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U.S. JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ADOPT DECLARATION ON RIGHTS OF SOVIET JEWRY

PHILADELPHIA, April 18. (JTA) -- A six-point Declaration of Rights for Russian Jewry was adopted here today at the concluding session of the two-day meeting of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. It was signed by the presidents and chairmen of 25 national Jewish religious and secular organizations in historic Congress Hall where, in 1791, the American Bill of Rights was formally adopted.

Declaring that American Jewry does "solemnly pledge that, so long as Soviet Jews are cut off from the Jewish people, proscribed from living their lives as Jews, so long will our voices be lifted in protest and indignation," the Declaration called upon the Government of the USSR to:

1. Restore its Jewish citizens to a position of equality with all other nationalities;
2. Permit its Jewish citizens freely to practice, enhance and perpetuate their culture and religion by removing all discriminatory measures designed to restrict this freedom.
3. Make available all the institutions, the schools, the text books and the materials necessary to reach Jewish children the languages, the history, the beliefs, the practices and the aspirations of the Jewish people;
4. Permit the Jews of the USSR freely to develop Jewish groups and to associate and work with Jewish groups inside and outside the Soviet Union;
5. Use all the means at its disposal to eradicate anti-Semitism; and
6. Permit Soviet Jewish families, separated as a result of the Nazi holocaust, to be reunited with their relatives abroad.

In presenting the Declaration to delegates for formal adoption, Mrs. Mortimer Jacobson, national president of Hadassah, said: "This Conference on behalf of Jews in the USSR is a demonstration of American democracy in action. The American ideal of a Great Society, projected by President Johnson, is not a literary exercise. It is a working blueprint for the pursuit of universal freedom, equality and justice for the human rights of human beings everywhere. Nor is the cultural and religious heritage of the Jewish people a museum piece. It is a way of life for the Jewish people. We will not rest until the Jews of the USSR are free to make it their way of life."

Peculiar Nature of Soviet Discrimination Against Jews Stressed

Dr. Joachim Prinz, president of the American Jewish Congress, presided at the meeting inside Congress Hall. Explaining the peculiar nature of the Soviet discriminations against its Jews, Dr. Prinz said: "The attack upon Soviet Jewish institutions represents a special form of the tragedy of European Jewry in this century. It is not an attack upon the physical safety of Russian Jews. It is not to be analogized to the monstrous and unspeakable crimes of Nazi Germany. There does not exist in the Soviet Union anything like the relentless racism which pursued Jews down the generations for the purpose of bringing about their imprisonment in camps and their destruction in crematoria. This incomparable barbarism at least has not returned.

"But there are values in addition to physical life which we cherish and treasure and whose support is a common human responsibility. Our anguish cannot be mitigated by the consoling fact that this vital part of the surviving Jewish remnant faces only spiritual and cultural strangulation, and not outright physical destruction. We reject all efforts

forcibly to destroy Jewish life whether it be by the brutality and bestiality of the Hitler era or by the subtler, more benign methods of cultural and religious deprivation."

Prior to the formal signing of the Declaration inside the hallowed halls of Congress Hall, the delegates held an open air meeting on Independence Mall, where the speakers were Senator Hugh Scott of Pennsylvania; Roy Wilkins, executive director of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People; and Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, who presided.

Abram Denies Soviet Contention on Jews; Hopes for Policy Change

In introducing the speakers at the meeting on the Mall, Mr. Abram who is also the U.S. representative to the United Nations Human Rights Commission, denied the Soviet contention that the Jews in Russia "don't want to be Jews any more." At the same time he said that the outlook for a change of Soviet policy on Jews is not all black. "I choose to believe that the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union is not futile so long as the Russian sensitivity to public opinion -- just as is our own -- is as enormous as it is," he stated.

Sen. Scott hailed the conference, saying that public protestations against Soviet anti-Semitism constitute "life insurance" for the 3,000,000 Soviet Jews. "I feel a deep sense of personal obligation in joining with you today in protesting Soviet anti-Semitism," he stated. Speakers at the conference included also Aaron Goldman, chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Council; Dr. William A. Wexler, international president of B'nai B'rith; and Dr. Aaron Glanz-Leyeless, president of the Yiddish P.E.N. club.

