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MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS URGE U. S. GOVT. TO HELP PROTECT ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- The Johnson Administration was urged tonight by the heads of 21 national Jewish agencies to help Israel protect itself against "an unmistakable buildup for war" by Arab governments.

In a statement, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations called on Mr. Johnson to make clear that the United States would "not accept the growing preponderance of arms in favor of the Arab governments." The statement was issued by Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the Conference of Presidents.

The statement cited recent large-scale Arab arms orders and acquisitions -- including modern Soviet jet fighters -- and quoted a declaration by Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser on November 18 that "it must be our unswerving purpose to destroy Israel." The statement urged the Johnson Administration "in the interest of peace no less than in the interest of justice" to make certain that Israel is capable of maintaining its deterrent strength.

"The Arab intention to destroy Israel is clear, and the Arab governments are now rapidly acquiring the means to fulfill this purpose," the statement declared. "In addition to the large military expenditures already budgeted in each separate Arab State, sums amounting to over \$350,000,000 have for the first time been allocated to the United Arab Command for the purchase of material and equipment."

Dr. Prinz, who is also president of the American Jewish Congress, said the threat of war in the Middle East could be averted "only if the Arab governments are persuaded that Israel remains capable of fighting off any act of aggression."

State Department Watching Israel's Nuclear Weapon Potential

WASHINGTON, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- The greatest immediate threat of nuclear proliferation in the Near East is arising in Israel and future aid and loans, including the pending nuclear desalination project, may be linked with agreement by Israel to desist from development of atomic weaponry, high-level U. S. sources revealed today. The subject of Israel's nuclear weapon potential will be closely observed during 1966, it was said, and measures sought to inhibit Israeli development along these lines.

State Department officials, meanwhile, said they had no comment nor confirmation of reports attributed to American officials that Israel has entered into a secret contract to buy medium-range ballistic missiles from France. The Department sought to publicly dissociate itself from these reports which some quarters have charged were deliberately "leaked" to obscure the developing issue of recently revealed American arms supply arrangements with Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

The deals with Jordan and Saudi Arabia are beginning to draw heavy Congressional fire. Congressional sources believe that the State Department is subtly and secretly advancing an Israeli nuclear arms question as a timely move to confuse the basic issue expected to explode next week when Congress reconvenes. Members of Congress have charged that the Administration has embarked on a new pursuit of Arab friendship through excessive arms arrangements that jeopardize Israel, promote an arms race, and increase Near Eastern tensions.

Rep. Jacob H. Gilbert, New York Democrat, today called for immediate reconsideration of the Administration's decision to send arms to Jordan and food to Egypt. In a letter to President Lyndon B. Johnson, the Congressman said the new decisions were "inimical to the interests of Israel and peace." He pointed out that Egypt would buy Soviet arms with money saved on food.

According to Rep. Gilbert, "it certainly does not seem to be prudent to arm Israel's enemies, escalate the arms race in the Near East, and to increase the chance of war in the area."

ISRAEL GOVT. DENIES WASHINGTON REPORT ON BUYING MISSILES FROM FRANCE

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Israeli Foreign Ministry denied here today that Israel was buying missiles from France, as reported over the weekend in a New York Times report from Washington.

The spokesman said that it is true only that Israeli research institutes are obtaining help from private French firms in the field of scientific missile research. The Washington report was dismissed officially as "without foundation." The Israeli press charged the report was "obviously inspired" to divert attention from increased United States arms shipments to Saudi Arabia and Jordan.

(A French Government spokesman in Paris also denied the accuracy of the Times report, saying that private French companies had been authorized to provide technical assistance to Israel. The spokesman denied specifically that Israel had already bought medium-range missiles from France.)

The report in the Times had tied France's alleged help to Israel in the missiles field to Israel's research work in the field of atomics, being carried on at Israel's reactor near Beersheba, built with French help. Israel has repeatedly asserted that the work at the reactor was of a research nature aimed at the use of atomic power for peaceful purposes.

