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ISRAEL ASKS WASHINGTON TO CLARIFY STATEMENT ON JORDAN WATER ISSUE

JERUSALEM, April 18. (JTA) -- Israel has requested the American Administration in Washington to clarify reports that have quoted United States State Department officials as warning Israel against the use of force to prevent the Arab plans to divert the headwaters of the Jordan River.

The subject was discussed here this weekend by Golda Meir, Israel's Foreign Minister, and Ambassador Walworth Barbour, U. S. envoy to Israel, whom she had invited to the Foreign Ministry.

Officials here did not hide their displeasure at attempts to link the water diversion issue with supply of arms to Israel and with the joint U. S. - Israel desalination project, which has not yet been finalized. Recent negotiations with the United States on the supply of arms were aimed to preserve the arms balance in the Middle East, and involved no conditions, it was said.

If conditions had been placed, Israel would not have entered such negotiations, officials in the office of Prime Minister Levi Eshkol indicated today. They added that, in recent Israeli talks with Washington and London, Israel was given no warning about her reaction to the Arab attempts to divert Jordan waters.

Officials here speculated whether the reports from Washington emanated from authoritative quarters, since they are incompatible with the spirit and letter of recent talks between Israel and the United States.

Referring to the admonishment attributed to Washington officials about the possible war threat inherent in Israel's intention to prevent Arab water diversion by force, officials here remarked that it is the Arab plans to divert the Jordan headwaters, and the Arab voicing of intentions to destroy Israel, that threaten the stability of the region--not the other way around. Even Ambassador Barbour himself, it was reported, displayed surprise over the reports from Washington.

On Thursday night, the United States Embassy issued a statement, reaffirming United States support of the Eric Johnston plan as an effective way for distributing the Jordan River waters, and voicing the hope that the riparian states would reach a just arrangement on the waters. It was assumed here that the Embassy's statement was issued to offset the impression created by the comments by Washington officials.

In the course of the meeting between Mr. Barbour and Mrs. Meir, the diplomats discussed also the Washington report that the United States was ready to send arms to four Arab states as well as to Israel.

EGYPT ASKS U. S. GOVERNMENT FOR \$500,000,000 AID IN SURPLUS FOODS

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- Egypt has asked the United States Government for \$500,000,000 of surplus foods, to be shipped in the next three years, Cairo dispatches, received here today, reported. The request was made in Cairo to Assistant U. S. Secretary of State Phillips Talbot, in charge of Middle East and African Affairs, now visiting the Egyptian capital.

Mr. Talbot, the dispatches reported, told the Egyptians that the U. S. A. is willing to continue some economic aid and to supply wheat to be paid for in Egyptian currency. The Egyptian currency would be set aside to meet American expenses in Egypt, and to help finance Egyptian economic projects. Egypt's \$500,000,000 request would continue a program agreed to between the Cairo Government and Washington in 1962, and ending this year. This program involved a somewhat smaller amount of U. S. expenditures.

Mr. Talbot was understood to have reminded the Egyptians that, under a recent Foreign Aid bill amendment, Congress had authorized the President to withhold U. S. aid from various countries--like Egypt--if the President deems such withholding "in the national interest." The amendment had been adopted when Congress reacted against the burning of a United States library in Cairo and against a statement by Egypt's President Nasser who had invited the United States "to jump in the lake."

It was authoritatively reported here also today that Mr. Talbot will go to Israel, next Wednesday, for a visit to last about 48 hours. In Israel, Mr. Talbot is scheduled to confer with Prime Minister Levi Eshkol and Foreign Minister Golda Meir.

TELEGRAPH OPERATORS END STRIKE IN ISRAEL; ORDERED BY GOVERNMENT

JERUSALEM, April 18, (JTA) -- Overseas communication was resumed today in Israel when communication workers returned to their jobs under an unprecedented order from the Ministry of Labor to end their strike or face fines and jail terms.

Telex and telegraph operators decided to return to their posts also after four days of striking. Some 700 local telephone exchange operators continued on strike but the effects of their absence were limited. The strike was called last week for higher grading under a new Civil Service classification program.

