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U. S. JEWS ASK RUSSIA TO GRANT SOVIET JEWRY EQUAL RIGHTS WITH GERMANS

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- Cultural rights for Jews in the Soviet Union -- at least equal to those recently guaranteed by official decree to the German minority in Russia -- was requested today by the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The Conference, which represents 24 national Jewish organizations in matters dealing with the rights of Jews in the Soviet Union, simultaneously released a documented report which details aspects of the educational and cultural institutions currently available to the 1,600,000 Russians of German nationality now living in the Soviet Union. A decree on Russians of German nationality living in the country was issued by the Supreme Soviet on August 29, 1964. In making public the documented report, the Conference said that the facts should be compared to the cultural status of the Jews in Russia.

"In the name of simple justice, the Jews in Russia should be treated at least as well as the Volga Germans, regarded as enemies in World War II," Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference, declared in an appeal to the Soviet Government. He phrased his appeal in the very words adopted by the Supreme Soviet in dealing with the problems of Russians of German ethnic background, making only once change in the phraseology of the decree -- the substitution of the word "Jewish" for the word "German" in the two places it appears.

"The purpose of our documented report," Rabbi Miller said, "is to raise a very simple question: If the Soviet Germans, widely dispersed through Soviet republics, are permitted schools in which to teach their children the German language and literature, as well as daily and weekly newspapers, textbooks, teachers institutes and the like -- why not also the Soviet Jews who number 3,000,000?"

Appeal to Forthcoming Congress of Communist Party in Moscow

Rabbi Miller stressed that the forthcoming Congress of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union, scheduled to convene on March 28, will have a historic opportunity to undo the grievous wrongs committed against the Jewish people in the USSR. That Congress, he pointed out, comes just one decade after the famous 20th Congress, held in February 1956, provided a major turning-point in Soviet history by revealing many of Stalin's crimes and promising a return to decency in Soviet public life.

"One of the promises of that Congress," Rabbi Miller noted, "was to rectify the wrongs done to various nationalities. Some of those promises were carried out. Thus, hundreds of thousands of Polish citizens who took refuge in the USSR during World War II, as well as others of Polish origin, were permitted to return to Poland. In addition, several Soviet nationalities whose political loyalty was suspect during the war, were rehabilitated.

"The Kalmyks and the Chechen-Ingush, for example, were repatriated to their newly re-established autonomous republics. And, as the report on the German minority demonstrates, the Soviet German minority was formally rehabilitated, and its educational, cultural and communal institutions continue to expand. Soviet Jewry -- though its loyalty during the war was never impugned -- remains the sole exception to the rule of restoring minority group rights and of enhancing and expanding them."

Several token concessions have been made in response to the pressure of world opinion, according to Rabbi Miller. Among them he listed the publication of a few Yiddish books over the past seven years, the appearance of a Yiddish literary monthly, and many performances of Jewish folk songs and dramatic skits. But these tokens, Rabbi Miller emphasized, "do not begin to scratch the surface of our basic demands," which he listed as follows:

"1. The restoration of Jewish schools and of special courses and classes in Yiddish, Hebrew and Russian, so as to make it possible for Soviet Jews to transmit their heritage to their children.

"2. The establishment of an institutional center to provide for all the religious needs of Soviet Jews -- including a rabbinical seminary, the publication of religious books, the

production of religious articles, the maintenance of contact and communication among rabbis and congregations inside the USSR and between Soviet Jewry and Jewish communities abroad.

"3. The creation of unified central institutions to supervise the enhancement and expansion of Jewish educational and cultural life -- through publishing houses, professional theaters, institutes for research and higher learning, cultural-communal centers -- so as to secure the continuity of Jewish life in the USSR.

"4. From a humane point of view: The reunion of families that were shattered and dispersed during the war and the Nazi occupation. This would involve permission for scores of thousands of Soviet Jews to leave the USSR to rejoin their relatives in Israel, the United States and other countries.

"These are basic minimal demands," Rabbi Miller stated, "to restore the right of the Soviet Jews to live as Jews: The facts revealed in the documentary report on the Soviet Germans demonstrate what can be done. The forthcoming 23rd Congress of the Soviet Communist Party has an historic opportunity, as well as a profound moral obligation, to redress the injustice done to the Jews, and to restore their rights."

EUROPEAN PARLEY WORRIED OVER ANTI-SEMITISM IN GERMANY, AUSTRIA

PARIS, March 6. (JTA) -- Grave disquiet over the recently renewed manifestations of anti-Semitic activities in a number of countries, particularly in West Germany and Austria, was voiced here at the two-day conference of the European executive of the World Jewish Congress, which concluded its sessions here today. Attending the parley were representatives from WJC sections in Germany, Switzerland, Italy, Holland, Britain and other West European countries.

Lord Sieff of Britain, chairman of the European executive, declared there has been a great increase recently in anti-Semitic activities, and said: "There is reason to believe that this trend is being fomented by agents of President Nasser, of Egypt, in furtherance of a campaign against Israel in which he does not hesitate to jeopardize the security and tranquility of Jewish communities throughout the world."

