



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXXIII - 49th year

Monday, April 18, 1966

No. 73

CONFERENCE OF MAJOR JEWISH GROUPS APPEALS TO WORLD ON SOVIET JEWRY

PHILADELPHIA, April 17. (JTA) -- A united front of all people -- the left as well as the right -- to protest Soviet discrimination against Russian Jewry, was urged by Rt. Rev. James A. Pike, Episcopal Bishop of California, in an address this evening opening a two-day conference of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry here.

Speaking before 400 leaders of the 25 national Jewish organizations comprising the Conference, the noted churchman said that "rightwingers should not emphasize Soviet behavior towards its Jews because it is Soviet; leftwingers should not minimize it because it is Soviet. The restrictions on Jewish religion and culture in the Soviet Union, and the anti-Semitic manifestations there," he said, "are not made worse or better because the Government is Communist. When it comes to human rights, rights of persons to be what they want to be, to group as they want to group -- religiously, ethnically, or whatever -- and value what they want to value, our concern should know no national boundaries."

Other speakers at tonight's session of the Conference that will formulate tomorrow a declaration of rights for Russian Jewry in Philadelphia's historic Congress Hall, where the American Bill of Rights was adopted in 1791, were Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the sponsoring group, and Professor Erich Goldhagen, director of the Institute of East European Affairs at Brandeis University.

Rabbi Miller said that the basic demand of the American Jewish community "is for the right of the historic Russian Jewish community to continue its links with the past, to be given the facilities and institutions to fulfill itself in its present, and to be permitted the opportunity of creating a future by handing on its traditions, its faith, its languages and its culture to its children."

The New York Orthodox rabbi, who as president of the Rabbinical Council of America, headed a group of nine rabbis who visited Leningrad, Moscow, Tbilisi and Kiev last summer, asked that "those families torn asunder in the Nazi holocaust, who were separated by war and its terrors, should be allowed to reunite with their families in Israel and other countries of the world, if they so desire."

Soviet Jewry Compared to Man Afflicted with Mortal Illness

Prof. Goldhagen told the assembled leaders that the 3,000,000 Jews in the Soviet Union had 7,000 Jewish schools and thousands of rabbis and synagogues in the pre-Soviet era 50 years ago; today there are no Jewish schools, and some 40 or 50 rabbis, whose average age is 65, for a like number of synagogues. "Russian Jewry is today comparable to a man afflicted with a mortal illness that is destroying the whole fabric of the Judaic tradition," he said.

"Jewish tradition," he continued, "has known a few regimes that have imposed a total ban on Jewish cultural life; but none have succeeded as thoroughly as the Soviet Government in paralyzing the cultivation and transmission of the cultural tradition of the Jewish community under its sway. The atomization of Soviet Jews is without precedent in the experience of the Jewish people.

"For the first time in its history, the orderly perpetuation of the Jewish people will have been broken. In 10 or 15 years, it will be difficult to find within the Soviet Union a man capable of performing a Jewish burial ceremony, a Jewish wedding or a bar mitzvah," Prof. Goldhagen told the Conference.

ANNIVERSARY OF WARSAW GHETTO UPRISING COMMEMORATED AT NEW YORK RALLY

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA) -- Against a backdrop of huge photographic reproduction of the granite monument on the site of the former Warsaw Ghetto, the 23rd Anniversary of the uprising by the remnants of the ghetto against the armed might of the Nazis was observed this afternoon at a large open air rally in Times Square.

The famous thoroughfare was renamed "Warsaw Ghetto Square" for the day, which coincides with the Hebrew date of the 27th of Nissan, proclaimed as Annual Day of Remembrance for the ghetto fighters and the 6, 000, 000 Jews massacred by the Nazis. The rally, attended by thousands of adults and Hebrew school pupils, was held under the auspices of the Zionist Organization of America and co-sponsored by 35 national and metropolitan Jewish organizations.

The resurgence of neo-Nazism in West Germany and the failure of U.S. ratification of the Genocide Convention of the United Nations outlawing the destruction of national, racial or ethnic groups were the themes of most of the addresses delivered at the rally. Strong pleas were also made for equal treatment of the Jewish community in Soviet Russia. Principal speakers were: Senator Jacob K. Javits, Congressman Emanuel E. Celler, chairman of the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives, Jacques Torczyner, ZOA president and Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow, president of the New York Board of Rabbis. Abram Salomon, chairman of the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising Anniversary Committee presided.

