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BRITAIN WILLING TO FINANCE NUCLEAR DESALINATION PLANT IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, May 31. (JTA) -- The British Government is ready "in principle" to help finance the construction in Israel of a nuclear reactor as part of a project for desalination of seawater, according to a statement made today by O.R.E. Brooke, commercial attache at the British Embassy here. He said that conversations looking toward such help have been underway in London at a semi-official level, and "consideration" is being given the proposal for British aid for this project.

It was learned here today that Israel's Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, now the Acting Premier, discussed the subject recently in London with Marcus Sieff, chairman of the British National Export Council's Committee for Israel, and with Edmund de Rothschild. The latter said that the British could match the terms for the project offered by the Americans, according to Mr. Brooke.

(In London, today, the Daily Telegraph reported that Israel is contemplating the purchase from Britain of a nuclear desalination plant valued at 71,000,000 pounds sterling (\$198,800,000). According to the newspaper, the Weir Westgarth Company, of Glasgow, is marketing an advanced, gas-cooled nuclear reactor for use in desalination of seawater.)

UNEMPLOYMENT RISING IN ISRAEL; 35,000 SOUGHT JOBS LAST MONTH

TEL AVIV, May 31. (JTA) -- April showed a sharp increase in the number of unemployed in Israel, the Labor Ministry's employment service reported today. During the month, a spokesman for the service said, 35,000 job seekers had registered. Without citing comparative figures, the spokesman said the April totals represented a sharp rise over the corresponding figures for March, as well as an increase over the corresponding period in 1965.

Meanwhile Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir reported today that absenteeism among workers has dropped by more than 50 percent since the rise in unemployment. He said a related development was a drop last month in the foreign trade deficit. He recommended that strenuous efforts should be made to cope with the joblessness problem, but said that Israel was far from a dangerous situation in that respect.

Haifa Dock Workers Refuse to End Slowdown; Operations Crippled

HAIFA, May 31. (JTA) -- After a stormy five-hour meeting last night, the Council of the Haifa port workers decided to reject a call from the Histadrut, Israel's labor federation, to return to normal work operations and thus end a five-week slowdown which has crippled port operations.

The Council decided to continue the slowdown until all its demands, including a substantial wage boost, were met. It also agreed to call "within a few days" a general meeting of the 1,600 dockers to decide whether to accept the Histadrut's suggestions.

Dozens of ships remained tied up in the harbor, awaiting their turn to be unloaded. Shipping lines operating between Haifa and Scandinavian countries gave two weeks' notice of intent to impose a surcharge, effective June 13.

SOVIET AMBASSADOR TO U.N. REITERATES CHARGES AGAINST ISRAEL

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., May 31. (JTA) -- Nikolai T. Fedorenko, the Soviet Ambassador to the United Nations, reiterated today Soviet Government charges that "imperialist powers and their agents," including Israel, are attempting "to meddle with the internal affairs" of Syria.

At a lengthy news conference here, he repeated a number of the anti-Israel charges previously voiced by the Soviet news agency, Tass, including the accusation that, recently "high ranking United States officials held conferences with the government and military staff of Israel."

"The peoples of the Arab states," Mr. Fedorenko said, are well aware of the danger to the cause of peace and to their independent development by the new intrigues of the imperialist powers, their reactionary agents in the Middle East and the ruling quarters of Israel, in particular the attempts to meddle with the internal affairs of the Arab Republic of Syria. For its part, the Soviet Union, of course, cannot and will not remain indifferent to the attempts to violate peace in a region located in direct proximity to the borders of the Soviet Union."

ISRAELI POLICEMEN FOUND GUILTY OF BRUTALITY; GET JAIL SENTENCES

TEL AVIV, May 31. (JTA) -- Four Tel Aviv policemen were found guilty by a disciplinary police court here today of beating up a 17-year-old boy, Yosef Herzberg, in a case that had attracted widespread attention throughout the country. They were given jail sentences ranging from seven to 14 days and fined. A fifth policeman was acquitted of a similar charge. The police tribunal also recommended that one of the four, who is a sergeant, be demoted to the rank of constable.

