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INTERNATIONAL P.E.N. CONGRESS REFUSES TO ACT ON RIGHTS FOR SOVIET JEWS

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- The presidium of the International P.E.N. Congress, meeting now in New York with more than 600 writers from 55 countries in attendance, has refused to put on its agenda a proposal by the Yiddish P.E.N. Center that the Soviet Union be requested to permit full rights to Soviet Jews to practice, pursue and develop Jewish culture in the USSR.

The International P.E.N. organization of poets, playwrights, essayists and novelists in all languages, is headed by Arthur Miller, the noted American Jewish playwright. President of the Yiddish P.E.N. Center is Aaron Glanz-Leyeless, of New York, one of the world's leading Yiddish poets. The rejection of the Yiddish group's proposed resolution took place at a meeting of the Congress presidium, which included leading delegates from all over the world, as well as members of the International P.E.N. executive committee.

The resolution dealing with Soviet suppression of Jewish culture was introduced by Mr. Glanz-Leyeless; Dr. Israel Knox, vice-president of the Yiddish Center, who is associate professor of philosophy at New York University; and Joseph Leftwich, of Britain, a well-known writer. Among its principal opponents, during a heated debate, were Mr. Miller; Elmer Rice, another prominent American playwright, who is also a Jew; and David Carver, of Britain, general-secretary of the International P.E.N. The resolution would have had the world organization demand that the Soviet Union:

Give full rights to the practice, pursuit, development and publication of Jewish literature in the USSR; open Jewish schools and theaters; permit the publication of Yiddish newspapers and books; permit the teaching and learning of the Hebrew language; and grant to Jews in the USSR religious rights equal to those permitted to other minorities in the Soviet Union.

Appeal of Yiddish P.E.N. Members Fails; Opponents Win by Small Majority

The chief arguments against placing the resolution on the agenda were to the effect that insufficient proof had been adduced showing the suppression of Jewish culture in the USSR, and that the Soviet Union is not the only country in the world where minorities are denied full and equal rights.

An amendment proposed by the Belgian P.E.N. Center requested that the entire question of suppression of minority rights in various countries, including Belgium and Spain, be probed by the Congress. The amendment and the original resolution moved by the Yiddish group were rejected by a small majority. It was noted, however, that many members were absent and many others abstained in the voting on the issue.

In the debate, the proponents of the original resolution told the presidium that they are not opposed to a consideration of the general denial of equal cultural rights to minorities in any country, but insisted on consideration of the specific suppression of Jewish cultural rights in the USSR.

Dr. Knox pointed out the undenied facts about the purges of Jewish writers and other Jewish intellectuals in the USSR, and the destruction of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union. He spoke of the "tragedy" of the liquidation of Jewish culture in the USSR which, he maintained, has not been equaled anywhere else in the world. He noted that, while there are cultural suppressions for minorities in Belgium, the latter is a democratic country, whereas the Soviet Union is a dictatorship.

Mr. Miller, conceding that Jewish cultural rights have been suppressed in the USSR, noted that, in Spain, the Catalanian culture is also being suppressed. Regarding the situation of Jewish culture in the Soviet Union, he said, after the Yiddish group's draft resolution was defeated, he had himself attempted to intervene on that issue with "significant personalities," in an effort to improve the situation of Russian Jewry. The P.E.N. Congress, he stated, has no authoritative powers, and there are no Government representatives in attendance at the Congress.

Mr. Glanz-Leyeless stated after the session that he "regrets" that the majority of the Presidium members had not given sufficient moral support to the resolution proposed by the Yiddish Center. Mr. Carver told several members of the Yiddish group that he will

make an effort to have the issue reconsidered at further sessions of the Congress, which is continuing until Saturday.

Mr. Miller, in his opening presidential address, did refer to the Soviet Union. But his remarks were directed only at the failure of the USSR to permit a Soviet delegation to attend the Congress. That negative move, he declared, was evidently motivated by fears that the Congress would criticize the Soviet Union for the harsh treatment accorded two Soviet writers, Andrei D. Sinyavsky and Yuli M. Daniel. These authors were recently convicted in a Moscow court and given long prison sentences for smuggling abroad works deemed to be anti-Soviet.

