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U. S. WATCHES CHINA'S MOVES IN MIDDLE EAST; NUCLEAR INVOLVEMENT FEARED

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16: (JTA) -- Chinese involvement in the Middle East is now being studied by the United States because of the need to assess the impact of Chinese nuclear potentialities on the prospect for arms control in other parts of the world, it was revealed today in a report to Congress by the U. S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency. "We are approaching a critical period in efforts to prevent the spread of nuclear weapons," President Johnson told the Congress in a message transmitting the agency's report.

Declaring that various countries now possess the resources, the technical ability and the scientific manpower needed to build nuclear weapons systems, the President -- without specifically mentioning the name of any such country -- said: "We hear voices saying that these countries can afford such costly weapons, even though they would have to be bought at the expense of the basic needs of their people." He emphasized that "I have committed my Administration to the task of persuading the non-nuclear countries that it is neither in the interest of their security, nor of world peace, to develop nuclear weapons. This has been the main thrust behind the efforts of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency during the past year, and it will continue to be in the year we are now entering," he said.

The report of the U. S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency makes reference to Egyptian proposals at the 1955 sessions of the Geneva Conference, which included a moratorium on nuclear tests. It stresses that the agency favored a policy under which non-nuclear states would have an "obligation not to acquire nuclear weapons nor to manufacture them." The United States favors a draft treaty "which specifically prevents any increase in the present number of nuclear entities," the report declared.

It reveals that a study has been made of missile potentialities of non-nuclear nations. "Because of the serious implications of missile and rocket proliferation," the report states, "the A.C.D.A. staff embarked on a study aimed at finding the facts in the present situation, the probabilities of missile development in non-nuclear countries, and the possibilities of controls by agreement. The basic study examined factors which might influence non-nuclear countries to obtain missiles and space rockets."

A survey was made of present and potential capabilities in specific countries which might elect to develop a missile delivery system, with particular emphasis on the alternative ways by which missiles might proliferate -- indigenous production, conversion of space rockets, and purchase from outside sources. "Much work on the detection of clandestine missile production" was done by the agency in connection with U. S. proposals for a production freeze on strategic delivery vehicles, the report states.

(In an interview published today in the Standard-Times, of New Bedford, Mass., Dr. Jerome B. Wiesner, chairman of a special Presidential advisory group studying arms controls and disarmament, said that India and Israel are being observed by his committee because they may soon be able to test atomic weapons.)

ISRAEL'S TRADE MINISTER WARNS AGAINST UNFAIR RAISING OF PRICES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16: (JTA) -- Price increases forced by new tax rates in Israel's anti-inflation policy must not be used as an excuse for unfair rises, Trade and Industry Minister Haim Zadok warned today in a radio speech.

Despite his reiterated pledge that the Government would seek to check price boosts and preserve stability, the upward pricing spiral continued unabated. New price increases, generally attributed to the new taxes announced Monday night, were being posted daily, covering a wide range of products from domestic fuel to bus fares. A 7 percent increase in freight charges, affecting all imports and exports, was announced today. Night clubs and bars announced they would raise their prices because of the increase in liquor taxes.

In a pre-dawn exercise designed to prevent evasion of the new tax rates, customs inspectors descended on storehouses, gasoline filling stations and retail shops today to register stocks of cigarettes, fuel and spare motor parts. The action frustrated the last-minute rush by importers on Monday to clear goods through customs at the prior rates. In that action, importers virtually cleared warehouses of stocks.

BEN-GURION CRITICIZES ESHKOL IN KNESSET; PREMIER REPLIES TARTLY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Former Premier David Ben-Gurion, now an opposition deputy in Israel's Parliament, heckled his chosen successor, Premier Levi Eshkol, today for the first time during Parliamentary debate. The Premier replied tartly, touching off a shouting match by deputies of the Israel Workers Party (Rafi), the dissident group formed by Mr. Ben-Gurion.

The subject of the debate was the site of this year's Independence Day parade which the Government has decided will be Haifa. In earlier years, when it was held in Jerusalem, it evoked complaints from Jordan that a parade so near Jordan was provocative. Mr. Ben-Gurion heckled the Premier loudly, interrupting the Premier's statement and declaring loudly "That you say, sir, is untrue." The Premier referred to his critic as "this gentleman." Rafi deputies thereupon interrupted the Premier with shouts that "he has a name."

KNESSET DECIDES AGAINST ANY STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR GENOCIDE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16; (JTA) -- Israel's Parliament decided unanimously last night against any statute of limitations for genocide and crimes against humanity.

A previously-adopted law bans any limitation for prosecution of Nazi war crimes but the new legislation, proposed by the National Religious Party, gives far wider scope to the principle. The Knesset members indicated their attitude on the serious nature of the matter with a vote by rising to their feet instead of the customary show of hands.

100 NEPALESE SOLDIERS ARRIVE IN ISRAEL FOR PARATROOP TRAINING

JERUSALEM, Feb. 16; (JTA) -- The arrival of 100 Nepalese soldiers for paratroop training in Israel was disclosed here today. After spending one month at a military base, they will return to Nepal to form the nucleus of a paratroop regiment and serve as instructors.

