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## PERSONAL ENVOY OF GERMAN CHANCELLOR STARTS SECRET TALKS WITH ESHKOL

JERUSALEM, March 8. (JTA) -- Secret talks were begun here today between Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Dr. Kurt Birrenbach, a member of West Germany's Parliament, who came here last night ostensibly on a secret, personal mission for West Germany's Chancellor Ludwig Erhard. Dr. Birrenbach, a prominent German industrialist, is a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the Bundestag, lower house of Bonn's Parliament, and a member of Dr. Erhard's Christian Democratic Party.

Dr. Birrenbach spent most of last week in Washington, where he discussed the current Bonn-Jerusalem crisis with highest American Administration officials, including Secretary of State Dean Rusk; McGeorge Bundy, adviser to President Johnson; William Foster, chief of United States disarmament, and others. His American mission was reportedly concerned primarily with Bonn's decision to halt further arms deliveries to Israel. He was recalled from Washington suddenly, leaving for Israel yesterday.

While Prime Minister Eshkol's office here declined today either to confirm or to deny the meeting with Dr. Birrenbach, who has been called "Erhard's secret envoy," it became known that Mr. Eshkol, Foreign Minister Golda Meir and other high officials of the Israeli Government conferred last night on Dr. Erhard's announcement in Bonn yesterday, offering full diplomatic relations to Israel and castigating Egypt's President Nasser but affirming continuance of Bonn's diplomatic relations with Cairo.

There has been no official reaction here, thus far, to the Erhard statement, but knowledgeable sources see Dr. Erhard's announcement as a move rejecting strong Nasserist pressures and as a diplomatic victory for Israel in the face of Nasser's blackmail. However, no official Government statement here is expected until the Erhard statement and its implications are fully clarified.

### Knesset To Debate Bonn's Offer of Diplomatic Relations

There was every likelihood of a full debate on the German-Israeli issues in the Knesset, Israel's Parliament. Some leading Israelis have raised the question whether it would be useful to link Germany's offer of diplomatic relations with insistence that Bonn first honor fully its commitment to send arms to Israel. Others have raised the issue of Bonn's failure to act for the recall of the German scientists at work in Egypt on weapons of mass destruction to be aimed ultimately at Israel.

(Abba Eban, Israel's Deputy Prime Minister, said on a television interview broadcast from Washington last night by the National Broadcasting Company that it has always been his government's position that establishment of full diplomatic relations with Israel should be considered only after Germany had taken the initiative toward such a move. Now that Bonn has acted, he said, Israel "should respond." However, he declined to say whether Israel would lay down any conditions prior to accepting the diplomatic offer made by Dr. Erhard.)

The Israel press today commented freely on the new developments stemming from Bonn. With reports coming in that the Birrenbach mission to Israel has been complemented by another Erhard mission to Cairo, to explain the new developments to the Egyptian Government, the Israeli press viewed the entire Bonn-Jerusalem-Cairo crisis as a single issue.

Haaretz, independent morning newspaper, said editorially: "Even those among us who cannot accept the idea of the normalization of relations between the Jewish people and Germany cannot deny the favorable significance of the German step in our dispute with Egypt. It will dim Nasser's lustre in Arab eyes." Another morning paper, Haboker, stressed the same point.

Herut, organ of the right-wing party by that name, said today that Israel ought to reject Germany's offer of diplomatic relations or, at least, set a condition that the German scientists must be recalled from Egypt. Hatzofeh, Orthodox newspaper, emphasized that the most important issue was still Israel's security and Bonn's delivery of arms to Israel, noting that "apparently, Bonn has not changed its mind on that issue."

A spokesman for Mapam indicated that his party would continue to oppose Israeli diplomatic relations with Germany. An official of another labor party, Ahdut Avodah,

declined to comment fully on Germany's new stand but said that "surely, diplomatic relations cannot be a substitute for arms deliveries from Germany."

