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GERMAN OFFICIAL WILLING TO BE SUSPENDED PENDING WAR CRIMES PROBE

BONN, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Dr. Friedrich Karl Vialon, Secretary of State in the West German Ministry of Economic Cooperation, suggested in a television interview here today that he be temporarily suspended, pending the outcome of an investigation as to whether he was involved in the wartime German mass murders of Jews.

Dr. Vialon offered the suggestion after the West German television network broadcast a sharp attack on him Tuesday night, demanding his immediate suspension because of the charges. The network documentary asserted it was hard to believe Dr. Vialon's court testimony that he had never known about the Nazi murder of Jews. The network also noted that the state prosecutor in Bonn has been investigating for two years the charges that Dr. Vialon committed perjury in his defense against the charges.

Dr. Vialon served as registrar of Jewish property in the German administration in occupied Riga from 1942 to 1944. He made his statement about never having heard of the mass murders as a witness in a war crimes trial. Later he was accused by East Germans of having been involved directly in the Nazi "final solution of the Jewish problem." Documents from Latvian archives are among the materials being studied by the Bonn state prosecutor.

The network program displayed documents bearing Dr. Vialon's signature presumably proving that he had given orders that Jewish gravestones be sold for the benefit of the Nazi regime. Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Documentation Center for Nazi Crimes in Vienna, appeared on the program. He said that Franz Maurer, a defendant in a trial of Austrian Nazi war criminals, was in possession of considerable material against Dr. Vialon.

Communists Also Accuse President; Luecke Charges Forgery

The office of President Heinrich Luecke described today as "forgeries" signatures of Dr. Luecke on a Communist-sponsored display of documents allegedly demonstrating that he gave wartime orders for construction of concentration camps. The exhibit is being held in Munich.

The president's office said that he had never participated in any such activity and that the allegations were without foundation. The office added that, on December 30, 1964, the United States Embassy in Bonn commented on similar charges made then, saying that Dr. Luecke's entire life was known to the United States Government, that all details of his life had been checked, and that the United States had the greatest respect for him.

GOLDMANN GLOOMY ABOUT 'PARDON' FOR GERMANY, FUTURE OF SOVIET JEWRY

JERUSALEM, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Zionist Organization, told the opening session of a Jewish Agency executive meeting here today that he could not imagine that the "day of pardon" for Germany would ever come.

He said that he had never advocated the concept of the "other Germany" and that he had been grossly misquoted as so saying at the plenary session of the World Jewish Congress in Brussels last month. He also said that he had been still optimistic some time ago about the future of Soviet Jewry, but that "unfortunately this stand is now changed."

The executive will meet until September 9 with two important items on its agenda. One is the reorganization of the executive, particularly unification of all departments dealing with immigration and absorption. The other is a program to encourage immigration from Western countries. The executive also is scheduled to approve a draft budget for 1967-68 which will be far less than the current 363, 000, 000-pound (\$121, 000, 000) budget, with economies slated to be made in all fields of the Agency's work.

CONGRESSMAN URGES SHAZAR INTERCEDE FOR U.S. INSPECTION OF MIG-21

WASHINGTON, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Israel President Zalman Shazar was urged today by a member of the U.S. Congress to use his influence to arrange inspection and study by the U.S. Air Force of the Soviet-built MIG-21 jet fighter flown to Israel two weeks ago by an Iraqi defector.

Rep. Thomas C. McGrath, Jr., New Jersey Democrat, in an address on the floor of the house, noted that the Soviet Union disclosed this week that North Vietnam pilots are being trained in Russia to fly MIG-21 jets against the U.S. air effort in Viet Nam. He

pointed out that "the MIG-21 which was flown to Israel is the only plane of that advanced model in the free world, and thus offers the only possibility for study by our air force experts."

The Congressman voiced disagreement with "sentiment within the Israeli military to prevent observation of this MIG-21 by military experts of any foreign government." He therefore sent President Shazar a personal appeal for intercession because of the President's recent pro-American statements, and "in view of the stake freedom-loving peoples everywhere have in the Vietnamese conflict."