TOP HISTADRUT LEADER WITHDRAWS RESIGNATION THREAT OVER ELECTIONS

TEL AVIV, April 18, (JTA) -- Aaron Becker, secretary-general of the Histadrut, Israel's Labor Federation, has canceled a threat to resign over postponement of Histadrut elections from July to September and the elections will be held in September, it was disclosed today.

Becker made his threat, which also involved a number of his supporters in the Histadrut, on grounds there was no need for postponement. It was understood he withdrew the threat under pressure from the Mapai party, dominant force in the Histadrut. The postponement was assured when Achdut Avodah indicated it supported the idea. Mapai and Achdut have enough votes to pass the proposal.

U. S. DENIES BARRING ACCESS TO DOCUMENTS ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS

WASHINGTON, April 18, (JTA) -- Charges by Rabbi Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress, alleging that the United States Government is not permitting access to documentation on Nazi war criminals, were denied a second time here this weekend.

Dr. Prinz, who returned from a visit to Germany and West Berlin two weeks ago, made those charges against the U. S. Government after his return, speaking as chairman of the Conference of Major American Jewish Organizations. Denied immediately by the State Department, Dr. Prinz made public further allegations that the American Jewish Congress, the World Jewish Congress and a group of students at the Free University of West Berlin had not been allowed access to Nazi crimes documentation held by the U. S. A. in West Berlin and at Alexandria, Va.

This weekend, Robert J. McCloskey, the State Department press officer, declared: "It is nonsense to say that the U. S. Government has hampered the task of bringing Nazi criminals to justice." He said that "various private Jewish organizations have had access to these documents," and insisted that "qualified German agencies" have received U. S. cooperation both at the West Berlin Documentation Center and at Alexandria.

"Almost 80 percent of all captured German documents stored at the Alexandria Center," he said, "have already been returned to Germany." Asserting that the German investigators could get all the information they needed at the two documentation centers, he added: "Only very few of the documents are still secret and not opened to scholarly and civic agencies and news media because they contain classified military information."

AUSTRIAN GOVERNMENT DELIVERS GESTAPO LEADER TO GERMANY FOR TRIAL

BONN, April 18, (JTA) -- The Austrian Government handed over to West German authorities today a former Gestapo member, Kurt Wiese, accused of murdering Jewish children in Grodno and Bialystok in occupied Lithuania and Poland.

He escaped to Austria last summer and was arrested there. Extradition proceedings took several months. The Vienna High Court refused to extradite him. The extradition was arranged only after the Austrian High Court took the case and ordered his transfer.

JEWS IN ITALY PROTEST TO GOVERNMENT ON PERMITTING NEO-NAZI CONVENTION

MILAN, Italy, April 18, (JTA) -- Raffael Jona, president of the Jewish Documentation Center here, telegraphed a protest today to Interior Minister Taviani, in Rome, requesting that the Government halt the "provocation" of a Europe-wide meeting of neo-Nazis and other right-wing elements, convened here today by the Veterans of Mussolini's Final Republic.

The two-day session is being attended by about 24 representatives of extremist groups from Italy, Britain, Belgium, Holland, Sweden, West Germany, Switzerland, France and Austria.

The official "host" of the gathering is Antonio Monaco, who was arrested here in 1960 for desecrating the Milan synagogue with a swastika and sending threatening letters to Jews. It was doubtful whether Government authorities would take steps against the meeting since, according to officials, it must be viewed legally as a "private gathering."

ISRAEL CROWDED WITH PASSOVER TOURISTS; SOVIET ENVOY ATTENDS SEDER

TEL AVIV, April 18. (JTA) -- Passover in Israel this year saw a record number of tourists filling the nation's hotels to capacity.

Over 15,000 visitors arrived by air during the two weeks preceding the holiday. On Friday, hours before the seder, 20 planes carrying 3,000 tourists arrived at Lydda Airport. At the same time three shiploads of foreign visitors docked at Haifa.

