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75 CONGRESSMEN APPEAL TO SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ARMS TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27: (JTA) -- Seventy-five members of the House of Representatives, representing both parties, joined today in a letter to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, requesting "effective measures" to strengthen Israel's defenses "to deter aggression." They indicated that they wanted the United States to provide arms to Israel directly, as it is doing for Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

Noting that the Soviet Union was shipping arms to Egypt, Syria and Iraq while the United States was supplying modern weapons to Jordan and Saudi Arabia, the Congressmen -- 55 Democrats and 20 Republicans -- said: "We are not complacent about any of these developments. We are aware of our commitment to oppose aggression in the area. We are mindful that the concentration of hostile and well-equipped armies on all Israel's frontiers presents a constant threat of an attack too swift to be prevented by external intervention on the part of other states."

The Congressmen declared that "in view of this continuing danger, we believe it is imperative that the United States take effective measures to strengthen Israel's defenses in order to deter those who menace its security. In our judgment, the tactics of indirection pursued in the past are no longer adequate or appropriate."

They added they were "gravely concerned" about Arab military preparations to implement anti-Israel decisions at the Arab summit conference. They pointed out that the arms buildup was a "direct result of the policies of President Nasser of Egypt, who has promised that a war with Israel is inevitable." They said that "Arab states acquire arms because they are encouraged by Egyptian promises or because they fear Egyptian expansionism. Consequently, Israel is compelled to increase her defense preparations at great cost to her economy."

They portrayed Israel as a friendly and progressive democracy and stated that people committed to freedom "look to us to help Israel to defend itself and, at the same time, to do all in our power to bring about a lasting peace settlement."

Assistant Secretary of State Raymond A. Hare appeared at a closed session of a subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee to answer questions on United States policy in the Middle East. He was asked questions on the resumption of U.S. aid to Egypt, the acquisition of American arms by Jordan and Saudi Arabia, and the stand of the State Department toward Israel's request for American arms.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON SAYS ARMS RACES MUST BE CURBED ON A REGIONAL BASIS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 27: (JTA) -- President Lyndon B. Johnson, in a message to the 18-nation disarmament conference, said today that there were differences among members of the conference on the issue of Viet Nam but that these differences made common interest in curbing arms races all the more important. The conference opened today in Geneva.

President Johnson did not mention the Arab states specifically, but he said: "As we focus on nuclear arms, let us not forget that resources are being devoted to non-nuclear arms races all around the world. These resources might better be spent on feeding the hungry, healing the sick and teaching the uneducated. The cost of acquiring and maintaining one squadron of supersonic aircraft diverts resources that would build and maintain a university."

"We suggest, therefore, that countries, on a regional basis, explore ways to limit competition among themselves for costly weapons often sought for reasons of illusory prestige," the President stressed. "The initiative for arrangements of this kind should, of course, come from the regions concerned."

"The interested countries should undertake not to acquire from any source, including production of their own as well as importation from others, military equipment which they proscribe. If such arrangements can be worked out and assurance can be

given that they will be observed, the United States stands ready to respect them," President Johnson emphasized;

The President stressed that the United States would seek "to assure that no non-nuclear country acquires its own nuclear weapons, gains control over nuclear weapons, achieves the power itself to fire nuclear weapons or receives assistance in manufacturing or testing nuclear weapons;" He emphasized that agreement must be sought to control nuclear materials or equipment for peaceful purposes to countries which do not have nuclear weapons;

He said that for those who desist from nuclear weapon development "let us strive to strengthen United Nations and other international security arrangements; Meanwhile, the nations that do not seek the nuclear path, can be sure that they will have our strong support against threats of nuclear blackmail;"

U.N. TO DECREASE ITS TROOPS STATIONED ON EGYPTIAN-ISRAEL BORDER

OTTAWA, Jan. 27: (JTA) -- The Canadian Defense Department announced yesterday that it was reducing the number of Canadian troops serving with the United Nations Emergency Force on the Egyptian-Israeli border and ending Canada's reconnaissance duties for UNEF;

The announcement followed U.N. plans to reduce UNEF from 7,000 to about 4,000 troops after a report to U.N. Secretary General U Thant by a U.N. survey team he sent to Egypt last year. About 900 Canadians are serving in UNEF.

One squadron of the Eighth Canadian Hussars will return to Canada next month. A 112-man squadron of the same regiment, which the Defense Department had announced would be sent to Egypt, will not go. The troops had patrolled a 25-mile sector on the border. In their place, Canada will provide 30 more transport drivers and 12 more signal men to UNEF.

ARAB MINISTERS TO DISCUSS JOINT DEVELOPMENT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

LONDON, Jan. 27: (JTA) -- Arab Prime Ministers and military commanders are expected to discuss, at a meeting in March in Cairo, proposals for joint development of nuclear weapons and missiles to deliver them, according to press reports here today from Beirut.

