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GERMAN CHANCELLOR SAYS HE HOPES TO SOLVE PENDING QUESTIONS WITH ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21: (JTA) -- West German Chancellor Ludwig Erhard told the National Press Club today he hoped that the "modest and insignificant" questions remaining between West Germany and Israel would be solved and that he took personal satisfaction in his role in establishing diplomatic relations with Israel.

The Chancellor spoke in response to a question that recalled the "special German position" toward the Jewish people and Israel he voiced during the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel. He was asked to tell how this "special position" had been reflected in the development of West German-Israeli relations.

Mr. Erhard stated that one now could say that relations between West Germany and Israel have been consolidated and the problem of Israel settled on an inter-Governmental level. He stressed he had undertaken "great efforts" to establish diplomatic relations and was "happy" to have been able to take appropriate steps at the decisive hour. The Chancellor expressed hope that remaining questions -- which he termed "modest and insignificant" when compared with past problems -- could also be solved on a mutually agreeable basis.

Mr. Erhard was also asked why a nuclear non-proliferation treaty that would prevent Israel, India, Sweden, and Japan from developing nuclear weapons was considered discriminatory by Bonn. He answered that his country was interested in limiting the number of nuclear powers but thought settlement of the NATC nuclear arms question had priority over the issue of the non-proliferation treaty. He thought his position was in line with that of the United States Government.

JOHNSON ASKED TO INTERVENE WITH ERHARD ON PAYMENTS TO NAZI VICTIMS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 21: (JTA) -- The American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service asked President Johnson today to discuss with Chancellor Ludwig Erhard, the West German Government's decision to defer payments to Nazi victims.

In a wire sent by the Committee on Migration and Refugee Problems, President Johnson's interest in the matter was "respectfully requested in order to avoid serious hardship for thousands of eligible deserving persons of all faiths." The committee is composed of Catholic, Protestant, non-sectarian and Jewish relief and resettlement agencies, including the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Hias Service.

West German Ambassador Heinrich Knappstein said today he had received a petition from the Jewish Nazi Victims Organization of America, asking Chancellor Erhard not to sign the new Bundestag law curtailing payments to victims and that he transmitted the petition to the Chancellor.

The petition was given to the Ambassador by the group's president, Moses I. Gocahevsky, and its secretary, Felix Lasky. The petition said West Germany's obligation to honor commitments for indemnification of Jews who escaped Iron Curtain countries after October 1, 1953, was an "obligation of honor" and should be fulfilled. It expressed Jewish concern lest the new restrictions are imposed and victims of the Nazis suffer further hardship through denial of the promised indemnification.

Jews in Mexico Request Germany Not to Defer Payments

MEXICO CITY, Dec. 21: (JTA) -- The Central Committee of the organized Jewish community of Mexico asked the West German Ambassador here today to pass on to the Bonn Government a request that indemnification payments due in 1965 to certain groups of victims of Nazism, including about 150,000 Jews, should not be deferred. The envoy said he would forward the request to the authorities in Bonn.

(Similar requests have been submitted by Jewish groups in a number of countries during the last days, according to reports received by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. The German Ambassadors in those countries pledged to transmit these requests to their Government in Bonn.)

U.N. ASSEMBLY ADOPTS CONVENTION ON HUMAN RIGHTS; AFFECTS JEWS IN RUSSIA

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 21: (JTA) -- A most far-reaching instrument guaranteeing to all people in all countries, including the Soviet Union, fullest enjoyment of all human rights was adopted here today without dissent by a plenary session of the General Assembly.

The document, an International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Intolerance, defines "racial discrimination" as applicable to all persons or groups of any race, color, descent or national or ethnic origin. It orders specifically, among the many rights:

- 1) The right to education and training;
- 2) The right to equal participation in cultural activities;
- 3) The right of any individual to leave his own country or to return to that country;
- 4) The right of any individual or group to file a petition directly to a special 18-member United Nations committee, complaining against violation of human rights by the country in which the individual or group lives;
- 5) Protection of an individual filing a complaint against his own country from disclosure of such an individual's identity;
- 6) The right of a state to file complaints against another state accused of violating human rights.

The Convention also orders all states ratifying the instrument to prohibit formation of or practices by all organizations based on theories of racial or ethnic superiority. It condemns all such ideas and practices and calls upon states to make organizations of that type illegal and to punish practitioners of racism. It prohibits the state itself, as well, from engaging in any practices of that kind, outlaws racist propaganda and bans incitement to racial discrimination.

The convention was adopted by a vote of 106 in favor to none against. Only one member state, Mexico, abstained, due to internal parliamentary requirements. The Convention will go into force 30 days after it had been ratified by 27 states, including not only members of the United Nations but also many others, like West Germany, that are members of affiliated U.N. bodies like the specialized agencies and the Hague Tribunal.

Draft Forbidding Religious Intolerance Is Still Pending

A draft that would forbid all religious intolerance is still pending. But it was pointed out that the Convention adopted today protects many groups, like the Jews in the USSR, from many discriminations because the instrument protects all ethnic and national groups. In the USSR, Jews are considered a national group, while at the United Nations Jews are considered by many experts and delegations as an ethnic group.