Inside the country, transportation companies mobilized their largest fleets to cope with the nearly 1,000,000 persons traveling for Passover to visit relatives. The roads were also jammed with Israeli families on outdoor excursions to take advantage of the perfect sunny weather.

Many tourists and over 50 foreign diplomats, including the Soviet Ambassador to Israel D. Chuvakhin, attended sederim in kibbutzim.

PASSOVER DRAWS CROWDS TO MOSCOW SYNAGOGUE; NO MATZOH IN MANY TOWNS

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- The Central Synagogue at Moscow, leading congregation in the Soviet capital, was crowded beyond capacity during Friday night's Passover services, according to a dispatch received here today from Moscow. The report stated that at least 2,000 worshippers jammed the synagogue, which has a capacity of between 700 and 800.

After the Passover services, conducted by Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, a communal seder was held at the synagogue for about 50 persons. Beyond capacity crowds also attended services at the Maryina Roscha Synagogue in an outlying district of Moscow.

Many Jews in Moscow and in Leningrad had matzoh for this year's Passover, permission for the baking of matzoh having been granted in Moscow and Leningrad and, apparently, also in Odessa. In many other large Jewish centers, however, such as Kiev, Minsk and Kishinev, reports indicated that there was practically no matzoh at all, aside from very small quantities baked in homes.

On the eve of Passover, Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie, here, received Passover greetings from Moscow's Chief Rabbi Levin. He received another holiday greeting from Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen, of Rumania.

2,000 ATTEND HISTADRUT 'THIRD SEDER' IN NEW YORK; NAZI VICTIMS HONORED

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- Judaism's contributions to the world's religious and ethical thinking and practice, as symbolized by the Passover experience, were summarized here tonight as the Greater New York Histadrut Council celebrated its 33rd annual "third seder." More than 2,000 supporters of the Israel Histadrut campaign attended the colorful function.

Principal address on the theme of Passover's meaning to the world's consciousness were delivered by Rabbi Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress; Jacob S. Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; and Harry Uviller, treasurer of the Liberal Party, and chairman of the Greater New York Histadrut Council.

The guests were greeted by Dr. Sol Stein, executive director of the National Committee for Labor Israel, who noted that parallel "third sederim" were being observed tonight in many other American communities, under Histadrut auspices. The occasion served also as a ceremony commemorating the 6,000,000 Jewish victims of the Nazi holocaust. A dramatic production, entitled "We Shall Overcome," linked the Passover experience to present-day struggles for freedom from bondage.

Pole Who Saved Jews from Nazis Joins Seder in New York

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- A Catholic Polish buggy-maker joined at a seder here this weekend with the family of one of the 31 Jews he saved from the Gestapo in occupied Poland for two years, by hiding them in his home. Some of the Jews greeted the man, Staszek Jackow, 54, with hugs and kisses when he arrived at Kennedy Airport.

He came from Buenos Aires, where he had been feted by one of the Jews he saved. Jerry Spiegel, of New York, one of those he saved, said the group was making efforts to get a permanent visa for the Polish hero and to bring his wife and three sons from Warsaw, because he had told some of his Jewish friends he would like to live in America.

The saga began in June 1942, when the German invaders began to liquidate the ghetto in Stanislaw. Mrs. Mina Zimmerman, of Montreal, recalled that rumors swept the ghetto that, if any Jews could get to Jackow's house, he would try to conceal them. Eventually 31 did so. A baby was born during the two years, making it 32. They lived in the basement, with food provided by a nearby manager of a flour mill, who was also risking his life.

'CHECKBOOK JUDAISM' ASSAILED AT DISCUSSION ON JEWISH SURVIVAL IN U.S.

CHICAGO, April 18. (JTA) -- Greater emphasis on Jewish education is needed to insure Jewish survival in the United States, it was agreed here in a colloquium by Label A. Katz, national president of B'nai B'rith, and Jack I. Fishbein, editor and publisher of The Sentinel, the Jewish weekly here. They spoke at the concluding program of a forum series conducted by the Adult Education Institute of Congregation B'nai David. Rabbi Herschell Saville, spiritual leader of the synagogue, was the moderator, as they debated the topic "The Vanishing Jews: True or False."