Rep. McGrath said that President Shazar, who met recently with President Johnson as a guest of the White House, expressed admiration for the United States and appreciation for military and economic assistance provided to Israel. Accordingly, Rep. McGrath suggested that President Shazar "intercede" to provide the secrets of the MIG-21 to "those fighting for democracy in Southeast Asia."

TWO BRITISH RABBINATES DISAGREE ON AUTHORITY FOR JEWISH MARRIAGES

LONDON, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- The Chief Rabbinate in Commission, which administers the Chief Rabbinate of Britain's United Synagogue until the new Chief Rabbi takes office, expressed "profound regret" today over plans by the Federation of Synagogues to set up its own marriage licensing authority. Earlier this year, the Federation embarked on a course of estrangement from the United Synagogue when the former organization announced that it was establishing its own Beth Din religious court. Both synagogue groups are Orthodox.

Asserting that the latest move by the Federation would "tend to undermine the integrity and cohesive character of Anglo-Jewry," the Chief Rabbinate pointed out in a letter to the Federation that, for over a century, marriages in Anglo-Jewry had been solemnized under the jurisdiction of the Chief Rabbi, and records had been meticulously kept. The letter warned that the move by the Federation would jeopardize "this unique system" and that the Chief Rabbi could not assume responsibility for any marriage authorized under the authority of the Federation.

Replying to the Chief Rabbinate's letter, a Federation statement today said that the decision of its general council to establish its own Beth Din "arose out of the refusal of the United Synagogue to ratify an agreement providing for a unified ecclesiastical authority" which, it said, had been negotiated over many months. Marriages, it said, were "naturally" within the jurisdiction of the Beth Din. The statement went on to say that the Federation saw no reason why there should not be full cooperation between the Chief Rabbinate of the Federation and the United Synagogue.

U THANT TO STEP DOWN FROM U.N. POST; ISRAEL EXPRESSES 'REGRET'

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Israel expressed "greatest regret" here today over the step taken by Secretary-General U Thant, who has announced that he will not offer himself as the candidate for a second term as the U.N.'s chief executive officer.

Mr. Thant's term of office expires November 3. In a long-awaited decision, he announced today, through a letter to the heads of the delegations of all member-states of the United Nations: "I have decided not to offer myself for a second term as Secretary-General, and to leave the Security Council unfettered in its recommendations to the General Assembly with regard to the next Secretary-General." He then added a sentence which was seen as stronger, referring to his decision as one spelling his "unwillingness" to serve a second term.

Israel's statement today was made on behalf of his Government by Ambassador Michael S. Comay, Israel's permanent representative here. Mr. Comay said:

"The Israel Mission has learned with the greatest regret that U Thant has decided not to offer himself for a second term as Secretary-General. Israel was among the member states that originally urged him to become Dag Hammarskjold's successor, and recently Israel leaders have expressed to him the fervent hope that he would continue in the lofty task he has filled with such wisdom, devotion and selflessness.

"My own relations with U Thant, both official and personal, have always been most cordial, and I have had the privilege of free access to him and his ready understanding in all matters relating to Israel's position in the Middle East and as a United Nations member. I share the hope that his departure may be delayed for an appropriate period of time, pending the choice of a suitable successor. Whenever he leaves, it will be a genuine loss to the United Nations and to the cause of world peace."

During his ambassadorship here as the representative of Burma, Mr. Thant was known as very friendly to Israel. Earlier, in 1955, he had visited Israel as the press aide to U Nu, then Burma's Prime Minister. Both Mr. Nu and Mr. Thant spoke very highly of Israel's achievements, both during their visit and later.

In his post as Secretary-General, Mr. Thant was deemed by observers here to have been meticulously fair in all Israeli-Arab disputes that have come up in recent years before the United Nations and its various organs.