ARAB OFFICERS TRAINED ON USING CHEMICAL WAR MEASURES AGAINST ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, June 14. (JTA) -- A chemical warfare course that envisages use of chemical, biological, and radioactive measures against Israel is now in progress at Ar-Rashid camp, Baghdad, Iraq, for chemical warfare officers of all Arab armies in the unified Arab command, it was learned today. The special course commenced June 11 and will continue for ten days.

"In implementation of the resolutions of the conference of Arab directors of military training sponsored by the Arab armies unified command in Cairo last month, a course for the chemical branches in Arab armies has opened at the chemical warfare school in Ar-Rashid camp," the Iraqi news agency reported. "The holding of this course indicates the extent of cooperation between the fraternal Arab armies in various fields to attain their common goals and aspirations, foremost of which is the liberation of the usurped land in Palestine from the Zionist usurpers and the liberation of all Arab lands from imperialism."

ISRAEL PLEASSED WITH U.S. STAND ON ARAB REFUGEES IN MILITARY TRAINING

JERUSALEM, June 14. (JTA) -- Israeli political circles expressed considerable satisfaction here today over the United States decision to ask the United Nations to halt assistance to those Arab refugees undergoing military training. The U.S. decision followed an announcement by the Palestine Liberation Organization that Arab refugees would fight in Viet Nam against American forces.

Israeli officials here recalled that, for a long time, Israel has been requesting the United Nations to check the lists of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees and to bar assistance to members of the El Fatah and other terrorist groups. The officials welcomed the fact that the United States, which provides 70 percent of the UNRWA budget, has become the first government to take what is considered here as a "just" step.

Jordan Pledges Rectification of Relief Rolls of Palestine Refugees

WASHINGTON, June 14. (JTA) -- George Abrams, staff director of the Senate Subcommittee on Refugees and Escapees, who has conducted a survey in Arab countries of the aid being given to Arab refugees by the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees, said here yesterday that Jordan has assured him that it would try to rectify the UNRWA relief rolls.

Mr. Abrams and another member of the staff on the subcommittee, which is headed by Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, Massachusetts Democrat, conducted a three-week survey of the Arab refugee situation in Jordan, Lebanon and Egypt. The latter country has jurisdiction over the Gaza Strip, where many of the refugees are maintained by UNRWA. Mr. Abrams said he spoke to leaders of the three Arab governments about the reports that Arab refugees have been recruited for service in the Palestine Liberation Army, a group training for war against Israel. While refusing to discuss that phase of his probe, Mr. Abrams said that members of the Jordanian Cabinet had assured him they would try to have the UNRWA rolls rectified so that fraudulent holders of UNRWA ration cards would be eliminated.

The latest UNRWA registration figures, compiled as of the end of June, 1965, showed that, in Jordan, 688,327 refugees were registered by the U.N. agency. It is estimated here that at least 200,000 UNRWA ration cards issued in Jordan have been "passed on" to merchants and others who use the UNRWA cards improperly. "In Jordan, where the problem is especially serious," Mr. Abrams said, "clear representations were made that steps would be undertaken to begin correcting abuses." The United States Government is concerned because the U.S.A. pays 70 percent of the UNRWA costs annually, having contributed a total of \$364,468,069 to UNRWA since the agency was established in 1950.

FORD THREATENED BY ARAB BOYCOTT COMMITTEE FOR ITS PLANS IN ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, June 14. (JTA) -- Word has been received here that Mohammed Mahjoub, a high official of the Arab boycott office in Beirut, has threatened an Arab ban against products of the Ford Motor Corporation. The threat resulted from reports that Ford will establish an assembly plant in Israel for tractors and trucks.

ARAB LEADER CONFIRMS MILITARY COLLABORATION WITH CHINA AGAINST ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, June 14. (JTA) -- Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey's recent comments to a Washington convention of the American Jewish Press Association have been denounced in a Cairo "Voice of Palestine" broadcast to the Near East by chairman Ahmed Shukairy of the "Palestine Liberation Organization," who also confirmed military collaboration of his organization with Communist China.

