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## MEDIATION OVER NEW CLAIMS OF NAZI VICTIMS STARTS IN BONN TODAY

BONN, June 29. (JTA) -- Two key leaders of Chancellor Ludwig Erhard's Christian Democratic Union expressed the hope today that the mediation committee of West Germany's Parliament would settle the dispute over expansion of a special hardship fund for victims of Nazism when the committee meets tomorrow.

The Bundestag, the lower house, approved by a large majority an amendment to the indemnification law to enlarge from 700,000,000 marks (\$175,000,000) to 1,200,000,000 marks (\$300,000,000) a fund to compensate victims who were unable to file claims by an October 1953 deadline because they were then in Iron Curtain countries.

However, when the bill came before the Bundesrat, the upper chamber, that body rejected the proposed increase by a large majority. The dispute was transmitted to the mediation committee which has the task of resolving such conflicts.

Dr. Raipier Bartzel, leader of the Parliamentary CDU faction, the largest party in the Bundestag, and Prof. Franz Boehm, the CDU restitution expert, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that if the mediation committee failed to reach agreement, the Bundestag would be recalled from its current summer vacation for a special session on July 23.

If the special session is unable to find a solution, the law will be regarded as wrecked and a new measure will have to be formulated at the next session of the new Bundestag to be elected on September 19, they said.

## REJECTED PLAN ON ARAB REFUGEES IS NOT DEAD, STATE DEPT. OFFICIAL SAYS

WASHINGTON, June 29. (JTA) -- The plan offering Palestine Arab refugees a choice of repatriation to Israel or resettlement in other lands with compensation by Israel--submitted to the United Nations sometime ago by Dr. Joseph Johnson of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, after making a study of the Arab refugee problem--is not necessarily permanently dead and could be revived, Assistant Secretary of State Phillips Talbot has informed Congress.

The plan had been rejected before it was even presented for discussion at the United Nations. However, in testimony given to the House Appropriations Committee and made public now, Mr. Talbot is quoted as declaring: "I personally do not believe that just because the Joseph Johnson plan was not acceptable to the parties when he offered it, it is necessarily permanently dead. I personally believe that some day the Joseph Johnson plan could become a yardstick as indeed the Eric Johnson plan for the Jordan waters has become a yardstick."

He defined the Joseph Johnson plan as providing the Arab refugees "a clear opportunity to make a realistic choice" between repatriation and resettlement. He said that initiative to push the plan in the immediate future "would seem particularly difficult because of the current high level of tension in the area generally, arising out of the water question and other questions."

In testimony which sought to advance both the Johnson and Johnston plans, in a sense linking them as a constructive plan for the future--Mr. Talbot said if regional countries "all followed the Johnston plan the waters of the Jordan Valley would be used most efficiently and equitably as compared to any other plan we have seen. We have been urging strongly on the Lebanese that they not take those (diversion) actions which would upset the 1955 Johnston plan. We regard that plan as the best and, indeed, the only framework for equitable division of the waters of the Jordan Valley in the absence of any other framework or any agreed at all."

## U. S. and Israel Sign Convention on Avoidance of Double Taxation

WASHINGTON, June 29. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Dean Rusk and Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman today signed an American-Israeli convention for avoidance of double taxation and to encourage international trade and investment. The signing ceremony took place at the Department of State.

According to its terms, the convention will be brought into force by the exchange of instruments of ratification. It will be submitted to the United States Senate for advice and consent.

# BEN-GURION URGES ISRAEL TO INVITE A DELEGATION FROM RED CHINA

TEL AVIV, June 29. (JTA) -- Former Premier David Ben-Gurion proposed last night that the Israel Government should invite a delegation from Red China to come to Israel to see its achievements and problems as a move to ease Peking's hostility toward Israel. He said that the road to peace in the Middle East lay through Red China and asserted that Red China's influence was contributing to the instability of the region.

He also disclosed that, as Premier, he had been "personally involved" in four attempts at mediation of the Arab-Israel conflict with President Nasser of Egypt. He said one of the attempts was initiated by an American "emissary" of President Eisenhower "and another by a very high State Department official." The third attempt, he said, was made by a British journalist who interviewed Nasser and the fourth through "a friend of Tito," President of Yugoslavia, "who tried to establish contact when Nasser visited Belgrade." All attempts failed, Mr. Ben-Gurion said.

