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SAIGON ENVOY ANNOUNCES DECISION TO EXCHANGE DIPLOMATS WITH ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- South Vietnamese Ambassador Vu Van Thai announced here today that his Government "has decided to establish full and normal 'de jure' diplomatic relations with Israel, as a result of negotiations with Israeli diplomats just concluded in Bangkok." The Ambassador said the decision was conveyed to him in an official cable just received by his Embassy from Saigon. He said "this decision resulted from the detailed recent negotiations in Bangkok between Israeli and Vietnamese diplomats."

Ambassador Thai expressed "great pleasure" at the news and voiced hope that the establishment of diplomatic relations with Israel would "denote the beginning of a larger Israeli program of assistance." He recalled his visit to Israel in 1958, the deep impression made upon him by the kibbutzim, and the importance his Government attaches to training by "Nahal," the soldier-farmer concept developed in Israel. He cited his country's "need and desire for Israeli technical assistance and supplies."

The Ambassador revealed that contacts with Israel for expanded assistance have been developing since July, 1964, and came to a climax after the recent Honolulu conference "where President Johnson visualized and urged a more active Israeli role" in support of Saigon.

Immediately after the Honolulu talks, said the Ambassador, "procedural diplomatic discussions with Israel were undertaken in Bangkok, leading to the decision now reported from Saigon to create full diplomatic relations with Israel."

The Ambassador also revealed another cable from Saigon, disclosing that his Government, at the end of 1965, accepted an Israeli invitation to train 15 South Vietnamese agricultural experts in Israel.

White House Welcomes Agreement on South Vietnamese-Israeli Relations

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- White House sources revealed today that -- in line with new relations between Israel and South Viet Nam -- President Johnson would welcome an expanded Israeli role in support of the Saigon regime. The President was depicted as deeply appreciative of efforts by free world nations in South Viet Nam.

It was made clear that the White House is especially interested in the "Nahal" concept, and would like to see Israelis in South Viet Nam to train the youth in the soldier-farmer concept of development and defense.

Israeli achievements in unifying and developing a nation of diverse peoples -- under continuous threat of sabotage and attack -- has been noted here. Israelis could render assistance that might help defeat the Communist Chinese "wars of national liberation" by helping South Viet Nam develop a nucleus for units building social democracy that could defend themselves, in the view of top White House advisers.

U.S. STILL NOT SATISFIED ON SYRIAN IMPRISONMENT OF AMERICAN JEW

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- The United States Government is pleased to have Syrian assurances as to future treatment of American citizens visiting Syria, but continues to disagree with Syria's interpretation of facts in the case of Edward Levy, 25, of New York, who was held incommunicado by Syria for almost two years. Levy, a Jew, is now back in New York.

A State Department spokesman said Mr. Levy entered a restricted military zone on the Israel-Syrian frontier. Syria claimed he was an Israeli citizen because he was formally exchanged for a Syrian national. But the State Department does not view this explanation as adequate, it was indicated.

Until Mr. Levy was turned over to Israeli authorities, his whereabouts were not known, either to Israel or to the United States Embassy in Israel, from the time he crossed over into Syria two years ago, after living at Kibbutz Ein Gev, near the Syrian border. There was never any doubt that he was an American, and not an Israeli.

U.N. COMMISSION POSTPONES COMPLETION OF RELIGIOUS FREEDOM DOCUMENT

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 21. (JTA) -- The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which has been debating for two weeks a draft Convention on the elimination of religious intolerance, ended that discussion today and voted to give "highest priority" to completion of the proposed international instrument in 1967.

This morning, the Commission adopted a draft article spelling out the protections to be given by all governments to persons who wish to exercise their religious rights. Included among the clauses adopted thus far is one specifically naming anti-Semitism as one major prejudice to be combated. The article passed this morning calls upon all states to "ensure to everyone within their jurisdiction effective protection and remedies, through the competent national tribunals and other state institutions, against any acts, including acts of discrimination on the ground of religion or belief, which violate his human rights and fundamental freedoms contrary to this Convention, as well as the right to seek from such tribunals just and adequate reparation or satisfaction for any damage suffered as a result of such acts."

