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SOVIET JEW CONVICTED IN RUSSIA ON CHARGES OF ESPIONAGE FOR ISRAEL

LONDON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Soviet press today published a report that a Russian Jew named Simon Dolnik has been convicted on charges of espionage for Israel, it was reported here from Moscow. The conviction could result in a death sentence, it was pointed out here.

CARDINAL BEA HEADS VATICAN RELATIONS WITH JEWS; ANNOUNCEMENT MADE

ROME, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The question of who is in charge of the Vatican relations with Jews was cleared up today at a press conference held by Paola Cardinal Marella, chairman of the Vatican Secretariat for Relations with Non-Christian Religions. Cardinal Marella said that Vatican relations with Jews was the responsibility of Augustin Cardinal Bea.

Cardinal Bea, head of the Secretariat for the Promotion of Christian Unity, had a key role in the formulation of the strong declaration on Christian-Jewish relations which was approved in a somewhat diluted version by the Ecumenical Council and promulgated in 1965 as official Church doctrine. The declaration repudiates the charge of collective Jewish responsibility in the crucifixion of Jesus, deplores anti-Semitism and calls for "fraternal" Christian dialogues with Jews.

In that capacity, Cardinal Marella said, Cardinal Bea had maintained contact with Jewish circles since. Cardinal Marella also said that Jews in a way were "pre-Christians," and therefore were not in the category of non-Christian religions with which his secretariat was concerned.

HARVARD LAW SCHOOL REJECTS BIAS IN JOB PLACEMENT OF STUDENTS

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Dean Erwin N. Griswold of the Harvard Law School declared in a statement issued here tonight that the Law School had always opposed discrimination in placement of its students. He also announced the appointment of a faculty committee in the school's placement office "to see that the School's policy of non-discrimination is maintained."

The University said that the statement had been recommended by a joint faculty-student committee on the Law School which "has had the matter of discrimination under consideration for several weeks." The statement made no direct reference to a disclosure last February 1 that the State Commission Against Discrimination was investigating reports that Jewish students of the Law School might have faced discrimination for job placement.

In his statement tonight, Dean Griswold declared that the Harvard Law School "is committed to insuring equal opportunities for all its students and graduates seeking employment. The law of Massachusetts, like that of many other states, expressly forbids employers from discriminating in any way on grounds of race, color, religious creed, sex or national origin. We not only subscribe fully to the objectives of this legislation but believe that law schools and the legal profession have a special obligation to promote them."

The statement added that "it is inconsistent with the obligation for a prospective employer of law students or law graduates to follow a policy of discrimination whether declared or undeclared. Nor will the Law School supply students or graduates, even at their request, with any advice or information concerning the composition or preferences of any prospective employer with respect to race, color, religious creed, sex or national origin."

Dean Griswold announced that Prof. Lewis Loss would head the Faculty Committee in the Placement office and that the committee "will be responsible for matters of policy with respect to the placement office and will take steps, if they are needed, to see that the School's policy of non-discrimination in employment is maintained."

(In New York, the American Jewish Committee issued a statement lauding Dean Griswold's announcement. Dr. John Slawson, AJC committee executive vice-president, called the Dean's statement "a ringing affirmation of the principles that over the generations have made Harvard synonymous with the finest in the world of academe.")

EBAN URGES U.S., BRITAIN, FRANCE, RUSSIA TO COOPERATE IN MIDDLE EAST

LONDON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Abba Eban, Israel's Foreign Minister, declared here today that the Israel Government would like the four major world powers -- the United States, Britain, France and the USSR -- "to support the principle of no territorial change" in the Middle East. Mere reiteration of the 1950 Tripartite Declaration, in which the three Western powers joined to guarantee the integrity of the borders of Israel and the Arab states, would be insufficient at this time, he stated.

"What we ask," he said, "is for Israel to be given the means of assuring her own safety. And we ask the four great powers to express their readiness to help any state in the Middle East whose integrity and security are threatened."