# ISRAEL GETS \$4,400,000 LOAN FROM U. S. FOR TIMNA COPPER MINES

WASHINGTON, June 29. (JTA) -- A \$4,400,000 loan agreement for development of Israel's Timna copper mines was signed today by Israel Ambassador Avraham Harman with William B. Macomber, Jr., assistant administrator, Near Eastern Bureau, U. S. Agency for International Development. The loan will be repaid in twenty years.

It is anticipated that other loans for agricultural development, postal modernization, and other purposes, totaling \$20,000,000 will be signed in the very near future.

# U. N. ARMISTICE COMMISSION CONDEMNS JORDAN FOR JERUSALEM SHOOTING

JERUSALEM, June 29. (JTA) -- The United Nations Israel-Jordan Mixed Armistice Commission condemned Jordan today for the May 31 Jerusalem border shooting in which two Israelis were killed and four wounded.

The Commission called the incident a "gross violation" of the armistice agreement and stressed that the perpetrators were regular Jordanian soldiers on official duty. The Commission demanded Jordan act to "ensure that disciplined military personnel are employed along the demarcation line."

# STRIKE OF SANITATION WORKERS ENDS IN TEL AVIV; STRIKERS WIN DEMANDS

TEL AVIV, June 29. (JTA) -- A wildcat strike by sanitation workers in Tel Aviv ended last night when the striking workers won a monthly pay boost of 50 pounds (\$17) and an increased annual vacation.

The strike, which lasted 36 hours, was denounced by the Tel Aviv Labor Council. A volunteer corps of street cleaners and garbage collectors helped to mitigate the effects of the walkout.

# PRESIDENT OF LENINGRAD JEWISH COMMUNITY REPORTED RELEASED FROM PRISON

JERUSALEM, June 29. (JTA) -- An American Jewish scientist, arriving here from a visit to Leningrad, reported today that Gedalia Pechersky, 75-year-old former head of the Leningrad Jewish community, has been freed from prison after serving four years of a 15-year sentence for "espionage and consorting with foreign agents."

The arrest of the Leningrad Jewish lay leader and other Jewish leaders four years ago created widespread concern among Jews in the Western world. It was followed by other arrests of lay Jewish leaders in other Soviet cities.

# SOVIETS CONSTRUCTING HOUSING PROJECT ON SITE OF JEWISH CEMETERY

BNEI BRAK, Israel, June 29. (JTA) -- The Soviet authorities in the Lithuanian city of Ponievez, a major Jewish communal center before the Nazi occupation, have completed the construction of a housing project on the site of the Jewish cemetery in that city without removing the remains of the Jews buried there.

This was disclosed here today by Rabbi J. Kahanman, head of the famed Ponievezh Yeshiva here. Rabbi Kahanman addressed a meeting held in memory of Lithuanian and Latvian Jews who perished in the Nazi holocaust. Other speakers included Rabbi I. Ziskind of Pardes Katz, and Rabbi Portman of the Ponievezh Yeshiva.

# TWO FORMER NAZI OFFICERS SENTENCED FOR MASS-MURDERS IN POLAND

FREIBURG, West Germany, June 29. (JTA) -- Two former SS officers were sentenced here to prison terms for participation in multiple murders of Poles and Jews at Zakopane in occupied Poland. Former SS Major Robert Weissman, 57, former Gestapo chief in Zakopane, was sentenced to seven years' imprisonment at hard labor for aiding in the murder of 111 victims. Former SS Lieutenant Arno Sehmsch, 59, received a four-and-a-half year sentence.

# FIANCE OF DUTCH CROWN PRINCESS SAYS HE ALWAYS REJECTED ANTI-SEMITISM

THE HAGUE, June 29. (JTA) -- Claus von Amsberg, the West German diplomat and former member of the Hitler Youth Movement whose betrothal to Crown Princess Beatrix of the Netherlands has evoked widespread opposition among the Dutch people, asserted today in a television interview that he had always rejected anti-Semitism.

