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ESHKOL PROPOSES PLAN FOR WORLD JEWISH GATHERING IN ISRAEL IN 1968

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A world Jewish gathering to include noted Jewish leaders from every profession and country is now being considered by the Israel Government to mark this State's 20th anniversary in 1968, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol announced today in the Knesset (Parliament). The agenda of the conference, he said, would be the partnership between Israel Jewry and Jews outside of Israel.

Mr. Eshkol, who presented the budget of the Prime Minister's Office, dedicated a major portion of his address to the problem of Jewish survival. He said that many Jews in Israel, especially the young ones, are not steeped in the ways of Jewish tradition, nor has Israel developed a culture of its own.

The Premier said that the two major centers of Jewish life outside Israel -- the East and the West -- "do not come to Israel for opposing reasons. Those who want to cannot, and those who can do not want to."

Asserting that ties between all three centers of Jewish life are essential for the very existence of the Jewish people, Mr. Eshkol said that Israel's youth must be imbued with Jewish values, and Israelis everywhere, including students, "must find ways to other Jews."

ISRAEL, SYRIA EXCHANGE FIRE IN ZONE UNDER DEBATE IN U.N. COMMISSION

TEL AVIV, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- An exchange of fire -- the first since the extraordinary session of the Israel-Syrian Mixed Armistice Commission began talks three weeks ago -- broke out today between an Israeli patrol and the Syrian position of Al Hama, near the border. The clash occurred when two Syrians entered the demilitarized zone within Israel territory to plough the land. None of the Israelis was wounded during the half-hour exchange of light arms fire.

According to the Israel Army spokesman, a Syrian soldier was seen pushing two Arab peasants into Israeli territory in an apparent attempt at additional Syrian provocation in preparation for Thursday's scheduled ISMAC meeting. Syria has been trying to establish claims of access to the demilitarized zone over which Israel has absolute sovereignty. Israel lodged a complaint about today's incident with the Mixed Armistice Commission.

ISRAEL SEES CONVENTIONAL WEAPONS, NOT NUCLEAR, AS MID-EAST ISSUE

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The important factor regarding disarmament in the Middle East concerns not atomic weapons -- which do not exist in the area -- but conventional weapons, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol told the Knesset (Parliament) here today.

Mr. Eshkol made that statement in replying to a question in the house based on an interview carried by the British Broadcasting Corporation with Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser, in which the latter discussed international supervision over atomic reactors.

Nasser, said Mr. Eshkol, has not yet agreed to such nuclear reactor supervision. But, even if he should agree to such supervision in the atomic field, the important issue concerns conventional armaments. There is little point, Mr. Eshkol declared, in discussing atomic weapons which do not exist in the region, instead of conventional weapons which do exist and pose a threat to the area's peace. Atomic disarmament, he continued, may follow, once an agreement is reached on conventional weapons.

WILSON SAYS BRITAIN HAS OFTEN DISCUSSED SOVIET JEWS WITH USSR

LONDON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Harold Wilson assured Parliament today that Britain has raised the question of the situation of Soviet Russia's 3,000,000 Jews "many times."

The statement was in reply to Sir Ian Crr-Ewing, Conservative, who had asked whether "in the present atmosphere of good will," Mr. Wilson would follow up the requests of British Jewry and members of Parliament for Soviet Prime Minister Alexei N. Kosygin to take steps to alleviate the hardships of Jews in the USSR. "Something like 300 members of

Parliament have signed a motion on this problem." Sir Ian told Mr Wilson: "It is an issue on which they feel strongly."

Mr. Wilson replied that, while it was necessary that some individual matters had to be taken up separately with Mr. Kosygin, rather than in the main plenary part of the discussions, Sir Ian "could be assured" that the question has been raised every time the British Foreign Minister had met representatives of the Soviet Government. Mr. Wilson added: "We all feel strongly about this. But the Soviet Government does not admit some of the statements we have made on the issue, and, of course, regards it as an internal matter."

Kosygin Gets Two Appeals Regarding Jews on Humanitarian Grounds

Two humanitarian appeals were made today to Premier Kosygin on behalf of the Jews in the Soviet Union.

