



Jewish Telegraphic Agency

DAILY NEWS BULLETIN

660 FIRST AVENUE

NEW YORK 16, N.Y.

Contents Copyright: Republication only by previous arrangement

Vol. XXXIII - 49th year

Wednesday, August 10, 1966

No. 152

W.J.C. ASSEMBLY CLOSES WITH APPEAL TO JEWS TO CHECK ASSIMILATION

BRUSSELS, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- The 10-day plenary assembly of the World Jewish Congress closed its sessions here tonight with a number of resolutions on vital subjects faced by world Jewry, including relations between Christians and Jews, the problem of Soviet Jewry, Arab-Israel relations and relations between the Jewish people and Germany. The resolutions were supplemented by a "declaratory" statement entitled "An Appeal to the Jewish People," which read:

"The assembly, deeply concerned with the permanent and grave dangers that assimilation and indifference constitute for the Jewish people, and intensely conscious of the many signs of revival and renewal of Jewish life all over the Diaspora; and responding to the call of the young generation which is searching for Jewish knowledge and Jewish identification; appeals to the Jewish people for the launching of a cultural offensive to face up to the spiritual dilemmas of our day."

The lengthy WJC deliberations, attended by more than 450 delegates and observers from all over the world, except the Soviet Union, were adjourned after a closing address by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the global body. The principal resolutions included the following:

Concerning Israel and the Arab states, the assembly took note of Israel's continuing readiness to enter into peace negotiations with the Arab governments. The assembly addressed an "earnest appeal" to the great powers to take joint or parallel action which will assure the world that neither an imbalance in Middle East arms, nor prospects of new arms deliveries to the region, will encourage military aggression in the area.

In the interests of stability in the Middle East and "indeed, in the world over," the assembly urged all governments, "irrespective of their political systems," to facilitate the emigration of those Jews who desire to go to Israel and participate in the building of the Jewish State. Finally, on this subject, the WJC appealed to "all enlightened sectors of the Arab people" to support and strengthen the "sober voices in the Arab world that have courageously called for an effort to reach an understanding between Israel and the Arab states."

Voices Five Requests to Moscow on Treatment of Jews in Russia

The resolution dealing with the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union expressed the WJC's "distress" over the continuing "cultural and religious discrimination experienced by Soviet Jewry," and urged the Soviet Government "to re-examine its policies and administrative practices with a view to ensuring that the Jewish minority enjoys the same rights and facilities as are enjoyed by all other minorities in the Soviet Union."

The assembly voiced a series of requests to the Soviet Government in this measure, summarizing those points under the headings of: 1) The cultural and religious rights of Soviet Jewry; 2) The unhampered practice of the Jewish religion and the establishment of countrywide representation and a central religious institution for Soviet Jewry; 3) Giving the Soviet Jews the same facilities and rights to participate in international Jewish meetings and organizations as are enjoyed by other minority groups; 4) The intensification of educational and administrative measures against anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union; and 5) The facilitation of the reunion in Israel and elsewhere of separated families.

Regarding relations between the Christians and the Jews, the assembly noted "with satisfaction" that "the leading church assemblies of the world -- the World Council of Churches at New Delhi and the Ecumenical Council in Rome -- have, through recent pronouncements, urged Christians throughout the world to eliminate age-old prejudices contained in Christian teachings concerning the Jews." The measure then went on to say that the WJC assembly takes these Christian pronouncements as evidence of the good will of many Christian ecclesiastic leaders from all countries, stating that the WJC "expects the practical implementation of these pronouncements at all levels."

