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U.S. RABBIS VISIT BABI YAR; RECITE PRAYER FOR 100,000 KILLED JEWS

WASHINGTON, July 26. (JTA) -- A group of 22 American Reform rabbis, the largest ever assembled in the Soviet Union, today stood at Babi Yar ravine in Kiev and prayed that Soviet authorities will erect a memorial to the approximately 100,000 Jews murdered there by the Germans in World War II.

The service included the recitation, in English, of the poem "Babi Yar" by the Soviet poet, Yevgeny Yevtushenko. The poem deplored the lack of a memorial there and indicated that anti-Semitism was the reason for its absence. The 22 U.S. rabbis were in Kiev on the last stop of a study tour of the Soviet Union, according to a cabled report received here.

Rabbi Jacob J. Weinstein, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, recited a prayer at the tragic scene. He said: "We stand here on hallowed ground where many thousands of our brethren lie buried in a musty pit. We cannot separate their comingled bones. But we can perform an act of poetic justice. We can insist on a special memorial for those who were so singularly selected for this bitter martyrdom." No Soviet citizens attended the memorial service.

KING OF JORDAN SAYS BALANCED STRENGTH MAY SOLVE 'PALESTINE PROBLEM'

LONDON, July 26. (JTA) -- King Hussein of Jordan, who is now on a state visit here, said at a dinner here last night, tendered to him by the Foreign Press Association, that the "Palestine problem" must be resolved. "I really don't know the solution," he declared, "but possibly once a balance of strength is attained and existing fears are no more, this may be one way."

The Arab monarch generally referred to Israel in guarded tones, but he warmed up when asked about Israel's recent air attack against Syria. Asserting that such attacks should not take place, he said such actions by Israel "could bring about an explosion so serious as to make me hesitate to forecast its consequences. They could cause an explosion that would not benefit anyone in the area. We would have to take action if another Arab country were attacked."

The king emphasized the fate of the Arab refugees on Israel's borders, referring to their existence as "a tragedy." "I don't know the solution to the problem," he reiterated, "but I hope for a just and honorable solution."

King Hussein told the gathering that Jordan is doing its 'utmost' to prevent the crossing of infiltrators into Israel territory. He said the Palestine issue is being used to further outside interests, but it must be remembered that instability in the region could have serious consequences. This remark was taken to be directed against Egyptian President Nasser.

Asked whether he agrees with Tunisian President Habib Bourguiba's views on the possibility of an Arab-Israel peace, King Hussein replied: "The Palestine problem is one in which Arabs must stand together until a just and honorable solution is found. If Bourguiba means to separate us, I am against him." He added that the Arab League "is still a viable political body; we shall do our utmost to make it live despite difficulties."

U.N. SECURITY COUNCIL MARKS TIME IN DEBATE ON ISRAEL-SYRIAN CLASH

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., July 26. (JTA) -- The Security Council continued today its debate on Israel's and Syria's charges and counter-charges of aggression, while awaiting reports from Major General Odd Bull, chief of the U.N. Truce Supervision Organization, on what had actually taken place.

Two reports from Gen. Bull -- one on Arab terrorists raids in Israel and the other on Israel's air attack on July 14 -- are expected to arrive here tomorrow. Today's session was therefore seen as only marking time pending receipt of these reports. The delegations at the U.N. representing the United States, Britain and France are expected to join the Security Council's debate only after Gen. Bull's reports have been received and digested.

At today's session, the Security Council was addressed by representatives of Iraq and Jordan, each of whom repeated all the usual Arab arguments against Israel.

ISRAEL DRAFTS PROPOSALS FOR ABSORPTION OF WESTERN IMMIGRANTS

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- Proposals for the more efficient absorption of immigrants from western countries were drafted today at a meeting of the Western Aliyah Committee, a joint coordinating body of the Israel Government and the Jewish Agency. Prime Minister Levi Eshkol presided over the meeting. The proposals will be presented at the plenary assembly of the coordinating body next month.