AJC REPORT SAYS COMMERCIAL BANKS VIRTUALLY BAN JEWS FROM TOP JOBS

NEW YORK, Sept. 1 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Committee charged today that prejudice and discrimination are virtually excluding qualified Jews from executive positions in the nation's leading commercial banks. A survey of management posts in the 50 largest commercial banks in the United States, made public here today by Morris B. Abram, New York attorney who is president of the AJC, disclosed that 45 of these banks had no Jews among their senior officers; each of four of the remaining five banks had one Jew in such top posts; while the fifth had four Jewish senior officers. These figures -- eight Jews out of a total of 632 bank officers -- represent 1.3 percent.

Out of 3,438 middle-management officials in these banks, executives below the senior level down through the vice-presidential bracket, 32 Jews -- approximately 0.9 percent -- were identified, the survey disclosed further. Yet the talent shortage in "the booming field of banking" is so acute, the report added, "that a top U.S. official says it is forcing some banks to seek to merge with other banks and thus go out of independent existence."

The report was made public on the heels of the Johnson Administration's announcement that approximately 95 percent of the nation's 15,000 commercial banks would be considered Government contractors under regulations taking effect November 30, 1966, since they handle Federal funds, and as such would be required to refrain from discriminating against employees or applicants because of race, color, creed, or national origin. The AJC has persistently urged Federal officials to enforce the religious-discrimination provision of this ban against companies enjoying U.S. contracts.

The report, one of a series stemming from AJC studies of ethnic barriers in the selection of executives in U.S. business and industry was based on a year of intensive investigation carried out by the 18 area offices of the Committee. It was prepared by Lawrence Bloomgarden, director of the AJC's business and discrimination division and a long-time student of executive-suite bias, under the direction of Nathan Perlmutter, director of domestic affairs for the American Jewish Committee.

'Extreme' Found in New York; Only One Jew Among 173 Senior Officials

A "particularly extreme" situation was revealed by the study in New York City, the nation's financial capital, where nine of the 50 queried banks are located. One lone Jewish banker was found among 173 senior officials in these nine banks -- representing just over one-half of 1 percent -- in a community where almost 25 percent of the population and 50 percent of the college-graduate population are Jewish. The report added that "banks, unlike many other large business organizations, employ most of their personnel in a single locality, or, at most, in one state, and thus may reasonably be expected to reflect ethnic configurations in their staffs."

The report recalled that a 1965 AJC analysis had found Jews to be markedly under-represented in New York City's 50 mutual savings banks, although not to the same degree as in the commercial banks. Jews were found to total just under 2.5 percent among the more than 400 officers in these mutual savings banks.

The report recalled two prior inquiries into the involvement of Jews in management levels of commercial banking in individual communities. A survey made public last May, conducted by Wayne State University, in Detroit, for the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, found only one among 152 senior executives and two Jews among 281 other officials -- 0.7 percent in each case -- in nine banks in Washington, D.C. A study of Jews in Philadelphia's six leading commercial banks, conducted by the AJC in 1960, disclosed 12 Jews among 1,216 executives in all categories, or approximately 1 percent.

The report disavowed any advocacy of "hiring or upgrading according to a predetermined quota," but pointed to several sets of statistics to emphasize its underlying contention that Jews are qualified for executive positions in the nation's banks. The AJC noted that:

1) Almost all banking officials have a college background, and Jews account for about 8 percent of all college graduates up to age 50 in the U.S.

2) Ivy League colleges account for a high ratio of banking executives; Jews make up 25 percent of all Ivy League graduates of the past five or six years and more than 15 percent of all such graduates up to age 50.

3) Among the executives of the 50 leading U.S. banks, 528 are Harvard Business School graduates, 44 percent of them in top management posts, and banking reportedly is the most popular business career chosen by Harvard Business School graduates. Jews make up 12 to 15 percent of the living graduates of the Harvard Business School, yet fewer than 1 percent of the young men who go into commercial banking from Harvard Business School are Jews. Those Jews interested in finance find their way to careers in investment banking, securities and commodities."

