nuremberg Central Labor Office and are aimed especially at recruiters who seek rocket and aircraft experts, he said. Such recruiting activities are illegal in West Germany. The presence of such scientists in Egypt has been a source of acrimony between West Germany and Israel for several years.

ARAB SPY RING DISCOVERED IN ISRAEL; FIVE ARRESTED ARABS CONFESS

TEL AVIV, March 4. (JTA) -- Israel security forces disclosed today the smashing of a pro-Syrian spy ring in Israel working under cover of a Cypriot trading company. Five Arabs from Haifa were arrested and several confessed. They were brought before a Haifa magistrate today who remanded them for 15 days.

JUSTICE AGRANAT NAMED PRESIDENT OF ISRAEL'S SUPREME COURT; BORN IN U. S.

JERUSALEM, March 4. (JTA) -- Justice Shimon Agranat, 58, the American-born jurist, was nominated today to be president of the Israel Supreme Court. He will succeed Justice Yitzhak Olshan, who reached the compulsory retirement age of 70.

Justice Agranat, who was born in Louisville, Kentucky, settled in Palestine 35 years ago at the age of 24, following his graduation from the University of Chicago. He has been a member of the Supreme Court since 1949 and in 1960 he was named permanent Deputy President of the Court. He is a visiting Professor of Criminal Law at the Hebrew University.

GERMANS ARRESTED IN EGYPT; CHARGED WITH BEING AGENTS FOR ISRAEL

LONDON, March 4. (JTA) -- Egyptian authorities have announced the arrest of a group of West German nationals charged with being agents of Israel, it was reported here today from Cairo.

According to the semi-official Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram, the activities of the nationals were directed against West German scientists working on jet planes and rocket projects for the Egyptian Government. The officials confirmed only four arrests but the West Germany Embassy in Cairo said at least seven West Germans had been arrested.

Al Ahram asserted that Wolfgang Lotz, one of those arrested, had "confessed" that he and others were "spying against Egypt for Israel." Al Ahram said that Lotz confessed he was the person responsible for mailing a parcel to Wolfgang Pilz, one of the West German scientists, which exploded and blinded one of Dr. Pilz' secretaries.

GERMAN MINISTRY OF INTERIOR REPORTS DECLINE IN ANTI-SEMITIC INCIDENTS

BONN, March 4. (JTA) -- The Ministry of the Interior reported today that there had been a steady decline in the number of anti-Semitic incidents in West Germany from a peak of 1,206 cases in 1960 to 171 in 1964.

A Ministry spokesman presented the data in a general survey of radical right and anti-Semitic activities in the federal republic. Such incidents, he said, included anti-Semitic insults, swastika smearings and similar activities. He said 74 persons were arrested in 1964 for such activities.

He said that foreign and international fascist groups in the United States, Britain, Belgium and Switzerland were trying to influence extreme right-wing groups in West Germany. He reported that 66 fascist and anti-Semitic papers were sent into West Germany from abroad compared with 45 such periodicals printed in West Germany. In addition, he reported 78 fascist and anti-Semitic leaflets were sent into West Germany. He emphasized that none of the rightwing groups had a daily newspaper.

At the end of 1963 there were in West Germany 123 rightwing radical organizations, youth groups and political parties, with a total membership of 24,600, the report of the Ministry stated. At the end of 1964, there were 119 such groups with a membership of 22,500. In 1950, membership in such groups totalled 78,000. In recent years, the report said, 16 new groups were formed and 20 dissolved themselves. It added that currently there were eight such groups with more than 500 members each and 111 small groups with an average membership of 42 each.

THREE MORE SOVIET JEWS REPORTED EXECUTED FOR ALLEGED 'ECONOMIC CRIMES'

LONDON, March 4. (JTA) - - Three more Soviet Jews have been executed for alleged "economic crimes," it became known here today from an article in Pravda Vostoka, organ of the Uzbekistan Communist Party, published in Tashkent.

The article, written by a woman judge, named Sulaimanova, head of the Uzbekistan Supreme Court, reported that, having been convicted of embezzlement of large sums of money from a textile-haberdashery factory, the following five persons have been executed: G. Lvovsky, G. Lemeshev, B. Krentsel, A. Stoln and a man named Muratov. The first three are Jewish names. In addition, the report stated, Yosef Medeleylev was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment. That name, too, is Jewish.

