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69 SENATORS BACK U.S. JEWISH PROTESTS ON TREATMENT OF JEWS IN RUSSIA

PHILADELPHIA, April 14. (JTA) -- More than two-thirds of the members of the U. S. Senate -- 69 Senators -- registered their "staunch support of the American Jewish community's protests against the anti-Semitic policies of the Soviet Union" in a statement issued today in connection with a two-day national leadership conference opening here Sunday under the auspices of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry.

The Conference, comprising 400 Jewish leaders representing 25 national Jewish organizations, will meet here to proclaim a Declaration of Rights for Soviet Jewry on Monday in historic Congress Hall, where the American Bill of Rights was formally added to the American Constitution in 1791.

The statement, signed by the 69 U.S. Senators declared that "the plight of Soviet Jewry has long been a concern of the United States Senate. On more than one occasion the Senate adopted resolutions expressing sympathy for the Jews living in the Soviet Union -- and condemning the Soviet policy of discrimination against Jewish culture, religion and community. They expressed our fervent hope for a reversal of Soviet policy.

"We therefore consider it fitting, as United States Senators, to register our staunch support of the American Jewish community's protests against the anti-Semitic policies of the Soviet Union," The statement said: "We must continually direct the world's attention to this state of affairs, and put forward the insistent demand that the 3,000,000 Jews of the Soviet Union be allowed to live creatively and in dignity as Jews. The facts are well known: They have been ably presented by the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, which was founded just two years ago in our nation's Capital.

"Soviet policy," the statement stressed, "seems to be aiming at the obliteration of the Jewish community and Jewish culture. This must be vigorously protested -- not only by those who value and revere the ancient Jewish tradition and civilization, but also by every person who respects the fundamental human right of a group to live in peace and security."

Recognizing that "there are tens of thousands of Jews who desire -- after decades of sorrow and tragedy -- to be rejoined with their broken families in the United States, in Israel and other countries" the statement by the Senators strongly supports "the plea that the Soviet Government translate this principle into practice."

List of Senators Indicates Nationwide Interest in Soviet Jewry

The list of the senators who signed the statement indicates wide American interest in the fate of Soviet Jewry: The signatories are: Gordon Allott, Colorado; E. L. Bartlett, Alaska; Birch Bayh, Indiana; Wallace F. Bennett, Utah; J. Caleb Bogg, Delaware; Daniel B. Brewster, Maryland; Quentin N. Burdick, N. Dakota; Harry F. Byrd, Jr., Virginia; Robert C. Byrd, W. Virginia; Howard W. Cannon, Nevada; Clifford P. Case, New Jersey; Joseph S. Clark, Pennsylvania; John Sherman Cooper, Kentucky; Thomas J. Dodd, Connecticut; Peter H. Dominick, Colorado; Paul H. Douglas, Illinois; Paul J. Fannin, Arizona; Hiram L. Fong, Hawaii; Ernest Greuning, Alaska;

Also Philip A. Hart, Michigan; Vance Hartke, Indiana; Spessard L. Holland, Florida; Roman L. Hruska, Nebraska; Daniel K. Inouye, Hawaii; Henry M. Jackson, Washington; Jacob K. Javits, New York; Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts; Robert F. Kennedy, New York; Thomas H. Kuchel, California; Frank J. Lausche, Ohio; Edward V. Long, Missouri; Warren G. Magnuson, Washington; Eugene J. McCarthy, Minnesota; John L. McClellan, Arkansas; Gale W. McGee, Wyoming; George McGovern, S. Dakota; Thomas J. McIntyre, New Hampshire; Lee Metcalf, Montana; Jack Miller, Iowa;

Also Walter F. Mondale, Minnesota; A. S. Mike Monroney, Oklahoma; Joseph M. Montoya, New Mexico; Wayne Morse, Oregon; Thruston B. Morton, Kentucky; Frank E. Moss, Utah; Karl E. Mundt, S. Dakota; George Murphy, California; Maurine Neuberger, Oregon; John C. Pastore, Rhode Island; James B. Pearson, Kansas; Claiborne Pell,

