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BEN-GURION PRESIDES AT FIRST SESSION OF NEW KNESSET; AVOIDS CONTROVERSY

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22: (JTA) -- David Ben-Gurion, former Prime Minister and, at 79, the oldest member of the Knesset (Parliament), presided over the first session of the sixth Knesset which opened here today, after an inaugural ceremony by President Zalman Shazar;

In an address which bypassed all controversial subjects, Mr. Ben-Gurion referred to one issue of general interest by declaring that the Zionist movement's vitality "has declined and has almost lost its identity." Then, as presiding officer pro tem, he gave the oath of office to all members of the new Knesset, and called for the election of a Speaker.

Kaddish Luz, Speaker in the last Knesset, was nominated by all the parties in the House except Rafi, the Israel Workers List formed by Mr. Ben-Gurion as dissidents from the Mapai Party, the Communists, and Haolam Hazeh. Mr. Luz was then re-elected for another full term as speaker. Members of the Rafi faction in the Knesset explained that they had abstained in the voting on the speakership because of the stand Mr. Luz had taken against Mr. Ben-Gurion and on the latter's insistence on the reopening of the old Lavon Affair;

In addition to choosing Mr. Luz, the Knesset elected eight Deputy Speakers, whose names had been previously agreed upon by all of the principal parties represented in the 120-member House.

The ceremonial inauguration of the session was preceded by President Shazar's entry into the House, after being greeted by a fanfare and by a guard of honor outside the building. In his address, President Shazar noted that this was the first time he had ever inaugurated a new Knesset. He recalled that the recent elections, which had passed without serious incident, had proven again "the maturity of Israel's voters."

Eshkol Presents Collective Resignation of Cabinet to President

After the election of the Speaker and his deputies, Prime Minister Eshkol announced that the entire Cabinet had presented its collective resignation to President Shazar at a separate ceremony in the home of the President. The resignation, however, is a mere formality, since the Cabinet will remain as a caretaker government until a new government is formed and presented to the Knesset for its approval. Following Mr. Eshkol's statement, the Knesset adjourned until tomorrow, when legislative business will be begun by the House.

Attending the opening session today were members of all previous parliaments; executives of the Jewish Agency; Dr. Vera Weizmann and Mrs. Rachel Ben-Zvi, widows, respectively, of Israel's first and second Presidents; foreign diplomats residing in Jerusalem; members of the outgoing Cabinet; Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, chief of staff of Israel's defense forces; and other senior officials of the Government. Minister of Justice Dov Joseph, whom the Mapai-Achdut Avoda alignment excluded from its list of candidates in the November 2 elections, was the only Cabinet member absent;

Meanwhile, Mr. Eshkol warned here today that he would refuse to head the new Government unless Minister of Finance Pinhas Sapir revokes his threat to step out of the Cabinet, and stays on in his present post. Mr. Sapir's hesitance about holding his portfolio again in the next Cabinet is believed to be dependent upon whether Mr. Eshkol would support him fully in plans he has announced for tough measures to halt further increases in wages in Israel.

The Finance Minister has submitted to the Cabinet a program calling for steps to balance Israel's economy without devaluation of the pound. Included among his plans is an effort to eliminate Israel's trade deficit, by reducing it at an average of \$70,000,000 a year;

FIRST SHIP ARRIVES IN ISRAEL'S NEW PORT OF ASHDOD; IS WELCOMED

JERUSALEM, Nov. 22: (JTA) -- Israel's new port of Ashdod, on the southern part of the country's Mediterranean coastline, welcomed its first ship here yesterday, with the arrival of the Swedish vessel Vingeland. At this time, the harbor can accommodate only one ship at a time. A second ship is expected later this week, after the Vingeland's departure.

GERMAN COURT OPENS HEARINGS IN ISRAEL OF WITNESSES AGAINST NAZIS

TEL AVIV, Nov. 22: (JTA) -- A West German court, headed by Judge Hans Rausch opened sessions here today to hear Israeli witnesses in the prosecution of a former SS officer on trial in Germany now for war crimes.