JEWISH CONGREGATIONS IN SOVIET ASIA REPORTED BEING PERSECUTED

LONDON, April 18. (JTA) -- Soviet authorities in the Republic of Tadjikistan have been persecuting the few Jewish congregations in the area during the last few months, it was learned here today. The most serious of the persecution, according to reports reaching the West, is taking place in the city of Dushambe, where the congregation's Ashkenazic rabbi and chairman of the Ashkenazic Jewish community, Rabbi Shlomo Shapiro, was dismissed on explicit orders from the district officer in charge of religious affairs in the community.

The Jews of Dushambe, who have no other candidate capable of filling the post of spiritual leader, have appealed to the district authorities of the republic, and have carried their grievance to Moscow. Authorities in Moscow have replied that the issue is one that comes under the jurisdiction of the Republic of Tadjikistan, while the latter claim they are acting under instructions from Moscow. Meanwhile, the rabbinical post and the Ashkenazi chairmanship are vacant.

Dushambe has a Jewish population of about 15,000, out of a total population of 220,000. The Ashkenazi Jews in Dushambe are mostly Jews from Poland who escaped into Russia during the early days of the Nazi occupation of Poland.

SOVIET TELEVISION TEAM ARRIVES IN ISRAEL TO PRODUCE TV PROGRAMS

JERUSALEM, April 18. (JTA) -- A three-man Soviet television production team arrived here today, marking the USSR's first effort to produce TV programs in Israel since the Jewish State was reborn in 1948.

The Soviet TV men will produce two documentaries here. One of these shows will deal with life in Israel. The other will be a documentary film on the life of Shuta Rostavili, a Georgian poet born 800 years ago, who had lived in Jerusalem.

ISRAEL MINISTER OF LABOR MEETS IN WASHINGTON WITH HIGH OFFICIALS

WASHINGTON, April 18. (JTA) -- Israel Minister of Labor Yigal Alon met today with U.S. Ambassador-at-Large Averell Harriman and other officials. His visit was described as a courtesy call on Washington Government authorities. He is scheduled to meet tomorrow with Secretary of Labor W. Willard Wirtz.

DIFFICULTIES IN MEETING DEFENSE OBLIGATIONS PREDICTED IN ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, April 18. (JTA) -- Deputy Defense Minister Zvi Dinstein warned yesterday that unless Israel's economy is overhauled, the country will have difficulty meeting ever heavier defense obligations in a few years.

Speaking at a meeting of the Engineers Union, he said that Israel was compelled to devote a larger share of its gross national income to defense than either the United States or France. He reported that despite huge supplies of Soviet weapons being given to the Arab states, Israel had difficulties in impressing on the western powers the need to maintain a balance of power.

The problem is expected to be discussed by Israel officials with Raymond Hare, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs, when he comes to Israel this weekend. Israeli officials feel the matter has become an urgent one because of the large Soviet arms deliveries and the recent United States sales to Jordan and Saudi Arabia.

ISRAEL'S CAPABILITY TO PRODUCE ATOM BOMB RAISED IN TV DISCUSSION

WASHINGTON, April 18. (JTA) -- Israel could probably perfect an atomic bomb within two years, the United States Administration doesn't want Israel to join the "atomic club," and Egypt's President Nasser has threatened to open "preventive war" against Israel if he receives "concrete information" about Israel's nuclear capability, the National Broadcasting Company reported on a nationwide television program last night.

A feature of the program was the showing, for the first time, of secretly made, unauthorized films, taken from a distance, of Israel's nuclear reactor at Dimona. "There at Dimona," said NBC commentator Chet Huntley, "heavily guarded, is a nuclear reactor. No outsider is allowed near it. But certain facts are known."

