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MOSCOW CHARGED WITH PREVENTING SOVIET JEWS TO CONTACT ISRAELIS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The announcement in Moscow yesterday that 10 Israelis had been expelled for alleged espionage and "Zionist propaganda" activities was described here today as an amalgam of trite Soviet allegations designed to warn Soviet Jews to avoid all contacts with visiting Israelis or members of the Israeli Embassy in Moscow.

Political sources also indicated a belief that another objective of the report in Izvestia, the Soviet Government organ, was to discourage Russian Jews from seeking exit visas to reunite with members of families abroad. It was noted that the Izvestia story had been reprinted in a number of other Soviet newspapers.

The report asserted that seven Israelis had been deported for "espionage" activities and that three others were expelled after coming to the Soviet Union "in the guise of tourists" to spread "Zionist propaganda" in "connivance" with the Israeli Embassy. Izvestia did not report on when the alleged acts occurred.

The sources here said that a large number of Soviet Jews had sought to take advantage of an assurance from Premier Kosygin, made at a press conference in Paris on December 3, that the Soviet Union would not place barriers in the way of such Jewish emigration. Soviet Jews have also tried to contact foreign tourists to learn details of life abroad, the same sources stated.

A number of Israeli tourists mentioned in the Izvestia articles are either completely unknown to Israeli authorities here or are known to have been bona fide tourists. The Israel Foreign Ministry released today a copy of the declaration made by the Israeli Embassy in Moscow declaring that the Izvestia report was completely groundless and lacking all basis in fact.

UNEASY CALM PREVAILS ON ISRAEL-SYRIAN BORDER; U.N. CHIEF RETURNS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- An uneasy calm prevailed today on Israel's northern border with Syria after nearly two weeks of almost daily shooting incidents in which the Syrians twice used tanks this week.

Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of staff of the United Nations Truce Supervision Organization, returned today from an urgent visit to Damascus to seek assurances from Syrian officials on steps to reduce the border tension. Gen. Bull conferred with Syrian Chief of Staff Ahmad Sweidani and other Syrian military commanders. He will report tomorrow to the Israeli Foreign Ministry on his talks with the Syrians.

Israeli sources expressed hope that Gen. Bull was bringing a favorable report on the prospects of Syrian cooperation for maintaining border peace. At the same time they feared that shooting might break out again at any moment in what was viewed here as "an escalation in bloodshed and terror."

(At the United Nations, Israel presented last night another protest to the Security Council over Syrian shooting on the border. This was the third protest within a week. While not requesting any action by the Security Council, the Israeli protest pointed out that increasing use of heavy weapons by Syria had aggravated the situation on the Israeli-Syrian frontier. Israel charged that in an attack yesterday, Syrian forces have used 120-mm. mortars which fire shells of about five-inch caliber.)

U.S. Considers Syrian Acts Provocative; Urges Restraint on Israel

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- State Department officials today said the United States has urged restraint on both Israel and Syria out of concern lest the current border friction escalate into a major conflagration.

U.S. authorities termed the Syrians irresponsible but indicated that Israel should not yield to provocation and must restrain herself from taking reprisal action. The proper avenue for Israel, said the authorities, is appeal to the United Nations. The United States is observing the situation, they stressed.

UNEMPLOYED IN ISRAEL PLAN DEMONSTRATIONS AND MARCH ON KNESSET

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- A march on Parliament of jobless workers on January 24 and mass jobless demonstrations in Jerusalem were decided on last night at a meeting of 500 representatives of workers committees in Israeli industries.

The protest demonstrations were approved as a means of informing public opinion of the hardships which Israel's thousands of jobless workers were suffering. Another rally, organized by leftist groups, demanded immediate unemployment insurance and a large-scale public works program to provide jobs.

Meanwhile, the Civil Servants Union issued a protest last night against a recent statement by Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir that he wanted to dismiss 3,500 civil servants. The union's anger stemmed from the fact that Mr. Sapir made his announcement without having informed the union of his intention.

The protest was decided on at an urgent meeting of the union's secretariat which also called on all Ministry staff committees to reject direct negotiations with their director-generals and to refer all such requests to the union itself. Mr. Sapir announced his plan in Parliament.

GOVERNMENT COMMITTEE DECIDES TO PAY SUBSIDIES TO JOBLESS WORKERS

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- A special governmental committee decided last night to pay special monthly subsidies to jobless Israeli workers starting April 1. The committee decided to make such payments until a national unemployment insurance program was instituted.

The committee did not come to a decision as to the amount of the monthly subsidy nor on details on allocation but it was learned that workers who have been jobless for at least a month and who have no other source of income will be eligible for payments. The allocations mechanism will be worked out by a special technical committee and payments will be made from the regular national budget. The committee will include representatives from the Ministries of Labor and Finance and the Institute of National Insurance.

The decision followed reports of the increasing hardships being suffered by workers who have been jobless for several months. Figures on the current unemployment situation in Israel, stemming from an economic slump, vary. The Labor Ministry has given the total as 30,000. Other sources, including the Central Statistical Office, have offered estimates of twice that number.