ISRAEL CHIEF OF STAFF CONFIRMS MILITARY COURT SENTENCE ON ARAB

TEL AVIV, May 31. (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, chief of staff of Israel's defense forces today confirmed the sentence to 30 years' imprisonment imposed by a military court on Mahmoud Hijazi, the Arab infiltrator who was captured by an Israeli border patrol near Jordan in January, 1965. Neither the defense nor the prosecution had announced any intention to appeal the sentence.

Hijazi was sentenced two weeks ago after his second trial. He had been found guilty and sentenced to death previously, but the death sentence was over-ruled and he was given a second trial on the grounds that he had not been defended properly during the first proceedings.

ISRAEL COURT ACTS ON RABBINATE'S STAND AGAINST FALASHA JEW

JERUSALEM, May 31. (JTA) -- The Israel Supreme Court ordered the Chief Rabbinate and the Jerusalem Religious Council to show cause for their refusal to register a marriage contracted by a Falasha Jew in Israel.

The high court also issued an order to the two agencies to show cause why arrangements should not be made to allow the Falasha Jew to have a legal wedding ceremony under state rabbinical auspices. The applicant became married in a private ceremony when the rabbinate, which has exclusive jurisdiction over marriages and divorces of Jews in Israel, refused to perform the ceremony.

The issue stems from the reluctance of Israel's rabbinate to accept the claim of the Falashas as full members of the Jewish community. The Falashas, living in Ethiopia, claim they are circumcised and of Jewish descent.

FIRST GROUP OF 'MARRANOS' ARRIVE IN ISRAEL; READOPT JEWISH FAITH

JERUSALEM, May 31. (JTA) -- Twenty-eight "Marranos" -- Spanish Jews who secretly maintained some ties with Judaism -- arrived today in Haifa. They are the first since the Spanish Inquisition to emigrate to Israel and formally readopt the Jewish faith.

The four Chuetta families, Jews forcibly converted to Christianity during the Inquisition, came from Palma de Majorca in the Balearic Islands. They are part of a group of 40 other similar families awaiting transportation to Israel.

The emigration was organized by the Association for Righteous Converts to Judaism in cooperation with the Jewish Agency. The four families left Haifa immediately after arrival for new housing units set aside for them in Ness Ziona. Sixteen members of the group will be circumcised this week in rejoining the Jewish religion from which their families and ancestors had been separated for more than 500 years.

Francisco Milac, 43, leader of the group, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that "for generations, my family knew we were Jews, though we had no religious training and we did not observe any Jewish holidays. In fact," he added, "until a few weeks ago we did not even know of the existence of Yom Kippur but in spite of this we felt like Jews and are proud to be so."

The first time the group ever visited synagogue was in Marseilles, prior to embarking for Israel. At that moment, Milac said "we already felt we had achieved our purpose." He said that the awakening of Jewish consciousness among the Marranos stemmed partly from films about Israel which they saw on Spanish television.

The decision to settle in Israel developed from a chance meeting with a visiting Tel Aviv physician, Dr. Confino, who became interested in them and contacted the Association for Righteous Converts in Jerusalem. The Association sent its president, Dr. Ben Zeev, to Palma. He assured himself of their direct descent from pre-Inquisition Jews and their wish to emigrate to Israel.

The Association contacted the Jewish Agency which arranged for transport and housing. Campos Garcia, another member of the group, told the JTA that members of the group believed "there are more than 500,000 conscious Marranos in Spain today and most of them wish to emigrate to Israel. We are only the first wave of a huge movement."

MOSCOW CHIEF RABBI REPORTS PREPARATIONS FOR PRINTING OF SIDUR

PITTSBURGH, May 31. (JTA) -- Moscow's Chief Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin has informed Rabbi Bernard A. Poupko, here, that all "necessary preparations" have been completed in the Soviet capital for the printing of a Hebrew prayer book, and that "we hope, please God, that, within several months, the Siddur will make its appearance."

