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BEN-GURION ARRIVES IN NEW YORK; THANKS U.S. PRESIDENTS FOR AID TO ISRAEL

NEW YORK, March 1. (JTA) -- David Ben-Gurion, Israel's eldest statesman, a founder of the State of Israel and its first Prime Minister, arrived here this evening for a three-week visit to the United States. He was full of confidence that Israel will achieve its principal aims of building a democracy that will contribute vitally to world peace and the intellectual, scientific and economic development of the entire Middle East region.

The 80-year-old Israeli leader, hale and vigorous after a direct flight from Lydda Airport in Israel to the John F. Kennedy International Airport here, voiced first of all, upon his arrival, his and Israel's gratitude to the four U.S. Presidents who have been in office since Israel was reborn in 1948. To Presidents Truman, Eisenhower, the late Mr. Kennedy and President Johnson he expressed his "grateful appreciation for the help they have extended to us on behalf of the American people."

"From the first," he stated, "Americans everywhere have understood Israel's democratic hopes and ambitions. On every level they have been our warm supporters and friends." (On his departure this morning from Israel, Mr. Ben-Gurion said at the Lydda airport that during his stay in the United States he will speak "only on the past and the future" and not on the present internal issues in Israel.)

As Mr. Ben-Gurion and his wife -- whom he married in Brooklyn exactly 50 years ago -- stepped off the El Al Israel Airlines plane that brought them here, they were greeted formally by a distinguished gathering representing officially the City of New York the Israeli diplomatic corps in the United States, and the sponsor of the trip to America, the United Jewish Appeal. Included among the small group on the airport's tarmac were Avraham Harman, Israel's Ambassador to the United States; Edward Ginsberg, of Cleveland, associate general chairman of the UJA; New York City Commissioner John F. Palmer, representing Mayor Lindsay; Rabbi Herbert A. Friedman, executive vice-chairman of the UJA; and Michael Arnon, Israel's Consul-General in New York.

From the field, the guests were taken in a caravan to the airport's International Synagogue. There, an overflow assembly of 400 Jewish lay and religious leaders greeted them. Mr. Ben-Gurion submitted to interviews and photographs by a large corps of newsmen representing press, television and radio. In ceremonies at the synagogue, Mr. Ben-Gurion was greeted by Mr. Ginsberg; Rabbi Israel Mowshovitz, chaplain and chairman of the board of the International Synagogue, and two 12-year-old girls who are students at Hebrew day schools in New York. The girls, Leslie Grossman and Merryl Hiat, greeted the guests in Hebrew, and presented flowers to both Mr. and Mrs. Ben-Gurion.

Urges U.S. Jews to Help Build Educational Institutions in Israel

After paying homage to Presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Johnson, and the memory of President Kennedy, Mr. Ben-Gurion told the audience that packed the synagogue about Israel's yeoman work over the years toward the "ingathering of the exiles." He noted that Israel has admitted and is in the process of absorbing 1,250,000 immigrants "from all corners of the world, more than half of them coming from backward lands -- without skills, without knowledge of life in the 20th Century, and without education." "Give the right kind of help," he emphasized, "these newcomers and their children will become notable builders of Israel, as were our pioneers."

During his visit to the United States, Mr. Ben-Gurion will visit five major American Jewish centers -- New York, Philadelphia, Chicago, Los Angeles and Boston -- on behalf of the UJA and the UJA's Israel Education Fund. The UJA's current campaign for \$75,620,000 will be devoted principally to welfare, health and rehabilitation programs. These programs, Mr. Ben-Gurion said, will speed the social and economic absorption of the Jewish immigrants now in Israel. He said he hoped, also, to spur the efforts of the Israel Education Fund for the building of additional high schools, training centers and other educational institutions in Israel, designed to close the "educational and intellectual gap" among the various communities in Israel.

Through these efforts, among others, he said, he believed "Israel can become an important nation and make its contribution to world peace." But such an aim, he added, can be realized "only through the pursuit of excellence in education, science and intellect

activities." Turning to his favorite, personal project -- the establishment of a high school and an institution of higher learning in Kibbutz Sde Boker, his home in Israel -- he said he hoped "with the help of a great many friends and the UJA" to achieve that goal too.

