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1,500 TRANSIT WORKERS STRIKE IN TEL AVIV; BUS SERVICE DISRUPTED

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26; (JTA) -- Bus service was in a state of chaos here today as 1,500 workers and drivers of the Dan bus cooperative struck to protest the dismissal of 400 among them in a dispute over fare increases.

The city's transit troubles began Monday night when the bus cooperative demanded a 40 percent increase in fares and the Transit Fare Authority responded with a tentative offer of an eight percent increase. The Authority scheduled a further meeting tonight to consider the fare demands as further disruptions in bus service were threatened.

Israel's three bus companies announced they would start a shutdown tomorrow morning over the fare deadlock, "if the Authority gives in to Government pressure" against meeting their fare boost demands.

Government officials in turn began preparing emergency plans to operate the buses if the companies do halt service. Emergency headquarters were set up in the Transport Ministry and officials began making plans, their nature undisclosed, to operate the vehicles. It was reported that the Transport Ministry was determined not to yield to the bus companies and that it was prepared to face a lengthy halt in transport services.

STRINGENT ECONOMIES IN MUNICIPAL SERVICES ORDERED IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26; (JTA) -- Interior Minister Moshe Shapiro ordered today stringent economies in municipal services, declaring that there would be no new services nor expansion of existing services. He warned that towns which did not comply would not be permitted to raise their rates to meet cuts in government subsidies to municipalities.

The Israel Government will give preferential treatment, hereafter, only to industries that have a reasonable opportunity of developing large-scale exports, Minister of Commerce Haim Zadok announced. He identified the steps the new Cabinet intends to take to close the trade gap between Israeli imports and Israeli exports.

The principal criteria for future assistance, he said, will be to industrial production based on raw materials that can be profitably exploited; a high degree of know-how; industries that emphasize competition in quality rather than competition in prices; and products not overly protected in foreign countries for which there is a rising demand.

"Only those industries which, after a thorough examination, prove themselves able to stand up against foreign competition, and which have a reasonable opportunity of developing large-scale exports," he stated, "will be entitled to preferential treatment which the Government intends to channel through every means at its disposal."

TUNISIA DENIES ATTEMPTING TO BRING ABOUT ARAB-ISRAELI TALKS

PARIS, Jan. 26; (JTA) -- Official Tunisian sources here categorically denied today reports that Tunisian envoys in Asia and the Middle East were working to bring about an Arab-Israel conference patterned after the Soviet-sponsored Tashkent cease-fire between Pakistan and India.

The sources said they were convinced that no initiative of that kind had been undertaken by Tunisian representatives. The reports stemmed from a series of visits by Mongi Slim as personal representative of Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba to India and Iran and other Middle East capitals after the Tashkent settlement.

Earlier this week, Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban said, in response to the reports, that Israel would be ready to attend any conference at which it could meet with the Arabs.

ESHKOL DISCUSSES ARAB TERRORIST RAIDS WITH CHIEF OF STAFF

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26; (JTA) -- The renewal of El Fatah terrorist raids after an interval of several months was one of the topics discussed by Premier Levi Eshkol during a two-hour meeting today with Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, Israeli Chief of Staff. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin said that the raids were a "serious threat to the security of the State."

Infiltrators who entered Israel from Syria last Sunday night placed explosives near the reservoir at Yuval Village in the upper Galilee and fled to Lebanon.

JEWISH AGENCY EXECUTIVE PORTFOLIOS WILL BE ALLOCATED IN MARCH

LONDON, Jan. 26; (JTA) -- Mrs. Rose Halprin, a member of the Jewish Agency executive in New York, said here last night that a final decision on allocation of portfolios in the new Agency executive will be made at the March meeting of the executive.

The decision to delay distribution of portfolios, made by the newly-elected executive at the meeting of the World Zionist Actions Committee earlier this month, was attributed by Mrs. Halprin to difficulties in reaching an agreement at the Jerusalem meeting. She spoke at a meeting of officers of the British Zionist Federation.