One of the most significant clauses in the Convention adopted today, in the view of many observers here, including those representing world Jewish bodies, is an article providing for the right of individuals to complain against their own governments, if such a government is a party that had ratified the instrument. Thus, any individual or group in any country will have the right, for the first time in history, to take this type of grievance directly to a special U.N. body, and the individual's identity will be guarded against possible retaliation by his government.

Every world Jewish organization having consultative status at the United Nations has been pressing for the adoption of the Convention, despite the fact that an amendment proposing condemnation of anti-Semitism, introduced by the United States and Brazil, had been killed in earlier presentations through the intervention of the Soviet Union.

U.N. BODY VOTES \$33,900,000 FOR FORCE PATROLLING ISRAEL-EGYPT BORDER

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Dec. 21: (JTA) -- A \$33,900,000, two-year budget for the United Nations Emergency Force -- the military group that patrols the borders between Israel and Egypt -- was voted here last night by the General Assembly's Administrative and Budgetary Committee. The decision was taken by a vote of 38 to 14 over the opposition of the Soviet Union, which contends that the force was set up illegally and has refused to help pay for it.

The budget called for a 1965 appropriation totaling \$18,911,000, and a reduction by 1966 to \$15,000,000. It set up new rules for payments by members toward the UNEF expenses. Under the new rules, members considered "economically less developed" would pay each year a total of only \$800,000, the remaining \$14,200,000 to be paid by member states considered "developed." For the purpose of this breakdown, Israel was listed among the "less developed lands."

RUSSIA SEEN MAKING 'TOKEN CONCESSIONS' TO JEWS; NO FUNDAMENTAL CHANGES

NEW YORK, Dec. 21: (JTA) -- The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, which is composed of 24 national Jewish organizations, today issued an 'interim report' on the present situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union, declaring that "token concessions, promises and some real changes" have been made by the Soviet authorities with regard to Jewish religion and culture but they constitute "no fundamental improvement in the situation of Jewish life in the USSR."

The report said that recent events in the Soviet Union have raised "guarded hopes" that the Soviet government is changing its policy toward the Jews and that the situation of Soviet Jewry is undergoing fundamental improvement. "But closer analysis shows that the Soviet aim is still the assimilation of Russian Jewry, which continues to be denied the cultural, religious, educational and communal institutions and facilities whereby it might perpetuate its distinctiveness," the report stressed.

Detailing and analyzing the "concessions, promises and changes" that have been introduced into Soviet Jewish life, the report noted:

1. Halting of the campaign of prosecution of Jews for alleged economic crimes, which had resulted in frequent sentences of death, and been accompanied by vituperative anti-Semitic articles in the controlled Soviet press. "In itself, the halt in prosecutions represents no shift in the basic Soviet policy of attrition of Jewish group identity," the report stated;

2. Permitting the limited baking and sale of matzoh for Passover 1965 in Moscow, Leningrad and a few other cities; This, the report emphasized, still left most of the Jewish masses outside the large cities without this staple of the Passover observance. Before 1957, matzoh was available in State stores rather than only in synagogues, it pointed out.

3. Enlargement of the single Yiddish periodical published in the Soviet Union, *Sovietish Heimland*, inclusion in it of articles on Jewish history and Jewish literature, and increased frequency of its publication (from bi-monthly to monthly); also publication of several volumes of Yiddish literature, including a novel in Yiddish for the first time since 1948; "All this is welcome but does not obscure the paucity and slowness of the publication program. The appearance of a handful of books cannot be mistaken for a real publication program," the Conference report commented.

Attention Drawn to Premier Kosygin's Condemnation of Anti-Semitism

4. Promises to the rabbi of Moscow's main synagogue that the publication of 10,000 prayer books in Hebrew would be permitted, that 15 to 20 students would be admitted to the Moscow Yeshivah which has been virtually shut down since 1962, and that matzoh would be freely available in Moscow for Passover 1966. "These promises," the Conference stated, "were accompanied by a curiously sad note. Silence has prevailed about them in the Soviet Union, although they were broadcast by Radio Moscow on its overseas transmission.

5. A gala performance in Moscow of the Shostakovitch Thirteenth Symphony, including a choral rendering of the Yevtushenko poem Babi Yar, was in contrast to two years ago, when both the symphony and the poem were virulently denounced and withdrawn from the Soviet repertoire. "This is seen as suggesting the possibility of a reversal of the Soviet policy of silence about the Jewish victims of the Nazi holocaust, were it not for the notable failure of Soviet authorities to break this silence even in the inscriptions on monuments to Nazi victims," the Conference report declared.