The report claimed that Israel had already placed with France an order for 30 missiles capable of reaching a target 500 miles from Israel, thus making it possible for Israel to hit Egyptian territory. The report also said that "the current Israeli estimate is that the Egyptians have 80 to 90 missiles." The report noted that Cairo's missile build-up, aided by West German scientists, had resulted in the development of three different types of missiles with a range of 200 miles to 600 miles.

GOLDA MEIR TAKES LEAVE FROM CABINET; SERVED 17 YEARS AS MINISTER

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- Israel's caretaker Cabinet today held its last session, which was featured by a warm leave-taking of Foreign Minister Golda Meir. She announced two weeks ago that she is retiring from her post. Her retirement is believed to be due to her health.

In saying farewell to the members of the Cabinet, Mrs. Meir thanked the members of the Government, noting that she had first joined the Israeli Cabinet -- as Minister of Labor -- 17 years ago. Minister of the Interior Moshe Shapiro, one of the two Ministers in the body senior to Mrs. Meir in point of permanent service, lauded her contributions to the State on behalf of his colleagues. He said she was the "archtype of the Yiddishe Mama; always worried about the State."

RIFT OVER DIVISION OF PORTFOLIOS DELAYS FORMATION OF ISRAEL CABINET

JERUSALEM, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's plans to present his new Cabinet to the Knesset (Parliament) tomorrow were altered today, postponing the final Cabinet set-up until later this week or early next week, following a dispute between the two "alignment" partners over a division of portfolios in the new Government. The "alignment" partners are Mr. Eshkol's own Mapai Party and Achdut Avoda which, together, had won 45 out of 120 Knesset seats in the general elections held November 2.

The Cabinet was ready for presentation after an understanding had been reached between the National Religious Party and the remaining parties that had agreed to enter the new coalition. Those parties, in addition to the "alignment" and the NRP, are the left-wing Mapam and the Independent Liberal Party. Together, these groups, bolstered by the Mapai-affiliated Arab parties, hold 73 seats in the current Knesset.

The NRP had finally consented to join the coalition following a compromise agreement with the other parties about strengthening various religious laws, especially laws concerning stricter observance of the Sabbath. The compromise included the understanding that Sabbath work at the new port of Ashdod will be barred except in emergency situations.

SUPERMARKET MANAGER IN ISRAEL SENTENCED TO FOUR YEARS IMPRISONMENT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9: (JTA) -- Abraham Feinberg, 34, former manager of the Supersol supermarket chain in Israel, was sentenced here today to four years' imprisonment, after being found guilty of arson and of "juggling" the company's books.

Feinberg, who was born in Canada, was arrested 18 months ago after a fire had gutted the company's principal headquarters here, destroying the firm's books. The fire occurred after the company's home office, in Canada, had appointed an accountant to check suspected irregularities.

The District Court here which pronounced the sentence said that falsification of the Supersol's books were aimed to show profits instead of losses. The court noted that shareholders of Supersol had certified the fact that they had received from Feinberg 62,000 Israeli pounds (\$20,656) in damages, cancelling the claims against him.

NAZI VICTIMS PROTEST DEFERMENT OF GERMAN INDEMNIFICATION PAYMENTS

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- The law recently enacted by the German Federal Government deferring indemnification payments to special groups of Nazi victims was vigorously protested last night, at a meeting conducted under the auspices of the Coordinating Committee of Nazi Victim Organizations. The major organizations of Nazi victims in the United States are represented on the Coordinating Committee. Representatives of Nazi victims who came to this country from Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Yugoslavia attended the meeting.

The meeting was addressed by Dr. Ernst Katzenstein, the representative in Germany of the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Dr. Katzenstein pointed out that the new law empowered the German Government to defer payments of \$100,000,000 per year, in 1966 and in 1967, which were scheduled for distribution to Nazi victims in the scores of thousands. These payments were originally authorized by the German Government a brief three months earlier. The German action, Dr. Katzenstein said, will fall with the harshest severity upon thousands of indigent victims, among them many who are elderly, widowed or chronically ill.