ISRAEL ARMY TO TAKE OVER RECRUITING OFFICES FROM CIVIL AUTHORITIES

TEL AVIV, July 26. (JTA) -- The Israel Army will take over the Recruitment Division of the Ministry of Defense as an economy measure and "in order to streamline administrative procedures," it was announced here today by Zvi Dinstein, Deputy Defense Minister.

The decision to transfer the recruiting offices from civilian control to the Manpower Division of the Army command was made by Prime Minister Eshkol following a recommendation of a special committee set up to study the problem. The Defense Ministry will save an estimated 800,000 pounds (\$267,000) annually from the move while between 80 and 90 of the Ministry's 1,400 civilian employees will become "redundant," Mr. Dinstein said.

According to reliable sources, the decision followed a dispute in which senior officials of the Ministry had threatened to resign en masse if a much more comprehensive reform, including the transfer of ordnance, munitions plants and arms acquisition branches to the direct control of the Army were carried out.

Contending that such drastic changes would give the Army more than it could handle, the officials opposing the changes also expressed the fear that the Army would be unable to display the necessary objectivity and that the transfer of the recruitment functions would mean giving the Army "complete and undemocratic control" over all Israeli males from their 18th to 49th years. The officials reportedly accepted the recruitment change as a compromise.

Noting that the transfer of the recruitment functions was the only change decided on for the time being, Mr. Dinstein said that he could not perceive of any possible reduction in the authority vested in the civilian section of the Defense Ministry or any increase in authority of the Army. He said the transfer will be carried out gradually and completed by the end of the current fiscal year which runs through next March.

It was pointed out here that the Army's Manpower Division has been computerized for several years and that all Army and reservist manpower data were handled by the Division anyway. The fact that recruitment was still handled by the civilian section of the Defense Ministry has led to duplication and complicated data processing.

FOUR ISRAELI ARABS WHO SPIED FOR LEBANON SENTENCED TO PRISON

TEL AVIV, July 26. (JTA) -- Four Israeli Arabs who were convicted of membership in an espionage ring in the service of the Lebanese were sentenced today to prison terms ranging from three to six years.

The leader of the spy ring, Yussef Khatib, 57, was sentenced to six years. Rashid Hassan, 25, and Nazji Zaber, 35, got four years each, while Diab Moughrabi, 30, got three years. Khatib was found guilty of enlisting the other three in the spy ring after he established contact with his brother who penetrated into Israel from Lebanon. Khatib's brother was also caught by the Israel defense forces.

NAZIS SENTENCED FOR KILLING TARNOPOL JEWS SEEK REVISION OF VERDICT

BONN, July 26. (JTA) -- Five of the seven former Nazi officers who were sentenced to prison terms last week for their roles in the slaughter of Polish Jews in Tarnopol during the Hitler era, today filed appeals in the West German High Court for revision of their sentences.

Those appealing their prison sentences were: Paul Rabel, 60, and Hermann Mueller, 57, who were given life terms; Walter Lambor, 60, who was given a 10-year sentence; Gunter Winkler, 49, who was given five years; and Thomas Hasenberg, 57, who was given three and a half years. The prosecution has not asked for any revision of sentences in the case.

GERMANY AND ISRAEL SIGN PACT AVOIDING DOUBLE TAXATION ON RESIDENTS

BONN, July 26. (JTA) -- Israel Embassy and West German Foreign Office officials signed an agreement to avoid double taxation of residents of the two countries. The agreement was approved previously by the Parliaments of the two countries and went into effect with the signing.

SENATOR GRUENING PROPOSES AMENDMENT DENYING U.S. AID TO EGYPT

WASHINGTON, July 26, (JTA) -- Senator Ernest Gruening, Alaska Democrat, proposed a new amendment to the Foreign Assistance Bill which forbids any aid to Egypt. This amendment does not give any discretion to the President to announce this aid as essential to the national interest of the United States, as is the case with a similar amendment introduced previously.

Meanwhile, the Senate had adopted an amendment to the Foreign Aid Bill which would deny American aid to eight Arab states and other nations who are in arrears in their assessments to the United Nations. Under the terms of the amendment, the President has discretion to override the ban if it is in the "national interest." The House will have to vote on the proposal.