Senator Javits, addressing the rally, said that if Israel had existed as a sovereign Jewish state during the years when the Nazis came to power, many more Jews would have been saved. We must remember, however," he added, "that there are still millions of Jews in the Soviet Union, and many thousands in the Arab world, who are in the gravest danger." Jews must continue to fight for Israel, he stressed, and "must not give in to Arab pressure."

Mr. Torczyner warned that "the grimmest danger facing the world today is the strengthening and reunification of Germany." He asserted that the "victories scored by the extremist, right-wing, Nazi infiltrated parties in the recent municipal elections in Bavaria and Hamburg are a warning to all those who have been lulled into the belief that Germany is our only faithful ally in continental Europe." He strongly criticized U.S. failure to ratify the Genocide Convention of the United Nations in spite of the fact "that 69 sovereign nations have already signed this convention adopted by the U.N. which outlaws the destruction 'in whole or in part of national, racial, religious or ethnic groups.' "

100 MASS RITES FOR THE 6, 000, 000 JEWISH MARTYRS HELD IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, April 17. (JTA) -- Nearly 100 mass rites, commemorating the martyrdom of the 6, 000, 000 Jews annihilated during the Nazi Holocaust, were held throughout Israel today and last night. The observances were linked to the anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising against the Hitler forces, which was launched 23 years ago.

While the largest of the meetings, attended by at least 10, 000 persons, was held in Dizengoff Square here this morning, the country-wide observances were begun immediately after sundown yesterday. Israeli flags were lowered to half-mast at all public buildings, and tens of thousands of homes and offices displayed lighted memorial candles. All places of entertainment joined the mourning by closing down. At 8 this morning, sirens sounded throughout the country, and activity halted throughout virtually all of Israel, as all joined the observance by maintaining two minutes of silence.

This year's Remembrance Day ceremonies being the first ever held in Israel during the presence of a West German Ambassador in the country, principal speakers at Tel Aviv's big, outdoor meeting decried the rise of neo-Nazism in Germany, and criticized what they termed the increasing tendency among Germans to forget "the past." Banners and placards, in Hebrew and Yiddish, English, French and Russian included slogans like "We doubt that today's Germany is a 'New' Germany" and "We don't care whether it is West Germany which freed Nazi criminals, or East Germany which supports the Arabs against Israel."

COCA-COLA ISSUE SETTLED; FRANCHISE FOR ISRAEL GIVEN TO FEINBERG

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA) -- The issue of whether the Coca-Cola Export Corporation has bowed to the Arab boycott against Israel, when it refused to grant a franchise to the Israeli firm, Tempo Soft Drinks Company, was settled this weekend when the Coca-Cola company announced that it had agreed to grant such a franchise to Abraham Feinberg, noted American Jewish leader and business executive, whose associates in the venture will be Israeli citizens. Mr. Feinberg is president of the Israel Bond Organization.

A statement issued by James A. Farley, chairman of the Coca-Cola Export Corporation, said that in 1949, Mr. Feinberg, with a group of associates, received approval from the Coca-Cola Company of his application to bottle Coca-Cola in Israel. "Because of the difficult hard currency situation at that time, Mr. Feinberg and his associates were unable to get Israeli Government approval and subsequently withdrew their application in 1950," the statement pointed out, adding that "Mr. Feinberg has never lost his interest and, as recently as March 31, predating the current controversy, advised me of his continuing serious interest and renewed his request for a franchise."

"In reply to Mr. Feinberg's letter to me of March 31, a representative of the Coca-Cola Company advised him on April 1 that we would be pleased to discuss the matter with him upon his return from Israel in mid-April," Mr. Farley declared. He announced that, last Friday, J. Paul Austin, president of the Coca-Cola Company and Mr. Feinberg met together and "agreed to exchange letters of intent which is normal procedure when a corporation enters into negotiations to establish a new franchise. Mr. Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, was most helpful in working with both parties," he emphasized.

Mr. Abram issued a statement declaring that he had examined the file of correspondence between Mr. Feinberg and the Coca-Cola Export Corporation, which goes back to 1949. "There is no evidence in that file, from then to the present, of any reluctance by Coca-Cola to do business in Israel with a respected and stable group of investors," the American Jewish Committee president declared.

The Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, which last week accused Coca-Cola of bowing to the Arab boycott in denying a franchise to Tempo Soft Drink Co., of Israel, said after Mr. Farley's announcement that it was "delighted" with the Coca-Cola decision.