Mr. Ben-Gurion then discussed prospects for development of the Negev Desert, where Sde Boker is located. Three-fifths of Israel's area, he noted, is in the Negev, "now a derelict waste." "But with science, with people, and with pioneering spirit, we shall yet turn the desert into a flourishing garden and workshop." He had told the press in Israel before his departure that he hoped the population in the Negev would rise to 2,000,000 in the next 20 years.

U.J.A. Leader Pledges Generous Response of American Jewry

A pledge that the American Jewish community would respond generously to Mr. Ben-Gurion's appeal was voiced during the synagogue session by Mr. Ginsberg. He said American Jewry will work arduously toward carrying out "the great social tasks that remain to be done in Israel -- the full absorption of all of Israel's immigrants; the greater advancement of education and science in Israel; the attainment of economic self-sufficiency and the peaceful conquest of the Negev."

Mr. Ginsberg noted that, on this occasion, he represented not only the UJA but also 50 other national Jewish organizations that make up the Public Committee for the Celebration of the 80th Birthday of David Ben-Gurion. These organizations and the UJA, "which, in its way, represents a majority of American Jews," he said, "speak for almost the entire American Jewish community."

After spending two days in New York -- during which period he will meet with Gov. Rockefeller, will be honored at several receptions and will be the guest of honor at a dinner tomorrow night to be given by the Israel Education Fund's advisory board, Mr. Ben-Gurion will go to Miami Beach. There, Saturday night, he will address the annual dinner launching the State of Israel bond campaign for 1967. His next stop, Sunday, will be in Philadelphia.

While in the United States, Mr. Ben-Gurion will also meet with faculties and some students, including Israeli students, at the various universities in the cities he will visit, as well as at Princeton University.

JEWISH CANTOR RECITES PSALMS IN HEBREW IN CATHOLIC CHURCH IN SPAIN

MADRID, March 1. (JTA) -- Max Mazin, president of the Madrid Jewish Community, preached a sermon here last night from the lectern in a Catholic church, after a Jewish cantor and a priest had alternated in intoning verses from Psalms, accompanied by the organ in the vast Augustinian-conducted Church of Santa Rita.

For the first time in history, Jews and Catholics participated in what they called a "Judeo-Christian Paraliturgie," a service in which the Jewish and Catholic liturgies were recited in parallel versions to illustrate the spirit of ecumenism. The event was conducted before a crowded congregation of about 2,000 persons, with the first two rows of pews reserved for "the Jewish brethren." The occasion had been organized by the Jewish-Christian Friendship Society of Madrid, of which Mr. Mazin and the Rev. Vincente Serrano, a young Augustinian priest, are the chairmen.

The Psalms were recited by Simon Amar, a 38-year-old Moroccan Jew who is the cantor of the Madrid Synagogue. After he had intoned some Psalms in Hebrew, other verses were chanted in Latin and Spanish by the Rev. Jesus Alvarez, pastor of Santa Rita. The cantor, wearing a black yarmulke, was accompanied by a small choir of Jewish youth. Also participating in the services were Samuel Toledano, a vice-president of the Madrid Synagogue, and the Rev. Candelas Moricones, provincial of the Augustinian Order.

Mr. Mazin, in his sermon, referred to the "innumerable, historic vicissitudes, many of them sad and grave from both sides" which had beset the religious life of Spain, thus pointing to the centuries-old rift between Catholics and Jews here since the Jews were expelled from Spain in 1492. He noted, however, that, at last, men and ideas had emerged permitting "a reconciliation, a new attitude, a rectification of the relations that have prevailed between us during centuries and millenia."

Father Alvarez delivered the sermon on behalf of the Augustinian community. Recalling that he had shared the Passover seder with Jewish friends, he said "now they came to be with us." He deplored anti-Semitism and the evils it had wrought, declaring that "both the anti-Semitism of the Christians and the anti-Christianism of Jews were an insult to God."