### Bonn Conveys Offer of Diplomatic Relations to Israeli Mission

BONN, March 8. (JTA) -- Chancellor Ludwig Erhard's statement yesterday offering diplomatic relations with Israel was conveyed to the Israeli mission in Cologne, State Secretary Karl-Gunther von Hase said today. However, he refused to comment on the fact that Dr. Kurt Birrenbach, so-called "secret envoy" for the Chancellor, had suddenly been recalled from Washington and sent post-haste to Israel to confer there with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol.

Mr. von Hase, information officer for the Government, refused to confirm a report that the Iraqi Ambassador to Germany has been recalled by the Baghdad Government in protest against the Erhard offer to Israel. He did say that Arab ambassadors, including the envoy from Egypt, have been called to the Foreign Ministry here and told of the Erhard decision regarding Israel.

He said also that the Chancellor views criticisms of his new stand by the opposition Social Democratic Party as "not very helpful." The Social Democrats have said that Dr. Erhard's new policy was "insufficient." Mr. von Hase re-emphasize a point he made in issuing the Erhard announcement yesterday to the effect that the Chancellor had taken the decision on his own responsibility.

### U. S. Did Not Expect Germany to Give Full Recognition to Israel

WASHINGTON, March 8; (JTA) -- The United States Government did not agree with West Germany's decision to grant full diplomatic recognition to Israel because of fear in Washington of Arab responses, it was learned today from authoritative Government sources.

The Bonn announcement yesterday came as a surprise to the State Department, which had hoped that Bonn would not make such a move at this time. The Department is currently seeking to improve relations with the Arabs, especially with President Nasser of Egypt.

Asked if the State Department favored the normalization of diplomatic relations between West Germany and Israel, State Department spokesman Marshall Wright today declined to comment. He said "we consider this something for the Government of the Federal Republic of Germany to decide." A highly-placed source within the Administration revealed that the Department's main strategy now is aimed at mending relations with the Nasser regime and preventing a break between Bonn and Cairo.

### Arab League States Meet Today on Germany's Offer to Israel

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- The 13 members of the Arab League were summoned today for an urgent session to be held in Cairo tomorrow, to discuss West Germany's offer to establish full diplomatic relations with Israel, Cairo dispatches reported here today.

At the same time, the reports stated the Egyptian press, which is strictly controlled by the Nasser Government, warned today that "the Arab world" would cut relations with West Germany in the event that Bonn-Jerusalem diplomatic relations became a reality. Jordan and Egypt, it was reported, are already in contact in an effort to work out a common policy concerning the new developments, while the foreign minister of Kuwait has called for a "unified Arab stand."

### PRESIDENT BOURGHIBA OF TUNISIA URGES ARABS TO COOPERATE WITH JEWS

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- President Habib Bourghiba, of Tunisia, made a statement in the old city of Jerusalem, on the Jordanian side, yesterday, interpreted by some Arab circles as asking for "moderation and reason in dealing with the Jews" according to a Beirut dispatch received here today. Mr. Bourghiba came to Beirut today for a visit to Lebanon, after touring Egypt, Saudi Arabia and Jordan, and is going from Lebanon to Iran and Iraq.

"We have not persecuted the Jews, and we can still cooperate with them on the basis of mutual respect," the Arab press reported President Bourghiba as saying. Some of the Arab newspapermen attending the Jerusalem press conference where he made that statement interpreted his remarks as applying to Israel politically.

The pro-Nasser Beirut newspaper, Al Anwar, declared today: "We know his credo is moderation and the principle of 'take what is offered you and ask for more later.' It would seem that his statement yesterday derived from this principle, which can apply to all questions except Palestine."

# SYNAGOGUE BOMBED IN MONTEVIDEO; BELIEVED REPRISAL FOR CUKURS' DEATH

MONTEVIDEO, Uruguay, March 8. (JTA) -- A synagogue in the central part of this capital of Uruguay was damaged last night by a bomb blast, and police authorities said they believe the desecration was a reprisal for the murder of a Latvian Nazi, Herbert Cukurs, whose body was found beaten and shot in a cottage in a fashionable part of Montevideo. The damage to the synagogue was not heavy, and no one was injured.

Meanwhile, with one man under arrest, in connection with the murder of the war criminals, police today sought two other suspects. The man arrested is Dionisio Mabridies, 32, a Greek national living in South America since childhood. Police say he worked as an interpreter for Waldo Heinz Taussing, an Austrian who had rented the cottage where Cukurs' body was discovered. Taussing is one of the hunted suspects.