Lord Bertrand Russell, long considered a friend and apologist of the Soviet regime, sent a letter to Mr. Kosygin at the Soviet Embassy, asking him to use his authority to end delays experienced by those living in Russia who want to be reunited with their families in other countries. The famed philosopher said that, despite Mr. Kosygin's statement in Paris last December that the road was open for those who wished to leave Russia to rejoin their families, applicants for exit permits continued to encounter difficulties. He enclosed a letter from an Israeli woman, Mrs. Elka Kedari, who said that, although her sole surviving relative in the Soviet Union had been given permission to leave the country in December, 1965, to join her in Israel, he had not been able to overcome all the technical problems raised, and was still unable to leave the country.

Two distinguished humanitarians, the Rev. James Parkes and Sir James Foster, jointly appealed to the Soviet premier to intervene and show mercy in "certain individual cases that have caused concern for a number of years." They cited two of these special cases: Mrs. Batya Reznitzky, of Riga, now serving a sentence of life imprisonment, and Gedalia Pechersky, of Leningrad, who was sentenced to 15 years' imprisonment in 1961.

NAZIS WHO DEPORTED DUTCH JEWS FACE PRISON TERMS TOTALING 34 YEARS

MUNICH, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Prosecutor Benedict Huber, completing the State's case against three former Nazis charged with sending 95,000 Dutch Jews, including Anne Frank, to death in German concentration camps, called here today for prison terms totaling 34 years. The three are former SS Gen. Wilhelm Harster; former SS Maj. Wilhelm Zoepf; and Gertrud Slottke.

The prosecutor asked the court to impose a 15-year sentence on Harster because of his role as head of the Gestapo in Nazi-occupied Holland during World War II. For Zoepf, a 10-year sentence was asked, because he headed the "Jewish department" at The Hague, which picked out Jews for transportation to the death camps. For Harster's secretary, Gertrud Slottke, the prosecutor asked the court to impose a nine-year sentence.

Harster raided the hide-out of the Frank family in Amsterdam, which led to the imprisonment of Anne Frank, who died later at Bergen-Belsen. Both Harster and Zoepf admitted their guilt, but claimed they had not been able to face the consequences of their acts. Miss Slottke, however, maintained that she knew "absolutely nothing" of the fate that awaited the Jews sent to Poland and that, in fact, she had sent as many as possible to Auschwitz because she believed it was "better" than other concentration camps.

Police Union in German City Expels Two Members for Joining NDF

BONN, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Police Trade Union in Augsburg expelled two members today on the charge that they are members of the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party. One, Helmut Heinze, is a member of the provincial parliament, and the other, Karl Stephan, is a member of the Augsburg city council.

ISRAEL REPORTEDLY TRYING TO HAVE ABBA EBAN MEET WITH WILLY BRANDT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Israel was reported here unofficially today to be trying to arrange for a meeting between Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban and West Germany's Foreign Minister Willy Brandt, to be held in the Spring.

Israeli officials were said to have expressed the opinion that such a meeting in Bonn on the ministerial level might serve not only to advance rapprochement between the two countries, but might also assist Israel in her quest for associate membership in the European Economic Community. The report stated that German political circles in Bonn are strongly promoting the meeting. Foreign Ministry spokesmen here, however, declined today to comment on the report.

ISRAEL'S NEXT BUDGET SEEN AS POSSIBLY FACING \$100,000,000 DEFICIT

JERUSALEM, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Israel's budget for the current fiscal year is expected to run into a deficit totaling 300,000,000 pounds (\$100,000,000), Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir reportedly informed the Cabinet yesterday. The Cabinet held a lengthy discussion on measures to reduce the deficit, including a proposal to cut the Government's staff by seven percent.

CONGRESS GETS BILL TO GIVE JEWS TIME OFF ON NON-CHRISTIAN HOLIDAYS

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Rep. Leonard Farbstein, New York Democrat, today introduced a bill to grant time off to Government employes for the observance of Jewish and other non-Christian holidays.

