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DEPT. OF COMMERCE OPPOSES NEW MOVES BY CONGRESS ON ARAB BOYCOTT

WASHINGTON, April 27. (JTA) -- The U.S. Department of Commerce made known today that it was opposed to proposed Congressional moves to strengthen the provisions of anti-boycott law pertaining to the Arab boycott.

Mark C. Feer, acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Domestic and International Business, cited the statement of the Coca-Cola Corporation that the franchise controversy involving Israel was "unrelated to the Arab boycott." Mr. Feer said because a franchise was finally issued, examination of the anti-boycott law "would serve no useful purpose."

He made his remarks in a letter to Rep. Seymour Halpern, New York Republican, who had urged strengthening of the anti-boycott law to guard against repetition of cases like the one highlighted by the Coca-Cola issue. Mr. Feer said:

"This Department is opposed to any amendment to the export control act which would require a fixed course of action to be taken by the Executive Branch irrespective of the adverse impact of that action at any given time on larger, more basic issues in our relations with other countries." He added that the reasons for this were given by Secretary of Commerce Connor in testimony before Congress in opposition to the anti-boycott law.

U.S. JEWS WARNED OF 'DANGER SIGNALS' AT CONVENTION OF JEWISH CONGRESS

GROSSINGER, N.Y., April 27. (JTA) -- Rising tensions in Negro-Jewish relations and their impact on the civil rights struggle as well as problems dealing with the question of Jewish identity will be discussed at the national biennial convention of the American Jewish Congress which opened here tonight with 800 delegates from all parts of the country. The convention will also discuss the United States policy in the Middle East.

Dr. Joachim Prinz, outgoing president of the American Jewish Congress, in opening the convention tonight, warned in his farewell address that "danger signals" threatened the continuation of Jewish life in the United States. He told the delegates that "we can no longer say with any certainty that there will always be a Judaism, that we are an eternal people." He cited these examples of what he described as "the critical Jewish issue of our day":

1. Indifference to Jewish history, particularly among the young Jewish college generation, which Dr. Prinz said was "no longer moved by the destruction of European Jewry, no longer inspired by the establishment of the Jewish State."

2. Ignorance of Jewish values and ethical imperatives and their application to contemporary problems.

3. Isolationism and the lack of identification with other members of the "household of Israel."

Dr. Prinz called for intensified support of Jewish education by local Jewish communal groups. "If our belief in the separation of church and state compels us to reject financial aid given by any arm of government, then we must demand that those Jewish educational institutions which are the mainstay of Jewish survival be supported in the measure they deserve by Jewish federations and welfare funds across the country," he said.

On the role of Jewish organization in the civil rights movements, he declared: "It is precisely because there are no Jewish Negroes and relatively few Jewish poor that our participation becomes necessary and valid. We must join in the struggle for racial justice and the war on poverty because brotherhood and equality and care for the poor are among the great values of our faith. These values must be rediscovered by a Jewish generation that is hardly conscious of them."

Dr. Prinz said American Jewry was moving closer to establishing a central Jewish organization "so that American Jews may speak with one voice on matters of Jewish concern."

"The National Community Relations Advisory Council and the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations have proven that American Jews of every possible cultural, political and religious conviction can be brought together in matters of common Jewish concern. It is but one step to the creation of a central organization of American Jewry," the American Jewish Congress leader stated.

CREATION OF 'JEWISH ELITE' ADVOCATED AT J.W.B. JUBILEE CONVENTION

NEW YORK, April 27. (JTA) -- Creation of a "Jewish elite" is essential if Jewish life is to be preserved in the United States, a Columbia University historian told the opening session here today of the Golden Jubilee convention of the National Jewish Welfare Board.

Prof. Gershon D. Cohen told the 800 delegates that there would be "tremendous losses" to the American Jewish community, including Jewish men and women "of great talent," through intermarriage and self-alienation. Those who remain, he added, "will look to deeply committed leaders to provide guidance and purposive direction." For these reasons, he asserted, "we must provide a Jewish elite that will be able to formulate, interpret and transmit the type or types of Jewish life we want to see preserved, developed, bequeathed."