"I can never understand why Jews as Jews should be ill-treated," he told the television audience. "I have always refused to take part in Jew-baiting. Anti-Semitism never entered my mind while I was at school." He contended he had been "shuttled into" the Hitler Youth movement. He said that as a prisoner of war in Italy, he saw pictures of Nazi concentration camps shown by American army officers and was appalled by the film. "I was never aware of such cruelties," he declared.

It was reported here today that von Amsberg had been initially scheduled to be First Secretary at the projected West Germany Embassy in Israel.

# SO. AFRICAN JEWISH BOARD OF DEPUTIES REAFFIRMS LOYALTY TO COUNTRY

JOHANNESBURG, June 29. (JTA) -- The South African Jewish Board of Deputies closed its biennial congress here today with a decision to expand its services particularly in the fields of public relations aimed at promoting goodwill between Jews and non-Jews in this country and in expanding its Jewish culture and youth programs.

Among the resolutions adopted by the Board was one reaffirming the loyalty of the Jewish community to South Africa and expressing the hope that the Republic would continue its progress to benefit all its people. The Board also reaffirmed the community's cultural and religious ties with Israel and pledged all possible assistance to the humanitarian work of immigrant settlement in Israel.

Another resolution expressed "grave concern regarding the plight of Soviet Jewry" and urged that the free world bring pressure to bear against the USSR to allow religious and cultural freedom and to permit immigration to Israel where desired.

The Board also called upon the South African Government to ban the entry of Rabbis into this country in the same way that Communists are barred. Dr. Teddy Lennelder, outgoing chairman of the Board, was elected president, succeeding Naomi Phillips who was named national chairman of the United Communal Fund.

A bitter controversy between Orthodox and Reform factions which had plagued the South African Jewish community for years was formally ended with the announcement at the biannual congress of an agreement between Rabbi Bernard Casper, Orthodox Chief Rabbi, and Reform Chief Rabbi Arthur S. Super, to cooperate in the secular field. While recognizing the irreconcilable theological differences between the two groups, the agreement provides for cooperation in secular affairs and in the administration by chaplains to Jewish servicemen.

Addressing the congress, Johannesburg Mayor Aleck Jaffe extended a civic welcome to the delegates, declaring that the occasion was an important one not only for the Jewish community but for the country at large because the Jews played a prominent part in all fields of public endeavor. Israel Consul General Dov Sinai brought greetings from Israel. Prof. Aryeh Tartakover of the Hebrew University also addressed the conference.

# JEWISH YOUTH GROUPS WELCOME CANCELOATION OF YOUTH FESTIVAL IN ALGERIA

NEW YORK, June 29. (JTA) -- National organizations of Jewish youth in this country today welcomed the news that the World Youth Festival which was scheduled to be held in Algeria from July 28 to August 7, will not take place there. They have been looking anxiously for the projected festival which was Moscow-backed, because Algeria snubbed Israel and refused to invite any youth delegation from there to participate in the festival.

The World Union of Jewish Students recently issued a statement vehemently protesting "against all political discrimination and particularly that evidenced by Algeria in withholding an invitation to Israel to participate in the festival." It urged participants to "make the strongest possible protest and demonstration against Israel's arbitrary and discriminatory exclusion and against any decisions concerning Israel that might be taken."

A similar protest has come from the French Students Union and a like national organization of Jewish students in Holland. Basing its action partly on discrimination against Israel, the Norwegian Student Union has decided not to participate. The American Youth Festival Committee, with headquarters in New York, has similarly protested the exclusion of Israel.

The protest declared: "The spirit of the festival cries out against political divisions responsible for keeping young people from joining together." It concludes with an assertion that Israel's exclusion "is a contradiction of the aims of the Festival."

### CATHOLIC PRIEST HONORED IN N. Y. SYNAGOGUE FOR SAVING JEWS IN BELGIUM

NEW YORK, June 29. (JTA) -- A public reception was held tonight at a synagogue in Jackson Heights for a Catholic priest who resisted Nazi pressure in his native Belgium to save a Jewish family during the Nazi occupation of the country.