The reports indicated that the Arab leaders had rejected Israel's proposals for a meeting similar to the Soviet-sponsored talks in Tashkent which brought a cease-fire agreement between India and Pakistan. According to the reports, Arab comment on the Tashkent-style proposal made by Israeli Foreign Minister Abba Eban indicated a rebuff and posed the probability that an Arab-Israeli nuclear race had started.

It was also reported that Egypt was receiving "theoretical guidance" in nuclear weapons technology from the Soviet Union and Red China;

ISRAEL'S INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING FACING GENERAL STRIKE

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27: (JTA) -- The academic staffs of Israel's institutions of higher learning threatened today a general strike next month and 1,200 non-academic employees of the Haifa Technion announced they would seek strike authorization. Delayed payment of salary arrears was the issue in both disputes;

The permanent committee of the academic staffs voted unanimously to propose a strike starting February 7, subject to approval at a general meeting of the academicians, if the first installment of their salary arrears was not paid with their January salaries;

The Haifa Technion workers said they would ask the Haifa Labor Council on Sunday to approve a walkout if the Technion management failed to keep a promise to pay them half of their retroactive salary increases due at the end of this month;

The Technion had offered to meet the salary obligations with an interest-bearing Technion bond, linked to the cost-of-living index and backed by a Finance Ministry guarantee. A spokesman for the employees said the bond proposal was unacceptable;

Transit Strike in Tel Aviv Averted; Fare Increase Offered

TEL AVIV, Jan. 27: (JTA) -- The threat of a crippling transit stoppage in Tel Aviv apparently was averted today by a Transport Fare Authority decision to recommend substantial increases in fares for the three bus lines serving the city. The recommendations called for an increase of 14 percent in fares for the Dan line and ten percent for the Egged and Yamkasher lines. The bus lines responded by withdrawing threats to cancel service on their routes;

EUROPEAN ASSEMBLY URGES LEGISLATION AGAINST HATE INCITEMENT

STRASBOURG, Jan. 27: (JTA) -- The Consultative Assembly of the Council of Europe voted unanimously today for a resolution calling on the Council of Ministers to invite the 18 member governments to initiate effective legislation against incitement to racial, national and religious hatred and violence;

The resolution also called on the member governments to review existing legislation in those areas in the light of present day circumstances. Attached to the resolution was a model law for use by the member governments;

The model law would make it an offense for an individual to publicly call for or incite to hatred, intolerance, discrimination and violence against persons or groups on the basis of color, race, ethnic and national origin or religion; It would provide for the prosecution and prohibition of organizations inciting racial and religious hatred; It would make it an offense to use publicly the flags, badges, uniforms, slogans and forms of salute of such organizations;

YOUNG REPUBLICANS SING ANTI-SEMITIC SONGS AT THEIR CONVENTIONS

TRENTON, N.J., Jan. 27: (JTA) -- Top New Jersey Republican party officials promised an investigation today into charges that members of the state's Young Republican party sang anti-Semitic and racist songs at a state convention and at a national convention. The promise was made by Walter B. Todd, Republican state chairman, and Clark Allen, Young Republican state chairman, who publicly deplored the songs sung by the members;

The charges were made yesterday by State Sen. Nelson F. Stamler, a liberal independent Republican from Union County. He said that the songs indicated that the state's Young Republicans "have been infiltrated by a tiny group of extreme right-wing bigots who would destroy the party for the sake of their own selfish interests;"

He said the songs had been printed in a seven-page song sheet which, he asserted, had wide circulation among members of a right-wing faction in the state's Young Republicans, whose members call themselves "Rat Finks." He cited the lyrics of one anti-Semitic song which he said had been used at a "group sing" at the state Young Republican conclave in Wildwood last May and at the Young Republican national convention in Miami a month later;

To the tune of "Jingle Bells," Sen. Stamler declared, the lyrics sung at the two gatherings were: "Riding through the Reich in a Mercedes-Benz; Shooting all the kikes, making lots of friends; Rat tat-tat-tat, mow the bastards down; Oh what fun it is to have the Nazis back in town;"

CONSERVATIVE PARTY HEAD IN PENNSYLVANIA CHARGED WITH ANTI-SEMITISM

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 27: (JTA) -- The charge that the new chairman of the Conservative Party of Pennsylvania, W. Henry MacFarland, has been involved in anti-Jewish and anti-Negro activities for the past 20 years was made here this week by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith;

David Berger, chairman of the ADL Metropolitan Philadelphia Advisory Board and former City Solicitor, said that MacFarland, at the age of 24, contributed articles to an anti-Jewish, anti-Negro publication in Danville, Va., started his own publication in 1945 and since then formed a number of organizations; Two of them, the ADL official said, were cited as "Fascist" in 1949 by the then U.S. Attorney General Tom Clark; One of the organizations was listed in a report on "Subversive Activities of Hate Groups" by the Americanism Commission of the Illinois Department of the American Legion.