N.Y.C. EDUCATION BOARD TO USE U.S. FUNDS IN RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS

NEW YORK, Sept. 1. (JTA) -- Children attending Jewish day schools in New York City will be among the beneficiaries of a \$65,000,000 program approved by the New York City Board of Education yesterday to help disadvantaged public and non-public school children. The program is to be financed with funds from Title I of the Federal Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965, has been the subject of widespread debate among Jewish organizations. Orthodox Jewish groups have joined with other similar groups in opposing it on grounds of breach of church-state separation.

In approving the program, in which a Board official estimated that \$3,500,000 would be used exclusively for projects in religious schools, the Board listed for the first time the criteria it would use in deciding the eligibility of religious schools and children who attend them. The criteria were promptly called "unfair" by religious school educators.

As a basic yardstick, the board said that any non-public school in which more than 10 percent of pupils received free lunches under a Federal program would be qualified to get Title I help for programs conducted during the regular school day. A total of 213 non-public schools asked for a share of the \$65,000,000. These included Jewish, Catholic, Protestant and other denominations. An investigation of 156 of the applicant schools indicated that only three would be ineligible for the aid, the Board said.

Rabbi Bernard Goldenberg, director of school organization of Torah Umesorah, the Society for Hebrew Day Schools, questioned the use of free lunch as an appropriate yardstick. Rev. Eugene J. Molloy, chairman of the Committee of Non-Public School Officials, also challenged the use of that yardstick and said that it would mean exclusion of a significant number of pupils from such aid. The committee represents Jewish as well as Christian religious school officials.

JEWISH STUDENTS REJECT 'GOD IS DEAD' DEBATE AS CHRISTIAN ISSUE

STARLIGHT, Pa., Sept. 1. (JTA) -- A group of 221 Jewish students participating in the annual summer institute of the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundation here, was seen today to be in general agreement that, while they accept the existence of God, they have severe doubts as to whether the Supreme Being has any meaning for their own existence. The students, from 129 American and Canadian colleges, dismissed the "God is dead" debate as a "Christian controversy."

The viewpoint of the student participants on the "God is dead" debate was summarized by a Princeton University junior who said that American Jewish undergraduates "are all believers, divided between those who think about it and those who do not." However, many of the students questioned in seminars and workshops whether it was possible to achieve a concept of God acceptable to both modern man and to Jewish tradition.

The students applauded an address by Rabbi Jack Cohen, Hillel director at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem, in which he challenged current educational practices and asserted that the contemporary Jewish community "must catch up with its ancestors by providing a quality of Jewish education based on free inquiry rather than on schools of indoctrination."

A 19-member faculty of Hillel directors and guest lecturers guided the eight-day seminar on whether "Jewish distinctiveness" has contemporary meaning and purpose. The institute opened last Sunday. Thirty-two of the students attended a special conference, which they had requested, on possibilities of careers in Jewish communal programs. Rabbi Max Ticktin, summer institute director, arranged the conference.

YOUNG JUDEA CALLS FOR STAFF, BUDGET TO FIGHT SOVIET ANTI-SEMITISM

BARRYVILLE, N.Y., Sept. 1. (JTA) -- The Young Judea concluded its national convention here today with the adoption of a resolution calling on the American Conference for Soviet Jewry to establish a permanent organization, with a professional staff and budget, so that it could carry on an effective program to alleviate the situation of Soviet Jews. The organization elected David Berg, of West New York, N.J., as national president.

The resolution, approved by the 200 delegates of the organization, said that "the present situation of Russian Jewry is intolerable despite the fact that utmost efforts are being made to alleviate the situation. More definite and permanent action has to be undertaken by the American Jewish community, and a permanent staff for the American Conference for Soviet Jewry is one way to do it."

Another resolution called for improved quality of Jewish education which, it said, should encourage unity and teach the basic unifying concept of Israel and the Jewish people. The resolution authorized the establishment of a committee to survey the quality of Jewish education, and called for Young Judea "pressure on adult organizations" to fight for better Jewish education.