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JOHNSON CONFERS WITH B'NAI B'RITH; HIS VIEWS SEEN MISUNDERSTOOD BY JWV

WASHINGTON, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- In the wake of the attribution of a call for greater Jewish support of the Viet Nam war to President Lyndon B. Johnson by a Jewish War Veterans delegation which met with him last week, the President invited leaders of B'nai B'rith to the White House.

After an hour-long meeting with President Johnson, Dr. William A. Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith, issued the following formal statement on views attributed to President Johnson by the Jewish War Veterans delegation. Dr. Wexler said:

B'nai B'rith places little credence in the validity of the statements attributed to President Johnson in which the Administration's support of aid to Israel was equated with a presumed attitude of the American Jewish community toward the war in Viet Nam. We also find no reason to accept as substantive the publicized statements which interpreted the President as having expressed a near-blanket indictment of Jewish organizations for a supposed view on the Viet Nam issue.

"Rabbi Jay Kaufman, executive vice-president of B'nai B'rith, and I met with the President on Saturday evening. It is our belief that the President's views were either misunderstood or poorly interpreted to the news media. It is evident to us that the views attributed to the President conveyed neither his attitude nor his convictions.

JWV's Inference Termed 'Inaccurate' and 'Unfortunate'

"The inference of an interrelationship between future American-Israeli affairs and support among Jewish organizations for Administration policies in Viet Nam appears to us to have been as inaccurate as it was unfortunate. It was an inference wholly inconsistent with Mr. Johnson's long-standing views regarding United States relations with Israel. His record, dating back to his service as Senator and Majority Leader, has been consistently predicated on a spirit of friendship and mutuality between the two nations; his actions, consonant with our national interest in reducing political tensions and the threat of war in the Middle East, have been productive.

"Implicit in the publicized statements was a contention that most Jewish organizations do not support United States policy in Viet Nam. There is no real basis for such an inference. In the view of B'nai B'rith, it is inaccurate to speak of a distinctly Jewish viewpoint on Viet Nam. There is none as such. The fact is: Most Jewish organizations have adopted no formal views or policies on Viet Nam.

"Among those that have, only a few have taken a pro or con position on the opposing views of American escalation of or withdrawal from the war. Even here, there exist strong differences of opinion within the constituencies of these organizations. B'nai B'rith supports the principle of the right of small nations to the integrity of their independence and to pursue their own destiny.

Differing Viewpoints of Jewish Groups on Viet Nam Explained

"We believe that the major powers have a moral responsibility to preserve that integrity and freedom, and we are concerned -- as we understand the President to be -- that a neo-isolationist mood can threaten to negate this principle.

"The differing viewpoints and the absence of definitive positions by most Jewish groups appear to us to demonstrate an ambivalence among American Jews that is parallel with and a part of the uncertainties and division of thought and attitude evident in the Congress, the religious community, other elements of our society and the citizenry as a whole.

"Jewish organizations have been nearly unanimous on a single, corollary aspect of the Viet Nam crisis -- the right of and need for those who disagree with Administration policy to express their dissent freely and, of equal importance, responsibly. Support of this basic American principle was demonstrated at the National Community Relations Advisory Council meeting in Washington in June.

"The resolution subscribed by the participating Jewish groups affirmatively supported and quoted President Johnson's expressed view that no American, young or old, must ever be denied the right to dissent. No minority must be muzzled. Opinion and protest are the

life breath of democracy -- even when it blows heavy. It is regrettable that this resolution has been, at times, misinterpreted or distorted to imply a Jewish viewpoint on the Viet Nam issue itself. The resolution dealt singularly and exclusively with the right of dissent. It did not in any way either express adverse judgment or endorsement of Administration policy in Viet Nam."

ISRAEL'S NEW ECONOMIC PROGRAM EXPLAINED BY MINISTER OF FINANCE

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Israel has embarked on a new outline of economic activity which will alter Israel's economy and standards of living dramatically in the next three years, Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir announced here today.

Mr. Sapir has been the principal architect of the new economic plan which was adopted by the Cabinet last night after weeks of negotiations with all parties and sectors inside Israel's coalition Government. The Cabinet adopted the entire plan without a single dissenting vote. However, three members of the Cabinet recorded abstentions. These were Mordechai Bentov and Israel Barzilai, of Mapam, respectively Minister of Housing and Minister of Health; and Moshe Shapira, Minister of the Interior, who represents the National Religious Party.

In general, the economic program, which was officially named "An Outline of Economic Activity," provides a three-year plan for the stabilization of wages and prices, and general economic retrenchment, with the aim being the increase of Israel's productivity in such a manner as to increase Israel's exports at prices competitive in the world markets. Mr. Sapir forecast today, at a news conference spelling out the meaning and aims of the new program, that, within the next year, Israel will be able to export \$1,000,000,000 worth of goods as a result of the new plan.

The new program will not only freeze salaries. It will also freeze prices and reduce cost-of-living allowances. On the other hand, it will impose virtually no new taxes. The only new tax to be levied will be imposed on capital gains. Tax exemptions allowed businessmen on expenses will be smaller. Commissions paid to banks and insurance companies will also be reduced.