Rhode Island; William Proxmire, Wisconsin; Jennings Randolph, West Virginia; Abraham A. Ribicoff, Connecticut; Leverett Saltonstall, Massachusetts; Hugh Scott, Pennsylvania; Milward L. Simpson, Wyoming; George A. Smathers, Florida; Stuart Symington, Missouri; Strom Thurmond, S. Carolina; John G. Tower, Texas; Joseph D. Tydings, Maryland; Harrison A. Williams, Jr., New Jersey; Ralph W. Yarborough, Texas; Stephen M. Young, Ohio; Alan Bible, Nevada; Winston L. Prouty, Vermont; Everett McKinley Dirksen, Illinois; and Gaylord Nelson, Wisconsin.

ESHKOL ASSUMES PRESIDENCY OF ISRAEL'S ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION

JERUSALEM, April 14. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol assumed today the presidency of the Atomic Energy Commission replacing Prof. Ernst David Bergman, who resigned after heading the commission since it was set up 14 years ago.

Prof. Bergman had repeatedly asked that his resignation be accepted over differences on policy and budgetary matters. Prof. Bergman, who also had been director of the Defense Ministry's scientific department since 1948, is expected to continue his teaching duties at the Hebrew University.

He submitted his resignation more than a year ago, reportedly partly because of personal political convictions which were not defined, but was asked to stay until a replacement could be found. Prof. Israel Dostrovsky will assume Prof. Bergman's duties in the Defense Ministry. Premier Eshkol assumed the commission chairmanship as Premier and not as Defense Minister.

U.N. SECRETARY GENERAL DECLINES ARAB INVITATION TO VISIT REFUGEE CAMPS

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 14. (JTA) -- Secretary-General U Thant rejected today an invitation extended to him by 12 member states of the Arab League who had asked him to visit the Arab refugee camps in the Middle East "to witness the deteriorating conditions of the refugees and the prevailing dangerous situation in the area."

Without closing the door entirely, Mr. Thant informed the delegations: "With regard to the invitation, I think at this time juncture I need say only that whenever it may become clearly apparent to me that a visit to the area and to the refugee camps would produce some specific, positive and beneficial results, I will not hesitate to make such a visit."

The invitation to Mr. Thant to visit the camps--which are located in Jordan, Syria, Lebanon and in the Gaza Strip--had mentioned a deficit facing the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees. Israel's envoy here, Ambassador Michael S. Comay, had pointed out to Mr. Thant in response to the Arab letter that UNRWA has recently raised sufficient funds to cover current budgetary needs, and declared that the claim "that the agency faces an immediate financial crisis would, therefore, appear to be unwarranted."

In his letter to the Arab delegates today, Mr. Thant stated: "I am encouraged by the knowledge that, although a deficit in the current budget of the agency may still exist, its total amount has been substantially reduced by further contributions that have been made or are in prospect since your letter to me was written. In fact, the Commissioner-General (of UNRWA) has recently stated that it now seems possible for the agency to carry out the program of activities envisaged in its (UNRWA's) last annual report to the General Assembly."

The Secretary-General pointed out further that the refugee problem is discussed each year by the General Assembly, which acts on the issue, and that he is in constant touch on the question with Laurence Michelmore, head of UNRWA. He noted that the General Assembly could, if it wants to, ask the Secretary-General "to take any steps that it might consider to be helpful."

JOSEPH BRODSKY, RUSSIAN JEWISH POET, FREED FROM SOVIET IMPRISONMENT

LONDON, April 14. (JTA) -- Joseph Brodsky, the Russian Jewish poet who was jailed five years ago as a "work-shy parasite," has been freed, according to reports today from Moscow. The 25-year-old poet was jailed after he wrote poems critical of Soviet life.

