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U.N. BODY VOTES TO MAKE INCITEMENT TO RELIGIOUS HATRED 'PUNISHABLE'

GENEVA, March 2. (JTA) -- The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, holding its 23rd session here, adopted today a clause in a proposed U.N. Convention guaranteeing freedom of religion, making "a punishable offense" all acts of violence and incitement to religious hatred "likely to lead to violence."

The draft Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Religious Intolerance has been pending before one U.N. body or another for a number of years. Most moves toward adoption of such a convention have been opposed or delayed by the Soviet and Arab bloc.

Today, however, in adopting one clause -- labeled Article 8 of the draft -- Israel, one of the prime proponents of the Convention, found itself forced to join the Soviet Union, the Ukraine and France in abstaining in the voting on the article. The United States and Britain voted for the clause, which was adopted in the 32-member Commission by a ballot of 26 in favor, two against, and 4 abstentions. The two negative votes were cast by Iraq and Egypt.

All of the abstainers said they refrained from either a "yes" vote or a "no" vote because the article, as pressed mainly by the United States, was too weak in one respect or another.

Israel Considers Decision Weak; Find U.S. Text Unduly Restrictive

Israeli Supreme Court Justice Haim Cohn, Israel's representative on the Commission, explained why his Government had taken an abstaining position despite the fact that the U.S.A., supported by Britain, had supported the clause in question. The U.S.A. and Britain, he said, relied for their positions on the principle of freedom of speech "which, of course, is one of the generally-recognized human rights and which might be unduly restricted if religious hatred could not be propagated."

"As even religious belief," declared Justice Cohn, "implies a conviction of the exclusivity of its objective truth, the propagation of such belief involves some deprecation of other religions or atheism which might easily, but unjustifiably, be classified by some judge or other as hatred -- but the free propagation of all religious beliefs, including irreligious beliefs, ought in no way to be limited."

Israel, said Justice Cohn, had appealed to the U.S.A. and Britain to accept a proposal made to the Commission by its Subcommittee on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, according to which all promotions of hatred for religious reasons should be made criminal offenses. He conceded that every religion, as such, took the position that it has a "monopoly of truth." "But," he insisted, "by maintaining that another person or group of persons holds an erroneous belief and change it, one is not fostering hatred."

"On the other hand," he continued, "where the propagation of one's own religion is carried out in a hostile way, so as to expose adherents of other religions to contempt or ridicule, such propagation exceeds the limits of the permissible and justifiable. The analogy of the law of libel shows that, by exposing a man to ridicule or hatred, you will make yourself criminally and civilly responsible -- notwithstanding any fundamental rights known as freedom of speech."

"As far as religious propaganda is concerned, one must and can distinguish between properly religious matters and tenets -- such as theology and theodicy, revelations and miracles and after-life -- matters which have no bearing in religion but which are really a defamation of its adherents."

Hints at Soviet Condoning of Exposing Jews to Hatred

Hinting at the anti-religious practices condoned by the Soviet Government, affecting Russian Jewry in particular, Justice Cohn told the Commission: "To say adherents of a given religion, for instance in a capitalistic country, that they are Communists -- and, in a Communist country, that they are all imperialists and black marketeers -- can have no

other purpose than to expose them to hatred and can have nothing to do with a bona fide propagation of religion. The same applies to insinuations according to which adherents of another religion indulge in criminal or uncivilized conduct if for the purposes of their religion or in general."

The Israeli jurist concluded his address on this issue -- which made a sharp impact on the members of the Commission -- by stating:

"If it were only for the purpose of requiring violence and the incitement to violence to be made criminal offenses, we would need this Convention. There is no civilized state in the world nowadays that has not criminal laws punishing acts of violence or incitements thereto, irrespective of the underlying motives. It is in order to outlaw the fostering of hatred and hostility unconnected with any violence, that we need this Convention."

"The various great religions have singularly failed in translating their preachings and teachings of love into practical action, and we can certainly not impose now upon states a duty to foster love between members of different religions. The least we can do, however, is to impose the duty on them to prevent the fostering of hatred."

U.J.A. LEADERS PLEDGE BEN-GURION TO BUILD HIGH SCHOOL IN NEGEV

NEW YORK, March 2. (JTA) -- David Ben-Gurion, Israel's first Prime Minister of Israel who has retired to Sde Boker, in the Negev, and who came yesterday to the United States with a view to stimulating the interest of American Jewry in the development of the Negev, was visibly moved tonight by an announcement made at a dinner tendered in his honor by the Israel Education Fund of the United Jewish Appeal that the Fund will build a high school at the regional educational center in the Negev founded by Mr. Ben-Gurion. The announcement was made at the dinner by Charles J. Bensley, president of the Fund.

