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## STATE DEPT. REPORTS ON U. S. INTERVENTION WITH BONN ON PAYMENTS TO JEWS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- United States Ambassador George McGhee discussed several times in Bonn with high officials of the German Government the legislation deferring payment of compensations in 1965 and 1967 to the Nazi victims who submitted their claims after 1953, the State Department revealed today.

The discussions took place prior to the passage of the new legislation in both houses of the West German Parliament, the State Department emphasized. "However, German budget considerations precluded any change" in the legislation, a Department communication stated.

The communication was addressed to Senator Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, by Douglas MacArthur 2nd, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional relations. The State Department official stressed that "a last minute amendment to the legislation will permit the Federal Government to adjust percentages at which claims will be satisfied during the next two years in accordance with circumstances of the case. This clause may particularly benefit older claimants and those in serious need." Mr. MacArthur noted that "West German Finance Minister Rolf Dablgren has said that he will consult with persecutee groups before issuing directives fixing percentages at which claims may be paid if the appropriations do not suffice for payments in full."

Sen. Javits said he considered the State Department response to his request for intercession with Bonn to have been inadequate and ineffectual. He made known that he intends to continue pursuit of justice for the Nazi victims who have been "arbitrarily denied indemnification solemnly promised by the West German Government."

### Jewish Labor Committee Asks Germany to Reverse Stand on Payments

NEW YORK, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- The Jewish Labor Committee sent cables today to West Germany's Chancellor Ludwig Erhard and Foreign Minister Gerhard Schroeder, requesting reversal of the Bonn Parliament's decision to defer 1965 and 1967 payments to certain victims of Nazism. The West German Parliament has passed a budget bill which includes deferment of such payments amounting to \$100,000,000 because of alleged "budget deficiencies."

In the telegrams, addressed to the two German leaders by Adolph Held, chairman of the JLC, Bonn was asked to reverse the Parliament's decision "in light of the moral issues" involved. The budget bill has not yet been enacted, pending its signature by the German president and chancellor, and publication in the Government's official gazette.

"The individuals concerned," stated the cables, "are, in many cases, old and destitute. The postponement of justice to them will, in large measure, be tantamount to denial of justice." The issue affects payments of German reparation to those victims of Nazism, including 150,000 Jews, who were unable to file restitution claims prior to a former cut-off date fixed at October 1, 1953, when these victims were still in countries behind the Iron Curtain.

In the same messages, Mr. Held also called the German Government's attention to its failure to date to negotiate an economic agreement with Israel, expressing the hope that Bonn "will act with due dispatch" on this matter. Germany had promised last spring, when it decided on the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel, to negotiate such a pact. "We are profoundly concerned," stated the JLC messages, "that so long a period has elapsed since promises of negotiation were made, and yet no action has been forthcoming from your Government."

### So: African Jewry Protests German Deferment of Compensation Payments

JOHANNESBURG, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- The South African Jewish Board of Deputies today lodged a protest with the West German Ambassador in Pretoria for transmission to his government against the deferment of payment of indemnification claims during 1966 and 1967.

The protest draws attention to the fact that the effect of the legislation will be to force a moratorium for a substantial proportion of the awards to claimants who have been waiting for indemnification for many years; and a large number of persons, many of them old and needy, will be gravely prejudiced.

EUROMART EXECUTIVE RELAXES STAND ON IMPORT OF ORANGES FROM ISRAEL

BRUSSELS, Dec. 23; (JTA) -- The executive commission of the European Common Market proposed yesterday a reduction in the minimum price for imported oranges, which will ease a crippling threat to Israeli citrus sales in the six Euromart countries.

At the insistence of Italy, the only Euromart country selling citrus fruit to other Euromart countries, a reference price system was set up which would have boosted retail prices substantially on citrus fruits imported from Israel, Spain and Morocco; Israel and the two other non-member countries had protested the plan strongly.

The commission's new proposal goes to the Euromart Council of Ministers, the key decision-making body of the six-nation trade bloc, which is expected to approve it.