Mr. Farbstein told the House of Representatives that "in this country of many religions, it is clearly inequitable for all Government employes to be given time off only to celebrate Christian holidays." His bill would allow Government workers to choose the days off that coincide with their own religious convictions. The bill would require employes to make up any time they took off, although the time would not be deducted from annual leave.

N.Y. STATE LEGISLATURE OFFERED BILL TO AID HEBREW DAY SCHOOL PUPILS

ALBANY, N.Y., Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A bill which would provide health and welfare services to pupils in Hebrew day schools and other non-public schools, equal to those provided for public school children, has been introduced into the Senate here by State Senator Edward J. Speno, and into the Assembly by Assemblyman Bertram L. Baker.

Rabbi Morris Sherer, executive vice-president of the Agudath Israel of America, today urged New York legislators to "pass this bill speedily, in order to remove the discrimination from which non-public school children now suffer in the area of health and welfare services." The bill, which failed to come out of committee during last year's legislative session, would provide pupils in private schools with psychiatric, psychological, social work, guidance, testing and remedial instructional services.

JEWS GROUPS BACK PENNSYLVANIA GOVERNOR ON SABBATH EXEMPTION BILL

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The 15 agencies comprising the Pennsylvania Jewish Community Relations Conference hailed Gov. Raymond P. Shafer for including in his legislative program a Sabbatarian Exemption Bill, which enables Jews and other religious groups to by-pass the State's Sunday closing law if they observe Saturday as their Sabbath.

The Governor listed the bill as a measure for which he would seek passage in the State Legislature, during his recent State of the Commonwealth address. It was originally passed in the State Legislature's lower house last year, but died in the Senate Judiciary General Committee.

In addition to the support of Orthodox and Conservative Jewish groups, and of leading Jewish secular agencies, the bill was endorsed by the Greater Philadelphia Council of Churches and by other Protestant groups.

BNAI ZION'S ANNUAL DINNER ATTENDED BY 1,400; BIGGEST EVENT IN YEARS

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- This year's annual dinner of Bnai Zion, American fraternal Zionist organization, was the largest, most heavily attended in the organization's recent history, it was announced here today. Due to a typographical error, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Daily News Bulletin gave the figure of attendance at the dinner as 400. The correct figure was 1,400.

BUFFALO RABBIS, DOCTORS AGREE ON RITUAL ASPECTS OF CIRCUMCISION

BUFFALO, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Buffalo Board of Rabbis and the Maimonides Medical Society here have reached "full agreement" on a question that arose over ritual circumcision, it was announced by the society's secretary, Dr. Harold J. Levy.

The problem which both groups resolved was set forth in a letter to the medical group by Rabbi Isaac Klein, chairman of the committee on Jewish practice of the Buffalo Board of Rabbis. Rabbi Klein urged that doctors assist in preventing circumcision from "deteriorating into an empty gesture" by informing parents of new-born children about "both surgical and religious circumcision."

In some cases, Rabbi Klein said, Jewish doctors "have discouraged the religious aspects of the ritual and have performed circumcisions without any religious connotation to it." If parents prefer to observe the religious aspect of the ritual, the rabbi added, "it would be proper for a rabbi of the parents' choice to consult with them concerning the circumcision."

REFORM TEMPLE, METHODIST CHURCH AGREE TO CONTINUE SHARING FACILITY

DALLAS, Tex., Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Temple Shalom, a Reform congregation, will share the premises of the Northaven Methodist Church here until the temple is able to build its own house of worship. The Rev. James Hares, pastor of the church, and Rabbi Hirschel L. Jaffee of the Jewish congregation announced an agreement on the arrangement. Temple Shalom, a new congregation with 160 families, began holding Friday night services in the church last summer.

B'NAI B'RITH BOND SALES REACH PEAK; 15-YEAR TOTAL NEAR \$88,000,000

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- B'nai B'rith sold a record total of \$8,060,275 in Israel bonds during 1966, an increase of \$186,555 over the previous year, it was reported here today by Milton Ceidenman, chairman of B'nai B'rith's Israel bond committee. Last year was the first in which the organization's Israel bond sales exceeded \$8,000,000. Mr. Ceidenman reported that cumulative sales by B'nai B'rith for the 15-year period reached nearly \$88,000,000 in bonds.