The planned high school will provide a continuing regional student base for the Negev institutions of special study and higher education, which include a teacher's seminary, an archaeological survey unit, a school of Negev field studies, a museum devoted to flora and fauna, and a library. It will be a dormitory school, housing children from towns, villages and settlements scattered over the entire region, most of them from immigrant families originating in the Moslem countries of North Africa and Asia.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, in his address at the dinner -- the first since his arrival in this country -- called the IEF decision on the Sde Boker high school project "an act of faith and spirit. A desert area like the Negev can be conquered only by such acts, applied to the broadening and deepening of education for our immigrant children," he said. He stressed that most of Israel's natural resources have been discovered in the Negev, a barren region covering the southern two-thirds of the country, and that development of the Negev is considered essential to the country's future industrial and commercial expansion. Joseph Meyerhoff of Baltimore, the Fund's chairman, presided at the dinner which was given at the Essex House.

Earlier in the day, Mr. Ben-Gurion was honored at a reception tendered to him at the Plaza Hotel on the occasion of the appearance here today of "Days of David Ben-Gurion," a 160-page pictorial biography published by Grossman Publishers, Inc. The Israeli leader reminisced at the reception on the years he spent in the United States where he married his wife, Paula. Mr. and Mrs. Ben-Gurion will celebrate the 50th anniversary of their marriage in New York.

ISRAEL BOND ORGANIZATION OPENS THREE-DAY INAUGURAL CONFERENCE

MIAMI BEACH, March 2. (JTA) -- Stepped up economic development of Israel will promote the establishment of peace in the Middle East. Delegates were told today at the opening session of the three-day International Israel Bond Inaugural Conference here. The Conference is attended by 2,500 Jewish leaders from all parts of the country.

Louis H. Boyar of Los Angeles, chairman of the Board of Governors of the Israel Bond Organization, declared that the attainment of economic stability by Israel would help persuade her Arab neighbors to give up their plans to make war against her and follow her example of peaceful development. Mr. Boyar is serving as chairman with Samuel Rothberg of the Inaugural Conference which is meeting at the Fontainebleu Hotel to launch a worldwide campaign for the sale of \$115,000,000 in Israel bonds this year for the development of major branches of Israel's economy.

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization, noted that from its inception sixteen years ago through the end of 1966, the Israel bond drive provided a total of \$922,000,000 for Israel's economic development. Of this total, he added, Israel has already repaid more than \$400,000,000, most of it to American investors. In 1967, the State of Israel will pay out an additional \$24,000,000 for the redemption of bonds as they reach maturity, in addition to other substantial sums that will be paid on bonds prior to the due date.

ISRAEL CABINET COMMITTEE APPROVES UNEMPLOYMENT PAYMENTS TO JOBLESS

JERUSALEM, March 2. (JTA) -- A Ministerial Economic Committee of the Israel Cabinet approved today regulations for payments of jobless allowances as well as the classifications of Israeli unemployed entitled to receive the payments.

The Ministers decided that the first payments, to be made on April 1, would be made only to those who had been jobless for at least two months and who had been registered with a labor exchange for 34 days. Labor Minister Yigal Allon reported to Parliament last week that, as of the end of 1966, 96,000 Israelis were jobless out of a labor force of 857,000 workers.

Israel's Manpower Planning Commission reported here yesterday that the country's severe unemployment has affected chiefly males between the ages of 14 and 34. The commission's statistics showed also that unemployment had increased especially in the last few months among sections of the population born either in Israel or in Arab lands.

A meeting of some 200 Israeli rabbis including Chief Rabbis Isser Yehuda Unterman and Yitzhak Nissim and Religious Affairs Minister Zerah Warhaftig, expressed grave concern last night at the "increasing exploitation by missionaries of the economic situation to obtain conversions." A resolution condemning missionary activities in Israel noted that some 200 conversions were carried out in the country each year.

NUCLEAR ENERGY CAN HELP ISRAEL SOLVE ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, ESHKOL SAYS

REHOVOT, March 2. (JTA) -- Prime Minister Levi Eshkol told the Second International Conference on High Energy Physics and Nuclear structure here yesterday that the exploitation of nuclear energy could help Israel solve its economic problems in key areas.

He cited industry, desalting of seawater and power supplies for Israel's growing population. The Prime Minister said, in his capacity as chairman of Israel's Atomic Energy Commission, that nuclear power research could become one of the most powerful instruments available in seeking solutions to the problems of poverty and deprivation. More than 200 of the world's leading physicists are attending the five-day conclave which opened Monday at the Weizmann Institute here.

EX-COMMANDANT OF TREBLINKA EXTERMINATION CAMP ARRESTED IN BRAZIL

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 2. (JTA) -- Franz Stangl, a former SS officer who served as a commandant of the Treblinka death camp in occupied Poland, has been arrested here, police announced today. The Government of Austria had requested his extradition.