6. The "public and authoritative condemnation of anti-Semitism" by no less a personage than Premier Kosygin and in no less official a publication than Pravda is evaluated as "the most significant development" of recent months. Seen in its context, however, the Conference said that the Kosygin statement "was not principled or based on morality but on tactical and strategic grounds" -- the image of the Soviet Union abroad. Nevertheless, the condemnation is to be taken seriously, the report holds, as "a signal that anti-Semitism is not in favor." At the same time, the move is balanced by the Conference against the successful Soviet maneuver in the United Nations, during recent weeks, to prevent an explicit denunciation of anti-Semitism from being included in an international "Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination."

The Conference concluded that the "Soviet leadership is sensitive and troubled. Moscow is vulnerable; it is susceptible to the pressure of world opinion; it does move in response to it;" In a statement accompanying the report, the organizations comprising the Conference renewed their pledge not to rest from their efforts to keep world opinion focused on the situation of Soviet Jewry "until it has been accorded the rights and privileges available to other national-ethnic-religious groups in the Soviet Union;"

CHANUKAH MARRIED IN YONKERS BY FIERCE FIRE IN JEWISH CENTER; 12 DEAD

YONKERS, N.Y., Dec. 21: (JTA) -- The celebration of Chanukah in the Yonkers Jewish community was marred by a fire tragedy last night that took the lives of nine children and three adults at the Yonkers Jewish Community Center. Police Chief William Folsen said the fire was the worst in Yonkers history.

County and city officials today opened an investigation into the cause of the flash fire which trapped a class of children taking music lessons and three instructors in a room on the fourth floor of the Center. Most of the 100 children in the building were led to safety. Many children made their way along ledges four stories above the ground until they reached firemen's ladders. The child victims included three sets of brothers and sisters, aged seven to 11.

Nine other persons were injured in the blaze and four remained hospitalized. The children had been seated in a room on the fourth floor waiting for after-school music lessons to start, when smoke began to filter into the room. The victims all apparently died from smoke poisoning.

MAX FISHER, U. J. A. CHAIRMAN, LAUDED IN ISRAEL AS 'DYNAMIC PERSONALITY'

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21: (JTA) -- Max M. Fisher, of Detroit, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, was lauded here today by Louis Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency, as "a dynamic personality who has successfully permeated the UJA with new spirit."

Mr. Pincus, who attended the recent national conference of the UJA, in New York, made that statement to the weekly meeting of the Agency, where he reported on his participation in that UJA conference.

CONGRESS ON NUCLEAR MEDICINE OPENS IN ISRAEL; 75 PAPERS PRESENTED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21: (JTA) -- Benefits to medicine developing from the application of nuclear energy were stressed yesterday at the opening of a two-day Second National Congress of Nuclear Medicine here.

The report on the medical phase was presented by Prof. E.D. Bergman, chairman of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission which, together with the Israel Medical Association and the Tel Aviv University Medical School, is sponsoring the event. More than 75 papers are scheduled for presentation, compared with 17 at the first Congress five years ago.

JEWISH AGENCY TO FORMULATE 'MASTER PLAN' FOR TEACHING HEBREW IN SCHCOOLS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 21: (JTA) -- The education department of the Jewish Agency is planning the modernization of textbooks and teaching aids, and the formulation of a "master plan" for teaching Hebrew and Zionist subjects in Jewish schools abroad, it was announced here today by Itzhak Harkavi, head of the department.

The announcement was made at a meeting attended by 140 Israeli teachers who had spent the last year in Jewish communities abroad. Rehabean Amir, director of the department, said that fewer teachers will be sent abroad next year, due to manpower shortages. Plans are under way, he told the meeting, to turn each teacher into a seminar instructor for training other teachers.

FIRST MOSQUE BUILT IN ISRAEL SINCE ESTABLISHMENT OF STATE DEDICATED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21: (JTA) -- The first mosque built in Israel since establishment of the State was dedicated yesterday in Nazareth in the presence of thousands of well-wishers and dignitaries.

The El Salam Mosque, the largest in Israel, has seats for 1,300 worshipers and cost 500,000 pounds (\$157,000) of which 200,000 pounds (\$67,000) was contributed by the Ministry for Religious Affairs, which also presented to Mosque officials 50 books of the Koran. Participants in the dedication included representatives of all religious communities in Israel, officials of the Ministries of the Interior, Social Welfare and Premier's office.

SAMUEL TOLKOWSKY, NOTED ISRAEL AGRONOMIST AND AUTHOR, DEAD; WAS 79

TEL AVIV, Dec. 21: (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Samuel Tolkowsky, a noted Israeli agronomist and a pioneer of the citrus industry in this country, who died here at the age of 79. A famed author and scholar, Tolkowsky had also served as Israel's Minister to Switzerland.

Born in Antwerp, Tolkowsky studied agriculture in Belgium before settling in Palestine. After his arrival in this country, he pioneered new strains of citrus fruit and served as chairman and later president of the Citrus Marketing Board. He was the founder of the Israel Maritime League and remained its chairman until his death.

In the years prior to the Balfour Declaration, Tolkowsky lived in England where he acted as private secretary to Nahum Sokolow, the famed Zionist leader. Among his published works are a history of the Port of Jaffa and a history of the citrus fruit.