Denying any implication that he was advocating a return to the ghetto for American Jewry, Dr. Cohen added that "the time is past when we must be so indistinguishable as Jews as to hide our Jewishness."

Louis Stern, JWB president, discussed the impact of expanding government financing of welfare services on private philanthropy. Predicting that welfare agencies will seek to be the agents through which such funds are channeled, "rather than surrender areas of work," he said the leadership in that struggle is more likely to come from the Catholic community, rather than "primarily and exclusively from Jewish sources."

He also predicted that Jewish-supported hospitals, casework agencies and vocational services could reestablish their "validity in the Jewish scheme of things" by changing their emphases. He said "the emphasis will shift to Christian-Jewish relationships, Negro-Jewish relationships and problems resulting from school desegregation, housing and equal opportunity legislation" in the field of Jewish community relations work.

Jewish Values Reported Becoming of 'Less Relevance' to Youth

Jewish community centers, Jewish educational agencies and the synagogues "will have major responsibilities in developing attitudes, activities and programs that will help men, women and children find significance in being Jews in America," Mr. Stern said.

Bertram E. Gold, executive director of the Jewish Centers Association of Los Angeles, pictured the American Jewish young person as viewing himself "living in a bomb-clouded world which appears more and more absurd to him." For such youth, Jewish life and Jewish values have "increasingly less relevance" and, without help, the young Jew falls "away from the group."

The "compelling articulate authority" which Jewish youth is desperately seeking "has not as yet been found," the Los Angeles Center executive said. "With God dead, current religious authority seems to offer little. Jewish cultural and art forms are either quaint or made so much a part of the mainstream of American cultural life that they lose their Jewish uniqueness." He contended that the organized Jewish community also failed to provide for an identification and for living with Jewishness for Jewish youth "through their primary group associations and through their own inner life cycle."

President Johnson Lauds National Jewish Welfare Board

In a message to the convention, President Johnson said that the JWB's 50 years of "exceptional public service" had earned it "the admiration of a grateful country." "Through your many affiliated YM and YWAs and Jewish Community Centers, you have helped people of all ages achieve creative fulfillment through the constructive use of leisure time. You have successfully administered to the needs of Jewish military personnel, hospitalized veterans and their families," the President declared.

"Your expanding program of public affairs, your concern to prepare our youth for responsible citizenship and your commitment to human dignity vividly reflect your dedication to the kind of society for which we are all striving," the President continued. "By enhancing the quality of Jewish life in America, you contribute to the general progress and vitality of this nation. I am happy to extend my congratulations upon your Golden Anniversary of conspicuous accomplishments."

TRIAL OF NAZIS WHO KILLED JEWS IN GAS VANS MAY BE ADJOURNED

HANOVER, April 27. (JTA) -- The probability emerged here today at the trial of two former SS officers on charges of participating in the wartime murder of 500,000 victims in mobile gas vans that the trial may not be concluded because of "fatigue" of one of the defendants.

The defendants are former SS Major Friedrich Pradel, 65, and his first lieutenant at Gestapo headquarters in Berlin, Harry Wentritt, 63. Doctors reported on the third day of the trial that Pradel was unable to follow the court proceedings because of fatigue. The trial was postponed previously.

ISRAELI-GERMAN TALKS ON ECONOMIC AID STARTED; NO REPORT ISSUED

BONN, April 27. (JTA) -- The second phase of the Israeli-West German negotiations on Bonn's economic aid to Israel began today and were adjourned with no communique on their content. The talks will be continued tomorrow.

Asher Ben-Nathan, Israel's first Ambassador to West Germany, again headed the Israeli delegation. Rolf Lahr, State Secretary in the West German Government, again headed the Bonn negotiators. The goal of the talks is to implement a West German pledge to provide such aid which was made during the negotiations which led to West German recognition of Israel last year, Israel claims.

ISRAEL DISAPPOINTED WITH MOSCOW'S JOINT SYRIAN-SOVIET STATEMENT

JERUSALEM, April 27. (JTA) -- Informed sources here said today that Israel does not intend to reply to the anti-Zionist statement in the joint Syrian-Soviet communique issued in Moscow after Syrian President Yousef Zain's visit to the Soviet capital earlier this week.