Dr. Curt Silberman, who presided, told the meeting that the German Government's claim that financial pressures had impelled it to defer the indemnification payments had a hollow ring. The funds at stake, he pointed out, represented a mere fraction of 1 percent of the German budget.

The Coordinating Committee adopted a resolution calling upon the German Government to reverse its stand and to reinstate the indemnification payments. The resolution stated that Nazi victims all over the world and of every faith and nationality viewed the deferment with dismay and felt it could only lead to a loss of confidence in the promises of the German Government. The deferment was in sharp contradiction to statements issued by leading members of the German Government at the time the funds were originally granted, that the indemnification payments represented a debt of honor which took priority over other payments.

The resolution expressed deep regret that the deferment will represent a setback in the efforts to promote greater understanding between the new German democracy and the Nazi persecutees. In many instances, the injuries for which compensation was granted were inflicted as long as three decades ago, and many elderly, widowed and chronically ill victims may not live to receive the compensation which is rightfully theirs, unless the German Government will reverse its recent stand.

TRIAL OF 18 NAZIS CHARGED WITH KILLING JEWS TO LAST SEVERAL MONTHS

BONN, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Eighteen former members of a Nazi security police unit in Stanislaw, Galicia, will go on trial in Muenster in April on charges of wartime murder of thousands of Jews, it was announced this weekend. The indictment charges the 18 former Nazis with the murder of 120,000 victims in the Stanislaw district alone between 1941 and 1943.

Hans Krueger, 56, of Luedinghausen, the principal defendant, served as chief of the unit for more than a year, starting in August, 1941. The indictment charged that, under his command, the Nazi "final solution of the Jewish question" began with the murder of 600 Jewish doctors, lawyers and rabbis. The trial is expected to last several months with 179 survivors from several countries coming to Muenster to testify.

A survivor of the Czeszchowa ghetto broke down this weekend as he described to a Lueneburg war crimes trial court how one of the defendants sent his two children to a Nazi death camp. The witness was Moses Gluecksmann, 55, who testified that Paul Degenhardt, 70, commander of the ghetto in 1942 and 1943, ordered his two children, aged six and 12, sent to the Treblinka death camp where they were murdered.

Two other former members of Degenhardt's Nazi police unit, Kurt Jericho, 57, and Alfred Loebel, 51, are on trial with Degenhardt. The three are charged with the mass killing of Jews in the ghetto in occupied Poland. Degenhardt is charged with personally murdering or ordering the execution of 496 Jews in the ghetto and with helping to select many thousands of the ghetto's 50,000 prisoners for the gas chambers of Treblinka. The witness described Degenhardt as "master of life and death" in the ghetto.

CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUES LAUNCH 'CRASH' PROGRAM ON YOUTH ACTIVITIES

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- The United Synagogue of America, national organization of the Conservative congregations, is launching a "crash" program of youth activities in an effort to bring American Jewish youth closer to Judaism, it was announced here last night by Henry N. Rapoport, newly-elected president of the United Synagogue. He outlined the plan at a dinner here where he was installed as head of the organization. More than 300 leaders of the United Synagogue attended the event.

He said the plan is to double the 24 day schools and seven summer camps already in operation with a total enrollment of 8,500 Jewish youngsters. A similar expansion program will be launched in the congregational afternoon schools, now numbering 750 in the United States and Canada, with a total enrollment of 150,000 students.

\$1,000,000 RAISED FOR EINSTEIN COLLEGE OF MEDICINE AT NEW YORK DINNER

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- More than \$1,000,000 was raised this evening for the Albert Einstein College of Medicine of Yeshiva University at the college's annual Founders Day dinner honoring Dr. Leo M. Davidoff, prominent neurosurgeon. Some 500 persons attended the event which was sponsored by the Society of Founders comprising persons who have contributed \$25,000 or more to the college.

