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SOVIET ENVOY IN ISRAEL HOLDS 'IMPORTANT CONFERENCE' WITH ESHKOL

JERUSALEM, April 20. (JTA) -- Soviet Ambassador Dimitri Chuvakhin called on Premier Levi Eshkol for what was reliably reported as an "important conference," held at the Ambassador's request.

It was understood that the Soviet envoy wished to explain to the Premier that the Soviet Union's decision to resume large-scale aid to the new Syrian regime should not affect the improvement in Russian-Israeli relations. It was also understood that during his forthcoming visit to Egypt, Soviet Premier Kosygin will use his influence with President Nasser to try to reinforce peace in the Middle East.

Political sources stressed the importance of the Chuvakhin-Eshkol meeting as indicating that the Soviet Union appreciated Israel's desire to improve relations with the USSR. It was also noted here that during a dinner in the Kremlin tendered to Syrian President Youssef Zaim, Premier Kosygin departed from previous practice by avoiding mention of Israel but calling for world and regional peace.

It was believed that the Soviet envoy and Premier Eshkol reviewed economic ties between Israel and the Soviet Union and that they agreed to seek ways to further expand trade relations.

U.S. OFFERS ISRAEL \$32, 000, 000 IN FOOD SURPLUS; \$20, 000, 000 IN LOANS

WASHINGTON, April 20. (JTA) -- A State Department spokesman said today that the United States has offered Israel about \$52, 000, 000 in new assistance in various categories. "In response to an Israeli request for economic assistance in fiscal year 1966, we have offered aid consisting of development loans, Export-Import Bank credits and PL 480 programs," the official said. The PL 480 provides surplus commodities.

"We have not as yet received a response to our offer, but we assume that detailed negotiations will begin shortly," the spokesman stated. "The total value of the aid offered will be about \$52, 000, 000, the largest component of which consists of food under PL 480 and will be payable partly in dollars and partly in Israeli currency."

(From Jerusalem it was reported to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the U.S. offered to deliver to Israel during the fiscal year starting next July 1 about \$32, 000, 000 worth of food surplus and also suggested a \$10, 000, 000 development loan. During the same period Israel is to get also a \$10, 000, 000 loan from the Export-Import Bank. The offer provides that Israel is to pay in dollars for 25 percent of the cost of the surplus food. This is the first time that Israel will be paying partly in dollars for U.S. surplus commodities.)

The surplus food offered now to Israel is equal to that provided in previous years during which Israel paid for it in Israeli currency. In addition to the purchase of the \$32, 000, 000 in surplus food, Israel is buying from private firms in the United States \$45, 000, 000 in food and paying for this in dollars. The United States gave Egypt \$56, 000, 000 in food surplus last January on terms of payment entirely in local Egyptian currency.

GERMAN CHANCELLOR ASSURES ISRAEL ON FAVORABLE END OF AID TALKS

JERUSALEM, April 20. (JTA) -- West Germany's Chancellor Ludwig Erhard assured Prime Minister Levi Eshkol -- in a message delivered here today by a ranking emissary -- that his Government intends to bring the Israeli-German talks on Bonn's aid to Israel "to a favorable conclusion." The talks, once interrupted, are scheduled to be resumed in Bonn next Wednesday.

The Erhard message to Mr. Eshkol, delivered personally by Erich Blumenfeld, a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the German Bundestag, lower house of Parliament, informed the Israeli Premier that the Chancellor takes "a personal interest in the talks, due to their great historic significance." Mr. Blumenfeld arrived here yesterday and conferred with Foreign Minister Abba Eban as well as with the Ministers of Finance and Commerce and Industry.