She said she felt that the deliberations at the Zionist Actions Committee meeting had conveyed to the delegates a sense of urgency in dealing with such problems as Jewish education, aliya and fund-raising.

WIZO BANS CONSERVATIVE WORSHIP SERVICES IN ASHKELON INSTITUTION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 26; (JTA) -- A second recent case of a non-Orthodox congregation being barred from use of an organizational facility for worship services was reported here today.

The newly-formed Conservative congregation in Ashkeon has been informed by WIZO headquarters that it could no longer use a WIZO kindergarten for Sabbath services. The earlier case involved a refusal by the B'nai B'rith to allow use of a building in Tel Aviv by a new Reform congregation, a decision confirmed today by B'nai B'rith here.

The actions incensed non-Orthodox opinion in Israel. A typical reaction was a cartoon in Haaretz, showing a medieval knight labeled "B'nai B'rith" and a medieval Lady WIZO, both on a horse, charging with a fixed lance at a couple praying in a Reform pew.

Meanwhile, Prof. Efraim Urbach, a noted talmudic scholar on the faculty of the Hebrew University announced today the establishment of a non-political "Torah Jewry Movement," aimed at separation of religious affairs from party politics in this country. Prof. Urbach recently resigned from Eapael Hamizrachi. He stressed that the new movement is not intended to become another political party but that, on the contrary, its aim is the "depolitization" of religious life and institutions.

WINSTON CHURCHILL CHAIR INAUGURATED AT BAR-ILAN UNIVERSITY

LONDON, Jan. 26; (JTA) -- A Winston Churchill Chair of International Relations and Political Science at Bar-Ilan University in Israel was inaugurated here last night at a dinner of the British Friends of the University.

Alec Colman, who presided, said the chair would require 100,000 pounds (\$280,000). He added that he and a group of friends had already raised 25,000 pounds (\$70,000) and that he was confident British Jewry would provide the balance. He declared that the project bears the name of one of the greatest friends the Jewish people ever had.

Speakers at the dinner included Herbert Bowden, Member of Parliament and Lord Privy Seal, Aharon Remez, the Israeli Ambassador and Dr. Joseph H. Lookstein of New York, president of the university.

JEWISH WITNESS AT NAZI MURDER TRIAL DEFENDS ONE OF THE ACCUSED

BONN, Jan. 26; (JTA) -- A survivor of Nazi murder efforts in occupied Poland testified today at a trial of three former SS men in Luenzburg that one of the defendants was being tried without justification.

Zeev Toronczyk, 49, now a resident of Tel Aviv, gave the unique testimony at the trial of Paul Degenhardt, Kurt Jericho and Otto Loebel, who are accused of complicity in the murder of Jews in Czenstochowa in 1942 and 1943.

Although he gave deeply incriminating evidence against Degenhardt and Jericho, the witness said that Loebel had been "a good man" who had "helped us Jews in Czenstochowa" and "even helped a Jewish woman to escape." At the conclusion of his testimony, the witness shook hands with Loebel.

NAZIS IN GERMANY IRKED BY PLAN TO HONOR MEMORY OF JEWISH VICTIMS

BONN, Jan. 26; (JTA) -- A number of tombstones in the old Jewish cemetery in Efringen in the province of Baden were desecrated by unknown vandals, police reported today. The desecrations followed an announcement by the Efringen local council that it was planning to place a tablet at the cemetery gate to commemorate the memory of the 6,000,000 European Jews murdered by the Nazis.