Israel Government to Grant Facilities to Coca-Cola Plant

JERUSALEM, April 17. (JTA) -- The Israel Government was expected here today to grant facilities for a Coca-Cola plant in Israel under regulations which encourage foreign investors. In general, the Government has not been encouraging the establishment of industries aimed exclusively at production of goods for current consumption, and not exportable. However, it is generally believed that, should a Coca-Cola plant be established in a development area, the usual facilities for "approved concerns" would be granted.

Recently, the Zenith Company, of the United States, was granted plant facilities after it had agreed to establish a television set factory at either Beersheba or Naza th, both of which are included among development areas.

ISRAELI ARABS ARRESTED; ONE ADMITS POISONING OF WELL IN SETTLEMENT

TEL AVIV, April 17. (JTA) -- Three Israeli Arabs were under arrest today after one of them admitted putting deadly insecticides in the well of the Shadmot Evora Settlement in the lower Galilee. The youths are aged 16 to 18. The well was closed temporarily.

Police were puzzled by the sabotage effort because the Arabs are residents of a village near the settlement which has always had friendly relations with the settlement.

ONLY 1,500 JEWS REPORTED LEFT IN EAST GERMANY; MOST OF THEM AGED

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA) -- There are about 1,500 Jews left in all of East Germany, with 850 of them living in East Berlin, the New York Times reported here today. Most of the East Berlin Jews are over the age of 55, the dispatch from West Berlin reported.

10 'RAT FINKS' FOUND GUILTY OF ENCOURAGING ANTI-SEMITIC SONGS

SALEM, N.J., April 17. (JTA) -- A five-man committee of the New Jersey Young Republican State Committee voted here this weekend to put 10 members of the New Jersey Young Republicans "on trial" for expulsion. They were charged with bigotry arising from the activities of the "Rat Fink" faction of the organization. The 10 were found guilty of singing or encouraging anti-Semitic and anti-Negro songs at public rallies of the Young Republicans. The committee declined to name publicly the 10 accused.

Republican leaders in this state, and in the National Committee, had urged the expulsion of the "Rat Finks," asserting that the group had "blackened" the name of the Republican Party by indulging in racist activities.

J.D.C. DIRECTOR URGES UNIFIED INTERGOVERNMENTAL CARE OF REFUGEES

AMSTERDAM, April 17. (JTA) -- A unified intergovernmental responsibility for the thousands of refugees now scattered throughout Europe, Asia and Africa was urged by Charles H. Jordan, Director-General of the Joint Distribution Committee at a preparatory meeting for the European Refugee Campaign of 1966 held here under the chairmanship of Prince Bernhard of the Netherlands. Mr. Jordan spoke as chairman of the Refugee Commission of the International Council of Voluntary Agencies.

The campaign, in which 12 European countries are already participating, will make an intensive European-wide effort in the week of October 24th to raise funds for refugees in Asia and Africa. Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees also addressed the meeting which was attended by representatives of national campaign committees in Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Luxembourg, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.

ROBERT SZOLD CENTER OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEDICATED AT HEBREW U.

JERUSALEM, April 17. (JTA) -- The Robert Szold Center of Applied Science at Hebrew University was established here this weekend in ceremonies which included a round-table discussion on procedures for teaching applied science. The New York attorney is president of the Palestine Endowment Funds Inc. which gave \$500,000 in his name to set up the center.

A 12-story teaching laboratories building, made possible by a gift of undisclosed size from Louis Mintz, Anglo-Jewish philanthropist and communal worker, was also dedicated at the Hebrew University. The gift was believed to be about 100,000 pounds sterling (\$280,000). Speakers at the ceremony included Sir Isaac Wolfson, the British philanthropist, representatives of the British Embassy and Hebrew University President Eliahu Elath.

DR. PRINZ WITHDRAWS FROM RE-NOMINATION FOR JEWISH CONGRESS PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA) -- Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress for the past eight years, announced tonight he would not be a candidate for reelection when the organization's national convention takes place later this month. He made the announcement as he was honored at a dinner in the Essex House attended by 500 Jewish community leaders.

Dr. Prinz, who is also chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, said he was stepping down from the Congress presidency "because it's the American thing not to be president for more than eight years." The American Jewish Congress will elect a new president at its national convention which starts on April 27.

GEN. ALLON, ISRAEL'S LABOR MINISTER, ARRIVES IN U.S. FOR BOND DRIVE

NEW YORK, April 17. (JTA) -- General Yigal Allon, Israel's Minister of Labor, arrived in the United States to take part in the campaign for State of Israel Bonds. He is widely known for his outstanding leadership as Commander-in-Chief of the Palmach, the shock troop division of the Jewish Defense Forces in Palestine, which played a major role in Israel's War of Liberation.