Disclosure of his sentencing touched off repeated protests from writers and intellectuals in the West. It was believed that his release was connected with efforts being made to free Yuli Daniel and Andrei Sinyavsky, two other Soviet authors who were recently sentenced to long prison terms for smuggling their manuscripts out of the Soviet Union which were published in London, Paris and New York.

CANADIAN GOVT. COMMITTEE RECOMMENDS OUTLAWING OF HATE PROPAGANDA

OTTAWA, April 14. (JTA) -- Federal legislation to combat hate propaganda is being expected here following a report submitted by a special Government committee to the House of Commons urging legal measures against dissemination of hate literature and prison terms for persons advocating genocide.

The report was submitted last week by Solicitor General Lawrence Pennel. The committee, headed by Law Dean Maxwell Cohen of McGill University, was set up by the Federal Government last January to study the problem of curbing the flow of propaganda aimed at ethnic or religious minorities. The Government had stated that the committee's recommendations would serve as basis for Federal action.

In a related development, the Canadian Jewish Congress sent a letter to Prime Minister Lester Pearson, urging him to consider support of legislation extending the "spirit and intent" of the Criminal Code, which bans mailing of "scurrilous matter," to make it "an offense to publish, whether orally or in writing, anything that is scurrilous."

The proposal was offered as "a further suggestion which we would like you to consider as an additional or alternative approach" to previous Canadian Jewish Congress recommendations to the Government and the House Committee on External Affairs last year.

The Government committee proposed that the Criminal Code be amended to make advocacy or promotion of genocide "an indictable offense," punishable by five years imprisonment. The committee offered, as part of its proposed amendment the proposal that "every one who, by communicating statements in any public place, incites hatred or contempt against any identifiable group, where such incitement is likely to lead to a breach of the peace, is guilty of an indictable offense and is liable to imprisonment for two years, or, an offense punishable on summary conviction."

Proposes Imprisonment for Promoting Group Hatred

Another proposed clause of the suggested amendment was that "everyone who, by communicating statements, wilfully promotes hatred or contempt against any identifiable group is guilty of an indictable offense and is liable to imprisonment for two years or an offense punishable on summary conviction."

Under the proposed amendment, no legal action would be taken if the individual concerned "proves that the statements communicated were true," or "relevant to any subject of public interest, the public discussion of which was for the public benefit" or that "on reasonable grounds he believed them to be true."

The committee report noted that Saul Hayes, executive vice-president of the CJC, indicated he wished the recommendations to exclude truth as a defense.

The committee made a number of "supplementary recommendations" among them one calling for Government action on statutes and regulations on hate propaganda material and activities; so that such rules would be related "to the general standard as set out in the Criminal Code rather than to a standard established independently by 'various government agencies and departments."

Jewish Congress Urges Effective Checking of Hostility

The letter by the Canadian Jewish Congress to Premier Pearson urged that in amending the Criminal Code for more effective treatment of hate propaganda, "the definition of scurrilous should provide that 'scurrilous matter' include matter a principle purpose of which is to promote hatred or contempt of or hostility against a class of persons or against any person as a member of a class by reason of the particular race, nationality or ethnic origin, color or religion of such class or person."

In language similar to that proposed by the Government committee for treatment of genocide charges, the letter proposed that "to preserve the nature of legitimate debate and publication," the proposed amendments "should also provide that no person shall be convicted of an offense only by reason of having published in good faith and in decent language statements relating to controversial social, economic, political or religious beliefs or opinions."

The letter to the Prime Minister noted briefly that the CJC proposals were aimed at protecting constitutional rights of freedom of speech and press. The letter said the CJC was "encouraged in our belief that such an amendment would be in harmony with the mores of the community by the recapitulation of the general laws of this country on matters of freedom of speech which were expressed by the advisory opinions of two Postal Boards of Review." Those review boards acted in support of the actions of two Postmasters General who banned the use of the mails in 1965 to hatemongers.