The statement was contained in a letter from Chief Rabbi Levin to Dr. Poupko, chairman of the Rabbinical Board of Greater Pittsburgh, in response to one sent by Rabbi Poupko to the Moscow Jewish leader. In his letter, Rabbi Poupko also expressed himself as puzzled by the reason why Jews who ordered matzoh baked for them by the Moscow Central Synagogue, for last Passover, should have been forced to register their names and addresses. On this point, Chief Rabbi Levin replied: "I wish to inform you that this is absolutely not true. There was no obligation whatsoever for any person who came to bake matzoh to register his name."

Another question asked by Rabbi Poupko concerned the promised reopening of the yeshiva in Moscow. Chief Rabbi Levin's reply did not mention that subject.

Rabbi Poupko had invited the chief rabbi to attend the annual convention of the Rabbinical Council of America, to be held in the middle of June. Chief Rabbi Levin replied in his letter -- typewritten in Hebrew -- that the possibility of this visit is, much to my regret, remote. The years claim theirs, and I have no strength to travel a distance even within my own country in which I reside, and especially far away from my residence."

CASE OF ARSON TO LONDON SYNAGOGUES RAISED AGAIN IN PARLIAMENT

LONDON, May 31. (JTA) -- The recently enacted Race Relations Act is a bill "with teeth but without guts," Paul Rose, a Labor member of Parliament, complained yesterday in the House of Commons. He told the house that "there is now a substantial body of evidence showing a deliberate attempt to sow hatred." The inadequacy of the new law, he said, had been pointed out during the debate before the new act was passed, "and now this assessment has proved correct, with cases of arson in places of worship and the circulation of racist literature."

Mr. Rose referred to the fact that four young men, tried in the Central Criminal Court here for setting fire to synagogues, were freed. Maurice Foley, Undersecretary of the Home Office, conceded that, during the trial of the four men, it had been suggested that they were influenced toward committing the depredations by propaganda and incitements from Colin Jordan and the latter's wife, as leaders of the National Socialist movement. However, he said, there was not sufficient evidence to warrant putting Jordan on trial.

Mrs. Jordan, he said, is now in France but there is not enough evidence against her to justify a request for extradition. "When she returns to Britain," he said, "she may be interviewed by the police."

AMERICAN JEWISH PRESS WEEK OPENS; FIVE DAY CONVENTION STARTS TODAY

NEW YORK, May 31. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Press Week was opened today by the American Jewish Press Association whose membership comprises English-Jewish weeklies published in the United States and Canada. A five-day convention of the Association will open in Washington tomorrow to deal with problems concerning the English-Jewish press. Receptions for the delegates will be given by the Embassy of Israel and by B'nai B'rith.

The importance of the English-Jewish press to the American Jewish community was emphasized in a statement issued by Philip Slomovitz, chairman of the American Jewish Press Week. He pointed out that "many communities which are without newspapers, and do not utilize the services offered them by the Jewish press, will live in a vacuum." The only effective Jewish press in the world today, outside of Israel, is the English-Jewish press, he stressed.

"The English-Jewish newspaper is the guardian over the public welfare of our people," Mr. Slomovitz stated. "It is the historian of Jewry. It is the chronicle of our time and it may well be considered the Third Volume to the Biblical Book of Chronicles -- the Divrey Ha-Yamim. Our newspapers are the sentinels that watch over our freedoms, the defenders of our basic American ideals and of our sacred Jewish traditions. Without this watch-dog over Jewry's destinies, the great movements which operate in behalf of the downtrodden, the support of Israel, would not be able effectively to reach out to the communities which supply the funds for creative efforts and for redemption."

Mr. Slomovitz also emphasized that world Jewry's basic hope for a positive perpetuation of the heritage of the Jewish people is dependent upon the proper dissemination of news about Jews everywhere and the presentation of such news to the Jewish communities in all lands.

CATHOLIC ORDER PUBLISHES BOOK ON JUDAISM WRITTEN BY TORONTO RABBI

TORONTO, May 31. (JTA) -- A book called "Judaism," aimed to explain the Jewish religion and Jewish religious practices to Catholic high school students, has been written here by a rabbi and will be published by the Paulist Press, in New York. The Paulist Press is conducted by the Missionary Society of St. Paul the Apostle, a Catholic order.