SEN. FULBRIGHT, IN SENATE SPEECH, URGES U. S. TOURISTS NOT TO VISIT EGYPT

WASHINGTON, March 4. (JTA) -- American tourists should visit Florida or California instead of Egypt, chairman J. W. Fulbright of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee said today in a senate speech on the balance of payments deficit. "They will find they can do it for half the price, without insults or shakedowns, and perform a real service to this country," he added.

REFORM JEWS CHALLENGE LEGALITY OF JOHNSON'S AID BILL TO SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, March 4. (JTA) -- Strong dissent, arising from concern over violations of the church-state separation concept, was voiced yesterday in connection with the Johnson Administration's education bill at the conference on poverty of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

U. S. Commissioner of Education Francis Keppel addressed the conference in an effort to enlist liberal Jewish support behind the bill. But he elicited instead of a detailed attack on the bill's provisions, voiced mainly by chairman Marvin Braiterman, of the church-state subcommittee of the Commission on Social Action of Reform Judaism.

Mr. Braiterman said it was not enough for Dr. Keppel to reassure the meeting of President Johnson's concern with the traditional separation of church and state because "there are alarming provisions in this legislation which do in fact transgress the separation of church and state and may cause serious injury to public education."

Alarm was expressed by Mr. Braiterman, and others, at proposals that require shared facilities between public and parochial schools, that furnish books at government expense to parochial schools, and which provide for supplementary educational centers under auspices of parochial schools. He said the legislation does not include adequate provisions allowing judicial review of constitutionality at the initiative of private citizens.

Dr. Keppel advised Mr. Braiterman to "go look up his facts" and asserted that the Justice Department was content with the constitutionality of the bill. He urged the conference to put aside its objections and concern itself with helping the individual child. "In your efforts to preserve and safeguard the Jewish faith, a changing pattern has evolved in the relationship of religion to secular education, which others are studying carefully in some of its aspects," Dr. Keppel said. "The Jewish experience, of course, may not apply in many respects to other faiths, but it is receiving attention."

The conference closed today with adoption of a number of educational and action programs to combat poverty. A mobilization of the nation's Jews to actively support national and local activities and to initiate new projects was urged. The recommendations covered programs in cooperation with Federal and state agencies, with other religions and civic groups, in the synagogue involving clergymen, businessmen, professionals and youth.

N. A. A. C. P. APPEALS TO WEST GERMANY TO PROLONG PROSECUTION OF NAZIS

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA) -- The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People asked the West German Government today to extend its statute of limitations for the prosecution of Nazi war criminals beyond next May 8.

A statement, approved by the NAACP board, which calls for amendment of the West German constitution for that purpose, was sent to West German Ambassador Heinrich Knapstein in Washington, for transmittal to Bonn. The statement said that "the struggle of the Jewish people to bring Nazi war criminals to justice for the wanton slaughter" of millions of Jews and other victims was fully supported by the NAACP and that, if no action is taken, many of the Nazis would receive immunity from prosecution.

The NAACP said that action to prolong the statute would "reaffirm worldwide faith in the integrity and effectiveness of the judicial process" and "lend encouragement to concerned people everywhere who are working diligently to forever banish the crime of genocide from the earth."

Soviet Government Decree Sets No Time Limit to Trials of Nazis

MOSCOW, March 4. (JTA) -- The Supreme Soviet Presidium has decreed that Nazi criminals "are to be tried and punished no matter how much time has elapsed," the official Tass agency reported today.

The decree served notice that the Soviet Union rejected any concept of a statute of limitations for Nazi criminals. It said the Soviet people "cannot permit the Fascist barbarians to go unpunished."

Jewish Communities in Alsace Ask for Continued Nazi Prosecution

PARIS, March 4. (JTA) -- The Jewish communities of Alsace joined today in issuing a protest against the possibility that West Germany might permit the statute of limitations on prosecution of Nazi war criminals to go into effect on May 8.

The protest was approved by the chief rabbis of Upper Rhine, Rhine and the Moselle as well as the presidents of the Jewish communities of Colmar, Metz, Mulhouse and Strasbourg. The protest urged that "all concerned" continue to prosecute such criminals "until the last of them is brought to justice," and thus "to protect law and justice as one of the fundamental bases of humanity."