Says Plan Demands Sacrifices But Will Bring Economic Independence

Mr. Sapir told the news conference that only by "dramatic" increases of exports can Israel achieve economic independence and, eventually, a balance of trade as between exports and imports. The new program, he said, might demand sacrifices from the Israeli population. "But the ultimate improvement of our standards of living," he stated, "demands a preliminary, painful process during which all sectors of the community will have to make sacrifices and renounce certain benefits to which we have become accustomed!"

Despite the necessity of certain sacrifices, the Finance Minister said, "the rights of the economically weakest sections of the community will be protected. These low-income groups will see their standards of living rise throughout the three-year period of the plan."

One of the immediate results of the economic plan, Mr. Sapir conceded, might be the creation of a temporary period of unemployment. "But the situation might have been far worse," he said, "had the economic plan not been approved. In that event, we could have expected 100,000 unemployed -- with all the social, and even security, difficulties such a development would have entailed."

The short period of unemployment, Mr. Sapir explained, is to be expected during the period when labor is shifted from non-productive employment to industrial work in plants manufacturing goods for export. "After that period," he promised, "everything will return to normal and perhaps to better employment conditions than previously."

Minister Promises Not to Raise Taxes; Will Encourage Savings

Mr. Sapir promised the country that the Government will refrain from raising any taxes, direct or indirect, from imposing compulsory loans and from permitting the increase of local taxes -- except in cases of emergency. While the state budget will be balanced and maintained at the present level, he said, the Government will work toward encouragement of savings, and will make cheaper credits available to the export branches of industry.

The Finance Minister pledged that the Government will improve its methods of assessment and collection of taxes. He said the foreign currency allocation for Israelis traveling abroad will be reduced from \$500 to \$350. Commissions for banks and insurance companies, he said, will be reduced by 10 percent. Under the new program, basic pay in productive branches of Israel's economy are to rise next year by sums up to 5 percent. The present cost-of-living allowance system will be preserved. However, only half the cost-of-living allowance increase will be paid in 1967 and 1968. To aid the lower economic levels of the population, heads of families earning less than 400 Israeli pounds (\$133) per month will be compensated for increases in prices.

ISRAEL'S CHIEF OF STAFF URGES NEW METHODS TO COMBAT ARAB SABOTAGE

TEL AVIV, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Israel must use "new methods" to combat Syrian sabotage and Arab efforts to divert the headwaters of the Jordan River, Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, chief of staff of Israel's defense forces, stated here in an interview in the army weekly, Bamahne, issued today.

Without specifying the type of new actions needed, Gen. Rabin compared the present situation along the Syrian border, where there have been frequent infiltrations into Israel by gangs of saboteurs, with the conditions along the Egyptian border in 1955 and 1956. At that time, Egyptian sabotage gangs, called fedayeen, made so many raids into Israel that Israel was forced to take action to wipe out the fedayeen bases in the Sinai Peninsula by opening the military campaign in the Sinai.

ESHKOL OUTLINES HIS ATTITUDE TOWARD GERMANY; FAVORS WIDER CONTACTS

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol declared today that, while Germany's "past cannot be forgotten," relations between Israel and West Germany must be based on the fact that "reality cannot be disregarded." Mr. Eshkol discussed relations with Germany in an interview in the new magazine, Ot, issued by the Mapai-Achdut Avodah alignment.

Noting that "there are sentiments and there is logic," Mr. Eshkol stated: "Twenty years have passed since the war, and a new generation has sprung up in Germany, a generation not responsible for what happened under the Nazis." He criticized "those who refuse to accept this fact."

He lauded the manner in which West Germany has paid its reparations to Israel and the fact that many Germans "accepted this as symbolic atonement for the Nazi crimes." "There is no contradiction," he continued, "between remembrance and diplomatic relations. I have always favored diplomatic relations with Germany which enable mutual recognition and enlargement of relations to other useful contacts."

GERMAN BUSINESSMAN GOES ON TRIAL FOR KILLING JEWS IN NAZI CAMPS

HANOVER, W. Germany, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Heinrich Feiertag, a 52-year-old businessman who is so sick that the prosecutor did not even attempt to jail him, went on trial here today on an indictment accusing him of 22 wartime murders of Jews. The man is charged with having liquidated the Jewish inmates of a concentration camp conducted during the war by the Nazis.

The trial is expected to last between three and four weeks. Among the witnesses scheduled to testify against Feiertag are 24 brought here for the purpose from Israel and other countries abroad. Because Feiertag is ill, the court stated that it will sit no longer than three hours every day.

JEWISH COMMUNITY RELATIONS COUNCIL FORMED BY NEW YORK MAJOR GROUPS

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- A coordinating and consultative body, the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York, providing an opportunity for voluntary cooperative action among ten Jewish religious and civic agencies dealing with New York City and State issues, was formed here today.