AMERICAN RABBIS ADDRESS JESUITS ON JEWISH-CATHOLIC RELATIONS

WOODSTOCK, Md.; Jan. 26; (JTA) -- More than 200 seminarians and the entire faculty of a noted Jesuit institution attended a two-day institute on Jewish-Christian relations here; This is the first such institute to be held at a major Jesuit seminary since the promulgation of the Ecumenical Council's declaration on the Jews;

The institute was co-sponsored by the Woodstock College and the American Jewish Committee; The Baltimore chapter of the American Jewish Committee and the Baltimore Jewish Community Council cooperated in organizing the institute;

The Very Reverend F.F. Cardegn, S.J., Rector of Woodstock College extended greetings to the noted Jewish scholars, religious and communal leaders participating in the interfaith conference; Father J.A. Fitzmyer, S.J., Professor of New Testament and Biblical Languages chaired the opening session at which Rabbi Jacob B. Agus of Congregation Beth El, Baltimore, delivered a paper on "A Rabbinic View of the New Testament in the Context of the First Century;"

Rabbi Agus, who is a member of the Conservative branch of Judaism pointed out that "The Noachide laws plus the imitation of God in rabbinic literature and their counterpart in the New Testament provide us with the basic framework for the understanding of our relation to people of other faiths;

"First," he said, "we must distinguish between the dogmatic and ritual structure of our faith on the one hand, and its essential principles; Second, we must recognize a similar, though not an identical set of principles under the outer garments of other faiths; Third, we must admit the fragmentary and temporal nature of any attempt to define and formulate the dynamic core of religious principles; Fourth, the endeavor to apply these principles to the concerns of our community and our time is the common task of all the great faiths; Fifth, whatever formulation and application we achieve at any moment must still be under constant review and judgment, for the vision of perfection looms ahead of us.

"We do not seek to convert others to our historic faith, nor do we assume that all religions are equally true, nor do we profess to be interested only in exploring the objective domain of knowledge; We do meet on the common ground of knowledge in order the better to know others and ourselves," Rabbi Agus said;

Other speakers at the institute sessions included Rabbi Monford Harris of the College of Jewish Studies, Chicago, who spoke on "Judaism and Christianity in the Middle Ages: Myths and Realities;" Dr. Joseph Blau of Columbia University, who spoke on "The Modern Period: Emancipation and Post-Enlightenment;" Rabbi Abraham Shusterman, of Har Sinai Congregation, Baltimore, who spoke on "Contemporary Trends in Judaism;" Irving Blum, vice-president of the Associated Jewish Charities of Baltimore, who spoke on "Organization of the Jewish Community;" and Leon Sachs, director of the Baltimore Jewish Council, who spoke on "Judaism and Social Justice;"

30 REFORM RABBIS DISCUSS VIET NAM SITUATION WITH AMBASSADOR GOLDBERG

NEW YORK, Jan. 26; (JTA) -- The American Jewish Reform movement's Joint Commission on Social Action is going to intensify its efforts to keep alive throughout the country a "dialogue for peace" in Southeast Asia, it was announced here today by the heads of the Reform group's lay and rabbinic organizations -- the Central Conference of American Rabbis and the Union of American Hebrew Congregations;

The announcement was made by Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, president of the CCAR and Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath, president of the UAHC; at a news conference in which they reported the results of a two-hour meeting held yesterday by 30 Reform rabbis who discussed the Viet Nam situation with Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, chairman of the United States delegation to the United Nations and one of President Johnson's principle peace envoys;

Rabbi Weinstein and Rabbi Eisendrath, with Rabbi Albert M. Lewis, who participated in today's news conference, were among the 30 Reform spiritual leaders who met with Mr. Goldberg yesterday. They said that far from discouraging public discussion of the Viet Nam situation, Ambassador Goldberg had made it clear that the U.S. Government is anxious to keep the dialogue alive; They said that Ambassador Goldberg is "unequivocally in favor of keeping the discussion open;"

CHIEF RABBI OF SLOVAKIA ARRIVES IN NEW YORK; WILL LECTURE

NEW YORK, Jan. 26; (JTA) -- The Chief Rabbi of Slovakia, Rabbi Elias Katz, arrived today for a brief visit to the United States; He will deliver a series of religious lectures; His trip from Czechoslovakia has aroused great interest because a visit of a Jewish spiritual leader from behind the Iron Curtain is a rare event in this country;

CONFERENCE OF ORTHODOX RABBIS CLAIMS JEWISH CENTERS DESECRATE SABBATH

LAKEWOOD, N.J., Jan. 26: (JTA) -- The annual conference of the Orthodox Rabbinical Council of America expressed today "dismay and condemnation" over "desecration of the Sabbath" in Jewish Centers and Y's.