U. S. CENSUS BUREAU CONSIDERS INCLUSION QUESTION OF RELIGION IN CENSUS

CLEVELAND, April 14: (JTA) -- The United States Census Bureau is considering inclusion of questions on religion for the first time in the 1970 census, Bureau Director Ross stated here yesterday. He said that Jews and Christian Scientists remained opposed to the proposal but that Catholic and Protestant groups had asked for such inquiries;

U. S. FIRM TERMINATES OIL DRILLING AGREEMENT WITH ISRAELI COMPANY

NEW YORK, April 14. (JTA) -- Livingston Oil Company of Tulsa, Okla., announced here yesterday that an agreement with Petrocana, Ltd. of Israel for participation in off-shore drilling for oil had been terminated. No reason for the termination was given although a company spokesman said that apparently the agreed-time period ended before something was worked out for the joint oil hunting.

Israeli sources said that the agreement collapsed because of differences between officials of Petrocana which has leases on more than 500,000 acres of offshore land in the Mediterranean, and Livingston. Petrocana reportedly wanted the American firm to start drilling operations immediately but Livingston felt it needed more on-shore research before beginning the costly drilling.

Petrocana, which promised the Israel Government it would start drilling soon and had its leases extended several times, indicated that it would meet a July 1 deadline with new partners, it was reported here. Petrocana chairman Gordon Hirschhorn was reported as saying "we will have our first well spudded by mid-summer." However, the Israel Government was reported to be taking a hard look at the matter.

Wayne Swearingen, who succeeded Julius Livingston as president, said Livingston wanted to "stay in the picture, with or without Petrocana, either off-shore or on-shore." He indicated Livingston hoped to negotiate with the Israel Government.

GIRL STUDENT IN SAN FRANCISCO ASSAULTS NAZI; WINS WIDE SYMPATHY

SAN FRANCISCO, April 14. (JTA) -- A 19-year-old University of California student, Miss Lynda Koolish, was notified today that she is to appear before Berkeley City Judge Floyd C. Talbot on May 11, on charges of assault and battery growing out of an attack she made against a uniformed member of the American Nazi Party, who had tried to address students at the gates leading to the university campus.

Miss Koolish told the Jewish Community Bulletin here that, when she saw the man in a storm-trooper's uniform, and heard him "harangue against Jews and America," she could not contain herself and "an uncontrollable impulse moved me to kick him in the pants." She said that she has a friend who survived incarceration at Auschwitz and another friend who lost both of her parents in that death camp. "I have pleaded not guilty," she said, "because I believe my action was understandable."

The student said that, since she was arrested for kicking the Nazi, she has received many letters applauding her action, some of the missives coming from men in the armed forces, and some containing money for her defense. She is defended by Harbert Donaldson, of San Francisco. "Of course, I've returned the money," she added.

IDA KAMINSKA, NOTED JEWISH ACTRESS, ARRIVES FROM POLAND IN VISIT TO U. S.

CHICAGO, April 14: (JTA) -- Ida Kaminska, director of the Polish Government Yiddish Folk Theater in Warsaw, and recognized as the leading Yiddish theatrical personality in the world, arrived here yesterday for a brief visit, and left today for Hollywood.

Miss Kaminska is visiting the United States specifically in connection with the showing in this country of the Czech-made film, "The Shop on Main Street," which has been widely praised by critics as one of the finest movies ever made on the theme of the Nazi holocaust. She plays the leading feminine role in that film. After a short stay in Hollywood, Washington and New York, Miss Kaminska plans to return to Warsaw at the end of this month.

MRS. ROSE HOENIG, EX-SECRETARY OF PREMIER MACDONALD, DIES IN LONDON

LONDON, April 14: (JTA) -- Mrs. Rose Hoenig, 55, who for 15 years was the private secretary of Prime Minister Ramsay MacDonald, died today in London.

She was legal adviser to the National Council for Civil Liberties and a member of the official delegation which accompanied Premier MacDonald on a visit to the United States and Canada in 1929.