The text of Mr. Shukairy's remarks, delivered at a "Palestine Liberation Army camp" in Syria, was received here today. He commented on Vice-President Humphrey's description of the P. L. O. as a threat to Israel and to peace, and said that he wanted to confirm Mr. Humphrey's statement because "we and our army are a threat to Israel."

"The Liberation Army and the P. L. O. are proceeding with determination," he boasted. "We receive arms from the Chinese People's Republic. The P. L. O. has military officers being trained in the arms of liberation and the experience of the Chinese. Your brothers are there (in Communist China) and we greet them."

Reports received by the U.S. Government here today stated that Mr. Shukairy has met in Cairo with the ambassador of North Viet Nam to continue "consultations on the participation of some members of the Palestine Liberation Army in training in guerilla warfare in Viet Nam." The Shukairy meeting with the representatives of the Hanoi regime took place on June 11.

U.N. TRUCE CHIEF TO REPORT ON SURVEY MADE OF ISRAEL'S BORDERS

JERUSALEM, June 14. (JTA) -- Maj. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, will make a special report to U.N. Secretary-General U Thant on the results of a minute survey of the Israeli side of the Israel-Syrian borders, designed to probe Syrian charges that Israel has been massing troops on the Syrian borders. A spokesman for UNTSO, which has its headquarters in the Jerusalem-Jordan No-Man's-Land, said today that the 14 teams that conducted that survey have completed their assignments.

The survey, made at the request of the Syrian Government, was made by military observers from the UNTSO staff and Israeli army officers who, together, inspected every border point from Tel Dan to Tel Katsir, as well as the demilitarized zones and all defense areas. Syria had assured UNTSO that it will permit a similar, detailed inspection of the border areas on its side of the frontier. In reply to a question as to whether Mr. Thant will make Gen. Bull's report public, the UNTSO spokesman said: "The decision on that point rests with U Thant."

YESHIVA U. GETS \$1,250,000 TO ESTABLISH HEBREW TEACHERS COLLEGE

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- A pioneering four year college with experimental approaches designed to meet a critical shortage of qualified teachers in Jewish education will be established by Yeshiva University, it was announced today by Dr. Samuel Belkin, president. The new college is being made possible by a gift of \$1,250,000 from philanthropist Jakob Michael, in memory of his late wife, Erna Sondheimer Michael, herself a noted philanthropist.

In praising Mr. Michael for his "generous and purposeful contribution to the future of Jewish children and therefore to the Jewish community," Dr. Belkin said the Erna Michael College of Hebraic Studies will offer "a distinct departure from the current programs of Jewish teacher education in the United States." As the first all-day American college to provide liberal arts and professional as well as Jewish studies, the new school's unusually broad curriculum will qualify its students for a Bachelor of Arts degree.

The tuition-free college's other innovations include a full year of study in Israel for all students during their junior year, on-the-job laboratory experiences, summer sessions in Jewish educational camps, an intensive guidance program designed to counteract the trend toward "depersonalization" in American schools for teacher education, and utilization of audio-visual and other new communications techniques.

The Erna Michael College of Hebraic Studies is being developed, Dr. Belkin said, in response to a crisis stemming from a vast increase in the number of students seeking Jewish education and a concurrent failure of teacher training institutions to supply sufficient qualified graduates. He said less than half of the 800 teachers required by Jewish schools each year enter the Jewish education field. And many of those who do, he added, lack adequate preparation as scholars and teachers.

"The tremendous need is not only for more teachers, but for better ones," Dr. Belkin said. "In the mid-sixties about 600,000 children attend formal Jewish schools," he went on. "This represents about half of all school-age Jewish children, and we owe them the best education we can provide."

COLOMBIAN JEWISH COMMUNITY TO CARRY OUT CENSUS, LEADER REPORTS

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- As part of a well-organized community program, the central representative body of the Jewish community in Barranquilla, Colombia, has taken the initiative in carrying out a regular census of its Jewish population. Details of this activity and of Barranquilla Jewry's tightly organized community structure were given to a meeting of the World Jewish Congress here by Carlos Kalusin, the community's president.