In 1954, the ADL leader said, the House Un-American Activities Committee issued a report on "Pro-Fascist and Hate Groups" which listed MacFarland as active both in the anti-Semitic National Renaissance Party and Conde McGinley's hate sheet, "Common Sense;" Mr. Berger said that MacFarland's publication, "National Progress" published "false and insulting statements about Jews" and urged a constitutional amendment to bar immigration entry of all persons "who are not of the Christian faith;"

CONGRESS OF CENTRAL AMERICAN WRITERS PROTESTS SOVIET POLICY ON JEWS

GUATEMALA CITY, Jan. 27: (JTA) -- The First Congress of Central American Writers, representing literary figures in five countries, protested today "the discrimination against cultural freedom which the 3,000,000 Jews in the Soviet Union are going through since the time of Stalin when they were deprived of cultural, religious and ethnic rights;" The congress delegates came from Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua and Guatemala;

BUFFALO RABBIS ADVOCATE DELIVERY OF OPENING PRAYERS BY LAYMEN

BUFFALO, Jan. 27; (JTA) -- The Buffalo Board of Rabbis declared in a statement today that Jewish tradition does not make mandatory that opening prayers at meetings and conferences be delivered by a clergyman and urged that lay people "should be called on to do so whenever possible."

The rabbinical group explained that this would not only "be in accord with Jewish tradition," but that it would also "be of help to the rabbis who, because of their limited number, are unable to answer all requests" for such appearances in Buffalo.

UNION OF ORTHODOX RABBIS DECLARES ORTHODOX SYNAGOGUE UNDER BAN

SPRINGFIELD, Mass., Jan. 27; (JTA) -- A ban on an Orthodox synagogue in suburban Longmeadow was declared by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis of the United States and Canada. The congregation is B'nai Jacob Synagogue. The ban strips the synagogue of its sanctity and forbids its use for services and other religious events by the Orthodox communities of Springfield and Longmeadow.

The rabbinic body charged the synagogue and its ritual committee with alleged severing of "the historic character of the synagogue" and with "deviating from the standards of Orthodox Judaism." It also charged that the congregation had brought "false accusations" against its former rabbi, who had served the synagogue 25 years. The statement did not name the rabbi.

BOY SUSPECTED IN SETTING YONKERS JEWISH CENTER AFIRE HELD IN CUSTODY

NEW YORK, Jan. 27; (JTA) -- A 17-year-old Yonkers youth, sought in a widespread police hunt on suspicion of arson in the December 20 fire at the Yonkers Jewish Community Center -- which cost the lives of nine children and three adults -- was in the custody of the Westchester County Family Court today.

Leonard Rubinfeld, Westchester County District Attorney, said that Thomas Rupert, a high school student and Youth Corps worker with a long record of minor brushes with the law, had been arrested Tuesday on orders of Judge Albert Florillo. The judge ordered that the youth be sent to the psychiatric division of Grassland Hospital for a routine examination.

Yonkers detectives said today that the suspect, in a statement later withdrawn and then partly renewed, had told them that he had used a five-gallon can of gasoline to start the fire in the Center.

BARRON NAMED EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF FOUNDATION FOR JEWISH CULTURE

NEW YORK, Jan. 27; (JTA) -- Harry I. Barron has been named executive director of the National Foundation for Jewish Culture, it was announced today. He has served as executive director of the Jewish Welfare Federation of New Orleans for the past decade. He succeeds Dr. Judah J. Shapiro, who now serves as a consultant to the foundation.

The foundation was established in 1959 as a result of action taken by the General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds. It provides assistance, guidance and support to Jewish agencies and institutions in the field of Jewish culture, initiates and finances projects and advises local communities in Jewish culture.

DR. WEINBERG, LEADING RABBINICAL AUTHORITY, DEAD; BURIED IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Jan. 27; (JTA) -- Dr. Yechiel Jacob Weinberg, a leading rabbinical authority and former rector of the Orthodox Rabbinical Seminary in Berlin, was buried in Jerusalem today. President Shazar attended the funeral.

Dr. Weinberg, who had written many books on theological, philosophical and Talmudic themes, died in Lausanne Monday night at the age of 82. His body was flown to Jerusalem where he had hundreds of pupils for the funeral.

MORRIS A. GRAY, MEMBER OF MANITOBA LEGISLATURE, DIES IN CANADA; WAS 77

WINNIPEG, Jan. 27; (JTA) -- Morris A. Gray, the senior member of the Legislature of the Province of Manitoba, and a veteran Jewish communal worker, died here at the age of 77. Born in Russia, he settled here in 1907 and has helped bring thousands of Jewish immigrants to Western Canada.

He was one of the founders of the Canadian Jewish Congress, a leader of the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services of Canada, and a member of the Poalei Zion in Canada for more than 50 years. He had been a member of the provincial Legislature for more than 20 years, an alderman for 15 years, and a member of the Winnipeg School Board for four years.