Dr. Stuart E. Rosenberg, rabbi of Beth Tzedec Congregation here, who has written the book on commission by the Paulist priests, dedicated the work "to the Paulist Fathers, whose love of God and fellow man made it seemly in their eyes to ask a rabbi to tell Christians of Judaism." The Rev. E. L. Lader, a priest who was formerly on the staff of the Catholic Information Center here, wrote an introduction to "Judaism," declaring: "For a Roman Catholic publisher such as the Paulist Press to publish a book on Jewish religion, written by a rabbi, is an ecumenical first even in 1966."

Dr. Rosenberg makes it clear in his book that he is opposed to Catholic missionary work among Jews, declaring that Christians should gear their proselytizing work "to pagans and not to those who have already found God."

ISRAEL BUILDS INSTITUTE FOR TRAINING RELIGIOUS TEACHERS FOR DIASPORA

JERUSALEM, May 31. (JTA) -- Members of the Cabinet, Chief Rabbis Isser Yehuda Unterman and Yitzhak Nissim and Aryeh L. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, were among the dignitaries participating in cornerstone-laying ceremonies for a new building of the Zev Gold Institute for the training of religious teachers to serve Jewish communities abroad.

Adjoining several yeshivot, the new Institute building will be able to house 150 students. The Institute, operated by the Agency's department of religious education in the Diaspora, has already graduated 500 teachers. The department serves 310 Jewish schools in 30 countries attended by 75,000 Jewish students.

PRESENTATION OF CANTATA COMPOSED BY GERMAN OPPOSED IN ISRAEL

TEL AVIV, May 31. (JTA) -- The Organization of Partisans and Anti-Nazi Fighters in Israel charged today that a cantata to be presented next week by the Israel National Opera was the "work of a Nazi composer." The Opera director called the charge "fantastic."

The cantata, "Carmina Burana" was composed by Carl Orff, 71, who wrote the piece in 1937 as a work for orchestra, ballet and actors. The partisans group called on the public to boycott the performance and to do everything possible to force its cancellation.

Mrs. Edis de Phillippe, the director, said that the Israel National Opera had received a permit from the Film and Theater Censorship Board to present the work and that it had been broadcast several times by Kol Israel and Galei Zahal. She added that there was no indication that the composer had ever been connected with the Nazi movement in any way and that he had been married to a Jewish woman for many years.

FRENCH JEW RECEIVES 'PRIZE OF THE RESISTANCE' FOR BOOK ON TREBLINKA

PARIS, May 31. (JTA) -- Jean Francois Steiner, a 28-year-old Jew, was granted here yesterday the annual Prix de la Resistance for his book, entitled "Treblinka." The 2,500-franc (about \$125) prize was awarded to him despite opposition by some critics who charged he had not presented very favorably the picture of Jewish resistance against the Nazis. While the award is not large, the citation by the resistance movement here is considered of great literary value.

A French Catholic author, Jacques Madaule, received another prize, the annual Narcisse Leven Award, established by the family of the late Georges Leven, vice-president of the Alliance Israelite Universelle. The jury for this award was headed by Chief Rabbi Jacob Kaplan, and cited the author for his "activity and distinction on behalf of better relations between Jews and Catholics." The value of the prize is about \$150.

MAPAI LEADER ELECTED HEAD OF BUENOS AIRES JEWISH COMMUNITY COUNCIL

BUENOS AIRES, May 31. (JTA) -- The Buenos Aires Jewish community elected Tobias Kamenszain, representing the local Mapai, as president of the community's executive council, in balloting here yesterday. Other officers elected were Hirsch Triwaks as secretary, and Zelman Orenstein as treasurer. Mr. Triwaks also represents Mapai, while Mr. Orenstein belongs to Achdut Avodah. All other Zionist groupings here are also represented on the executive council.

MOSHE YUDOVIN, SOVIET YIDDISH POET, DIES IN MINSK; WAS 70 YEARS OLD

LONDON, May 31. (JTA) -- Moshe Yudovin, a prominent Yiddish poet and essayist, has died in Minsk, it was reported here today from the capital of Byelorussia. He was 70 years old.