Arrangements for the training mission were completed several months ago by Israel and Nepal but implementation was delayed by the refusal of India to allow stopover landing rights to the plane carrying the Nepalese troops. India finally granted the necessary permission last week.

GOLDA MEIR ARRIVES IN U.S.; WILL LAUNCH 1966 DRIVE FOR ISRAEL BONDS

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's former Foreign Minister, arrived from Israel today to launch an international campaign to raise \$105,000,000 in 1966 for Israel's economic development through the sale of State of Israel bonds.

The formal inauguration of the 1966 Israel bond campaign will take place this weekend in Miami Beach at a conference which will be attended by some 2,000 delegates from the United States and Canada. Mrs. Meir will be the guest of honor at the culminating dinner of the three-day parley which will be in the form of a tribute to her four decades of leadership in the settlement and establishment of the State of Israel.

ISRAEL REELECTED TO U.N. BODY DEALING WITH TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, a 55-member body which includes four Arab states among its members, today reelected Israel to membership on its vital Committee on Manufacture. Israel received 43 votes, being chosen for a full, three-year term. When first elected to that committee, in 1965, Israel got only 39 votes. The balloting today was secret.

RABBI ADLER'S CONDITION REMAINS 'VERY CRITICAL'; ASSAILANT DIES

DETROIT, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Rabbi Morris Adler's condition remained "very critical" today, according to a medical bulletin issued at Sinai Hospital here. He was taken to the hospital last Saturday, after being shot by a mentally-sick member of his congregation during Sabbath services, in front of 1,500 worshipers at his Shaarey Tefek Temple.

The medical bulletin stated that the rabbi had shown "slight improvement" in the past 24 hours, but had not regained consciousness since he was admitted to the hospital. He has undergone brain surgery twice.

Meanwhile, Rabbi Adler's assailant, 23-year-old Richard Wishnetsky, died during the night, at New Providence Hospital. He was taken there after he fired a bullet into his own head following the attack on Rabbi Adler. The youth's remains were interred today at Clover Hill Park Cemetery.

SEK SENTENCED IN LONDON TO PRISON FOR SETTING FIRE TO SYNAGOGUES

LONDON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- Prison terms ranging from six months to five years were imposed today on six former members of the tiny British National Socialist Party, who were convicted of "maliciously setting fire" to two East London synagogues last July.

Hugh Hughes, 27, was given a five-year term. Malcolm Sparks, 19, was sentenced to four years; Colin Rainbird, 20, and Graham Chant, 18, each received three-year terms; Paul Dukes, 19, was given the six-month term. Alex Gordon, 23, was found guilty of complicity in only one of the two arson efforts, and received a three-year term. They were accused of starting fires at the Ilford District Synagogue and the Leatridge Road Synagogue.

Justice Phillimore, in imposing sentence, denounced the defendants' association with the neo-Nazi movement, describing the doctrines of the movement as "those of Hitler and the Nazi Party of many years ago." The jurist emphasized that the defendants were not being punished for their beliefs because "anybody in this country can believe anything he likes." But, he told the six men, "you have chosen to interfere with the freedom of worship of respectable Jewish citizens of this country and to destroy their property. You defaced the walls of their synagogues and then set fire to them."

The jurist said he had no doubt that the defendants were led to the acts "by the indoctrination you have received in this pernicious movement" and that he was convinced the leaders of the neo-Nazi movement "inculcated not only hatred of the Jews and colored people but also encouraged active steps against them. These are grave crimes and it is my duty to make an example of you in the hope that those who share your beliefs will think twice before following your example."

K.K.K. LEADER ADMITS SUBSIDIZING CALL FOR BOYCOTT OF KOSHER PRODUCTS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- A member of the Ku Klux Klan told the House Committee on un-American Activities yesterday that he had financed a campaign designed to "expose the kosher food racket."

Committee members expressed annoyance at references in one of the items in the "literature" which Imperial Wizard James R. Venable, 61, had subsidized. The item was a list of hundreds of American firms making kosher products, which were identified as "Jew kosher outfits" and "one world outfits."

The KKK leader, an attorney from Stone Mountain, Ga., was asked whether he would retract a letter he had written urging boycott of those firms to destroy what Venable called in the letter "the most diabolical plot ever conceived by these leeches of mankind." Venable replied: "I'd like to retract it. I apologize."

He had previously testified that he had paid for the "literature" and the list of firms by financing the Defensive Legion of Registered Americans, Inc. and the Christian Voters and Buyers League. He said the League had published the "literature." He was identified as the Imperial Wizard of the National Association of Klan Organizations for Klan units in Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, Arkansas and Louisiana.

NEW YORK PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO BE OPEN FOR MEETINGS OF NEO-NAZI GROUP

NEW YORK, Feb. 16. (JTA) -- The New York Board of Education reported today that, due to a ruling by the City Corporation Counsel -- the city's chief legal officer -- it will have to permit the National Renaissance Party to hold meetings in a public school, after normal school hours. The NRP is a neo-Nazi, anti-Semitic group, headed by James E. Madole, who has been convicted of conspiracy to riot and is now out on bail pending an appeal from a two-year prison sentence.