The NBC news correspondent in Paris, Bernard Frizell, added at this point: "France helped Israel to build a nuclear reactor at Dimona, a reactor that was completed just about a year ago. Since the agreement on the basis of which the French gave this aid has never been published, it is not known whether the reactor is limited to peaceful uses."

Irving R. Levine, NBC news correspondent in Rome, stated: "If the decision were made tonight, Israel would probably have a bomb in less than two years. The generation governing Israel has been reluctant to make the decision to go nuclear. The next generation may feel that Israel's security demands that they build atomic bombs, openly or in secret."

U.S. Expert on Atomic Development Gives View on Israel

One of the outstanding American experts on the general subject of atomic development, Herman Kahn, director of the Hudson Institute, stated: "What I would assume that the Israelis are doing, and what I would, in fact, consider wise to do if I were in their position, is put aside something like one or two years away from being able to spread nuclear weapons. In other words, if the situation changes, they do have this option under a crash program of getting nuclear weapons. This in itself might act as a deterrent to an Arab program. On the other hand, they should not display this option, talk about it, publicize it, or in any way lay any emphasis on it -- but just have it in the background."

"The Israelis," added Mr. Huntley, "do have this option at Dimona. And they keep it in the background." Officially, Mr. Huntley pointed out, Israel has accepted the U.S. view against nuclear proliferation. After showing that Israel faces the Arab enemy "sworn to wipe Israel from the map," Mr. Huntley said: "It is to defend against this that, over strong United States opposition, some Israelis want to build a nuclear bomb."

Gen. Pierre Gallois, of France, a nuclear theoretician, warned that, if the Arab states should unite against Israel, "Israel would have a very difficult position, militarily speaking. Naturally, I understand that they would like to have some atomic weapons because they know that the mere existence of these weapons is neutralizing any concentration of manpower." Shimon Peres, Israel's former Deputy Minister of Defense, said:

"I do not see any other alternative for Israel but really to develop some of her specialties belonging to our own age, so that she will appear reasonably strong and convincing that an attack against her won't be a very wise thing from the political and military points of view."

Eban Voices Assurances; Nasser Threatens with 'Preventive War'

Abba Eban, Israel's Foreign Minister, appeared on the program, declaring: "The Government of Israel, faithful to the policy that its Prime Minister initiated in May, 1964, has not initiated and will not initiate the introduction of new arms or any sort of new weapons into the Middle East, conventional or nonconventional. To explain that statement, I think I ought to point out that Egypt, through the Soviet Union, has been responsible for initiating every new stage in the arms race. Now, in every case, Israel has responded to the new situation created by these Egyptian initiatives. This remains an index of our policy today."

Mr. Nasser, shown being interviewed in Cairo, said that Israel has a 24-megawatt reactor and plutonium, could produce atomic weapons, and stated: "This will be a threat to us and all the other Arab countries; so, if we are sure that they are preparing atomic weapons, we will have to begin a preventive war." He conceded to the interviewer that he is not yet sure Israel would have an atomic bomb, but repeated that Egypt would start a preventive war if it got concrete information on that score, because "it would be a matter of life or death for us."

The NBC-TV program, one in a series of NBC "white papers," was entitled "Count-down to Zero" and was devoted in general to the dangers of nuclear proliferation, a development opposed by the United States Government. Large sections of the program were given over to West Germany's desire to participate in a NATO decision on the use of nuclear weapons, to the French Government's entry into the "nuclear club," to Communist China's development of nuclear devices, and to India's fears of China's nuclear threat. In that general context, the NBC-TV program pinpointed the Israeli situation vis-a-vis nuclear development.

YOUNG ISRAELI SCIENTIST NAMED TO HIGH MUNICIPAL POST IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Nachman Bench, a 31-year-old, Haifa-born citizen of Israel, has been appointed by Mayor John V. Lindsay to a high, \$20,000 a year, city post, as deputy city administrator.

Saying that Dr. Bench will "bring the scientific point of view to the administration," the Mayor declared the Israeli will concentrate on applying computers and systems analysis to the problem of running city departments. "I regard him," Mayor Lindsay said, "as one of the brightest of the young people who are revolutionizing the entire field of management through the use of the latest insights and tools developed by science."