In a special report to the conference, Dr. Stephen Roth, of London, executive director of the European division of the WJC, cited numerous instances of anti-Semitic incidents in Germany and Austria and of Arab-incited, anti-Jewish agitation in Latin America. "The real danger," he said, "is that the German mood is changing. There is a lessening awareness there of the past and of respect for the moral obligations resulting from the Hitler period."

Reports were delivered to the conference by Dr. Hendrick van Dam, secretary-general of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, and Dr. Heinz Galinski, president of the Berlin Jewish Community. Special reports were also delivered on the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union and on recent anti-Jewish developments in Austria. Resolutions condemning all these developments, including those in the Soviet Union, Austria and Germany, were adopted by the conference at its final session today.

EBAN REPORTS TO ISRAEL CABINET ON ECONOMIC AID TALKS IN BONN

JERUSALEM, March 6. (JTA) -- West Germany has fully acknowledged the "special significance" of its relations with Israel, when the Israeli-German talks on Bonn's promised economic aid to Israel opened in Bonn last week, Foreign Minister Abba Eban reported here today at the weekly meeting of the Israel Cabinet. The Israel delegation to the first phase of these talks returned here this weekend, and further conferences of the teams representing both governments are to be held next month.

Mr. Eban reported that progress has been made in the discussions on Israel's demand that Bonn provide assistance without linking such aid to specific projects. The Germans had objected to that request, insisting that such aid must not be used for armament acquisition purposes.

The Foreign Minister agreed with a statement made here yesterday by Bonn's Ambassador, Dr. Rolf Pauls, who had chided the Israeli press for allegedly emphasizing the negative aspects of the Bonn negotiations. Like Dr. Pauls, Mr. Eban said that differences had been "over-emphasized." He stated that, on the contrary, the first phase of the talks had covered at least half of the ground and that the German Government is "definitely seeking agreement."

Specific sums for German aid to Israel, the Foreign Minister said, had not as yet been discussed, "and this may prove a difficult question" in the next round of talks. The Cabinet authorized Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir and Mr. Eban to give further study to the reports from the Israeli negotiators at Bonn.

LETTERS BY POPE PIUS CONTAIN NO CONDEMNATION OF NAZI KILLING OF JEWS

ROME, March 6. (JTA) -- The late Pope Pius XII made few references to Jews, and not once voiced any condemnation of the Nazi campaign to obliterate the Jews of Europe, it appeared here today following official Vatican publication of a volume entitled "Letters of Pope Pius XII to German Bishops, 1939-1944."

The 450-page book, reproducing letters from Pius and other documents, contains 124 letters, most of them in German, some in Latin. In one letter, dated April 30, 1944, the pontiff praised Msgr. Bernhard Lichtenberg, provost of St. Hedwig Cathedral in Berlin, who died in a Nazi prison. A footnote explains that Msgr. Lichtenberg had been imprisoned by the Nazis for praying for the Jews in public. Pope Pius wrote of his "fatherly recognition" and sympathy for the monsignor.

In another letter, Pope Pius praised German Catholics who helped Jewish victims of Nazism. In this letter he stated: "It has pleased us that Catholics, and especially the Catholics of Berlin, have come with great love to the aid of the so-called non-Aryans in their difficulties. The Holy See has done all within its power, both economically and morally, to help in charity the non-Aryan Catholics and Jewish believers."

Aside from these mentions, the letters, appendices and notes in the volume report Pope Pius' concern with family life during World War II and stressed that he had considered Hitler's war against the USSR as a welcome crusade against Communism. The new book is one in a continuing effort by the Vatican to disprove charges in the drama, "The Deputy," by German author Rolf Hochhuth, which had accused Pius of maintaining silence during Hitler's campaign against the Jewish people.

CARDINAL CUSHING 'ADDRESSES' SYNAGOGUE SERVICES; TALKS ON TAPE

STAMFORD, Conn., March 6. (JTA) -- A Catholic bishop preached the Sabbath-sermon Friday night at Temple Sinai when Richard Cardinal Cushing was unable to appear because bad weather grounded his plane in Boston.

The Cardinal told Rabbi Samuel Silver by telephone that he would come to Stamford when another date could be arranged. He also invited the Reform rabbi to come to Boston's Cathedral and share the pulpit with the Cardinal at a service. The Cardinal called the invitation unique.

Rev. Walter Curtis of Bridgeport gave the sermon to 750 at the service. Bishop Curtis called the Ecumenical Council's declaration on Jews, later promulgated as formal Catholic doctrine, an expression of the "profound feeling" of the Church that anti-Semitism was a moral wrong and said that the Church was determined to fight it.

In addition to the invitation to the Reform rabbi, Cardinal Cushing dictated by telephone an address to a Stamford radio station which recorded the talk on tape which was later run off in the synagogue. Explaining why he had accepted the invitation, he said it was not "because I wanted to make Catholics out of Jews." The reason, he said, was "to bring a message of goodwill and see to it that the Jewish program of brotherhood should receive our strong endorsement."