Mr. Eban, who has been in London all week, made that statement at a luncheon given in his honor by the Foreign Press Association. Among his activities here was a principal address at the annual dinner of the Joint Palestine Appeal, the British equivalent of the United Jewish Appeal. There he said that Israel "invites" the four major powers to co-operate in their Middle East policies and specifically requested the Soviet Union to apply its European policy regarding existing frontiers to the Middle East as well.

Mr. Eban met here with Prime Minister Harold Wilson, Foreign Secretary George Brown, and leaders of the Conservative and Liberal parties. In his separate talks with Mr. Wilson and Mr. Brown, the Israeli Foreign Minister said, he had found "a mutual desire to deepen and extend bilateral relations," both showing "in a very cordial atmosphere, much knowledge and understanding for Israel."

As for the Arab states, Mr. Eban told the JPA event, "three of Israel's neighbors have been avoiding a military confrontation, leaving only Syria as the question mark." In an interview over the British Broadcasting Corporation, Mr. Eban predicted that there will probably be no "sudden peace" in the Middle East, but added that it was unlikely that there would be war, since "nothing is impossible in the Middle East, but nothing is inevitable."

ISRAEL TO SPEND \$63, 000, 000 ON AVIATION DEVELOPMENT, MINISTER SAYS

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Israel will spend 190, 000, 000 pounds (\$63, 300, 000) in the next few years to keep the nation abreast of aviation development, Transport Minister Moshe Carmel told the Ninth Aviation and Aeronautics Conference here today.

He said that sum included 90, 000, 000 pounds (\$30, 000, 000) for development of two long runways and installation of a new terminal with the most modern landing aide devices at Lydda Airport. Another 90, 000, 000 pounds will be allocated to El Al Israel Airlines for purchase of new planes and ground equipment.

The conference was the occasion for the publication and display for the first time of a proto-type of the first Israeli cargo plane, planned for production by Israel Aircraft Industries in late summer of 1968. The planned twin turboprop aircraft is capable of carrying two tons of freight or 20 passengers. The plane is designed for short takeoffs and landings and is somewhat similar to the French Nord cargo plane.

JEWISH GROUPS URGE SENATE APPROVAL OF U.S.-SOVIET CONSULAR TREATY

WASHINGTON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- A number of Jewish organizations today urged the Senate Foreign Relations Committee to approve the pending American-Soviet consular treaty.

B'nai B'rith expressed support for ratification of the treaty "as a constructive step in advancing the cause of peace and mutual understanding." In a letter to chairman J.W. Fulbright, B'nai B'rith president William A. Wexler said his organization views ratification as a means of broadening cooperation and reducing tensions. He added that the treaty might promote "the re forging of cultural and religious links between Jews in the West and their coreligionists in the Soviet Union."

Another statement in support of the treaty was made by Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, director of the Religious Action Center of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations.

"In addition to our concern as American citizens in easing cold war tensions," Rabbi Hirsch told the committee, "we have a special interest as Jews. The American Jewish community has been encouraging tourism to Russia as a means of establishing personal contact with our Jewish brethren there. The existence of additional American consulates would facilitate the travels of American citizens and enable us to have closer rapport with fellow Jews who are very much in need of spiritual succor and moral support."

Similar sentiments voicing the feelings of the American Jewish community on this issue have also been expressed by other major Jewish organizations throughout the country.

RABBIS IN ITALY LIFT 500-YEAR-OLD EXCOMMUNICATION OF TRENT PROVINCE

ROME, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Italian Rabbinical Board ended today a writ of excommunication imposed on the town and province of Trent nearly 500 years ago after a group of 12 Trent Jews were executed on a ritual murder charge. The action, which declares Jews are now permitted to live and trade in the area, was purely symbolic, since Jews have long done so.