Dr. Bench, who came here from Israel six years ago for graduate study, graduated from the Technion, the Israel Institute of Technology, and served formerly in the Israeli Air Force. He received his doctorate at New York University, where he studied under Timothy Costello. The latter is now Deputy Mayor and is the official under whom Dr. Bench will work in the city government. Dr. Bench is a lecturer on computer sciences at the Baruch School of Business at City College. He is now a permanent resident of this country and plans to apply for American citizenship. He is married to an American Jewish school teacher.

FIRE DESTROYS BOOKS IN JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY; RARE VOLUMES SAFE

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- A fire of undetermined origin, which was brought under control only after six hours, gutted the library of the Jewish Theological Seminary here today and damaged three floors of the Seminary's main building. Seminary officials said, however, that the institution's collection of rare books and manuscripts were not affected, having been kept in vaults in another part of the building. However, other valuable books were lost. Other damage was due mainly to flooding by water poured into the structure by firemen.

10, 000 GATHER IN ISRAEL KIBBUTZ TO HONOR MEMORY OF WARSAW MARTYRS

TEL AVIV, April 18. (JTA) -- It is high time that the Jews of the world "uproot the lie" which contends that European Jewry went to their Nazi slaughter without opposition, Mrs. Golda Meir declared yesterday at rites conducted near Tel Aviv, in remembrance of the martyrs of the Nazi holocaust.

Mrs. Meir, now secretary-general of Mapai, and for a decade Israel's Foreign Minister, spoke at Remembrance Day rites conducted at Nahlat Yitzhak Cemetery. The monument commemorates the Jews murdered in the infamous Treblinka death camp. Yesterday was the 21st anniversary of the liberation of Treblinka by the Allied forces.

Other specific camp martyrs were remembered at solemn services conducted around the country. The 23rd anniversary of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising was recalled at services held at Kibbutz Lohamei Hagetoat -- the settlement named after the Jewish ghetto fighters -- in Western Galilee. More than 10, 000 people came to the services.

At the other end of Israel, a memorial assembly was held at the monument to Mordechai Anilewitz, commander of the Jewish fighters during the Warsaw Ghetto revolt. That monument is in the south, near the Gaza Strip. In this city, a solemn Remembrance Day gathering was held last night at B'nai B'rith House, marking the 21st anniversary of the liberation of Bergen-Belsen.

Israel President Recites 'Kaddish' at Rites for Ghetto Martyrs

JERUSALEM, April 18. (JTA) -- At impressive Remembrance Day rites here -- conducted atop Mount Herzl here yesterday -- President Zalman Shazar, both of Israel's chief rabbis, and other dignitaries joined in reciting the kaddish for the martyrs of "the third of the nation which was murdered during the holocaust."

Members of Israel's Cabinet, leading officers of Israel's defense forces, and representatives of most of the foreign embassies in Israel participated in the rites. West Germany's Ambassador, Dr. Rolf Pauls, had not been invited to the ceremonies.

Foreign Minister Abba Eban, one of the principal speakers at the meeting here, warned that "though the years bring forgetfulness, the holocaust has not been forgotten and lives in Israel's very existence." The 6, 000, 000 dead, he said, "dictated Israel's policy for fighting racism, dictatorship and injustice and discrimination. The 6, 000, 000 dead write Israel's path of peace and justice."

Memorial Services for Martyred Jews Held in Many Communities

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- Memorial services for the 6, 000, 000 Jews who fell victims to the Nazi holocaust were held in numerous Jewish communities in the United States and abroad yesterday, according to reports received by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today from various parts of the world.

In London, thousands crowded a Drury Lane theater. Speakers included not only Jewish leaders but also prominent non-Jews. The principal speakers were Sir Edward Boyle, former British Minister of Education; Judge Neville J. Laski, representing the Association of Jewish Ex-Servicemen and Women; and Harry Landy, representing the Board of Deputies of British Jews.