According to Lloyd K. Garrison, president of the Board, the NRP was refused a permit to meet in a junior high school auditorium in the Yorkville section of the city last summer, on the grounds that such a meeting might "cause dissension or promote disorder." However, the Board asked the city's legal department to rule on the action. Corporation Counsel J. Lee Rankin has now ruled that the Board had acted improperly in refusing the permit to the NRP, basing his decision on the State Education Law which allows the use of school building facilities for "social, civic, recreational and political meetings and entertainments," without interfering with normal school functions.

Arnold Forster, general counsel of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, today challenged the Rankin ruling and the Board's resultant decision. He stated that the National Renaissance Party is not a political group but a "gutter group." It would be better, he stated, "that gutter groups be left in the gutter."

MAX BRESSLER, PRESIDENT OF JEWISH NATIONAL FUND, DIES IN MIAMI

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 16; (JTA) -- Max Bressler, president of the Jewish National Fund of America and former president of the Zionist Organization of America, died suddenly here last night after suffering a heart attack. He was 54 years old.

Born in the Ukraine, Mr. Bressler migrated to the United States in 1921. He was a member of the national cabinet of the United Jewish Appeal and of the executive board of the Bureau of Jewish Education in Chicago where he lived. He was also a member of the World Zionist Actions Committee.

He served as president of the ZOA from 1960-62 and was elected JNF president in 1963 and reelected in 1965. He was slated to retire from his JNF post next August after heading the pilgrimage to Israel to dedicate the John F. Kennedy Monument and Peace Forest, a project which he initiated. Funeral services will be held in Chicago on Friday.

AMERICAN HISTADRUT DEVELOPMENT FOUNDATION REPORTS \$7,331,790 INCOME

MIAMI BEACH, Fla., Feb. 16; (JTA) -- Income of the American Histadrut Development Foundation has reached a total of \$7,331,790 since its establishment in October 1960, William H. Sylk of Philadelphia, national chairman of the Foundation, announced here today at the concluding session of a two-day national midwinter Foundation conference.

Commitments to the Foundation, he noted, including bequests, insurance assignments, trust funds and other long-term items, are utilized for social, educational, health and welfare institutions of the Histadrut in Israel. Income to the Foundation during the past four months, he said, reached a record total of \$525,071.

Some 250 Jewish communal leaders from throughout the United States and Canada participated in the conference which heard addresses by Undersecretary of Labor John F. Henning, Israel Minister Ephraim Evron, Bernard Bloomfield, president of the Canadian Association for Labor Israel and Dr. Sol Stein, executive director of the Histadrut drive.

Dr. Stein announced that the capital fund of Histadrut's Mutual Aid program in Israel for the next four years will amount to \$52,500,000. Of this sum, the Histadrut campaign in the U.S. is pledged to raise \$5,000,000 annually and the Histadrut Foundation an additional \$2,000,000 a year. The capital funds will be used for the construction in Israel of scores of medical clinics, vocational trade schools, youth and sports centers, old-age homes and cultural institutions, he said.

Among those honored at the conference for long and dedicated service to Israel were Mrs. Emma Schaver of Detroit, Mr. and Mrs. Jacob Rifkin of Wilkes-Barre, Pa., Mr. and Mrs. Morris Newmark, and Mr. and Mrs. Samuel Feinstein of Miami Beach.

MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESSMAN GIVES \$500,000 GIFT TO BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY

WALTHAM, Mass., Feb. 16; (JTA) -- Brandeis University has received a \$500,000 gift from Stephen P. Mugar, a Massachusetts businessman, for the construction of a research center at the University which will bear the name of Benjamin Brown, a Boston attorney and a close friend of Mr. Mugar.

The new facility will house the research component of the Florence Heller Graduate School for Advanced Studies in Social Welfare of Brandeis University. Mr. Mugar, whose family fled Armenia in 1906, has given more than \$4,000,000 to a number of New England educational institutions in recent years.

COURT HOLDS HEARING ON FIRE AT YONKERS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER

YONKERS, N.Y., Feb. 16; (JTA) -- Thomas A. Ruppert, the 17-year-old youth who was arrested last Friday in connection with the fire at the Yonkers Jewish Community Center in which nine children and three adults were killed, was continued in \$50,000 bail today after a preliminary court hearing. Judge Gilbert N. Landy is expected to give a preliminary ruling in the next few days.

During the hearing, a police detective said that the youth confessed to setting the fire and later repeated his confession twice. The detective, Brendan Magner, said that Ruppert, a part-time employee at the Jewish Center, told him he had poured a can of "something that smelled like alcohol" over some construction debris in the building and then left it burning.

ARGENTINE PRESIDENT RECEIVES JEWISH LEADER; DISCUSSES JEWISH ISSUES

BUENOS AIRES, Feb. 16; (JTA) -- Argentine President Arturo Illia today received Dr. Moises Goldmann, chairman of the South American executive of the World Jewish Congress. The discussion, which lasted 30 minutes, involved matters of concern to the Argentine Jewish community.