Regarding Germany and the Jews, the assembly declared that "the Jewish people cannot forget the appalling tragedy, the sufferings and the losses inflicted upon the Jewish people by the Third Reich and the annihilation of 6,000,000 Jews." "This iniquity," the

resolution stated, "imposes upon the German people and its Government responsibilities which have not yet been fully discharged." The resolution concluded as follows:

"The assembly is particularly disturbed by recent tendencies in Germany to forget the past. The assembly acknowledges that many German leaders -- religious, political, intellectual, and, indeed, the leading German press -- have often warned their own people against the dangers of a rebirth of Nazism. The assembly expresses the hope that the young German generation will understand its moral obligation not to forget the past, and will refuse to allow revival of an ideology which brought misery to Jews and also to Germany itself."

Summarizing the assembly's achievements at a press conference following the closing of the sessions, Dr. Goldmann noted particularly the fact that 57 countries had been represented, including two Communist lands, Rumania and Hungary, from which Jewish representatives have joined a WJC parley for the first time in 14 years.

Dr. Goldmann noted also the fact that the resolution demanding equal treatment for the Jewish minority in the Soviet Union had been adopted unanimously, despite the fact that the delegates included representatives "of the extreme left and other friends of Soviet Russia." On a different level, the WJC leader noted the significance of the fact that the overwhelming majority of American Jews were represented at the assembly by observers from the Conference of Presidents of Major Jewish Organizations in the United States.

U.S. EXPECTED TO BECOME IMPORTANT SOURCE FOR IMMIGRANTS TO ISRAEL

JERUSALEM, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Aryeh L. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency, expressed his conviction here today that the Western countries, especially the United States, will become an important source of immigrants coming into Israel. He revealed that, thus far this month, 133 young American Jews have arrived in Israel for permanent settlement. In July, he said, the total number for the month was 130. "Though this number is relatively small," he said, "it is hoped the numbers will increase."

Mr. Pincus discussed immigration, and other Agency interests, at a press conference here, following his return from Europe, where he attended Jewish conferences in Geneva and at Brussels. He said the Agency and the Israel Government are determined to adopt a new approach toward immigration, based on individual treatment for each newcomer. He voiced hope that this approach would result in increased immigration from the West.

On another issue, concerning the Agency's recent decision to curtail personnel and streamline certain operations, Mr. Pincus said that progress was being made. He reported that, in the last few months, 200 Agency employees have been dismissed, and said that that number will reach 1,000.

SIX MORE ISRAELI CITIZENS REPORTED HELD AS PRISONERS IN SYRIA

TEL AVIV, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Six other Israelis are still imprisoned in Syrian jails, Yoseph Shemesh, one of the men returned here yesterday in the prisoner exchange between Syria and Israel, declared today.

Of the four Israelis given back by the Syrian jailers yesterday, Mr. Shemesh, who is 43 and had been imprisoned by the Syrians for 12 years, was the only one who seemed today to be able to face Israeli journalists. Two of the four were taken immediately after brief medical examinations to mental hospitals. The fourth of the men, Shlomo Yifrach, is still being examined today.

All four had suffered severe mental disturbances, physicians said. Mr. Shemesh said that Avraham Daskal, one Israeli prisoner reported by the Syrians to have died three years ago, had committed suicide after being tortured in his Syrian prison. Mr. Shemesh said that he was sure there were still six more Israelis, two of them Arabs, in Syrian jails now. The Syrians denied they were holding any more Israelis.

ISRAEL FESTIVAL MARKED BY MUSIC AND DANCES OF ETHNIC GROUPS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- The great diversity of Israel's cultural richness was illustrated tonight at the annual Israel Festival, currently under way in the 2,000-year-old Roman amphitheater, at Caesaria, where "communities evening" was observed.

The evening, devoted to the native music and dances of the various geographic and ethnic groups among Israel's population, resulted in performances by Jews from Iraq and Yemen, Bokhara and Kurdistan, North African regions and a half-dozen other origins. Yet all these groups showed, in common, that their cultures were rich with Jewish themes. In addition, Israeli Arabs also performed on tonight's program, showing that an Israeli-Arab type of culture was being developed.