The rabbinical action was in effect a response to a pastoral letter issued in October, 1965, by the Archbishop of Trent, Alessandro Gottardi, declaring the Jews innocent of the charge. The letter was dated to coincide with the promulgation by Pope Paul VI of the Ecumenical Council declaration repudiating the charge of collective Jewish responsibility for the crucifixion of Jesus.

The incident took place in 1475 when a two-year-old boy named Simon, son of a local tanner, vanished. His body was found two days later, on March 26, by one of the 25 Jews of Trent. Under the authority of the Prince-Bishop of Trent, a "trial" was held of most of the 25 Jews. Most of the "defendants" were tortured to death on "charges" the child was killed in Jewish worship.

Simon was recognized for centuries as a Blessed -- eligible for local veneration -- but never formally beatified by the Congregation of Rites of the Vatican. A panel in a Trent church, graphically portraying the alleged murder, was covered up several years ago.

The Rabbinical Board also expressed gratitude to Archbishop Gottardi for his initiative in ending the five-centuries-old libel against the Jews.

CARDINAL REFUSES TO TAKE ACTION AGAINST SHOWING OF 'PASSION PLAY'

LONDON, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Roman Catholic prelate, John Cardinal Heenan, will take no official action on a report by members of his advisory commission that the Oberammergau Passion Play to be presented by Catholics in Manchester next week is anti-Semitic and a misrepresentation of the Gospel story.

Sister Louise-Gabriel and Dr. Patricia Keefe, two members of the national commission appointed by the Cardinal in 1965 to implement the Vatican Declaration on the Jews, charged that the play was directly opposed to the spirit of the Vatican Declaration after they listened to tape recordings of it.

Sister Louise-Gabriel said today that the play presented Jews as "bad, strongly emphasized the role of Judas" and was likely to have a prejudicial effect on the minds of children who watched it. Spectators, she said, might gather the wrong impression that it represented Catholic thinking toward Jews. A spokesman for Cardinal Heenan said that the reason for his decision to take no official action in the matter was that the play was being staged outside the Archdiocese of Westminster.

Christopher Hollis, chairman of Cardinal Heenan's advisory commission on the Vatican Declaration, said that he believed the Cardinal held the view that no Passion play could be presented without appearing to convey some anti-Semitic sentiments. The play is scheduled to be staged in London in April.

GERMAN TRADE UNIONS URGE CHANCELLOR TO BAN NEO-NAZI PARTY

BONN, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The West German trade union movement sent to every member of Parliament today a demand that Chancellor Kurt Kiesinger act to ban the extremist National Democratic Party. The movement contended that there was sufficient evidence to bring such a proposal before the federal constitutional court to seek the ban. Interior Minister Paul Luecke has publicly called the NPD a neo-Nazi party but rejected earlier demands for action to ban it.

Meanwhile, it was reported today that the neo-Nazi party will not be able to hold its national congress at the end of June or the beginning of July in the Bremen City Hall, as planned, because the management of the hall finds it "lacks space" for the meeting.

The National Democratic Party now has 30,000 members of whom about one-third are between the ages of 20 and 45, an NDP member of the Bavarian Parliament asserted today. The membership figures were given by Wolfgang Ross, 32, a former German army captain. He said also that workers formed the largest segment of NPD membership, comprising 29.3 percent.

The next largest group, 12.3 percent, was made up of officials and civil servants, he added. He listed other categories and their percentages as pensioners, 12.2 percent; farm workers, 6.1 percent; school students, 3.6 percent; housewives, 2.2 percent; and members of the armed forces one-half of one percent.

N.Y. SENATE ADOPTS BILL AGAINST DEFAMATION OF RELIGIOUS GROUPS

ALBANY, N.Y., Feb. 23. (JTA) -- A bill making it a crime to defame religious or ethnic groups in New York State was approved by the State Senate yesterday and sent to the Assembly for action.

The bill, approved 39 to 10, bans the "uttering," "publishing" or "encouraging" of "false and defamatory matter, portraying any depravity, criminality or unchastity of any race, color, creed or religion" with the intent to hold such groups up to "contempt, derision, obloquy." The measure also bars defamation "productive of a breach of peace or riots." A similar measure was approved by the State Senate last year but was defeated in the Assembly.