The indicted man is Martin Planz, who is charged with organizing during the war of the deportation of Jews from Cracow, Poland, who had been sent to Nazi concentration and death camps. At the request of the German Government, Israeli police have obtained evidence against Planz and have rounded up witnesses who opened their testimony before Judge Rausch today.

MUNICH POLICE PROBE ANTI-SEMITIC MOLESTATIONS OF BALLET DIRECTOR

MUNICH, Nov. 22: (JTA) -- Police were called to the Bavarian State Opera today to investigate anti-Semitic incidents which resulted in the nervous breakdown of ballet director Heinz Rosen, a Jew.

Mr. Rosen's wife, Ilse, told police that several days ago he found a towel marked with swastikas on his desk. This was followed by a series of phone calls in which he was cursed, ridiculed, and called a "pig Jew."

SEK CHARGED IN LONDON COURT WITH SETTING FIRE TO TWO SYNAGOGUES

LONDON, Nov. 22: (JTA) -- Two of six men who appeared for hearings in a magistrate's court here today on charges of having set fire to two synagogues told police interrogators that Colin Jordan, leader of the National Socialist movement, thought it was "a good idea" to burn down a synagogue, according to police testimony.

The two are Paul Williams Dukes and Graham Chant. With four others, they are accused of arson in the fires set last July in a synagogue at Clapton, in North London, and in another Jewish house of worship in the suburb of Ilford.

Police witnesses testified that, in a statement made by Dukes, he had said: "I joined the National Socialist movement in April, 1965. Colin Jordan was at one of the meetings, and he said it would be a good idea to burn Jewish synagogues but could not give official backing to such a scheme." Chant was quoted as telling the police that Jordan said such acts were up to the individuals but he "did not wish to know anything about it if they got caught." He allegedly described to the police the details about how he had started one of the fires. The four remaining defendants were held for hearings December 1.

B'NAI B'RITH ADOPTS RECORD BUDGET OF \$4,887,000 FOR YOUTH ACTIVITIES

WASHINGTON, Nov. 22: (JTA) -- The B'nai B'rith board of governors today voted a record budget of \$4,887,000 for youth activities for 1966 in view of "the threat of attrition in Jewish communal life if religious and cultural activities of Jewish youth are neglected." The new budget was an increase of \$215,000 over the 1965 budget and represented 42 percent of the \$11,500,000 B'nai B'rith will spend on a national level for all its activities next year. The figure does not include an estimated \$5,000,000 in locally financed activities.

Rabbi Jay Kaufman, B'nai B'rith executive vice-president, cited the spiral of increased enrollment of Jewish youths in college and the need to keep pace. An estimated 400,000 Jewish collegians must be served by Hillel foundations by 1970, he said. He revealed that 275 colleges have requested Hillel facilities. A total of 254 colleges are now served by Hillel.

On the teen-age level, the B'nai B'rith Youth Organization will have to serve 100,000 young people by 1970. B'nai B'rith Vocational Service now handles 40,000 annually in groups and as individuals in 22 cities and has long waiting lists. The board moved to accelerate proposals for a \$10,000,000 endowment fund for expansion of youth activities voted last May at the international convention in Tel Aviv. Maurice A. Weinstein, of Charlotte, N.C. was elected to a three year term as chairman of the B'nai B'rith International Council.

RABBI EULOGIZES PRESIDENT KENNEDY AT SERVICES ATTENDED BY JOHNSON

JOHNSON CITY, Texas, Nov. 22: (JTA) -- Rabbi Judah Fish, of Austin, Texas, speaking at memorial services for the late President Kennedy attended by President Lyndon B. Johnson, today said the nation could be thankful for the gift of Kennedy. The Rabbi told the interfaith service that "we pray that the causeless hatred which killed him will vanish from this earth."

JEWS WARNED ON MOSCOW'S CLAIMS OF EASING ANTI-JEWISH DISCRIMINATIONS

LONDON, Nov. 22; (JTA) -- British Jewry was warned today against being under the impression that the Soviet Government is relaxing its restrictions on Jews in the Soviet Union. It was urged to do everything possible to call the attention of the world to the continued oppression of Jewish religion and culture in Russia.