HERUT STATEMENTS AGAINST JEWISH AGENCY CALLED 'IRRESPONSIBLE'

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Charges by the rightwing Herut Party of waste by the Jewish Agency were rebuffed last night by Dr. Nahum Goldmann and Aryeh L. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency executive, in closing general debate at the current session of the World Zionist Actions Committee.

Dr. Goldmann charged Herut leaders with "irresponsible" statements. He declared that power corrupts but opposition corrupts too. Mr. Pincus took sharp issue with Herut charges of waste and with discharge of employes "too late in the day." He asserted that Herut members had never documented their charges of waste, as he had requested.

Mr. Pincus also described the dismissal of Agency employes as "a miserable task" dictated by circumstances which could and did change. He said that Jewish Agency personnel were as efficient as those of the Government and that he had nothing but praise for those employes he had to dismiss.

Dr. Goldmann also reiterated his view that Socialist and pro-Soviet personalities had to be enlisted in the struggle to obtain full cultural and religious rights for Soviet Jews. He also commented that while synagogues and religious communities had an important part in Jewish life, the synagogue could never be an influence on Jews, comparable to the influence of the church on Christians and therefore should not be compared in that respect.

ARCHBISHOP OF VIENNA PRESENTS KEREN HAYESOD WITH \$800 CONTRIBUTION

VIENNA, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The first material aid in the history of the Catholic Church to a Zionist organization has been presented to the Keren Hayesod in Vienna, it was revealed yesterday. A symbolic gift of \$800 from the Vienna Caritas, the official Catholic welfare organization, was presented by Franziskus Cardinal Konig, the Archbishop of Vienna, to Dr. Anton Winter, president of the Keren Hayesod in Vienna.

Cardinal Konig is active in fighting anti-Semitism in Austria. He was also one of the prelates who actively advocated the adoption at the Ecumenical Council last year of the declaration on Jews in which the Catholic church exonerated the Jewish people from the guilt of crucifying Jesus.

CONFERENCE ON ISRAEL'S ECONOMIC NEEDS OPENS TODAY IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- A three-day conference to consider Israel's economic problems and to draw up a program to provide increased investment resources for its development will open tomorrow at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel under the auspices of the Israel Bond Organization.

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall and Israel's Finance Minister, Pinhas Sapir, will be the principal speakers at the conference which will be attended by more than 350 Jewish community leaders from the United States and Canada. Mr. Sapir arrived from Israel yesterday on a special trip to present the facts about Israel's economic position and its plans for development during 1967.

CANADIAN JEWS PROTEST BRINGING NEO-NAZI LEADER TO CANADA

TORONTO, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress has strongly protested to the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation plans to "bring to Canada Adolf von Thadden, deputy leader of the National Democratic Party in Germany for the purpose of interviewing him" on a CBC television program.

The letter declared that the Canadian Jewish Congress was "appalled" that any officials of the CBC "should still be thinking in terms of any action that would give any measure of respectability or recognition or a platform to the leader of his German rightwing extremist political party." The text of the letter, signed by Louis Berman, chairman of the Joint Community Relations Committee of the Canadian Jewish Congress and B'nai B'rith was released today.

Asserting that "any newsworthiness" in von Thadden's proposed television appearance "would be created by the CBC itself," the Canadian Jewish Congress declared that "it is an affront to every Canadian to lend the facilities of the national broadcasting system to one whose only criticism of Hitler and Nazism is that they lost the war."

The letter then cited the "deplorable record" of the CBC "in giving such exposure to persons with a Nazi past and a Nazi present." The letter cited CBC interviews with Andre Bellefeuille, "an obscure Canadian Nazi," Otto Skorzeny, an accomplice of Hitler, "and the "shameful interview with George Rockwell," which "for no reason snatched this hatemonger out of obscurity and enabled him to pollute the Canadian air with obscenities."

The letter said that such presentations made up "an unfortunate succession of events" leading to only one possible conclusion -- "that there are program planners with the CBC who are unable to resist the urge to give publicity to the Nazis" despite the fact "that many graves of victims of Nazism give mute evidence of the horrors and effects of Nazism."

The letter did not mention a date for von Thadden's projected visit. However, a Congress official said last month that von Thadden was scheduled to visit Toronto on January 29 and that a mass protest would be organized if the scheduled visit took place.

ANTI-SEMITIC GROUP PICKETS AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS BUILDING

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The headquarters of the American Jewish Congress was picketed here last night by the ultra-rightist National Renaissance Party. Demonstrators carried placards denouncing the Congress for "torturing" Germany. The picketing lasted one hour, in accordance with a police permit.

The pickets included Joseph F. Madole, leader of the group, who carried a placard stating "Jewish Vampires Bleed Germany." Madole and five others, guided by a contingent of police, stood across the street from the entrance to the Stephen Wise Congress House as guests were arriving for a meeting on Germany sponsored by the Horace Kallen chapter of the Congress.