Foreign Ministry sources here said that other than an official "negative" reaction to the communique, Israel will not comment. However, political sources here indicated much displeasure not only over the communique but even more so about Soviet plans to renew military aid to the new Syrian regime.

Although the communique did not refer to Israel by name, there was still considerable disappointment here over the communique as an indication that recent Israeli-East European rapprochement had not been completely productive.

Government sources here were following with close attention the current working conference of Middle East United States ambassadors now meeting in Beirut. The conference is scheduled to examine in detail the Middle East situation and the Soviet infiltration of Syria. The 13 American envoys will also study the Syrian situation for what may prove to be the strongest Soviet push in the Middle East in years, it was reported.

ISRAELI-AMERICAN GROUP TO START OIL DRILLING IN MEDITERRANEAN

TEL AVIV, April 27. (JTA) -- The Petrocana Oil Company, an Israeli firm, has entered into new partnerships which will make it possible to start drilling in its Mediterranean off-shore concessions within two to five months, Gordon Hirshhorn, chairman of the Petrocana board, said here today on his return from a trip to the United States.

Earlier this month, Livingston Oil Company of Tulsa, Okla., cancelled an agreement with Petrocana under which the Tulsa firm was to have started drilling for oil on Petrocana leases.

Mr. Hirshhorn said the new partners were a private American firm specifically founded for the drilling, the Mediterranean Petroleum Corporation, and Barnwell Industries, Inc., a publicly-owned firm in Shreveport, La. The companies will carry out drill operations in return for a working interest in the venture.

KAISER WARNS ISRAEL AGAINST SEIZING ITS \$15,000,000 EQUIPMENT

TEL AVIV, April 27. (JTA) -- The Kaiser Engineering Company, which withdrew recently from a contract to build dikes at the Dead Sea, warned the Dead Sea Works today that it would oppose by all legal means any attempt by the Dead Sea Works to expel Kaiser workers from the works site in Sdom or to seize \$15,000,000 worth of Kaiser equipment there.

The American firm withdrew on grounds that some specifications for its contract with the Dead Sea Works were technically impossible. Both companies have made threats of damage suits. In its warning Tuesday, Kaiser said it would hold the Dead Sea Works "liable and responsible for all costs, losses, expenses and damage incurred and suffered by us already and which may be incurred in the future by your actions."

ISRAEL SUPREME COURT REDUCES PRISON TERM FOR 'MAN IN TRUNK'

JERUSALEM, April 27. (JTA) -- The Supreme Court reduced yesterday from 13 years to 10 the prison term imposed on Mordechai Louk, the Israeli who was involved in a bizarre kidnap incident in Rome in 1964.

Louk was found drugged, bound and gagged in an Egyptian diplomatic crate at the Rome Airport by Rome police who heard his cries as Egyptians tried to place the crate on an Egyptian-bound plane. He returned to Israel and was tried and convicted on charges of spying for Egypt.

In announcing the reduced sentence, acting Court President Moshe Silberg cited the "suffering" of Louk while incarcerated in the trunk and during his detention in Rome by Egyptian agents. He had appealed the sentence, contending that he had agreed in Cairo to work for the Egyptian Intelligence only to escape imprisonment. He returned to Israel on his own volition, declaring he was ready to pay the penalty for any crime. He was indicted on six counts of espionage and of leaving Israel illegally.

MOSCOW WRITER URGES SLOW TACKLING OF ISRAELI-SOVIET PROBLEMS

TEL AVIV, April 27. (JTA) -- Constantin Semionov, a leading Soviet writer, declared here today that problems arising between Israel and Russia should be tackled gradually without pressure. In a three-hour conversation with Israeli writers, he added that the best way for two peoples to begin to understand each other was by translating their literary works into one another's language.

Replying to a question about the fate of many Jewish writers under Communism, he said there was "no use in glossing over history" and that "there were periods when Jews suffered from persecution." He added that "this is ended," "We pledged after the 20th Communist Party Congress that no form of repression would be possible again," he said.

He disclosed he was writing a book "which will answer many of your unspoken questions." In his suggestion for cross-translations, he told the writers that "hundreds of gems of Hebrew poetry" could be translated into Russian. He noted that one book of Hebrew short stories has already appeared in Russian. He proposed as another way of fostering good relations exchange of visits.