Israel Receives News of Relaxation with Great Satisfaction

TEL AVIV, Dec. 23; (JTA) -- Israeli citrus growers and economic circles receive here today with considerable satisfaction the decision of the executive commission of the European Common Market to cancel the minimum reference prices for imported oranges, which would have caused great losses to Israel's citrus export trade.

Under the original proposal, the six-nation trade bloc set a price on imported oranges which would have forced Israel to pay about \$20 per ton on its orange exports to a European fund to support the development of Italian agriculture. It also would have forced retail prices up for Israeli oranges in the six nations. Under the new arrangement, the minimum price will approximate the real price of Israeli citrus fruits in the Euromart countries.

The change was credited here to a large extent to the coordination of Israeli protests with two countries with which it does not have diplomatic relations -- Spain and Morocco. Those two countries, as major orange exporters to the Euromart countries, would also have been severely damaged by the original reference prices.

FORD FOUNDATION ANNOUNCES \$750,000 GRANT TO INSTITUTIONS IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 23; (JTA) -- The Ford Foundation announced here today a new grant of \$750,000 to the Israel Foundation Trustees, bringing the total given by the Ford group to the IFT to \$2,650,650 since 1958. The grant continues Ford Foundation support of research by Israeli institutions on problems related to the country's social and economic development.

The Israeli Foundation Trustees, with headquarters in Jerusalem, has on its board of directors representatives of many major educational and research institutions. Among them are the Hebrew University, Tel Aviv University, Bar-Ilan University, Technion-Israel Institute of Technology, the Weizmann Institute of Science, the Negev Institute for Arid Zone Research and the Israel Atomic Energy Commission.

NAZI COMMANDO CHIEF APPEARS AS WITNESS AT TRIAL FOR KILLING OF JEWS

BONN, Dec. 23; (JTA) -- A former chief of a Nazi commando unit appeared today as a witness in a trial in Wuppertal of four former subordinates charged with mass-killing of Jews, after being guaranteed safe conduct from Italy to the trial site and back.

Eberhard Kroger, whose extradition to West Germany to face war crimes charges was refused by Italian authorities on grounds that wartime mass shootings were "political offenses" under Italian law, testified that he was unable to remember anything of relevant importance. He said he remembered only one of the four defendants but that he could not say whether that defendant had taken part in the shootings.

Even when one of the defendants reminded his former Nazi chief that the shootings had in fact taken place, Kroger said this was impossible. The Wuppertal jury insisted on hearing Kroger, a former SS general, at least as a witness. The court agreed to his request for safe conduct as well as for payment of his expenses for the round trip. After his testimony, Kroger returned to Italy as a free man.

GERMAN EX-POLICEMAN SENTENCED FOR PARTICIPATING IN KILLING JEWS

BONN, Dec. 23; (JTA) -- Karl Dietrich, a 52-year-old former police captain, was sentenced yesterday by a court in Detmold to a term of four years at hard labor for participation in the murder of 30 Jews in occupied Byelorussia in March of 1942. The prosecution had demanded a five-year sentence. The defense had asked for the former Nazi's acquittal.

PRESIDENT DE GAULLE SAYS HE CANNOT PLAN NOW A VISIT TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 23; (JTA) -- President De Gaulle telegraphed President Shazar yesterday that he could not yet make plans to visit the Middle East and accept the Israeli President's invitation to visit Israel but that he might take up the invitation later, it was disclosed here today.

PRESIDENTS OF THE MAJOR RABBINICAL GROUPS DISCUSS JEWISH EDUCATION

WASHINGTON, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- The presidents of the three major American rabbinical groups today expressed common concern about the need to strengthen Jewish education, speaking in a symposium held here at the annual conference of B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation directors.

Rabbi Israel Miller, of the Rabbinical Council of America (Orthodox), Rabbi Jacob Weinstein, of the Central Conference of American Rabbis (Reform), and Rabbi Max Routtenberg, of the Rabbinical Assembly (Conservative), agreed that pluralistic Judaism "is here to stay" and that theological differences separating branches of Judaism should not deter common efforts to promote Jewish identification. Each Rabbi endorsed the "ecumenicity" of the setting as a welcome first step toward closer relationships among Jewish elements. Rabbi Weinstein commented that such joint discussion of mutual problems "has been a long time coming."