EBAN LEAVES FOR THAILAND, AUSTRALIA, NEW ZEALAND, JAPAN, CAMBODIA

TEL AVIV, March 1. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban left here last night for a tour of Southeast Asia during which he will visit seven countries -- Thailand, Australia, New Zealand, the Philippines, Japan, Cambodia and Burma.

GERMAN COURT RULES MUNICIPALITY MUST RENT CITY HALL TO NEO-NAZIS

BONN, March 1. (JTA) -- The Administrative Court of Schleswig-Holstein ruled here today that the city of Flensburg must allow the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party to use the City Hall for a mass rally scheduled to be held at that site on March 8.

Flensburg had denied the hall to the neo-Nazi party for an election rally, and the party had appealed to the state's highest court. Schleswig-Holstein will elect representatives to its State Legislature next month, and the NPD is putting on a vigorous drive on behalf of its ticket, boasting that it expected to obtain at least 12 percent of the votes in the state. Last year, the NPD scored stunning election successes in state elections in Hesse and Bavaria.

'PASSION PLAY' OPENS IN ENGLAND; ANTI-SEMITIC PARTS RETAINED

MANCHESTER, March 1. (JTA) -- A production of the Oberammergau Passion Play depicting the crucifixion of Jesus -- presented by a company of amateur players from Oberammergau and the neighboring village of Thiersee in West Germany where the play originated three centuries ago -- opened at the Bellevue Arena here last night, after sharp criticism of the production forced a number of Jewish impresarios to withdraw from their association with the play.

The production was brought to England in spite of objections to anti-Semitic portions of the text. Last fall, Oberammergau village officials refused to alter the anti-Semitic text. The anti-Semitic implications of the current production were apparent in the crucifixion scene shown to an audience here that included many children. Emphasis was placed in the characterization of the Jews as wicked with no real attempt to explain the Jewish case in any objective way.

ARGENTINE MINISTER SAYS JEWS MISUNDERSTOOD HIS STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS

BUENOS AIRES, March 1. (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Nicanor Costa Mendez of Argentina said today that there had been misunderstanding by Jewish organizations of Argentina's neutral position on the question of inclusion of a human rights committee in the charter of the Organization of American States. Argentina abstained in a vote on the proposal during the Third Foreign Ministers Conference of the OAS last week.

Dr. Isaac Goldenberg, president of the DAIA, the central representative agency of Argentine Jewry, told a luncheon last week attended by Jose Mora, general secretary of the OAS, that in abstaining, Argentina had not lived up to the expectations of the Argentine people. The vote had been 18 for, none against and Argentina abstaining. The luncheon was tendered by the South American executive of the World Jewish Congress and the DAIA.

At a reception in his honor given today by the delegation heads, the Foreign Minister told journalists that Argentina's abstention "should not be viewed as showing unmindfulness of human rights" and "much less as a type of discrimination." He said the decision to abstain stemmed from the Argentine delegation's belief that the proposed human rights committee had not been given the "necessary structure" and its competence had not yet been defined.

LOS ANGELES TO START INQUIRY INTO ANTI-SEMITIC ACTIVITY IN CITY

LOS ANGELES, March 1. (JTA) -- A Los Angeles City Council inquiry into the extent of anti-Semitic activity in the predominantly Jewish Fairfax neighborhood will begin here on March 22, it was announced today.

The Council's Police, Fire and Civil Defense Committee asked for the investigation after testimony by witnesses to an egg-throwing and swastika-painting demonstration staged in the Fairfax area last November 22 by members of the Misfits of New York, a gang of Nazi-uniformed motorcyclists. The Pico Democratic Club also demanded a probe.

Four members of the "Misfits" were arrested after the near-riot and served 82-day jail terms. Former Police Chief Thad Brown has denied that the incident was part of any anti-Semitic "conspiracy."

26 CITY AND COUNTRY CLUBS IN CALIFORNIA REPORTED BARRING JEWS

LOS ANGELES, March 1. (JTA) -- A charge that "virtually every private country and city club" in Southern California bars membership to persons on religious or racial grounds was made here today by Bruce I. Nochman, regional executive committee chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

Mr. Nochman made that charge after reporting that a survey has shown that 26 country and city clubs have a quota system for the admission of Jews to membership. Of the total of 59 clubs examined in the survey, he said, 27 reported that they have no religious bars regarding membership.