Sen. Jeremiah B. Bloom, Brooklyn Democrat, said the measure was introduced at the urging of the Jewish War Veterans to prevent riots incited by bigots speaking in public. The New York Civil Liberties Union submitted a memorandum opposing the measure on grounds it would "violate the First Amendment guarantees of freedom of speech and the press as well as the due process guarantee of the 14th Amendment." The bill would provide maximum penalties of a \$1,000 fine, one year in jail or both. Sen. Bloom denounced the Civil Liberties memorandum.

NEW YORK CITY TO HONOR CHAGALL TODAY; GETS HIGHEST CULTURAL AWARD

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Marc Chagall, the world-famous French-Jewish artist currently visiting here, will receive the Handel Medallion, the highest cultural honor given by the City of New York, in ceremonies at City Hall tomorrow. Mayor John V. Lindsay will make the presentation. Mr. Chagall, who is here with Mrs. Chagall, postponed his scheduled return home for two days in order to receive the honor.

The Medallion will be awarded to Mr. Chagall in recognition of his artistic contributions to the city through his works at the new Metropolitan Opera House, United Nations headquarters and in private and public collections in the city.

AUSTRALIAN JEWISH SENATOR ELECTED DEPUTY LEADER OF THE OPPOSITION

MELBOURNE, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Sen. C. H. Cohen, a Labor Party member in the Australian Senate since 1961, has been elected deputy leader of the opposition in the Senate at a federal Labor Party caucus. He is an active member of the Victoria Jewish community.

Sen. Cohen is the only Jewish member of the Australian Parliament and his election as deputy leader marks the first occasion in more than a generation of a Jew to any kind of leadership post in any Parliaments, federal or state, in Australia. Over the years, there have been many Jewish members of Parliament and local legislatures but there are now only two in New South Wales Legislature and one in Victoria.

JACOB GOODMAN ELECTED PRESIDENT OF 'OLAM HADASH' AT BOARD MEETING

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Jacob Goodman of New York, veteran Zionist leader and philanthropist, was unanimously elected as president of "Olam Hadash," the only illustrated Hebrew magazine for children and youth, at the annual meeting of the Board of Directors held at the Hotel Americana, here. Mr. Goodman served as vice-president and treasurer of the magazine since its inception over five years ago.

The annual board meeting highlighted a message by David Ben-Gurion in which the former Prime Minister of Israel asserted that "there is no greater factor which serves to strengthen the living bond between the Jews in the Diaspora and Israel than the inculcation of Hebrew among the young Jewish generation in the United States."

WINNIPEG 'WESTERN JEWISH NEWS' CELEBRATES 40th ANNIVERSARY

WINNIPEG, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- The Western Jewish News here, founded in 1926, is currently celebrating its 40th anniversary. The present publisher is Dave Corne, who succeeded the founder, the late Samuel A. Berg. The weekly newspaper's editor-in-chief is Harold Kyman. The newspaper, based here, has branches in Calgary and Edmonton. Winnipeg, with a Jewish population of 20,000, has three Jewish weeklies.

JEWISH HISTORICAL SOCIETY GETS GRANT FROM N.Y. STATE COUNCIL

NEW YORK, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- A grant of \$7,500 was awarded to the American Jewish Historical Society today by the New York State Council on the Arts. The purpose of the grant is to aid the society to catalogue its books, manuscripts and art collection.

400 FOREIGN BUYERS ATTEND ISRAELI FASHION WEEK IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Feb. 23. (JTA) -- Israel Fashion Week officials reported today that buyers at the show had placed orders for more than \$3,000,000 worth of Israeli products. Some 400 buyers from the United States, Britain, Sweden, West Germany and Holland attended the event. Most of the orders were for knitwear -- more than \$2,000,000 -- and \$500,000 in orders each for sportswear and coats.