Dr. Neils Hansen, West German deputy Consul General in New York, saw the pickets as he arrived to address the meeting. He spoke on the policies of the new coalition government in Bonn headed by Chancellor Kurt Kiesinger.

SEN. DIRKSEN INTRODUCES MEASURE IN SENATE FAVORING PRAYERS IN SCHOOLS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- A new constitutional amendment aimed at permitting the recitation of prayers in public schools or other public buildings, was introduced into the Senate yesterday by Sen. Everett M. Dirksen, Illinois Republican. A different version of a school prayer amendment also introduced by Sen. Dirksen was rejected by the Senate last year.

The new amendment provides that nothing in the Constitution "shall abridge the right of persons lawfully assembled, in any public building which is supported in whole or in part through the expenditure of public funds, to participate in non-denominational prayer."

N. Y. RABBIS PERTURBED OVER STRIKE OF GRAVEDIGGERS; APPEAL TO MAYOR

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The New York Board of Rabbis sent a telegram to Mayor Lindsay yesterday declaring that it was "deeply distressed at the continuation of the cemetery strike," which entered its twelfth day today.

The message, signed by Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow, president, and Rabbi Harold H. Gordon, executive vice-president, noted that Jewish tradition required immediate burial of deceased persons. They said that the "present situation wreaks havoc with religious sensibilities and emotions of families in darkest hours of bereavement." The Long Island Commission of Rabbis charged earlier that the walkout had caused "a great deal of confusion and gross violation of religious laws and practices."

Meanwhile, more Orthodox Jewish families are being forced to dig graves at cemeteries in the New York area affected by the strike of gravediggers. The strike has halted burials at 39 Jewish, Catholic and non-sectarian cemeteries. Orthodox Jews are digging graves to bury their dead because of a Jewish religious requirement for earliest possible burial.

PRESIDENT JOHNSON NAMES BLAUSTEIN TO COMMISSION ON MARINE SCIENCE

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Jacob Blaustein of Maryland, national Jewish communal leader, is one of 15 men named by President Johnson to a commission to work out plans to develop the resources of the oceans.

The Commission on Marine Science, Engineering and Resources was authorized by Congress in 1966 to develop and coordinate "a long-range program in marine science for benefit of mankind." Mr. Blaustein is a former United States delegate to the United Nations.

DR. SITTON, ISRAELI COUNSELLOR, ELECTED VICE-CHAIRMAN OF U.N. BODY

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Dr. Shlomo Sitton, Economic Counsellor of the Embassy of Israel, has been elected vice chairman of the United Nations Food and Agriculture Consultative Subcommittee on Surplus Disposal for 1967, it was announced today.

The Subcommittee, which meets regularly in Washington, is made up of 34 member countries and 26 nations with observer status. Dr. Sitton's candidacy was approved by all member countries with the sole exception of Egypt.

MORTON J. MAY HONORED BY ST. LOUIS NEWSPAPER; WINS HUMANITIES AWARD

ST. LOUIS, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Morton J. May, noted St. Louis merchant and philanthropist, has been named winner of the 1966 Humanities award presented by the St. Louis Globe Democrat. It is awarded annually to a person "who has a continuing humane concern for others, whose life and works are an inspiring example of the universal ideal of the brotherhood of man under the Fatherhood of God."

The award consists of a citation and a gift of \$1,000. The selection is made by a committee of Protestant, Catholic and Jewish leaders of St. Louis, and the publisher of the newspaper, Richard H. Amberg. Mr. Amberg made the presentation to Mr. May in the board room of the May Department Stores Company. The 85-year-old award winner is chairman of the company board.

Morris A. Shenker, president of the St. Louis Jewish Federation, one of the multitude of beneficiaries of Mr. May's generosity, lauded Mr. May as "a major pillar of the Jewish community and the Jewish Federation for many years." Mr. Amberg said the award was made to Mr. May "for more than giving money." He said it was also for "giving his heart, love and concern, in efforts to help his fellow man."

FELIX GERSTMAN, PROMINENT JEWISH IMPRESARIO DEAD; ESCAPED FROM NAZIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Felix G. Gerstman, a prominent theatrical impresario, died here yesterday at the age of 68. He presented many of the biggest names in the performing arts to New York audiences.

Born in Vienna, Mr. Gerstman left Austria in 1939 shortly after the Nazi takeover, stayed briefly in Prague and then moved to London where he enlisted in the British Army. In 1940 he emigrated to New York where he produced many leading theatrical presentations. He is survived by a sister Mrs. Frieda Witz, an Israeli citizen now visiting in this country.

Mr. Gerstman sponsored concerts by Reneta Tebaldi, Elisabeth Schwarzkopf, Emil Gilels, David Oistrakh, Cesare Siepi, Glenn Gould, Andres Segovia, Richard Tauber, Leonid Kogan, Edith Piaf, Harry Belafonte, Judy Garland and Josephine Baker. He also presented the Ballet Russe de Monte Carlo, the Polish State Folk Ballet and the Ballet Basque de Biarritz.