WOMEN RAISE \$1,400,000 FOR NEW YORK U. J. A.; HONOR MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA) -- Contributions totaling more than \$1,400,000 toward the 1965 drive of the Women's Division of the United Jewish Appeal of Greater New York, were announced here today at the formal inauguration of the drive attended by some 4,000 volunteer workers.

In addition to their share of the regular UJA national goal of \$109,400,000, the Women's Division announced that it was undertaking a special \$750,000 project for the Israel Education Fund for the construction of a comprehensive high school in Dimona, in Israel's Negev, a center of newly settled immigrant population.

Guest of honor at the inauguration rally was Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., civil rights leader and winner of the most recent Nobel Prize for Peace, who was presented with the Eleanor Roosevelt Memorial Award of the New York UJA Women's Division for "enhancing the dignity of man." In presenting the award, William Rosenwald, honorary chairman of the UJA, hailed "Dr. King's leadership in today's struggle for the freedom of 22,000,000 Americans."

PIONEER WOMEN ORGANIZATION ADOPTS POLICY ON U. S. SOCIAL ISSUES

NEW YORK, March 4. (JTA) -- The national board of Pioneer Women, organization of Labor Zionist women, today adopted a program for its 50,000 members throughout the United States and Canada, calling for "education and social action" in support of medical care for the aged under social security; liberalization of immigration policies by the U. S. Government; broader civil rights legislation and equal status for women in job opportunities.

The board also approved a special \$50,000 allocation to be sent to Israel immediately to aid in the expansion of new development areas. Mrs. Blanche Fine, national president, said that the allocation was made in response to an appeal from Moetzet Hapaolet, Pioneer Women's sister organization in Israel, indicating that increased funds were urgently needed to service educational and community centers in immigrants centers.

JEWS IN MONTREAL SUBURB REPORTED OPPOSING ERECTION OF HASSIDIC SCHOOL

MONTREAL, March 4. (JTA) -- Jewish residents of Cote St. Luc were reported today to have joined in a petition opposing re-zoning of a section of the area to permit building of a girl's school by the Lubavitcher community.

Sponsors of the project, representing the Lubavitcher movement, have applied to Cote St. Luc officials for re-zoning for the projected school. It would provide a dormitory for 60 girls and classrooms for 300. The Beth Rivkah school for girls would move to the new premises.

The site for the proposed school is in an area currently zoned only for residential buildings. Under the law, the authorities could not approve any rezoning if more than 10 owners of property adjoining a site object. Organizers of the opposition claimed that more than 200 signatures have been obtained, most of them Jewish.

Those opposed to the projected school contend that the pupils would not be from the area of the school and that the building would not provide any benefit or service to residents of the area. For that reason, they contended, there would be no justification for removing from the Cote St. Luc tax tolls more than \$300,000 of potential tax-paying property.

Another reason cited was that the children would have to be moved daily by bus to and from their homes to the school and that this would add considerably to the traffic congestion in the area. There is a new Catholic school and a new Jewish Peretz school in the area now.

MRS. HATTIE KUTZ DEAD; CONTRIBUTED \$2,000,000 TO VARIOUS CAUSES

MIAMI, March 4. (JTA) -- Mrs. Hattie Kutz of Wilmington, Del, who contributed more than \$2,000,000 to a wide variety of Jewish and general activities, died here at the age of 75. Milton Kutz, her husband, who died in 1953, had been an official of the E. I. du Pont Company and a president of the Jewish Federation of Delaware.

Mrs. Kutz' philanthropies included the Milton and Hattie Kutz Home for Aged Jewish People, a Brandeis University student center, endowment of a chair in American Jewish History at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Cincinnati and a camp in Orange County, New York, for use by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations to train Reform rabbis and cantors.

MRS. IRWIN REISS, OF THE UNIVERSITY OF JUDAISM, DIES IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, March 4. (JTA) -- Mrs. Irwin Reiss, registrar of the University of Judaism, died here suddenly. She was West Coast regional Hadassah president, on the board of the Jewish Federation-Council and president of the local American Zionist Council.