Iraq, Sudan, Syria, Egypt and Yemen are in arrears for the regular U.N. budget, the U.N. Congo force and the U.N. Emergency Force in the Gaza Strip. Lebanon and Saudi Arabia owe for the Congo assessment and Jordan owes for UNEF.

PRESIDENTS OF ISRAEL AND BRAZIL STRESS FRIENDSHIP IN JOINT STATEMENT

RIO DE JANEIRO, July 26, (JTA) -- Israel's President Zalman Shazar and Gen. Humberto Castelo Branco, President of Brazil, agreed here tonight to continue the commercial, cultural and technical-aid agreements already in effect between their countries, expressing the confidence that those pacts "will lead to lasting, mutual benefits" for both lands.

These affirmations were among the final results of President Shazar's nine-day visit here. The points were emphasized in a joint communique issued by the two Presidents tonight, prior to Mr. Shazar's scheduled departure tomorrow for the United States. In the U.S.A., the Israeli chief of state will visit New York's Jewish community, will be honored by the New York Mayor and at a formal luncheon at the United Nations, and will go to Washington, where he will be an overnight guest of President Johnson.

The joint Brazilian-Israeli communique closed with an announcement that President Shazar's visit "has given both Presidents the opportunity to underscore the friendly relations between Brazil and Israel." It noted that a cultural exchange agreement signed in 1959 made possible "fruitful exchanges and information" in the fields of art and science, while a technical cooperation pact agreed to in 1962 gave Israeli technicians an opportunity of "contributing toward improvements in Brazil's semi-arid Northeast earth." Development of further measures for the increase of commercial trade between Brazil and Israel was set as a goal in another point in the communique.

Both presidents agreed in the communique that Brazil and Israel attach great importance to the role of the United Nations "in safeguarding world peace and, in particular, the principles of the U.N. Charter relating to the territorial integrity and political independence of all nations, as well as the obligation which rests upon them to solve all disputes by peaceful means such as direct negotiations."

ANTI-SEMITISM OMITTED IN 'PASSION PLAY' REHEARSALS IN OBERAMMERGAU

BONN, July 26, (JTA) -- A leading citizen of Oberammergau, the Alpine village which is the site of the decennial performance of the famous passion play, has won a long fight for removal of anti-Semitic references from the drama which depicts the death of Jesus. The village council was reported here today as having voted to let the director of the next performance, scheduled for 1970, use a recently discovered text for the play, written by a Benedictine monk in 1750, instead of the version employed since 1860, written by a local priest.

The fight had been carried on by Hans Schwaighofer, headmaster of the state wood-carving school in the village. He is the man designated to act Judas in 1970, and previously appointed as director of the next performance. He objected to the 1860 version because it contains threats against the Jewish people for their allegedicide and is, he insisted, out of line with the Catholic Church's recently promulgated decree which repudiates the charge of the collective guilt of the Jews for the death of Jesus. The older version of 1750 refers to allegorical figures, and not to Jews, depicting worldly evil.

In deference to Mr. Schwaighofer's drive, the village council voted to permit him to start rehearsals for the 1970 performance along the lines of the 1750 text. The council decided it would make a final decision on the issue in 1968, after viewing a dress rehearsal of the play to be done without the anti-Semitic references.

INVESTIGATIONS ON NAZI WAR CRIMINALS CONTINUE IN WEST GERMANY

BONN, July 26, (JTA) -- The Central Office for the Prosecution of Nazi War Criminals in Ludwigsburg is currently working on an additional 324 preliminary investigations in war crimes cases, it was announced here. Since starting work on December 1, 1958, the central office has processed 1,033 such preliminary investigations. Of these, 309 cases were transmitted to state prosecutors for trial.

CONFERENCE OF CHURCHMEN DEPLORES ANTI-SEMITISM AMONG CHRISTIANS

GENEVA, July 26. (JTA) -- The continued existence of anti-Semitism as "an issue among Christians" was deplored here yesterday by more than 400 Christian theologians attending a conference sponsored by the World Council of Churches.