JEWISH REFORM LEADERS DENOUNCE VIET NAM STATEMENT BY J.W.V. HEAD

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- The presidents of the lay and rabbinic arms of American Reform Judaism today sharply denounced as "callous irresponsibility" the Viet Nam statement of the head of the Jewish War Veterans after a recent government approved trip to Southeastern Asia.

At the same time, Rabbi Maurice N. Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis expressed "shock and dismay" that the president of the Jewish War Veterans, Milton A. Waldor, should term as "disgusting" statements by rabbis and United States Jewish organizations urging cessation of bombings and commencement of peace negotiations with North Viet Nam.

After a recent return from a government approved tour of South Viet Nam, Mr. Waldor, in a statement and interview, said that he was "disgusted by those groups, Jewish or non-Jewish, so concerned about the right to dissent, about the rights of the peace-niks, that they seem not to recognize that freedom requires responsibilities. They are less articulate about our country's right and need to wage a vigorous war against Communism in Viet Nam."

He is also quoted as saying that his group will seek "to mobilize and activate the American Jewish community to eradicate any doubts about the vital necessity for a decisive victory by whatever means required in Viet Nam. We will challenge the appeasers, the naive and the confused."

In their reply, Rabbis Eisendrath and Weinstein said: "These statements by the national commander of the JWV are profoundly disturbing. Bomb-rattling jingoism is no more tolerable from a Jewish source than from a militaristic general demanding that we bomb the 'enemy back to the stone age.' The bellicosity cries of the JWV fall somewhere to the right of the Pentagon and are totally inconsistent with the proclaimed policy of President Johnson and the vigorous American efforts to achieve negotiations and a settlement of the conflict. To demand 'a decisive victory by whatever means' is an outrageous statement of callous irresponsibility."

LADY SIEFF, NOTED BRITISH PHILANTHROPIST, DIES AT HER HOME IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Lady Sieff, noted British philanthropist, among whose other achievements was the establishment of the Daniel Sieff Institute at Rehovot, which later became the Weizmann Institute of Science, died at her Israeli home, at Tel Mond, yesterday. She was 75. Her husband, Lord Sieff, formerly Israel M. Sieff, who became a life baron only a week ago, was at her side when she died. She was a sister of the late Lord Marks of England.

As Mrs. Rebecca Sieff, the deceased was the co-founder with Mrs. Vera Weizmann of the Women's International Zionist Organization, 44 years ago. In 1938, the year she established a home in Israel due to a heart ailment, Mrs. Rebecca Sieff was instrumental in bringing to refuge in England 1,000 Jewish children who escaped from Nazi Germany. She was also a co-founder of the World Jewish Congress. In 1956, she narrowly escaped death when Fedayeen, Egyptian saboteurs, raided her estate in Tel Mond, blowing up her home and killing a member of her staff there.

The Daniel Sieff Institute which she founded at Rehovot had been established in memory of a son of the Sieffs. In 1960 she was made an officer of the Order of the British Empire in recognition of her welfare work.

KALMAN HEISLER, JEWISH POET, DIES IN NEW YORK; CAME TO U.S. IN 1921

NEW YORK, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Kalman Heisler, a well-known Yiddish poet, who died Thursday after an operation. He was 66. Born in Komarno, Poland, he came to the United States in 1921. He was the author of several books of Yiddish poetry.

PESACH BINETZKI, JEWISH POET, DIES IN TEL AVIV; IMMIGRATED AFTER THE WAR

TEL AVIV, Jan. 9. (JTA) -- Pesach Binetzki, a well-known Yiddish poet, died here at the age of 54. Born in Byalistok, where he started publishing Yiddish verse in 1937, he spent the war years in areas in the USSR unoccupied by the Nazis, emigrated to Poland in 1946, and came to Israel in 1949.