PINCUS REPORTS DETAILS OF JEWISH AGENCY STRUCTURE REORGANIZATION

NEW YORK, April 20. (JTA) -- Details of the reorganization of the basic structure of the Jewish Agency for Israel in line with decisions adopted at the last World Zionist Congress in Jerusalem, were disclosed at a press conference here today by Aryeh L. Pincus, chairman of the Agency executive. Mr. Pincus, who is currently on a three-week visit to this country, said that the initial changes already in the first stages of implementation, are aimed at solving the problems of "over-centralization" and "duplication" in the day-to-day work of the Agency.

The first step in the reorganization of the Agency's structure, he said, is the establishment of a system of executive committees with "collective responsibility" in specific areas of work to replace the individual departments which have carried out the activities of the organization since its formation.

Under the new system which is already functioning in Israel and which will shortly be implemented in the American section, each of the five executive committees, which will be working bodies rather than advisory units, will bear responsibility for the areas formerly under the direction of department heads which were found to be related in function and purpose.

The new executive committees include immigration and absorption, youth aliyah, agricultural settlement, education and youth and one committee on information, external relations and organization. Each of the units, Mr. Pincus said, will have a permanent staff director to work under the supervision of the members of the committee. Chairmanship of the committees will be rotated in most cases.

Says Structural Changes Are Result of 'Self Examination' Efforts

Mr. Pincus cited as an example of the new units, the committee dealing with immigration and absorption which were formerly separate departments. The new committees will pool the experience and skills of Agency officials working in the same general areas.

Stressing the urgency of the reorganization in the fields of immigration and absorption, the Agency head noted that, over the next four to five years, a total of some 250,000 Jewish immigrants are expected to come to Israel from "areas of distress." He said the problem was particularly acute in the case of the absorption of large numbers of newcomers from Moslem lands where the cultural lag was greatest.

The new structural changes in the Agency setup, Mr. Pincus said, are a result of the current efforts at "self examination" by the organization, of its functions and activities. Among other areas currently under review with the specific aim of eliminating duplication and improving efficiency, he noted, are agricultural settlement, absorption of immigrants from western countries and education and youth activities. While some duplication exists in such areas as agricultural settlement, he said, the extent of it was generally exaggerated.

Another aim of the Agency review and reorganization program, he said, was the achievement of a greater degree of unity among Zionist organizations throughout the world. While these groups "do an enormous amount of work," Mr. Pincus stressed that it was important to minimize "fragmentation" in the movement. In this area, he declared, "we are seeking ways of cooperation so that the concept of Jewish peoplehood might mean something.

ISRAEL PREPARES FOR HUGE MILITARY PARADE ON ITS INDEPENDENCE DAY

JERUSALEM, April 20. (JTA) -- In preparation for the celebration of Israel's 13th Independence Day on Monday, which will be marked by a huge military parade in Haifa, it was disclosed here today that the Air Force has acquired six air-to-air Matra missiles for its French-made Mirage jets and that American-made Patton tanks will be on display in the parade. The advanced missile is self-propelled and is an effective defense against the latest types of bombers.

In Haifa, troops began rehearsals today for the military parade. Other major cities were already decorated today with flags, bunting and multi-colored street lighting in preparation for Monday's celebration. Eighteen thousand tickets have been set aside for tourists to watch the parade in Haifa and sales of the tickets began today. Many planes and ships bearing foreign visitors coming for the parade are due to arrive this week.

On the eve of Independence Day, Israel will observe the annual Memorial Day for its battle dead. Early Sunday morning, the traditional memorial torch will be lit in the presence of parents, widows and orphans of those who died in the battle for Jerusalem.

ROME BISHOP CLAIMS JUDAISM REMAINS CONDEMNED; EVOKES JEWISH IRE

ROME, April 20. (JTA) -- Jewish sources criticized today an assertion by Bishop Luigi Carli of Segni that Judaism, as a religion, contains "by its very nature," the judgment "of condemnation by God." The assertion, in a 44-page article in a clerical review, which appeared yesterday, was in rebuttal to an earlier statement by Augustin Cardinal Bea, opposing a prior statement by Bishop Carli. A spokesman for Cardinal Bea's Secretariat said there was no comment on Bishop Carli's new statement.