CAPTAIN OF SOVIET SHIP GETS COMPLAINTS ON TREATMENT OF JEWS IN RUSSIA

MONTREAL, April 27. (JTA) -- The cultural and religious persecutions against Soviet Jewry were highlighted here today when the master of a Soviet vessel, the SS Aleksandr Pushkin, was greeted by two messages from Canadian Jews, protesting against Soviet anti-Semitism and calling for easement of that policy by the Kremlin.

The Aleksandr Pushkin arrived in the Port of Montreal today from Leningrad, inaugurating the first passenger service linking Canada directly to the USSR. City and government officials joined a reception aboard ship, greeting the master, Capt. Aram Oginov. During the festivities, Capt. Oginov was handed a letter of protest against mistreatment of Soviet Jews by Rabbi Harry J. Stern, spiritual leader of Temple Emanuel in Montreal. At the same time, he received a telegram from Sanford Borins, of Toronto, president of the Northeast Lakes Federation of Temple Youth.

Both messages welcomed the ship and its captain to Canada, but pointed out that Soviet action against Jews hinders the development of good relations between the USSR and the rest of the world, including Canada.

BAPTIST LEADER TAKES ISSUE WITH A.D.L. SURVEY ON ANTI-SEMITISM

JACKSON, Miss., April 27. (JTA) -- Dr. Wayne Dehoney, president of the Southern Baptist Convention -- a Protestant denomination with 25,000,000 members -- took issue here today with a contention by two University of California sociologists who reported that a survey has established that large percentages of Protestants and Catholics with anti-Jewish bias "have a religious basis for their prejudice."

The survey, made under a commission from the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, but conducted independently of the ADL, showed that, nationally, 43 percent of Protestants and 50 percent of Catholics hold the Jews as a group "most responsible" for the crucifixion of Jesus. It showed that, among the Southern Baptists, 24 percent have anti-Jewish feelings.

"Bigotry and defamation, such as anti-Semitism, are deplorable," said Dr. Dehoney. "But to label religious conviction about the 'Christian doctrine of salvation' as 'race prejudice' is the worst kind of defamation. By the same reasoning, the Jews could be charged with racism and with being anti-Oriental because they believe that Japanese Buddhists are outside the realm of God's salvation for not believing in the Jehovah and not accepting the Old Testament revelation."

"Christians believe that all Jews who reject Christ as the Messiah are therefore lost from God's redeeming love, as are all men of all races who have not personally responded to God's grace. This is not racism. This is the Christian doctrine of personal salvation," Dr. Dehoney stated.

LEADER OF CANADIAN NAZI PARTY FACES TRIAL; MAYOR TO TESTIFY

TORONTO, April 27. (JTA) -- The Ontario Supreme Court today ordered the issuance of subpoenas to Mayor Philip Givens, Alderman David Rotenberg, and two ranking police officials to appear as witnesses in a hearing to be conducted by Justice of the Peace R. L. Mowat against John Beattie, 24-year-old, self-styled leader of the Canadian Nazi Party.

Beattie is scheduled to go on trial before a magistrate here on charges of unlawful assembly, arising out of a meeting he had tried to hold in Alan Gardens, a public park, in May, 1965. Both the justice of the peace and the magistrate had previously rejected Beattie's request for subpoenas to the Mayor, the alderman, Police Chief Simmons and Superintendent of Police Adamson who, he claimed, were near the Alan Gardens fracas nearly a year ago. He insisted that the testimony of the four would be relevant to his defense. Both Mayor Givens and Alderman Rotenberg are Jewish. The Supreme Court decision overrules the lower courts.

PRO-ARAB PICKETS DEMONSTRATE AT HOTEL AGAINST ZIONIST CONFERENCE

TORONTO, April 27. (JTA) -- A group of pro-Arab pickets demonstrated at a hotel in London, Ontario, in protest against the 27th conference of the Central Region of the Zionist Organization of Canada. The demonstration was believed to be the first such picketing of a Canadian Zionist meeting.

The dozen pickets said they represented the Canadian Friends of the Middle East. Most of them had come from other parts of Ontario for the demonstration. Their leader, James Peters, a lecturer at Ryerson Polytechnical Institute in Toronto, explained the group's activities during a television interview. He argued that Zionists should be barred from holding conferences just as Toronto neo-Nazis were prevented from making public addresses.