The action was taken in one of a series of resolutions adopted by the 500 rabbis attending the conference at its closing session. The rabbis declared that Jewish Centers were founded to strengthen Jewish life and observance of Jewish Law "and not for weakening Jewish consciousness and disregard of our laws and traditions."

The delegates, in another resolution "strongly urged" the United States Government to take "necessary steps" to strengthen the security of Israel, "especially in view of the accelerated arms race in the Middle East." They also appealed to the four major powers, the United States, Britain, France and the Soviet Union, to concentrate joint efforts toward ensuring peace in the Middle East by inducing Israel's neighbors to acquiesce in "the universal peace goals of mankind."

In another resolution, the rabbis called on Soviet authorities to provide "free and unqualified" religious freedom to the 3,000,000 Jewish inhabitants in the Soviet Union.

17,000 JEWISH TEACHERS PROTEST STATEMENT OF N.Y. SCHOOL OFFICIAL

NEW YORK, Jan. 26: (JTA) -- A statement by New York School Superintendent Bernard E. Donovan that closing of the city's schools on Jewish high holy days would make it necessary to lengthen the school year was protested today by the Jewish Teachers Association, which has 17,000 members.

Martin Dodell, president of the teachers group, told the Superintendent that the regulation closing the schools on those holidays was passed not for religious reasons but "because the safety of the children was involved."

He wrote also that while the teachers "do not, and cannot, as a matter of policy, approve or disapprove" any lengthening of the school year, "we do protest most vigorously the explanation you gave." He added that the schools were closed on the Jewish holidays because many were understaffed.

Mr. Dodell concluded his letter with an "urgent" request that any statement explaining a need to lengthen the school year should be changed "to eliminate any reference to our religious observance of the High Holy Days as the reason."

YOUTH SOUGHT AS SUSPECT OF SETTING YONKERS COMMUNITY CENTER A FIRE

NEW YORK, Jan. 26: (JTA) -- A 19-state alarm was issued today for Thomas Ruppert, 17-year-old high school student and Youth Corps worker accused last night of having started the fire last month in the Yonkers Jewish Community Center which cost the lives of nine children and three adults.

Yonkers detectives said that after a lengthy investigation they were convinced that the youth had started the fatal blaze for a thrill. City Judge John Couzens issued a warrant accusing the missing youth of first-degree arson. The youth had been under orders to report to Westchester County Family Court for further questioning but that he did not appear. His parents said they did not know his whereabouts.

Officials said that, as a Youth Corps worker, he had been given a part-time job at the Center consisting of light janitor work, and that he had been working in the Center on the night of the fatal fire.

PROF. SAUL ADLER, FAMOUS AUTHORITY ON PARASITOLOGY, DIES IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 26: (JTA) -- Prof. Saul Adler, Russian-born authority on parasitology and former dean of the faculty of medicine at the Hebrew University, died yesterday at the age of 70.

Dr. Adler, known for his discovery that Oriental sores were transmitted through the bite of the sandfly, was the only Israeli member of the British Royal Society. He had served as a clinical pathologist at the School of Tropical Medicine in Liverpool, as a research assistant at the Sir Alfred Lewis Jones Research Laboratory in Sierra Leone and as a medical major in the British army.

He was recipient of the Chalmers Gold Medal of the Royal Society of Tropical Medicine, the Laveran Medal of the Societe de Pathologie Exotique, the Weizmann Prize for Medical Science and other honors. He was the only Israeli permitted to visit Communist China in recent years. He visited that country in 1964 at the invitation of the Chinese Academy of Science and lectured at Peking University.