Because the Soviet Union has been widely accused of discriminating against practitioners of the Jewish religion, the USSR has been fighting against completion of the draft Convention on religious freedoms for six years. Among the members of the Commission's current session, which opened two weeks ago and is scheduled to end April 1, is Morris B. Abram, delegate for the United States, and Israel's Associate Supreme Court Justice Haim H. Cohn, representing the Jewish State.

ESHKOL SAYS ISRAEL VIEWS WESTERN IMMIGRATION AS VITALLY NEEDED

HAIFA, March 21. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol pledged today that the Israeli Government would view immigration from Western countries as a matter of major policy. Addressing the opening session of the 15th annual conference of the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel, Mr. Eshkol said that suitable "housing, mortgages and other loans and help should be offered to Western immigrants with a maximum of understanding and a minimum of bureaucracy." If mistakes in this area have been made in the past, he declared, the Government will not shirk from investigating and rectifying them.

Conceding that it was impossible for Israel to compete with Western amenities or economic incentives, Mr. Eshkol said, however, that the Western newcomer had the right to expect that Israel bear in mind "the psychology of living of the society in which he grew and matured." Western immigrants, he declared, "are vitally needed here for their technical skills and capital. We want them here as people with their democratic traditions and experience, their cultural resources and sense of national and civic responsibility." At the same time, he asserted, it was incumbent upon Israel to follow with sympathy efforts made on the American continent and in other Western countries to block the tide of assimilation.

Israel must become "Diaspora conscious," the Premier added, to the same degree that Jews outside Israel follow with sympathy every new development in Israel. "Let Israel and the Diaspora work in close and common accord," he pleaded, "so that future historians will not be able to record -- God forbid -- that Jewry in our time created a state and lost a people."

Premier Eshkol expressed the hope that the day would come soon when the Soviet authorities would freely permit all Jews who so wished to join their relatives and brethren in Israel.

RUSSIA ISSUES ANOTHER BOOK RAPPING ZIONISM, 'BOURGEOIS JUDAISM'

JERUSALEM, March 21. (JTA) -- A virulently anti-Israel book, published by a Soviet state publishing house, has just appeared in the USSR, it was learned here today. The book charges that "Zionism is the enemy of all nations." Entitled "The Construction of Communism and the Destruction of Religious Vestiges," the book also asserts that "bourgeois nationalistic movements and specifically Zionism have been developed in close contact with Judaism. Zionism itself is a reactionary and ultra-nationalistic movement established by bourgeois Judaism."

A new and expanded edition of a Russian translation of Bialik's poems by Vladimir Jabotinsky, the founder of the Zionist-Revisionist movement, has been sold in the Soviet Union in a limited number of copies, it was reported here today. The book was published last year by the Association of Soviet Immigrants in Israel. The association plans to publish next year a Russian-language book on the establishment of the State of Israel.

European Rabbis Appeal for Alleviation of Lot of Jews in USSR

PARIS, March 21. (JTA) -- The Standing Committee of the Conference of European Rabbis appealed today to the forthcoming Communist Party congress to meet a "historic opportunity and profound humane obligation to remove the disabilities of the Jewish people of the USSR and to restore the rights to which they are entitled." The appeal followed consideration of the position of Russian Jews and an expression of "deep concern."

ADENAUER HAILS WEST GERMANY'S UNDERSTANDING WITH JEWS, ISRAEL

BONN, March 21. (JTA) -- Dr. Konrad Adenauer, former Chancellor of West Germany, said today that his policy toward Jewry and especially toward Israel had been of "great importance" to the world. Speaking at the opening session of the congress of the Christian Democratic Party, Dr. Adenauer said: "I did everything possible to establish understanding with Jewry and with Israel. I hope profoundly that the economic negotiations currently taking place between the foreign office of the Federal Republic and the Israeli delegation will reach a successful conclusion."

Dr. Adenauer, who has resigned as chairman and will become honorary chairman of the CDP, said that successful negotiations between the two countries were important "not only for moral but also for political reasons." "Jewry is an exceptionally mighty force in the world," he declared.