The warning was sounded by Sir Barnett Janner, Labor member of the British Parliament and former president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, in a report presented to the monthly meeting of the Board of Deputies of which he is the chairman of the foreign affairs committee.

In reviewing the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union at the present moment, Sir Barnett said that the Soviet Government has recently undertaken "a massive propaganda effort to disarm international public opinion" regarding the oppressions against Soviet Jewry which, he stated, are continuing despite all the official Soviet efforts to paint a brighter picture.

"It is impossible," he said, "for Jews in this country and abroad to watch the situation of the Jews in Russia without making their concern and misgivings known to the Soviet authorities. In recent months, certain claims have been made that there are improvements in the position of the Jewish community in the Soviet Union; Hardly a week goes by without reports appearing in Western newspapers, and in Soviet publications appearing in the West, giving the impression that things are really beginning to change at last. But when one examines these reports, it becomes clear they are mainly repetitions of the same few facts or promises.

"There have been three Yiddish books published in the USSR in editions of 15,000 each. Many of these books are sent to Western countries. Those that remain are obviously inadequate for the needs of the half-million Soviet Jews whose mother tongue is Yiddish and who have been deprived of their culture for nearly 20 years.

Anti-Jewish Articles Still Appear in Soviet Newspapers

"Each of these books," Sir Barnett pointed out, "has been massively publicized by the Soviet authorities -- not in the Soviet Union itself but in the world outside. First there were scores of reports announcing that each book was planned; Then there was another big propaganda offensive announcing that the book was in preparation; Finally, the insignificant edition was ready, and the news was repeated in the Soviet press and radio reports to the West for weeks and months.

"In the same way, some promises of amelioration of restrictions on Jewish religious life in the Moscow community have not only been given constant repetition, but have also been presented as if they somehow applied to the religious life of the whole Soviet Jewish community -- which, of course, they do not. To add substance to all this, Pravda noted, for the first time in many years, a (Communist) Party reference to the fact that Lenin had condemned anti-Semitism.

"The fact is that the Soviet Union is still the only country in Eastern Europe that has made no attempt to deal responsibly and realistically with the tragic problem of reunification of Jewish families who still, today, suffer the after-effects of the Nazi destruction of entire communities of the Jewish people."

Sir Barnett stressed that "disgusting anti-Jewish articles still appear in Soviet newspapers, masquerading as propaganda against Judaism." Outside the main Soviet centers visited by tourists, he declared, "the Jews are still without synagogues or are hindered in their religious observance, and all synagogues are subject to harassment by Soviet security authorities. Nothing has been done to give Soviet Jews the most elementary national educational facilities or the minimal requirements necessary to keep alive their culture and their national historical identity."

The Anglo-Jewish leader then criticized the USSR sharply for the recent efforts of its delegation to the United Nations to have Zionism equated with Nazism as an amendment to a U.N. convention calling for the elimination of all forms of racial intolerance. The Soviet delegation had introduced such an amendment in an effort, which succeeded, to wipe out a proposed United States amendment condemning anti-Semitism.

"It is clearly impossible for us," Sir Barnett told the Board of Deputies, "to stand by and watch this situation without making our concern and our misgivings known to the Soviet authorities; The Jewish community in this country and in other countries cannot be indifferent to the plight of Soviet Jews, to whom many of us are related by the closest family ties; The fact that they are allowed no organization, no voice in their own affairs, makes our responsibility ever greater:

"We must, therefore, do everything in our power to bring their plight to the attention of public opinion and to influence the Soviet Government by all means available to us, to give full justice and equality to them at last," he urged.

UNITED HIAS CONFERENCE HEARS REPORT ON JEWISH MIGRATION INCREASE

NEW YORK, Nov. 22: (JTA) -- Jewish migration in many parts of the world is increasing with Jewish men, women and children "flocking" to the offices of the United Hias Service seeking help that they hope will come in time, Murray I. Gurfein, United Hias president, said here yesterday.