Harry K. Gutmann, New Rochelle, newly elected president of the Community Council, said "this was the first such ad hoc body founded since the establishment of the first Jewish settlers in 1654." He stressed that the new group would "work closely in cooperation with Catholic, Protestant and other civic agencies." He defined the purposes of the Community Relations Council as:

- 1) Create and maintain conditions in the New York area that are conducive to upholding and encouraging the vitality and variety of Jewish living in a pluralistic society;
- 2) Promote the establishment of complete equality of opportunity and full civic rights and civil liberties for Jews and for all other groups in our community;
- 3) Encourage amicable relationships and mutual understanding and respect among the various groups of our community;
- 4) Develop an intelligent and effective public opinion within and outside the Jewish community on Jewish community relations issues, problems, concerns and commitments;
- 5) Combat all vestiges of anti-Semitism and anti-Semitic activity.

Included as the founding agencies of the Jewish Community Relations Council are the New York agencies of: American Jewish Committee, American Jewish Congress, Hadasah, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish War Veterans, National Council of Jewish Women, Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, United Synagogue, New York Federation of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and Brooklyn Jewish Community Council.

ROCKWELL ANNOUNCES HE WILL HOLD ANTI-JEWISH MARCH IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- George Rockwell's American Nazi Party, which has been demonstrating repeatedly here for the last three weeks against Negro rights marchers, announced last night that he would lead his adherents in a march into a Jewish neighborhood, as yet unidentified, next Sunday.

His local Nazi leader, Christopher Vindjevich, spelled out the aim of the projected march as outright anti-Semitic by declaring that, in the civil rights movement, "the Jews are the real trouble-makers." He added: "They're the ones. We're going to march right through their neighborhoods and spit in their eyes."

Rockwell made his announcement about future rallies at a meeting last night attended by only 100 persons. But it was Vindjevich who, while speaking of a planned "nonviolent" march, and calling for police protection, charged that the police "harassment" of Nazis in this city was due to "Jewish influence."

COMBINED JEWISH APPEAL IN MONTREAL OPENS; \$1,650,000 RAISED AT DINNER

MONTREAL, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- The beginning of the 1966 Combined Jewish Appeal for Allied Jewish Community Services and United Israel Appeal was marked here at a testimonial dinner honoring Samuel Bronfman at which a total of \$1,650,000 was pledged.

The campaign, which officially runs to November 21, has its objective to raise \$4,752,000. It marks the golden jubilee of federated fund raising in the Montreal community, and the 50th anniversary of the oldest such appeal in Canada. To celebrate this occasion, the community paid tribute to Mr. Bronfman in appreciation of his outstanding leadership and service during the half-century of Federation, and observed his 75th birthday year.

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a bronze bust of Mr. Bronfman, which will be displayed permanently in the lobby of the Jewish Community Services Building in Montreal. The mayor praised the Jewish community for its foresight in developing the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies 50 years ago, and for showing the leadership to develop a system for caring for its own people.

Jacob M. Lowy, president of Allied Jewish Community Services in making the presentation of the bust to Mr. Bronfman said of him that he "has always concerned himself with philanthropy in a most constructive way, and has not looked upon charity as a form of giving 'nedevos' to the poor. He has rather helped people to help themselves, and that is one of the highest degrees of 'zedakah'." Mr. Max Feldman, general chairman of the 1966 Combined Jewish Appeal for Allied Jewish Community Services and United Israel Appeal, served as dinner chairman.

COLUMBIA BROADCASTING SYSTEM TO TRAIN ISRAELIS IN TELEVISION WORK

JERUSALEM, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- The Cabinet yesterday reaffirmed its decision of last week awarding a contract to the Columbia Broadcasting System to train Israeli personnel in setting up a national television network here, after Religious Affairs Minister Zerach Warhaftig, who was absent from the Cabinet session last week, challenged the decision.

Dr. Warhaftig objected to the expenses involved at this time in view of the fact that no decision has yet been made on whether to establish a general television network in Israel. Plans now in effect call for only an educational television network.

CONFERENCE OF CHRISTIANS AND JEWS PRESENTS AWARDS TO RELIGIOUS LEADERS

NEW YORK, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Four clergymen, including the Rev. Dr. Julius Mark, senior rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, were the recipients here tonight of the first annual Religious Leaders Dinner award given by the National Conference of Christians and Jews.

The others who received the awards were Francis Cardinal Spellman; the Rt. Rev. Horace W.B. Donegan, Episcopal bishop of New York; and Archbishop Iakovos, primate of the Greek Orthodox Church of North and South America. The occasion marked the first time in ecumenical history that New York's ranking religious leaders will share honors on the same dais.

SC. AFRICAN JEWRY REPRESENTED AT FUNERAL OF ASSASSINATED PREMIER

JOHANNESBURG, Sept. 12. (JTA) -- Leaders of the South African Jewish Community were represented officially at the funeral services for the late Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd. Among the more prominent Jewish participants at the rites, Saturday, were Chief Rabbi Bernard Casper; Teddy Schneider and Maurice Porter, respectively president and chairman of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies; and Edel Forwitz, chairman of the Zionist Federation of South Africa.

Special mourning services were also held in all synagogues throughout the country, attended by unusually large turn-outs of congregants. Among the diplomatic and other foreign dignitaries attending was Dr. Eliezer Yapou, charge d'affaires at the Israeli Embassy to the Republic of South Africa.