GERMANY ANNOUNCES PLAN TO TRY JEWISH EXPERT ON RESTITUTION CLAIMS

BONN, March 21. (JTA) -- The State Prosecutor's Office here announced today that Dr. Hans Deutsch, the internationally known Jewish legal expert on German compensation to Nazi victims, will be tried by a German court on charges of "inciting people to make claims for compensation they are not entitled to." The date of the trial was not given.

Dr. Deutsch, who holds both Austrian and Israeli citizenship, was arrested here in November 1964 while attending to a client's claim at the West German Ministry of Finance. He has been held in solitary confinement in the Central Prison here along with a former SS officer and aide to Adolf Eichmann, M. Wilke, who is charged with having been Dr. Deutsch's "accomplice."

At the time of the arrest, an influential Parisian newspaper, Le Monde, defended Dr. Deutsch and charged that the move was a "maneuver" by Bonn to discredit the Jewish attorney and "spoil his reputation."

GERMAN COURT FREES NAZI CHARGED WITH SHOOTING 15 POLISH PARTISANS

BONN, March 21. (JTA) -- A jury at Freiburg acquitted Hermann Herz, a 57-year-old former Gestapo officer in Allenstein, East Prussia, who was charged with shooting a group of 15 persons who were engaged in burying victims of mass killings and removing evidence of such atrocities.

In announcing the verdict, the jury said it found that it was no longer possible to discover all the details relevant to the case, and had therefore to acquit Herz. The former Gestapo official admitted that he had given the order to shoot the victims, but claimed that the persons he killed were Polish partisans who had been sentenced to death, and that he was just carrying out the sentences. The prosecution had asked for four years of hard labor for the accused.

At Hechingen, three officials of two Nazi concentration camps received prison terms at hard labor at the close of a nine-month war crimes trial. Franz Johann Hofmann, a former SS official, was sentenced to 13 years' imprisonment on conviction of manslaughter. A previous sentence against Hofmann by a Munich court was included in the sentence. Stephan Kruth, 48, was given a 12-year term on conviction for two cases of attempted murder. Helmut Schnabel, was given 10 years for attempted murder and complicity in the murder of four victims. Eugen Wurth, 48, was acquitted.

EUROPEAN COMMITTEE DISCUSSES REORGANIZATION OF ZIONIST MOVEMENT

PARIS, March 21. (JTA) -- Problems of ideology and structure of the World Zionist movement were discussed here today at a meeting of the European section of the committee of the World Zionist Organization charged with reorganizing the movement. Further discussion of the various proposals for reorganization were postponed to a meeting of the European group to be held here in June, with final decisions to be made at a meeting of the full committee in Geneva in July.

Addressing the meeting, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the WZO, stressed the need for the reorganization of the movement and the new structures which have to be adapted to conditions in various countries. He also pointed to the necessity for diminishing the influence of political parties on Zionist federations.

Also taking part in the meeting were Dr. S. Levenberg of Britain, who presided over the concluding session; Zvi Lurie of Jerusalem; and Dr. Astorre Mayer of Italy, newly-elected member of the Jewish Agency executive.

GENEVA RALLY PROTESTS DESECRATION OF SHRINE TO JEWISH WAR DEAD

GENEVA, March 21. (JTA) -- Jewish youth of this city held a silent meeting today in front of the Geneva synagogue, to protest against the continued smearing of the city's monument to Jewish martyrs. The monument has been desecrated three times in the last month. Over 50 persons, including many non-Jews, and priests, and members of the wartime resistance movement from France, attended the rally.

N. Y. STATE LEGISLATIVE GROUP SUMMONS ROCKWELL, MADOLE FOR HEARINGS

ALBANY, N. Y., March 21. (JTA) -- A New York State legislative group will begin hearings this week on the activities of neo-Nazi groups; it was announced here today. The hearings, which will be held in New York City, follow the start of a similar inquiry by a joint State Assembly and Senate committee into the activities of the John Birch Society. Two self-proclaimed "fuhrers" of neo-Nazi groups -- George Lincoln Rockwell of the American Nazi Party, and James H. Madole of the National Renaissance Party -- have been subpoenaed to appear at the hearings.