In a report submitted for consideration by the World Council, the conference delegates urged churches "to insist that no discrimination should be made among men for religious, racial or ethnic reasons."

BALTIMORE JEWISH CAMPAIGN TO CLOSE WITH \$3, 472, 000; INCREASE REPORTED

BALTIMORE, July 26. (JTA) -- The 1966 Combined Campaign of the Associated Jewish Charities and Welfare Fund will close with an estimated \$3, 472, 000 for an increase of 7.5 percent over last year, according to Irving Blum, general chairman. This will represent a gain of approximately \$241, 000 over the 1965 campaign total of \$3, 231, 000.

Included in these estimated totals are 630 new gifts worth \$60, 000 in the general campaign, and 1, 269 new gifts worth nearly \$9, 500 in the Women's Division. More than 20, 000 separate gifts to the 1966 campaign will be recorded, Mr. Blum pointed out, when the books are actually closed.

Although these figures are encouraging, Mr. Blum said, they actually fall substantially short of the \$430, 000 projected as the minimum required increase based on carefully-screened agency budgets. "I am proud to say, however," Mr. Blum commented, "that Baltimore has made real progress toward a breakthrough in its level of giving to the combined campaign. Since 1965, we have definitely moved up from the 'plateau of giving' of previous years. Now we can realistically set our sights on making Baltimore a \$4, 000, 000 community."

LEWIS ROSENSTIEL GIVES \$2, 500, 000 TO JEWISH AND CHRISTIAN CHARITIES

NEW YORK, July 26. (JTA) -- Lewis F. Rosenstiel, a prominent Jewish philanthropist and head of Schenley Industries, has announced gifts totaling \$2, 500, 000 for a number of Jewish, Catholic and Protestant charities on the occasion of his 75th birthday.

Among the recipients of the gifts were Brandeis University, which received \$600, 000, as well as the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of Greater New York and the American Jewish Committee.

LEADERS OF 40 PARLIAMENTS TO ATTEND DEDICATION OF KNESSET BUILDING

JERUSALEM, July 26. (JTA) -- Representatives of about 40 parliaments in countries around the world are expected to attend the dedication here, on August 30, of the new building of the Knesset, Israel's Parliament, the parliamentary committee in charge of the forthcoming ceremonies announced today. Among the guests, it is expected that about 30 of the official representatives will be the presiding officers or speakers of the respective parliaments.

Certain, thus far, of participation in the ceremonies are representatives of the United States, Britain, France, Holland, Belgium, Luxembourg and the Scandinavian countries. The ceremonies are to be highlighted by the participation of President Zalman Shazar, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, Jerusalem's Mayor Theodore Kollek, Chief Rabbis Yitzhak Nissim and Isser Yehuda Unterman, and members of the Knesset presidium.

The committee in charge of the dedication decided today that no foreign representatives are to sit on the dais during the ceremonies, and no foreign flags will be flown over the new Knesset building. That decision is believed to have been taken so that the West German flag or the representative from Bonn would not play a prominent role in the proceedings. The West German Parliament is expected to be represented by Dr. Eugen Gerstenmaier, president of the Bundestag.

ISRAEL TRAVEL AGENTS PROTEST BRITAIN'S STAND ON VISAS FOR ISRAELIS

TEL AVIV, July 26. (JTA) -- Israel's travel agents decided today to stop handling applications for visas for the British Embassy here in protest against the refusal by the British Government to ease application procedures for Israelis traveling to Britain. The Israeli Government has requested Britain to eliminate the visa requirement for Israeli citizens. British subjects do not require visas to visit Israel.

The travel agents charged that they were unable to do their jobs in processing visa requests for Britain in view of the "bureaucratic and illogical formalities and, still worse, the degrading investigation of applicants." They urged the Foreign Ministry to expedite efforts to attain reciprocity of visa regulations.

According to the Israeli travel agents, about 25, 000 Israeli tourists were expected to visit Britain this year. Each tourist gets a \$500 currency allowance. After announcing their protest, the agents said they were informed that Lord Geddes, chairman of the British Travel and Holiday Association, was discussing the entire contretemps with Home Office authorities in London.