The exchanges were an outgrowth of the struggle in the second Ecumenical Council last year on the issue of Catholic-Jewish relationships. The final statement of the Council, which repudiated the charge of deicide against the Jewish people, was a diluted version of a stronger original declaration proposed by Cardinal Bea's Secretariat for Christian Unity. The adopted version omitted use of the term "deicide" and "deplored" rather than "condemned" anti-Semitism.

Bishop Carli was one of the conservative prelates who opposed the stronger version. Subsequently he wrote an article asserting the collective responsibility of Judaism for the death of Jesus. Cardinal Bea rejected that position in an article in "Civilita Cattolica." Bishop Carli's second statement appeared yesterday in the semi-monthly clerical review, "Palestra del Clero."

The Jewish sources declared that in general, the second Carli article "suggests again that the last minute 'appeasement' in the Council did not pay and that a crisper, clearer and stronger formulation of the declaration, not its watering down, was needed to silence the virulent anti-Semitism on some parts of the Catholic hierarchy, which cannot be appeased."

The Carli article, the same sources added, "can only be interpreted by Christians of goodwill as evidence that a declaration was urgently needed by and for the Catholic Church and that, by having watered it down, Catholic teaching can apparently go on in its old tracks as if nothing had happened."

Bishop Carli declared, in his second statement, that after the destruction of the Temple, "Judaism continued, in fact, to survive but illegally with respect to God. It carries, in fact, always with it, one would say, by its very nature, the judgment of condemnation by God because, refusing Christ, Whom it did not and does not want to accept, it puts itself against the will of God." Throughout his long article, packed with Biblical and other citations, Bishop Carli insists that he is making a distinction between "Judaism" the faith and individual Jews, and he rejects any anti-Semitism.

American Jewish Committee Calls Bishop Carli's View 'Insidious'

NEW YORK, April 20. (JTA) -- Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, labeled today as "an anti-Semitic attack" the article in which Bishop Luigi Carli of Segni wrote that Judaism as a religion carried "by its very nature" the judgment of "condemnation by God."

Mr. Abram, also U.S. Representative on the U.N. Human Rights Commission, said that Bishop Carli's sentiments "seemed in direct contradiction" to the recommendation within the Statement on the Jews in the Declaration on Non-Christian Religions passed by Vatican Council II last fall for "a mutual knowledge and respect which is the fruit, above all, of Biblical and theological studies as well as fraternal dialogues."

Calling Bishop Carli's statement "insidious" and a reflection of "the type of primitive mentality that was defeated so overwhelmingly at Vatican Council II," Mr. Abram said it was "bizarre and a travesty" to think that a declaration that "deplores" displays of "anti-Semitism directed against Jews at any time and by anyone" should itself be used as the basis for "an anti-Semitic attack."

Mr. Abram's statement recalled that Bishop Carli, during the days when the so-called Jewish Declaration was being deliberated at Vatican Council II, had argued that the Jewish people of today as well as those of Jesus' time were responsible for the Crucifixion. The American Jewish Committee leader recalled also that the Jewish Declaration had been approved by "the overwhelming vote of 1,763 to 250." Mr. Abram said he was "certain" that other Catholic leaders, "more in tune with modern life than is the medieval arrogance of the Bishop of Segni," would repudiate his sentiments, "just as they did" when the Declaration was passed in Rome last fall.

The best answer to Bishop Carli's statement, Mr. Abram continued, would be an extension of the ecumenical movement already under way throughout the United States and the world. "Already a groundswell of ecumenical activity, with Jews and Catholics striving to understand each other after 2,000 years of misunderstanding, is being heard in the land," he said, adding that the American Jewish Committee was "proud to be able to be involved in this activity."