SECRETARY RUSK HEARS REPORT ON CURRENT STATUS OF JEWS IN RUSSIA

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Secretary of State Dean Rusk held an extended discussion here on the special problem of Soviet Jewry with Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry. Joining Secretary Rusk in the discussion were Douglas MacArthur II, Assistant Secretary of State for Congressional Relations; Walter J. Stoessel, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary for East European Affairs.

Senators Abraham Ribicoff and Jacob Javits, who were unable to attend the discussion because of a vote in the Senate concerning the airline strike, sent representatives in their stead. Rabbi Miller said that he was "most encouraged by the depth of concern and awareness expressed by Secretary Rusk." He described the meeting as a detailed examination of the problem.

Rabbi Miller presented an assessment of the current status of Soviet Jewry to the Secretary of State. He reported that there has been no basic change in the situation during the past year except for token concessions. He outlined a detailed program that the Conference planned to undertake on behalf of Soviet Jewry during the coming year.

CONVERSION ISSUE RAISED AT INTERNATIONAL CHRISTIAN-JEWISH PARLEY

LONDON, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- One of Britain's outstanding lay Catholics, who is a leader in the efforts to improve relations between Jews and Christians, declared at Cambridge University today that the "crux" of the recent Ecumenical Council declaration regarding Jews was the aim of converting Jews to Catholicism. However, he insisted, "the notion that there was a campaign on to convert Jews is quite fantastic."

The statement was made by Christopher Hollis, a well-known British author, who is head of the Catholic Church Council in this country, charged with implementing a new approach toward friendship between Catholics and Jews in Britain.

Mr. Hollis was one of the speakers at today's session of the International Conference on Christian-Jewish Relations, convened yesterday at Newnham College, at Cambridge. Ninety scholars and religious leaders of various faiths from a number of European countries as well as from the United States are attending the conference. The chairman of the conclave is Sir Seymour Edward Karminski, judge of Britain's High Court of Justice.

Among Americans attending the conference are Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum, director of interreligious affairs for the American Jewish Committee; Dr. Jacob B. Agus, rabbi of Congregation Beth El, Baltimore; the Rev. Dr. Robert Dodds, director of ecumenical affairs of the National Council of Churches of Christ in the United States; and the Rev. Edward Flannery, a Jesuit priest who is a member of the United States Bishops Subcommittee on Catholic-Jewish Relations.

"We," said Mr. Hollis, speaking of the Catholics, "hope for conversions. We frankly admit we pray for conversions. But our prime business is not with conversions but with edification of Catholics. Conversion is something that must be left for God to look after."

Interpretation of Vatican Declaration Angers Jewish Participants

A number of Jewish participants in the conference objected to Mr. Hollis' formulations regarding conversion. The Rev. Dr. I. Levy, attending the conference as a representative of the World Jewish Congress, led the counter-attack against Mr. Hollis. He said: "The mere use of that word 'conversion' has been a warning light for Jews. It has undermined the undoubtedly good intentions of the Vatican Council."

Justice Karminski told the conference, as chairman, that neo-Nazism remains a great threat to Christian-Jewish relations. "A cause of neo-Nazism," he declared, "comes from non-thinkers and psychopaths. We must try to reach those dull and unhappy people who are the most vulnerable to anti-Semitism."

"The young Germans," continued the high court judge, "realize what the Nazis did, and they are showing a tremendous determination that it must never happen again. We must remember that most of the students were not yet born by 1945, so they could not have known about the atrocities. Their response now, which is a strong one, is a sign for hope. There are differences in fundamentals. But we are a people with common historical backgrounds. No religious belief can exist in a watertight container. I don't believe we can remain in a vacuum forever."

Rabbi Tannenbaum, in addressing the conference, urged Christian leaders not to "go it alone" in the area of inter-religious cooperation. "The striving for internal Christian unity," he said, "might lead to a pan-Christian exclusivism that could ignore the authentic pluralism of the global human family." He warned that such an approach "could create a problem for all non-Christian religious groups."