A heavy rainfall led the pickets to disperse several hours before the arrival of the Zionist delegates. Mayor Stronach, in his greetings to the conference, apologized for the "discourtesy" and disavowed the pickets.

ST. LOUIS OPENS ISRAEL BOND CAMPAIGN WITH SALE OF \$1,104,000 IN BONDS

ST. LOUIS, April 27. (JTA) -- The sale of \$1,104,000 in Israel bonds was announced here at a dinner in honor of Charles Yalem, prominent Jewish leader and philanthropist, which marked the opening here of the 1966 campaign of the Israel Bond Organization. General Yigal Allon, Minister of Labor of Israel, joined over 1,000 persons in saluting Mr. Yalem for his services to mankind.

The Israeli leader praised American Jewry for the support it has provided in helping Israel to achieve social and economic growth. Among the Israel bond purchases announced at the St. Louis dinner was \$100,000 by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters.

JEWS IN LATIN AMERICAN COUNTRIES CELEBRATE ISRAEL'S 18th ANNIVERSARY

BUENOS AIRES, April 27. (JTA) -- Israel's 18th anniversary of independence was celebrated here and in a number of other Argentine cities with mass rallies, dinners and receptions attended by senior Government officials, leaders of the Argentine Jewish community and members of the diplomatic corps.

Among the guests at a major reception given by the Israel Embassy here were Argentine Defense Minister Leopoldo Suarez; Finance Minister Carlos Garcia Tudero; Commerce Minister Bernardo Grinspun; Governor Anselmo Marini of the Province of Buenos Aires; Foreign Ministry Undersecretary Jose Noguero Armengol; Msgr. Umberto Mozzoni, the Papal Nuncio; Msgr. Ernesto Segura, secretary of the Argentine Episcopate; United States Ambassador Edwin Martin; and outstanding figures in the literary, cultural and scientific worlds.

RIO DE JANEIRO, April 27. (JTA) -- Two thousand persons participated in the celebration of Israel's 18th anniversary in the Municipal Theater here. Dr. Israel Goldstein, world chairman of the Keren Hayesod, was the guest speaker.

The Brazilian press published a wide variety of reports on Israel for the occasion, and the influential Journal do Brasil issued a special Israel supplement.

LIMA, April 27. (JTA) -- The Peruvian press, radio and television publicized widely Israel's achievements during two days of celebrations in Peru of Israel's 18th Independence Day. Special mention was made of Israel's aid to Peru in agriculture, irrigation and cooperatives.

The celebration began at Lima's biggest theater with 2,000 persons attending. Ambassador Lorch of Israel brought greetings from the Israel Government and described the need to work for unity between Israel and world Jewry. Pupils of the Jewish school offered a special program of Peruvian folklore dances of countries from which Jewish immigrants had gone to Israel. Israel Embassy officials held a reception for Peruvian Government officials, clergy, foreign diplomats, Israeli experts and others.

SANTIAGO DE CHILE, April 27. (JTA) -- Three separate celebrations of Israel's 18th Independence Day took place here. One was held in the main auditorium of the University of Chile, where the principal speakers were Prof. Humberto Alvarez, president of the Chilean-Israeli Cultural Institute, and Guillermo Atias, president of the Chilean Writers Society. As part of the ceremonies at the university, a scholarship was awarded to a prominent Chilean writer, Braulio Arenas.

Under the auspices of the Zionist Federation of Chile, another celebration was conducted by the Zionist Action Committee and the local section of the World Jewish Congress. Addresses were delivered by Rodolfo Borzutzky, president of the Federation, and Itzhak Korn, representing the WJC. Dr. Uri Naor, Israel's Ambassador here, held a formal reception at the Embassy. Many Jewish and non-Jewish leaders attended that celebration.

14 AMERICAN JEWISH SCIENTISTS, 1 ISRAELI, ELECTED TO NATIONAL ACADEMY

WASHINGTON, April 27. (JTA) -- A noted Israeli physicist is among the 15 Jewish scientists chosen by the National Academy of Sciences in electing 42 new members yesterday. Election is a form of public recognition of accomplishment in a wide range of scientific fields.