Mr. Kalusin said that a census initiated last year had shown that the community numbered nearly 1,000, the bulk being members of the Ashkenazic community. The Barranquilla Jewish leader reported that no member of the Ashkenazic community had been involved in intermarriage in the past 25 years.

The community maintains the Centro Israelita Filantropico, the representative council of which Mr. Kalusin is president. Under the Centro are four major institutions: the Beth El Synagogue, the Colegio Hebreo "Union," the Social Club and the Chevra Kadisha. Each of these four constituent groups has its own president and board who, with four community delegates at large, form the Board of Trustees of the Centro Israelita.

Mr. Kalusin said that the Colegio Hebreo provided a full secular and Jewish education for almost 300 children from nursery school through high school. Spanish, English and Hebrew are the languages of instruction and at present there are about 70 non-Jewish children enrolled in the school. "In fact," Mr. Kalusin reported, "the prize for the best Hebrew scholar went to a non-Jewish girl, a couple of years ago."

Barranquilla is one of the four centers of Jewish settlement in Colombia whose total Jewish population is about 10,000. Four years ago, the community completed a complex of new buildings which include the synagogue, the Social Club and the school. In addition to the four major institutions, the small Barranquilla community also has Zionist groups, WIZO, a Ladies Auxiliary and welfare groups, although the caseload for such agencies is small.

RABBINICAL ASSEMBLY DEPLORES 'HARSH' CRITICISM AGAINST DR. HESCHEL

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- The administrative committee of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international association of Conservative rabbis, issued a statement here today, rejecting criticisms of Rabbi Abraham J. Heschel made by leaders of other Jewish organizations, and declared that the Assembly was "dismayed" by those attacks.

Dr. Heschel, who is professor of Jewish ethics and mysticism at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, had been charged with "demagoguery" for voicing an opinion decrying the inadequacy of the protests by American Jewish organizations on behalf of Jews in the Soviet Union. In his critique, Dr. Heschel had named specifically the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, of which Dr. Joachim Prinz is chairman. A retort had been issued by Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Conference on Soviet Jewry.

Noting that the Rabbinical Assembly is a member of the groups headed by Dr. Prinz and Rabbi Miller, the Rabbinical Assembly declared today that it was perturbed over "the harsh language" used against Dr. Heschel and "deplores the attacks on the personal integrity of Dr. Heschel, who has been a prime mover in awakening the conscience of American Jewry about the condition of our brothers in the Soviet Union."

"We restate our profound concern over the plight of Soviet Jewry which we assume is shared by all Jews, and we fervently hope that the entire American Jewish community will join in intensifying efforts which will lead to continuing improvement in the state of our fellow Jews in the Soviet Union," the statement said.

JEWISH THEOLOGICAL SEMINARY GETS VALUABLE JUDAICA COLLECTION

NEW YORK, June 14. (JTA) -- A valuable collection of Judaica, comprising some 5,000 volumes, many of them extremely rare items, was presented to the Jewish Theological Seminary of America here today by the Brooklyn Jewish Center. Formal presentation of the collection, which was assembled by the Brooklyn congregation over several decades, was made by Dr. Benjamin Z. Kreitman, spiritual leader of the congregation; Dr. Israel H. Levinthal, rabbi emeritus; and Emanuel Cohen, president of the Center.

Dr. Louis Finkelstein, chancellor of the Seminary, and Dr. Menahem Schmeltzer, librarian, who accepted the gift on behalf of the Seminary, said that the institution particularly welcomed the valued gift at this time in view of the fire last April 8 which destroyed some 70,000 volumes in the Seminary library.

Among the unusual items in the collection contributed by the Brooklyn congregation today, are Abravanel's commentary on the Passover Haggadah published in Italy in 1545, his commentary on the Bible, and an edition of the Code of Rabbi Asher ben Yehiel published in Fuerth in 1745.