According to Mr. Katz, "Jewish youth in public schools, particularly on college campuses, want to identify as Jews. They want to affiliate, not to assimilate." He said that American Jews spend \$100,000,000 a year for the religious education of their children, and that enrollment in Jewish all-day schools is now 75 percent greater than it was 12 years ago.

Mr. Fishbein, however, assailed what he called "checkbook Judaism" with its "almost total emphasis on fund-raising as a way of life." He charged that fund-raising now consumes almost 90 percent of all the time and energy of organized American Jewry.

Pinpointing "the alarming trend toward intermarriage and eventual assimilation" as one of the major danger signs facing American Jewry, he said: "Freedom creates conditions in which assimilation naturally grows. More than 75 percent of all Jews of college age are now attending our universities, resulting in intermarriage. Seventy percent of the children of these unions are lost to Judaism."

Mr. Fishbein said that one possible solution to the problem is a re-examination of "the whole approach to the synagogue, its functions, the role of the rabbi, etc., transforming it away from its present stagnation and returning it, instead to prophetic Judaism. Rabbis must assume their rightful place as the moral and ethical leaders of the Jewish people, rather than as fund-raisers, public relations experts and book reviewers."

FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE OF JEWISH LABOR BUND OPENS IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- The Fourth World Conference of the Jewish Labor Bund, an international Jewish, democratic socialist organization, opened at Town Hall here today. Delegates from 12 countries--Europe, the Middle East, Africa, North and South Africa--will discuss the theme, "The Bund and World Jewish Life, Twenty Years after the Nazi Holocaust."

Dr. Emanuel Scherer opened the session for the World Coordinating Committee of the Jewish Labor Bund. Addresses of greetings were delivered by Adolph Hold, chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee; Nathan Cranin, of the Jewish Socialist Verband; Jacob T. Zukerman, president of the Workmen's Circle; Michael Harrington of the Socialist Party; and Henoch Mendelsund, of the International Ladies' Garment Workers Union. Greetings were read from the Socialist International, the International Union of Socialist Youth, and Socialist and labor parties and leaders throughout the world. A. Glanz-Leyeles, chairman of the Yiddish P. E. N. Club, spoke of "The Future and Jewish Culture."

The Jewish Labor Bund was founded in Russia in 1897. During the first decades of this century, it expanded its influence among the Jewish workers of Eastern Europe, and was active in the fight against anti-Semitism and the economic and political tyranny of Czarism. Among its members before World War I were many young men who emigrated to the United States and achieved prominence here, including David Dubinsky, president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union, who is among those who sent warm greetings to the conference.

MENDEL OSHEROWITCH, NOTED YIDDISH AUTHOR, DEAD; FUNERAL TODAY

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Mendel Osherowitch, member of the editorial staff of the Jewish Daily Forward and author of numerous books, who died here this weekend. He was 78 years old.

Mr. Osherowitch was born in Russia and came to the United States in 1910. In 1914 he joined the Forward. His prolific literary output included three novels--"Restless Souls," "Marie Antoinette," and "Queen Marianne." He also wrote a book, "David Kessler and Muni Weisenfreund, Two Generations in the History of the Yiddish Theater in America."

His "Moses Montefiore," a biography of the late British-Jewish philanthropist, was published in 1941. He was also the author of "History of the Jews in the Ukraine," an historical account of the Dreyfus Affair, and a history of the Jewish Daily Forward. He edited a three-volume work entitled "Jews in the Ukraine." He translated into Yiddish from English, Chaim Weizmann's autobiography, "Trial and Error."

DR. MARTIN RIESENBERGER, CHIEF RABBI OF EAST GERMANY, DEAD; WAS 69

BERLIN, April 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Martin Riesenburger, Chief Rabbi of East Germany, died in East Berlin this weekend at the age of 69. As the only rabbi in East Germany, he served eight other synagogues throughout the country in addition to his congregation in East Berlin.