The Israeli member is Dr. Ephraim Katchalski, head of the department of biophysics at the Weizmann Institute of Science and winner of many awards for his work in that field. The American Jewish new members include: Dr. Paul Berg, of the Stanford University School of Medicine; Dr. Jacob Bigeleisen of the Brookhaven National Laboratory; Dr. Bernard B. Brodie of the National Heart Institute; Norman Henry Giles of Yale University; Clifford Grobstein of the University of California at San Diego; Jacob George Harrar of the Rockefeller Foundation; and Arthur Kantrowitz of the Avco Corporation.

Also, Dr. Irving Kaplansky of the University of Chicago; Philip Levine of the Ortho Research Foundation; Nathan M. Newmark of the University of Illinois; Ephraim Racker of the Public Health Research Institute of the City of New York; Harold A. Scheraga of Cornell University; Samuel I. Weissman of Washington University; and Charles Yanofsky of Stanford University.

100 WITNESSES TESTIFY ON YONKERS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER FIRE

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., April 27. (JTA) -- A State Supreme Court Justice reserved decision yesterday on an application to vacate the confession of 17-year-old Alfred Ruppert, that he set the fire in the Yonkers Jewish Community Center last December 20 which killed three adults and nine children.

Justice C.J. Hoyt also reserved decision on a request that Ruppert be released from Westchester County jail where he has been held since he was arraigned on arson charges on January 25. Justice Hoyt so acted after hearing charges that Yonkers police officials bullied the youth into confessing falsely that he had started the fire.

A Westchester County Grand Jury met yesterday, after considering the confession and hearing more than 100 witnesses but did not make a report. The youth's father had asked for the boy's release.

DESECRATION OF 240 TOMBSTONES IN NEW YORK JEWISH CEMETERY REPORTED

NEW YORK, April 27. (JTA) -- New York police authorities on Staten Island, one of the city's boroughs, were still searching today for vandals who desecrated the Baron de Hirsch Cemetery in that area early this month, it was reported Wednesday.

The superintendent of the cemetery, Ronald Gresser, today notified relatives of deceased interred in the burial grounds that 240 tombstones had been overturned in the cemetery. He reported that the desecration had taken place during the weekend of April 2-3, on the eve of Passover. There was no explanation of the reason why no report of the desecration had been made until now.

JACKSONVILLE AND ISRAELI TOWN DECLARED 'TWIN CITIES' IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, April 27. (JTA) -- Mayor Louis Ritter of Jacksonville, Florida, joined today in ceremonies making Jacksonville and Holon "twin cities."

Mayor Ritter said Florida and Holon had much in common and should work to promote their mutual interests. He said that Florida and Israel had large citrus interests and that "our climates are similar and we depend on tourism for a large part of our revenue."

IDA KAMINSKA, FAMOUS JEWISH ACTRESS FROM POLAND, HONORED IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, April 27. (JTA) -- A gala event honoring Ida Kaminska, world-famous Yiddish actress and star of the Yiddish Folk Theater in Warsaw, was staged here by the Hebrew Actors Union. The principal guest speaker at the event was Hersch Smoliar, of Warsaw, editor of Die Folksstimme, the Yiddish newspaper published in Warsaw.

Miss Kaminska is currently visiting the United States. The Czech-made film, "The Shop on Main Street," in which she plays the leading female role, received an "Oscar" last week as the best foreign film of 1965. In responding to addresses lauding her work, Miss Kaminska noted that the theater which she heads in Warsaw is being supported by the Polish Government.

YEHUDI MENUHIN GREETED BY THOUSANDS IN LONDON ON HIS 50th BIRTHDAY

LONDON, April 27. (JTA) -- Thousands of well-wishers crowded into Festival Hall Tuesday night to greet Yehudi Menuhin on his 50th birthday. The noted American Jewish violinist performed several concerti with the London Philharmonic Orchestra, with the participation of his sisters, Hepzibah and Yaltah, and his son Jeremy, 14. Ambassadors, political figures, noted conductors, soloists and other musicians were in the audience in testimony to the violinist's status as a musician and one of the leading personalities of the time.