RIFT IN NEW ORLEANS JEWISH COMMUNITY CENTER WIDENS; CHARGES VOICED

NEW ORLEANS, March 1. (JTA) -- Label A. Katz, former president of B'nai B'rith, charged today that Robert Reisfeld, president of the New Orleans Jewish Community Center, was confusing the issue of the Center's membership policy. Mr. Katz is spokesman for some 140 Center members who seek a general membership meeting to consider their "all-Jewish" membership policy.

Mr. Katz asserted that Mr. Reisfeld, in a letter dated January 25 "and sent only to non-Jewish members of the Center," had indicated that the all-Jewish membership policy was a view held only by Mr. Katz. Mr. Katz noted that the 140 members had sent Mr. Reisfeld a petition last November 25 urging such a policy.

Mr. Katz said that in that letter and in one to the general membership on January 20, the JCC president had failed to mention a resolution adopted by the Center board on August 31, 1966 which ruled that "until further action" by the board, membership would be restricted to Jews and no further bids from non-Jews would be accepted.

Mr. Katz also asserted that Mr. Reisfeld had neglected, in a press statement, to mention that "the petitioners urged the acceptance of the 18 non-Jewish families whose applications had been submitted before August 31 and that we have further suggested that under all circumstances, present non-Jewish members should retain their membership if they chose."

The former B'nai B'rith president also contended that a mail ballot of the membership on the issue, now being considered by a study committee "cannot serve as a substitute for a general membership meeting."

DETROIT JEWISH SCHOOLS SIGN TWO-YEAR AGREEMENT WITH TEACHERS

DETROIT, March 1. (JTA) -- A number of innovations in relations between teachers and management in Jewish schools, including provisions for teachers to be represented on school boards, are incorporated in a new two-year agreement between the United Hebrew Schools of Detroit and the Association of Hebrew Teachers of Metropolitan Detroit.

The two groups issued a joint statement asserting that, in addition to wage agreements, the agreement had developed "working conditions and professional standards that will reflect and promote a relationship corresponding to the needs of and demands of the teacher and the community."

Provisions of the new contract, which expires in August, 1968, stress the importance of widest cooperation between administrations and teaching staffs to evaluate Jewish educational practices. Teachers invited to serve on boards will be asked to discuss problems of improving Jewish studies. The Detroit Jewish Welfare Federation, which provides Allied Jewish Campaign funds for school budgets, has approved the agreement.

Meanwhile, Congregation Chaarey Zedek, one of the nation's largest Conservative synagogues, has signed this weekend an agreement with its Hebrew school teachers in an amicable end to a dispute which almost broke into a strike last October.

The dispute last fall led to the dismissal of Sol Panush and Jacob Golany. The Hebrew Teachers Association filed a complaint of unfair labor practices against the congregation with the State Labor Mediation Board, the first such action in Jewish education history in Detroit. During an all-day meeting that weekend, a congregation committee negated the dismissals and restored the teachers to their classes. The union withdrew its complaint and began negotiations for a new contract which concluded now.

WINNIPEG JEWISH SCHOOL BOARD AGREES TO WAGE RISE FOR TEACHERS

WINNIPEG, March 1. (JTA) -- After a lengthy controversy inside the Jewish community, during which the local Federation of Hebrew and Jewish Teachers had threatened to call a city-wide protest meeting against previous refusals of wage increase demands, an agreement for a 12-1/2 percent raise, effective January 1, 1968, has been reached between the Federation and the Winnipeg Jewish School Board. The agreement, however, is still subject to the approval by the executive groups of the individual Jewish and Hebrew schools here.

The teachers have been pressing for a wage increase for 16 months, demanding that local salaries in Jewish schools equal the salaries paid in Jewish schools in Toronto. The teachers contended that the Jewish community here has no general policy regarding salary scales for teachers. The agreement reached with the Board is a compromise from previous demands for a 40 percent general increase.