The Rev. Hubert Celis hid 16-year-old Regina Rotenberg, her sister and two brothers in the summer of 1942 and despite Nazi pressure and threats he kept the children safe until Belgium was liberated. He was among the guests who celebrated last Saturday at Congregation Tifereth Israel the Bar Mitzvah of Norman Wolbrom, the son of Regina, now Mrs. Isaac Wolbrom.

### HEBREW UNIVERSITY TO SPEND \$17,000,000 ON FIVE-YEAR EXPANSION PLAN

JERUSALEM, June 29. (JTA) -- The Hebrew University's natural science faculties student capacity will be increased by 50 per cent with implementation of a five-year, 50,000,000 pound (\$17,000,000) expansion program approved here today.

The program, approved at a meeting between Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir and University officials, provides that the Government will give one-third of the money in the form of a loan. The other two-thirds will be raised by supporters of the university in other countries, chiefly the American Friends of the school.

### SHORTAGE OF TRAINED HEBREW TEACHERS TERMED 'MOST CRUCIAL PROBLEM'

NEW YORK, June 29. (JTA) -- "Although we need 1,000 new Jewish teachers every year, we are only completing the training of 100 each year," Dr. Samuel M. Blumenfield, director of the Department of Education and Culture of the Jewish Agency-American Section, said. He spoke at the closing session of the 20th anniversary meeting of the Hebrew Teachers and Principals of America. He called the shortage of trained Hebrew teachers "one of the most crucial problems affecting the future of American Jewry."

Urging greater financial support of Jewish education, Dr. Blumenfield said: "While there is a growing acceptance of the spirit of Judaism in this country there hasn't been an accompanying greater commitment to Judaism through study and knowledge. There is a danger that we will have a Jewry and a Judaism that is so mediocre and meaningless that it will not command the interest and loyalty of the rising generation."

### RABBI CAHN ELECTED CHAIRMAN OF N. Y. STATE BODY FOR LOANS TO STUDENTS

NEW YORK, June 29. (JTA) -- Dr. Judah Cahn, rabbi of the Metropolitan Synagogue of New York, today was elected chairman of the board of directors of the New York Higher Education Assistance Corporation. The corporation is a non-profit body whose function it is to guarantee bank loans to college students to further their education. The Corporation was created by the Governor and the 1957 Legislature.

To date the corporation has underwritten loans totaling more than \$134,000,000 to more than 100,000 young people by lending institutions throughout the State; and at present has outstanding loans to over 96,000 students. Dr. Cahn has been a director of the New York Higher Education Assistance Corporation since its inception. He is an instructor of Bible and Literature at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

### 26 STUDENTS GRADUATE FROM UNIVERSITY OF JUDAISM IN LOS ANGELES

LOS ANGELES, June 29. (JTA) -- Degrees and certificates of graduation were presented to 26 students, most of whom will be teachers for local synagogue schools, at the 15th commencement exercises at the University of Judaism here.

Dr. Simon Greenberg, vice-chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary, the university's parent organization, presented an honorary degree of Humane Letters to Gov. Edmund G. Brown.

### HORACIO LAFER, LEADING BRAZILIAN JEW, DEAD; WAS TWICE MEMBER OF CABINET

SAO PAULO, June 29. (JTA) -- Horacio Lafer, one of South America's outstanding Jewish leaders, and the first Brazilian Jew to be a member of the Brazilian Congress and twice a member of the Cabinet, died today in Paris suddenly at the age of 65. His body will be returned to Brazil Friday.

He served as Brazil's first delegate to the League of Nations in 1929. He was a member of the National Assembly in 1933 which was convened to draw up a new constitution for Brazil. He served as a member of the Brazilian Congress from 1934 to 1963. From 1946 to 1950, he was a majority leader in the Brazilian Congress. In 1951 he was Finance Minister and later served as Foreign Minister.

In 1952 as Governor of the World Bank he presided at a conference on the International Monetary Fund. He presided also in 1960 at the conference of Latin American Foreign Ministers in Costa Rica. He took an active interest in Jewish life and had a major role in Brazil's industrial development particularly in the paper and newsprint industries.