Addressing the 36th annual meeting of the United Hias Council of Organizations, Mr. Gurfein noted that, in addition to the increase in Jewish migration expected into this country as a result of the new United States immigration law, the reopening of the doors of Cuba will add to the responsibility of United Hias. "Most of the 2,500 Jews still in Cuba," he said, want to come to the United States. United Hias has already received inquiries from relatives here concerning more than 1,200 of these people."

James P. Rice, executive director of the migration agency, reported that United Hias "will provide migration and related services to some 64,000 people this year including 12,050 from Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and Cuba, who will be assisted to resettle in free Western countries." Awards were presented at the meeting to Congressman Emanuel Celler, New York Democrat, for his role as a "champion of liberalized immigration legislation," and to the Workmen's Circle, a Jewish Fraternal order, on the occasion of its 65th anniversary.

U. S. RELIGIOUS ZIONISTS ASK FEDERATIONS TO FINANCE DAY SCHOOLS

LONG BEACH, N. Y., Nov. 22: (JTA) -- The Religious Zionists of America concluded their five-day national convention here last night with the adoption of a resolution calling on Jewish federations and welfare funds in the United States to extend maximum financial support to Hebrew day schools. The delegates also urged more unified action on the part of all Orthodox bodies in this country to strengthen traditional Jewish institutions.

In other resolutions, the convention called on the Soviet Union to grant full guarantees of freedom to that country's 3,000,000 Jewish citizens; urged the United States "and other freedom-loving countries to use their good offices to compel Egypt to open the Suez Canal to all countries trading with Israel" and to "discourage and stifle the Arab boycott of Jewish merchants and businessmen who deal with Israel." The delegates also voiced disapproval of the shipment by American firms of military equipment to Saudi Arabia and urged support for the adoption and approval of the United Nations Convention on Genocide.

Elected to head the organization during the coming year was a presidium of three members including Dr. Maurice Sage and Rabbi Herschel Schacter, both of New York; and Gabriel Feigenbaum, of Cleveland.

BOARD DECIDES TO REVITALIZE HERZLIAH HEBREW TEACHERS INSTITUTE IN N. Y.

NEW YORK, Nov. 22: (JTA) -- Decisions to revitalize and continue the development of the Herzliyah Hebrew Teachers Institute here were adopted at a meeting of the Institute's board of trustees this weekend. The Institute, where Rabbi Abraham Horowitz is dean, is one of the major and most successful teacher training institutions in the United States.

The board, which met at the home of Jacob Goodman, elected Mr. Goodman as chairman of the board of trustees. Other officers elected were: Mendel Haber, president; Dr. George Gorin, vice-president; Jacob Goodman, treasurer; and Prof. David Sidorsky, secretary. Dr. Azriel Eisenberg was chosen chairman of an ad hoc professional advisory committee.

AMERICAN LABOR LEADER HONORED BY HISTADRUT; \$25,000 RAISED FOR FUND

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 22: (JTA) -- Yehoshua Levy, treasurer of Histadrut, and John F. Henning, Under Secretary of Labor, paid tribute tonight to James J. O'Neill, president of the Philadelphia Building Trades Council at a joint labor-management dinner which raised \$25,000 for the Histadrut Scholarship Fund in honor of the labor leader.

Mr. O'Neill, a member of Philadelphia's City Planning Commission, in accepting the honor which will be linked with the Histadrut scholarship program aiding secondary school education in Israel, hailed Histadrut's role in lifting the dignity of labor in the Middle East.

ADOLPH HELD GIVEN FIRST ELEANOR ROOSEVELT AWARD FOR AID TO SENIOR CITIZENS

NEW YORK, Nov. 22: (JTA) -- Adolph Held, national chairman of the Jewish Labor Committee and a manager of the Jewish Daily Forward, was presented today with the first Eleanor Roosevelt Award at a luncheon attended by labor leaders, members of the Workmen's Circle and representatives of senior citizens clubs: Franklin D. Roosevelt, Jr., chairman of the Federal Commission for Equal Opportunity in Employment, was guest speaker at the luncheon at which Mr. Held was cited for his efforts on behalf of senior citizens.