The 85 Hillel rabbis at the conference vigorously applauded when Rabbi Routtenberg deplored efforts toward "fragmentizing Jewish youth on the college campus." The Hillel directors have been critical of "institutional competition" among the three bodies, and have warned that "divisiveness threatens to spill over into the campus community." Rabbi Routtenberg said that Jewish students, in their intellectual quest for modern relevancy in Judaism, "couldn't care less about the theological hair-splitting and ritual differences." He said that "enclaves" that might isolate Jewish students from the rest of the college community were neither possible nor desirable in America.

Rabbi Miller said "the mood of Orthodoxy is changing from the belligerent negativism" of an older generation under the impact of modern life to a "cautious optimism" about Jewish survival. Rabbi Weinstein stressed that the remedy to ineffectual Jewish education among teenagers would not be found in "crash programs" of extensive day schools or missionizing non-Jews to replace assimilating youth, but in mobilizing "the community's resources for a long, upward and expensive battle."

Rabbi Jay Kaufman, B'nai B'rith executive vice-president, summarizing the symposium, urged the three leaders to continue the momentum developed at today's meeting. He stressed the need for congregational bodies to recognize "a continuing obligation to college students" by accepting the Hillel movement as their representatives on campus. He said that B'nai B'rith does not want the Hillel Foundations to become "another and separate branch of Judaism."

HIGH-RANKING PRIEST IN SPAIN MEETS WITH JEWS; FIRST SINCE EXPULSION

NEW YORK, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- A high-ranking Spanish priest representing the Franco regime met with a group of American Jews, including two rabbis, probably for the first time in 473 years, and was extremely cordial to the Americans, it was reported here today by the National Jewish Welfare Board.

The meeting was held in the Madrid Naval Ministry last month on the invitation of Rev. Fidel Gomez Colombo, chief chaplain of the Spanish Navy. The Jewish participants were Rabbi Selwyn D. Ruslander, of Temple Israel, Dayton, Ohio; Lester Emoff, a member of that temple; and Rabbi Nathan Landman, U. S. Air Force chaplain serving Jewish personnel in France, Spain and North Africa. Present also was Cesar F. Pardo de Cela, curator of the Spanish Naval Museum.

According to Rabbi Landman's report to the JWB, it is believed that no such official meeting between Spanish Catholic leaders and Jews has been held in Spain since 1492, when two Jewish leaders tried unsuccessfully to persuade the Spanish authorities to revoke the order for the expulsion of Spanish Jewry.

"Only a year has passed since Franco's Government officially tendered recognition to the Jewish community of Madrid and its synagogue," Rabbi Landman reported. "The official reception of two rabbis by a high church official signifies an additional step in the process of the reestablishment of Jewry after a hiatus of almost 500 years in the Iberian Peninsula."

The Madrid meeting, Rabbi Landman said, had been initiated by Father Gomez Colombo after the U. S. Air Force chief of chaplains notified the Spaniards that the American rabbis would visit Madrid in the course of a series of Torah convocations for European bases in England, Germany, France, Spain and Turkey. During the visit to the Naval Museum, Rabbi Landman also reported, the curator told the Jewish visitors that Christopher Columbus was a Marrano.

Document on Role of Spanish Jews in Science Stolen from Archives

MADRID, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- An important document in Hebrew and Spanish, dating back to 1496 and dealing with the contributions made by Spanish Jews to the fields of medicine, astronomy and navigation, has been stolen from the city archives of Valencia, officials here announced today.

The document reported data of general interest, detailing the participating of Spanish Jews in sea discovery voyages.

CATHOLIC INSTITUTIONS CONDUCT 'CHANUKAH' PROGRAMS; CANDLES LIGHTED

NEW YORK, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- The spirit of ecumenism was manifested today in several Chanukah programs held in Catholic institutions in several parts of the country for Catholic adults and children.