Solemn services in commemoration of martyred European Jewry were conducted by every Jewish community in South Africa. In Johannesburg, several thousand persons participated in the Remembrance Day services conducted at the Communal Monument to the martyrs, at West Park Cemetery. Principal addresses were delivered by ghetto and concentration camp survivors.

Mass-meetings commemorating the memory of the heroes of the Warsaw Ghetto were also held in Argentina, Brazil, Uruguay and other countries in Latin America. In Mexico, former Jewish inmates of Nazi concentration camps and underground fighters of the Nazi forces, marked the Remembrance Day of the Warsaw Ghetto uprising by organizing themselves into an Association.

CONFERENCE IN PARIS TO INAUGURATE 1966 ISRAEL BOND DRIVE IN EUROPE

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice president of the Israel Bond Organization, left today for Paris to participate in a European conference of Jewish leaders which will formally inaugurate the overseas Israel Bond campaign for 1966. Convened by Baron Edmond de Rothschild, chairman of the European program, the conference will open in Paris tomorrow.

Israel's program for future economic development will be presented to the European Jewish leaders by Dr. Joseph Burg, its Minister of Social Welfare, who will be a special guest at the two-day conference. Prior to his departure Dr. Schwartz said that European countries participating in the 1966 Israel Bond drive will seek to raise \$7,500,000 to share in the worldwide effort to promote the expansion of Israel's economy and the development and settlement of its unpopulated areas.

UNITED HIAS PRAISED BY N.Y. CITY COMMISSION FOR LANDMARK RESCUE

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- The United Hias Service was praised here today by the city's Landmark Preservation Commission for the "vision" and "pioneering spirit" which made it an active participant in rescuing one of New York's finest landmarks from pointless destruction. Hias' former headquarters, which previously had been New York's first great public library, has been acquired by the New York Shakespeare Festival which operates the Shakespeare-in-Central Park program. This purchase was the first example of how New York's new Landmarks Preservation Law can work to save important buildings.

Geoffrey Platt, chairman of the Commission, said: "The Board of Directors of the United Hias Service viewed their responsibilities in the broadest possible terms. In addition to helping thousands of persons to begin new lives in free countries, they were also anxious to serve all the citizens of New York by saving the old Astor Library building. This building was the center of New York's cultural life during the second half of the Nineteenth Century.

"With Hias' outstanding cooperation, an important precedent has been set. People will no longer have the fatalistic attitude that nothing can be done to save our finest buildings from the past. New York City is very grateful to the United Hias Service."

TARBUTH FOUNDATION TO START COURSE FOR JEWISH CAMP COUNSELORS

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- A ten weeks' course for camp counselors on "Orientation for Jewish Camp Programming" to be conducted from the middle of April to the end of June, under the auspices of the Tarbuth Foundation for the Advancement of Hebrew Culture, was announced today by its president, Dr. Emanuel Neumann. The Tarbuth Foundation was established in 1962 through the generosity of Abraham and Jack Goodman, industrialists and prominent leaders in New York's Jewish community.

This course, to be given at the Herzl Institute, will be conducted by Dr. Samuel Grand, expert on Jewish camping and special consultant to the Foundation for the development of its camp program. While particular emphasis will be placed on the introduction of Living Hebrew into summer camp activities, the scope of the course will be wide enough to encompass all phases of the camp schedule and to demonstrate the many possibilities for blending harmoniously, values of Jewish living with the recreational objectives of camping.

CENTRAL SYNAGOGUE IN NEW YORK STARTS BUILDING MODERN \$2,500,000 CENTER

NEW YORK, April 18. (JTA) -- Cornerstone-laying ceremonies were held here yesterday for a new, ultra-modern Central Synagogue Community House, religious school and chapel to be built at an estimated cost of \$2,500,000. The new building will be named after Dr. Jonah B. Wise, late spiritual leader of the Central Synagogue.

Among the guests participating in the ceremonies were the United States Ambassador to the United Nations, Arthur J. Goldberg and Senator Jacob K. Javits. Rabbi David J. Seligson, spiritual leader of the congregation, presided at the ceremony.