The committee chairmen, Sen. Irwin Brownstein, and Assemblyman B. L. Podell, both Brooklyn Democrats, are seeking to determine whether the neo-Nazi organizations should be required to file financial reports with the state as legitimate political parties must do. Since they announced the investigation into the John Birch Society earlier this month, both Sen. Brownstein and Assemblyman Podell have been deluged with hate mail and threatening telephone calls, many of the callers identifying themselves as members of neo-Nazi groups.

The previous hearings have been guarded by uniformed state policemen and plainclothes detectives. Many blackshirt and brownshirted members of neo-Nazi groups were among the spectators, but no hostile incidents occurred.

D. C. JEWISH COUNCIL HITS NEGRO GROUPS FOR BOYCOTT ON 'HOME RULE'

WASHINGTON, March 21. (JTA) -- The Jewish Community Council here criticized Negro groups which are leading a boycott of local merchants, many of them Jews. The Negro groups are protesting against the failure of Congress to vote Home Rule for residents of the nation's capital. The Council, at the same time, reaffirmed its support of Home Rule and condemned "the actions of those who have unconscionably blocked Home Rule for more than a decade." The statement singled out the city's Metropolitan Board of Trade for "opposing genuine self-government" for Washington residents, and urged the Board "to discontinue its opposition."

Then the statement added that the Council "must disavow the present boycott program by the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee and the Free D. C. Movement." The Council said the boycott "coerces businessmen who may have no views on Home Rule and who have no voice in the decisions of the Board of Trade, to commit themselves in favor of Home Rule, by a threat of a boycott if they do not so commit themselves."

The Council declared such actions were "a violation" of the freedom of such merchants "to have an opinion on this subject, or to have no opinion, and an invasion of their rights of privacy." Moreover, the statement declared, "this kind of a program is irrelevant and ineffective so far as the achievement of Home Rule is concerned, because it is not directed against the real targets."

VICTIMS OF NAZISM CAUTIONED ON MAY DEADLINE FOR FILING CLAIMS

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- A number of categories of victims of Nazi persecution, who failed to file restitution claims with West German authorities by an earlier deadline, have until May 23, 1965 to file such claims, it was announced here today by the United Restitution Organization. The earlier deadline was April 1, 1959.

Persons eligible for such payments, which will be made from a special fund set up by West Germany, include those whose jewelry and valuables were confiscated by the Nazis during the Second World War in concentration camps, labor camps, ghettos and other places in France, Belgium, the Netherlands, Poland, the Baltic states, Russia, the Ukraine, Bohemia, Moravia, parts of Czechoslovakia, Greece, the Serbian part of Yugoslavia and in Italy after September 8, 1943, as well as in the Mauthausen and Natzweiler concentration camps in Germany proper. Claims may also be filed, the URO noted, for furniture and household goods confiscated by the Nazis in France, Belgium and Holland from 1942 through 1944.

If the owner of the confiscated property is deceased, payment may be claimed by the surviving spouse and children only. Claimants for this restitution may either contact organizations or lawyers who handle general indemnification or restitution claims, or file directly with the Special Buildings and Property Administration of the Berlin Finance Office at Fasanenstrasse 87, Berlin, 12, West Germany.

KURT LOEWENBERG, PHILANTHROPIST, DEAD AT 66; FUNERAL TOMORROW

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- Funeral services will be held here Wednesday for Kurt Loewenberg, a prominent Jewish industrialist and communal leader, who died yesterday at the age of 66. Born in Berlin, Mr. Loewenberg came to the United States in 1938 and was active for many years in numerous philanthropic activities, including the United Jewish Appeal and the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies.

MRS. EMANUEL CELLER, WIFE OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES DEAN, DIES

NEW YORK, March 21. (JTA) -- Mrs. Emanuel Celler, wife of the dean of the United States House of Representatives, died here today after a long illness.

Mrs. Celler, the former Stella Barr, and the Brooklyn Congressman, who is a Democrat, had been married for 51 years.