In Chicago, an audience of Catholics and Jews watched as parishioners of the Queen of the Universe Church formed the traditional Menorah, each person holding a candle. The "Christianized" version was enacted so that members of the Catholic congregation "could try and get closer to our Jewish neighbors and friends," said Rev. Stanley Ryzner, pastor. He added that the purpose was to "foster deeper understanding and greater respect for the Jewish faith in keeping with the ecumenical spirit;" Rabbi Gershon Rosenstock of the Lawn Manor Hebrew Congregation, served as commentator.

Another such program was a Chanukah candle-lighting event at the Resurrection Academy in Rye, N.Y., designed according to school officials, to show the relationship between the Old and New Testaments and a similarity of Jewish and Christian traditions. Three students lighted the candles of a Menorah candlebraum while a Sister stood by in the first program of its kind at the Catholic school.

NON-JEWISH INSTITUTIONS IN YONKERS OFFER AID TO BURNED JEWISH CENTER

NEW YORK, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- Offers of help from Jews and non-Jews from all parts of the country are pouring into the offices of the Yonkers Jewish Community Center where a fire snuffed out the lives of nine children and three instructors Monday night, the National Jewish Welfare Board reported today.

Sanford Solender, executive vice-president of the JWB, said that in Yonkers, the Young Women's Christian Association had provided space to the Jewish Center for a temporary office and the Young Men's Christian Association had offered its facilities for Jewish Center programming. Synagogues, churches, women's organizations and fraternal orders in Yonkers have offered help and the local Junior Chamber of Commerce announced it was eager to conduct a community-wide fund-raising drive to restore the Jewish Center building, he said.

At the same time, the JWB distributed to its 800 affiliated Centers and YW-YMHAs a special listing of safety guides as a step to help avert similar tragedies. The JWB memorandum to the Centers throughout the country said that "a life-consuming fire has been virtually unknown in Jewish Community Center history" and that the safety guides list had been prepared to assure that "never again will such a tragedy occur;" JWB affiliated Centers throughout the country had offered to hold fund-raising drives and to loan equipment and supplies to the stricken Yonkers Center.

'MIDSTREAM' LAUNCHED AS MONTHLY MAGAZINE; DR. NEUMANN OUTLINES POLICY

NEW YORK, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- The publication of "Midstream" as a monthly magazine, published by the Theodor Herzl Foundation, was launched here today at a luncheon attended by a selected group of 75 writers, scholars and Jewish leaders, held under the chairmanship of Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Foundation. The magazine appeared as a quarterly for the last 10 years.

Speakers at the luncheon included, in addition to Dr. Neumann, Michael Arnon, Consul General of Israel, Maurice Samuel and Shlomo Katz, editor of the publication. Dr. Neumann hailed the expansion of "Midstream" from a quarterly to a monthly as a notable contribution to the wider understanding and interpretation of contemporary world Jewish issues. "Much has changed during the past decade," he said. The tempo of world events has gained momentum. A generation of young people has come to the fore who are alert to the issues that now confront public opinion to a greater degree than their predecessors of a decade ago.

"In its first decade of publication, Midstream has consistently aimed to serve as a forum of free inquiry and creative expression on all issues relevant to the context of our existence as Jews in a troubled world. We have defined ourselves as a Zionist journal, conceiving of Zionism as 'in essence a questioning of the Jewish status quo and as a steady confrontation of the problems of Jewish existence in Israel and the Diaspora.' In the condition of the Jewish people, which is dispersed -- or still dispersed -- all over the globe, this has placed us in confrontation with the major issues that face humanity today. The warm response of the reading public encouraged us to undertake the challenging task of transforming Midstream into a monthly."

ZIONIST CULTURAL CENTER DEDICATED IN DETROIT; NEW PROJECT ANNOUNCED

DETROIT, Dec. 23: (JTA) -- A new Zionist Cultural Center was dedicated here by the Zionist Organization of Detroit. Carmi M. Slomovitz, president of the Zionist Organization of Detroit who was one of the speakers announced that chemical laboratories at the Kfar Silver Agricultural School, in Israel, will be dedicated within the next two weeks. Construction of the laboratories was sponsored by the ZOD, in memory of the late Leon Kay.