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE OPPOSES VOLUNTARY PRAYERS IN SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee urged today that the Dirksen Amendment to permit voluntary participation in prayer in the public schools be rejected.

In a statement submitted to the Constitutional Amendments Sub-Committee of the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, which is holding hearings on the amendment introduced by Senator Everett Dirksen, the American Jewish Committee said it has consistently favored separation of church and state and would be, therefore, opposed to measures which would weaken religious freedom or non-establishment by changing the First Amendment's guarantees of those interrelated and essential liberties.

"Religion has flourished in this country, although religious indoctrination has not been subsidized from the public treasury," the AJCommittee pointed out, "and the public schools themselves have served as a great unifying force in American life -- welcoming young people of every creed, emphasizing the common heritage of all and serving as training grounds for healthful community living. The public schools have performed an indispensable function, and any attempt to use the public schools to encourage religious literacy or commitment will tend to exacerbate the present public school crisis and create religious conflicts, competition, bitterness and hostility."

JOHANNESBURG BETH DIN BANS 'FRATERNIZATION' WITH REFORM CONGREGATIONS

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- The Johannesburg Beth Din has sent a letter to all congregations affiliated with the Federation of Synagogues of South Africa, urging rabbis and lay leaders to abstain from "fraternization with Reform." This follows the occasion a month ago when two Johannesburg Orthodox rabbis, Rabbi Prof. J. Newman and Rabbi S. Poupko, sent messages congratulating their suburban Reform neighbor, Temple Shalom, on its 21st birthday, and A. Dick, president of Rabbi Poupko's congregation, accepted an honor at the special service which Temple Shalom held to celebrate the birthday occasion.

The Beth Din letter points out that in the agreement on communal cooperation made between Orthodox Chief Rabbi B.M. Casper and Reform Senior Rabbi A.S. Super a year ago, it was expressly recognized that "from the religious point of view there is an unbridgeable gulf between Orthodoxy and Reform," and that while they could cooperate in the communal sphere, they could not participate in each other's religious services or hold joint services. Therefore, says the Beth Din letter, "Orthodox Jews should not attend services in places of Reform worship, nor should they take part in any functions arranged by a Reform congregation."

JEWISH CHAPLAIN AWARDED MEDAL FOR MERITORIOUS SERVICE IN VIET NAM

NEW YORK, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- By direction of President Johnson, Chaplain (Major) Harry Z. Schreiner, one of the three Jewish chaplains in Viet Nam, has been awarded the Air Medal for his "meritorious achievement while participating in sustained aerial flight in providing a chaplaincy program in support of combat ground forces in Viet Nam" from October 20, 1965, to July 12, 1966. The citation commends Chaplain Schreiner for his participation in 123 "aerial missions over hostile territory in support of counter-insurgency operations."

Chaplain Schreiner was born in New York City and educated at the College of the City of New York and the University of Newark. He was ordained as a rabbi by the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and was recruited and ecclesiastically endorsed for military service by JWB's Commission on Jewish Chaplaincy. A career chaplain who saw service in the Korean war, he also served in Orleans, France, Stuttgart, Germany, and other places.

ISRAEL SCHOLAR HONORED BY SOUTH AFRICA'S OLDEST UNIVERSITY

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 9. (JTA) -- Stellenbosch University, South Africa's oldest seat of learning, has honored an Israeli scholar, Dr. Abraham Malamat, by conferring upon him membership in the Old Testament Working Group, the highest body of this country's Biblical scholars in the Afrikaans tongue.

Dr. Malamat is associate Professor of Ancient Jewish History and Bible at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. He had been invited by Stellenbosch University to lecture during the institution's celebration of its hundredth anniversary. He also lectured at Witwatersrand University. Members of the Semitic faculty at Stellenbosch suggested, as they honored the Israeli scholar, that senior theology students here might go to Israel for a "workshop" every three years.