2,816 JEWISH IMMIGRANTS ENTERED CANADA IN 1965; CAME FROM 40 LANDS

MONTREAL, April 20. (JTA) -- Canada's Ministry of Citizenship and Immigration is determined that immigration to the Dominion must not be affected "in any way by the race, religion or color of the immigrant," Tom Kane, Deputy Minister of that Government department, has assured the Jewish Immigrant Aid Services here. He was the guest speaker at the annual meeting of the JIAS. In his address, he announced that last year's immigration into Canada exceeded the 1964 figure by 30 percent. "And there is every indication of a further increase this year," he added.

Reports submitted to the meeting showed that the agency's immigration department dealt last year with some 6,500 requests regarding immigration and settlement in Canada. Of the total of 146,758 immigrants who entered Canada in 1965, 2,816 were Jewish, coming from 40 countries. Included among last year's Jewish immigrants were 696 from Israel, 733 from Morocco, 547 from the United States, 210 from Britain and 151 from France.

The JIAS social service department received during the year, requests for guidance and reception facilities from 1,700 newcomers, and spent \$400,000 on resettlement and rehabilitation of Jewish immigrants. The agency's documentation and naturalization department assisted 1,301 persons with applications for Canadian citizenship, passports, identity certificates and affidavits. The organization's location service helped locate relatives and friends in Canada and elsewhere in response to 422 inquiries, resulting in the location of 135 families.

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY RESUMES CLASSES AFTER HUGE FIRE

NEW YORK, April 20. (JTA) -- Classes were resumed here today at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, where a devastating fire damaged many of the 200,000 volumes in the institution's library and caused heavy damage to three floors of the 12-story main building.

Aided by Christian students from the nearby Union Theological Seminary, 800 of the Jewish Seminary students formed a human chain to pass down by hand from the library tower to the basement gymnasium, many thousands of books, some charred, some water-logged and soggy. The books were taken then to a special laboratory for careful treatment and drying. The Seminary's rare books and manuscripts, housed in vaults, escaped damage.

BOYS TOWN OF JERUSALEM OPENS NEW TRAINING CENTER; AIDED BY ORT

JERUSALEM, April 20. (JTA) -- Boys Town of Jerusalem opened today a new training center in this city to teach carpentry and technical design. ORT cooperated with Boys Town in the establishment of the new facility.

Boys Town in Israel was founded in 1948 by Rabbi Alexander Lichner and Ira Guilden, of the United States, with a nucleus of 17 immigrant, Jewish children. It conducts more than a dozen institutes and schools in Israel now, operating on an annual budget of 1,250,000 Israeli pounds (nearly \$417,000).

DR. MORDECAI HACOHEN JOINS AMERICAN BANK AND TRUST COMPANY

NEW YORK, April 20. (JTA) -- The appointment of Dr. Mordecai Hachohen as special consultant was announced by Saul Kagan, president of the American Bank and Trust Company here. Dr. Hachohen, a native of Vienna, served in senior positions with the Government of Palestine and the Israel Foreign Affairs Ministry. Until recently he was director general of the Ozar Hatorah, an American Jewish religious educational organization operating overseas.

MAX RABINOFF, NOTED AMERICAN JEWISH IMPRESSARIO DEAD; WAS 87

NEW YORK, April 20. (JTA) -- Max Rabinoff, Jewish impresario who developed popular-priced opera presentations in the United States, collapsed of a heart attack yesterday and died at the age of 87. He was born in Moghilev, Russia and came to the United States at 13 and he landed a job as a tobacco stripper in Chicago. Later he studied chemistry at the University of Illinois. Subsequently he became a highly successful piano salesman. While in that work he organized a series of Sunday concerts in the Chicago auditorium.

In 1915 he bought the Boston Opera Company and combined it with the Pavlova Ballet Russe which he sent on a 35-week, 12,000-mile tour. A linguist in seven languages, he was a volunteer worker for the U.S. Government in World War I. His proposal to convert the old Mecca Temple in Manhattan into a cultural center resulted in establishment of the New York City Center, one of the city's major centers of theater, opera and concerts.