A total of 92,133 trees were purchased last year and planted in the B'nai B'rith Martyr's Forest in the Judean Hills near Jerusalem, it was reported by Meyer Halperin, chairman of the organization's Martyr's Forest committee.

1,000,000 JNF TREES IN ISRAEL TO HONOR COMMONWEALTH OF CANADA

TORONTO, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- A forest of 1,000,000 trees will be planted in Israel to mark the Canadian centennial celebration this year, it was announced by the Jewish National Fund here. The Canadian Centennial Forest will be planted during the next three or four years in the Dvir area, about 25 miles southwest of Jerusalem.

One grove of 1,000 trees, financed by an anonymous donor, will be named for Prime Minister Lester B. Pearson. Ten other groves will be named for the 10 provincial Premiers. Official dedication of the Centennial Forest will take place in May.

WORKMEN'S CIRCLE URGES MEXICO TO ACT AGAINST ANTI-SEMITIC MATERIAL

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- The Workmen's Circle today urged the Mexican Ambassador to the United States this weekend "to convey to your government dismay and shock that anti-Semitic materials in Spanish are originating from your country and flooding ours and Latin America." The appeal was made to Ambassador Fugo B. Margain by Israel Breslow, president, and Benjamin A. Gebiner, executive secretary. They noted that a "recent survey showed that anti-Semitic hate propaganda centers exist in Mexico City."

COURSE IN CONVERSATIONAL HEBREW TO BE BEAMED BY N. Y. RADIO STATION

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- An elementary course in Hebrew, entitled "Let's Speak Hebrew," will be presented over radio station WEVD, of New York, by the Tarbut Foundation for the Advancement of Hebrew Culture in America, it was announced today by Abraham Goodman, president. The course will be offered in cooperation with the department of education and culture of the Jewish Agency.

Reuben Bar-Server, former broadcaster of Hebrew instruction for new immigrants in Israel over radio Kol Israel in Jerusalem, will conduct the course from 11:30 to 11:45 a.m., Mondays through Thursdays, with the Tuesday and Thursday lessons repeated in order to reinforce learning and retention. He will be assisted by Mrs. Nili Hameiri, also a former program staff member of the Israeli radio. The series will begin Monday, February 20, and will continue through June.

LOS ANGELES FEDERATION-COUNCIL ELECTS VICTOR M. CARTER AS PRESIDENT

LOS ANGELES, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Victor M. Carter, civic and Jewish communal leader, has been elected unanimously as president of the Jewish Federation-Council of Greater Los Angeles. He succeeds Dr. Max W. Bay, who served in the post for three years.

Long active in numerous philanthropic, cultural and educational organizations and activities, Mr. Carter is a member of the boards of directors of the Joint Distribution Committee, the American Friends of the Hebrew University, the American Technion Society and the Jewish Telegraphic Agency.

BANK LEUMI LEISRAEL NAMES SHIMON BAR-TSLIL AS VICE-PRESIDENT

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Bank Leumi Leisrael announced here today that Shimon Bar-Tslil has been appointed a vice-president, attached to the institution's New York branch.

Mr. Bar-Tslil came to Bank Leumi-New York in June from the bank's head office in Tel Aviv, where he had been serving since 1960 as an official of the international department. Mr. Bar-Tslil, a member of the Israel Bar Association, served with the Government of Israel from 1950 to 1960 as head of the foreign investment division in the office of the Controller of Foreign Exchange.

SPIRITUAL LEADER OF BRITISH SEPHARDIM HEADS GROUP IN U.S.A., CANADA

NEW YORK, Feb. 13. (JTA) -- Dr. Solomon Gaon, Haham of the Sephardic Congregations of the British Commonwealth, has been elected president of the Union of Sephardic Congregations in the United States and Canada. Dr. Gaon spends part of his time in this country, where he directs the Sephardi Studies Program of Yeshiva University.