Cukurs, according to police, was believed to have been killed by agents of an organization calling itself "Those Who Can Never Forget," Police attribute his assassination to "Jewish revenge" since he was involved in the mass-murder of 30,000 Latvian Jews in Riga.

# EUROPEAN RABBIS OPEN THREE-DAY CONFERENCE; U. S. DELEGATION ATTENDS

LONDON, March 8. (JTA) -- The fifth Conference of European Rabbis opened here today for three days of sessions, with Israel's Sephardic Chief Rabbi Yitzhak Nissim in attendance, as well as lay Jewish leaders and rabbis from Turkey, the United States, Canada and a number of other countries. Among the chief items on the agenda are Judaism and international cooperation, Judaism and modern man, and the authority of the rabbinate in modern times.

At the opening session today, presided over by Britain's Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie, Chief Rabbi Nissim proposed that all rabbis in countries outside Israel be required to obtain at least part of their training in Israel.

The American delegation here included Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Rabbinical Council of America; Moses I. Feuerstein, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America; and Max Stern, chairman of the UOJC's commission on overseas affairs. Canada was represented by Rabbi Walter Wurzburg, president of the Rabbinical Council of Canada.

Invitations to the conference had been sent by Dr. Brodie to Moscow's Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin and Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania. Rabbi Levin sent a message wishing the conference success and stating that illness had prevented him from coming here. Rabbi Rosen, similarly wishing success to the conference, stated that "for reasons beyond me, I could not accept your invitation." One religious leader from East Europe is attending. He is Rabbi Jeno Schuck, of Hungary.

Among other rabbis here are Chief Rabbi David Asseo, of Turkey; Dr. Jacob Kaplan, chief rabbi of France; Dr. A. Schuster, chief rabbi of Holland; Chief Rabbi Elie Tcaff, of Italy; Rabbi Alexander Safran, of Geneva; Dr. Solomon Gaon, chief rabbi of the Sephardic community in Britain; and Chief Rabbi Isaac Cohen, of Ireland.

# B'NAI B'RITH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OPENS IN WASHINGTON

WASHINGTON, March 8. (JTA) -- Seeking Jewish support of the Administration's education bill, Attorney General Nicholas Katzenbach today told the opening session of the B'nai B'rith Women international convention here that "the debate about the relationship of church and state has tended to polarize groups into irreconcilable and extreme positions."

Mr. Katzenbach urged re-examination of the nation's educational needs in the same spirit of "conciliation and persuasion" that he thought would bring the great progress in civil rights. He told the B'nai B'rith Women that "what is needed is a spirit of wanting solutions--rather than to regard these (education) needs merely as an opportunity once again to express a particular, immovable point of view."

# RABBI JAY KAUFMAN ELECTED EXECUTIVE VICE-PRESIDENT OF B'NAI B'RITH

WASHINGTON, March 8. (JTA) -- A special meeting of the B'nai B'rith board of governors has elected Rabbi Jay Kaufman, vice-president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, to the position of executive vice-president of B'nai B'rith, the position vacated by the retirement of Maurice Bisgyer. Rabbi Kaufman will begin his duties with B'nai B'rith on May 1. He is a native of Cleveland, Ohio.

Over 1,000 persons today attended a testimonial luncheon honoring Mr. Bisgyer for his role in building up B'nai B'rith during his many years of service. Honorary B'nai B'rith president Philip M. Klutznick served as toastmaster. Speakers paying tribute to Mr. Bisgyer included such personages as Associate Justices Tom Clark and Arthur J. Goldberg of the U. S. Supreme Court, the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Joseph Emmenegger, former dean of the North American College in Rome, and others.

# COUNCIL FOR JUDAISM LEADER ATTACKS ISRAEL IN GERMAN EXTREMIST PAPER

BONN, March 8. (JTA) -- An article sharply attacking Israel and American Zionism was published here today on the front page of the ultra-right-wing weekly, the Deutsche National Zeitung und Soldatenzeitung, which is widely read by former member of the Nazi Party. The article appeared under the name of Rabbi Elmer Berger, of New York, vice-president of the American Council for Judaism. The headline over the article announced in very large lettering that the author was an American rabbi.