Archbishop Speaks on Declaration on Jews at Reform Temple in Detroit

DETROIT, March 6. (JTA) -- Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, speaking at a testimonial dinner at Temple Beth El, strongly defended the language of the declaration on Catholic-Jewish relations adopted by the Ecumenical Council and said that American bishops who attended the Council were "generally content with the final statement as drafted."

He declared that the adopted version "explicitly denied" that the Jewish people itself "was involved in plotting on the life of Christ." He contended that elimination of the word "deicide" from the final version was based on the belief of the prelates at the Council that the term was "a harsh sounding word involving a theological problem and should not have a place in the vocabulary of Christians." He stressed that the Church rejects all persecution and "because of its patrimony with the Jews, it sets forth a forthright condemnation of anti-Semitism in all its forms."

The prelate was presented with a citation from Temple Beth El recognizing his deeds on behalf of goodwill. The presentation was made by Rabbi Richard C. Hertz, who told the dinner that it remained the obligation of Christians "to eliminate anti-Semitism and all sources of bigotry and prejudice."

The Archbishop defended the use by the Ecumenical Council of the word "deplores" as a substitute for earlier language of "condemns" in reference to anti-Semitism. He told the 450 guests that this was a mistranslation of the Latin term and added that steps were being taken "to prepare versions that will more accurately present the document."

PURIM CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT ISRAEL WITH PARADES AND SERVICES

TEL AVIV, March 6. (JTA) -- Israel celebrated Purim in traditional manner this weekend, reading of the Book of Esther being observed at all synagogue services throughout the country last night, while parades, highlighted by floats and costumed children, featured the observances in all cities and settlements. President Zalman Shazar, who is on a short visit to Tiberias, attended services at the Kiryat Shmona Central Synagogue.

A feature of many parades were floats depicting the peace mission to Egypt staged last week by Tel Aviv restaurateur Abie Nathan, who flew from Herzliyah to Port Said in an effort to interest Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser to hold peace talks with Israel. Mr. Nathan was sent back to Israel the next day in his own plane. Costumed children, released from their schools since Thursday, led most of the festivities.

Mr. Nathan, who has been idolized by many Israelis as a hero since he made his flight to Egypt, was the guest of honor of the all-Arab City of Nazareth during the weekend. Nazareth Mayor Abdal Aziz Zuaby welcomed him when he entered the city. Hundreds of Arabs greeted Mr. Nathan warmly, shouting the word "peace" in Arabic. He addressed crowds in the court yard of the Church of the Annunciation and from the balcony of a mosque.

2,000 GROUPS TO START OBSERVANCE OF JEWISH MUSIC FESTIVAL MONTH

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- Hundreds of Jewish communities throughout the United States today launched the 22nd annual observance of the Jewish Music Festival, it was announced here by the National Jewish Music Council of the National Jewish Welfare Board. The festival is to continue through April 6.

Special Jewish Music Festival programs, the announcement stated, have been arranged by more than 2,000 Jewish religious, cultural, educational and women's groups all over the United States.

DR. NEUMANN WELCOMES NEWLY CO-OPTED U.S. MEMBER OF JEWISH AGENCY

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- Four American Jewish leaders, recently elected on a non-party basis to serve on the Jewish Agency and World Zionist Executive, were officially welcomed by their American colleagues at a luncheon in the Jewish Agency building here. The four thus honored are: Dewey D. Stone; Dr. Simon Greenberg, vice-chancellor of the Jewish Theological Seminary; Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, executive vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization; and Dr. Emanuel Rackman, assistant president of Yeshiva University.

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, chairman of the Jewish Agency-American Section, who presided at the luncheon, referred to it as "a notable occasion marking a significant new development in the procedures of the World Zionist Organization. For the first time in many years a considerable part of the Jewish Agency and Zionist executive consists of men elected ad personam without regard to party affiliation." In his tribute to the new members, he stressed their influence in the life of the American Jewish community.

SAMUEL BRONFMAN GREETED ON 75th BIRTHDAY BY WORLD JEWISH LEADERS

MONTREAL, March 6. (JTA) -- Samuel Bronfman, one of the outstanding leaders of Canadian Jewry, was the recipient this weekend of many messages of congratulation upon attaining his 75th birthday on Friday.

Among the personalities who had sent greetings to Mr. Bronfman were Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress; Dr. Max Nussbaum, chairman of the WJC's American section; and Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress. There were also messages from the heads of many other Jewish organizations around the world and from leaders of many Jewish communities in this country, the United States, Britain and Israel.

DR. RIVLIN NAMED DEAN OF SCHOOL OF EDUCATION OF FORDHAM UNIVERSITY

NEW YORK, March 6. (JTA) -- Dr. Harry N. Rivlin, dean of teacher education at the City University of New York, will become dean of the school of education of Fordham University, a Catholic institution here, next fall, according to a Fordham announcement made yesterday.

Dr. Rivlin, a Jew, will be the first educator of his faith to hold a high administrative post at the institution, which is conducted by Jesuits. However, it was pointed out that there have been many Jews on the Fordham faculties since the university was founded 125 years ago. Dr. Rivlin, who is 61, has been on the faculty of the City College of New York, which is now part of the City University, since 1937.