# FRENCH ZIONIST FEDERATION TO OPEN NETWORK OF JEWISH DAY SCHOOLS

PARIS, March 8. (JTA) -- The French Zionist Federation will set up along with other local communal bodies, a network of Jewish day schools throughout France, it was announced here tonight by Victor Benvenisti, president of the Federation's executive council.

He said that a committee will be set up for this purpose, comprising the Fonds Social Juif Unifié, the Alliance Israelite Universelle, the Jewish Agency and the local communities. He called upon all Jewish communal bodies to work jointly with the Federation. He regretted that the FSJU did not participate in a meeting of the communities which took place earlier this month under the auspices of the Federation and expressed the hope for its cooperation in the future.

# SOUTH AFRICAN ZIONISTS CALL FOR 'WALL-TO-WALL' W. Z. O. EXECUTIVE

JOHANNESBURG, March 8. (JTA) -- The Executive Council of the South African Zionist Federation has adopted and sent to the president and chairman of the World Zionist Organization a resolution urging them to "take energetic steps to remove all obstacles standing in the way of the election of a wall-to-wall executive, based on the last representation of the various parties, including the Revisionists, at Congress."

The National Council of the Zionist Revisionist Organization in South Africa has adopted a resolution welcoming the decision of the South African Zionist Federation and urging the World Zionist leadership to accept the South African recommendation. The Revisionist resolution expresses the conviction that it is the wish of Zionists throughout the world that all shades of opinion be represented on the World Zionist Executive. "If the Zionist Actions Committee, which is due to meet in December, will not elect a wall-to-wall executive based on proportional representation, the Revisionist Organization will have to reconsider its attitude to territorial Zionist executives on which it is represented," the resolution warned.

# HERZL INSTITUTE SPONSORS JABOTINSKY MEMORIAL EXHIBITION IN U. S.

NEW YORK, March 8. (JTA) -- A memorial exhibition marking the 25th anniversary of the death of Ze'ev Jabotinsky, founder of the Zionist Revisionist movement, will be sponsored by the Theodor Herzl Institute, it was announced here today. The exhibit, which will open in June, will feature the major aspects of Jabotinsky's life and work as a thinker, writer and Zionist leader.

Dr. Joseph B. Schechtman is chairman of the exhibit committee. Persons and institutions possessing published and unpublished material on Jabotinsky's personality and activities are requested to lend them for the exhibit, after which they will be returned. Material and inquiries may be sent to Dr. Schechtman, at 85-43 168th Place, Jamaica 32, N. Y.

# BEN TOUSTER, FORMER PRESIDENT OF UNITED HIAS SERVICE, HONORED IN MEXICO

MEXICO, March 8. (JTA) -- Ben Touster, American Jewish community leader, former president of the United Hias Service and treasurer of CARE, was honored here by the Jewish Central Committee, representative body of Mexican Jewry. Mr. Touster, on a visit here with his wife, made a special study of the situation of the Jewish refugees from Cuba. Some of the refugees here are awaiting U. S. visas.

# AMSTERDAM TO NAME CITY SQUARE AFTER JEWISH PRESIDENT OF HIGH COURT

AMSTERDAM, March 8. (JTA) -- Amsterdam officials announced today that the square before the newly-built town hall will be named after the late Jewish president of the Dutch High Court, L. E. Visser. The announcement was made in connection with the commemoration of the general strike in Amsterdam in 1941 against anti-Semitic measures of the German occupation.

# PROF. SALOMON KAHAN, AUTHOR AND MUSIC CRITIC, DIES IN MEXICO; WAS 68

MEXICO CITY, March 8. (JTA) -- Prof. Salomon Kahan, one of Mexico's leading music critics, a well-known Jewish Journalist, author and the translator into Spanish of Graetz's History of the Jewish People, died here today at the age of 68. Born in Bialystok, he came here in 1921 and has been one of the leading intellectuals of the Jewish community.