Stangl, who also served the Nazi regime in the Maidanek and Sobibor murder camps, found refuge in Brazil and has lived here for the past 17 years. During the past four years, the police said, he worked in an auto plant here under an assumed name. A hearing on the extradition request is pending in the Sao Paulo Supreme Court. Simon Wiesenthal, director of the Nazi Documentation Center in Vienna, reportedly assisted in tracing Stangl.

JOHN BIRCH SOCIETY MEMBER BARRED FROM JOINING B'NAI B'RITH LODGE

LAKEWOOD, N.J., March 2. (JTA) -- Michael P. Silverman, president of the Lakewood B'nai B'rith, confirmed today that he had barred a John Birch Society member from joining the Lakewood Lodge because he was not Jewish.

Mr. Silverman said he had no information about a statement made today by George Demetry, 36, of Jackson, N.J. that he had filed a complaint of discrimination against B'nai B'rith with the New Jersey State Civil Rights Division. Demetry said he had telephoned Silverman about joining the B'nai B'rith Lodge and that when he told the B'nai B'rith president about his Birch Society membership, Silverman "abruptly ended the conversation."

The Birch Society member insisted he was "definitely not anti-Semitic" but added that he saw nothing wrong about the remarks last month of Newton Miller, then vice-president of the Wayne Township Board of Education, who had called for the defeat of two Jewish candidates for the board because, as Jews, they were likely to want to spend heavily for education.

BOSTON JEWS OPPOSE MOVE TO PERMIT NON-SECTARIAN PRAYERS IN SCHOOLS

BOSTON, March 2. (JTA) -- The Boston Jewish Community Council and the American Jewish Congress joined here today in expressing opposition to a proposed resolution by the General Court, the Massachusetts legislature, urging the United States Congress to pass a constitutional amendment "permitting the recital of a non-sectarian prayer in our public schools."

SO. AFRICAN JEWISH LEADER LAUDS COMMUNAL THINKING OF AMERICAN JEWRY

JOHANNESBURG, March 2. (JTA) -- Gustav Saron, general secretary of the South African Jewish Board of Deputies, returned here from a four-months' study tour of the United States, Europe and Israel "deeply impressed with the communal thinking going on in American Jewry at the leadership level."

Mr. Saron compared his findings with those of an earlier visit to the United States five years ago and said that "there seems to be a greater concern today for the strengthening of Jewish identity, especially among youth." He said he also found more concern for "the extension of Jewish education facilities," as well as "disquiet at the imbalance in the budgets of many communities, caused by large allocations for welfare needs on the one hand, and inadequate allocations for education on the other."

He also praised the "very healthy concern about recruiting and training younger people for roles of communal leadership. American Jewry," he added, "is now implementing valuable programs towards this end."

The South African Jewish leader also told the press that he found much misunderstanding abroad of South African Jewry's position on his country's racial programs. He added he felt there was need to increase the opportunities for dialogue between Jewish leaders in South Africa and in other countries, particularly the United States.

Reporting that he gave some 40 lectures to Jewish audiences during his visit to the United States, he declared that "almost invariably direct questions were put to me, asking how the Jewish community fitted in to the overall pattern of race attitudes in South Africa and why South African Jewry did not take a communal stand on racial problems."

Explaining that he did not see his role as one of defending existing policies but instead one of interpreting to American Jewish audiences "forces and trends at work in South Africa," Mr. Saron stated that he tried "to give an objective picture of our racial situation and how it differed from that of America."

He said he tried to make his American audiences understand that "in the South African context there could not be a collective Jewish approach to political issues," that differences on these issues were "as sharp in the Jewish as in the general community, and that each individual had the democratic right to hold his own opinion and to act upon it in the political sphere."

CANADIAN JEWISH CONGRESS SUBMITS VIEWS ON DIVORCE LAWS TO PARLIAMENT

OTTAWA, March 2. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress has submitted a brief to a special parliamentary committee here, considering changes in the commonwealth's divorce laws, recommending that a new law must do away with the present procedures "which recognize adultery as the sole ground of divorce." Such a requirement, the CJC stated, is "completely inadequate."

Filing its brief at the request of the special committee, the CJC recommended that "divorce proceedings ought to include conciliation procedures, without which divorce courts will not be empowered to dissolve a marriage."

The CJC drew Parliament's attention to the Jewish requirements "whereby, in Jewish law, a divorce is a religious act involving compliance with a number of requirements, and has to be executed by a competent ecclesiastical tribunal of three rabbis." However, Congress stated, it does not suggest "that a religious requirement ought to be enforced by law."

The brief stressed that "the Jewish concept of marriage has always been that, while the marriage bond is expected to be inviolable, it is not indissoluble" and referred to the tradition which "makes it abundantly clear that divorce can only be a last resort for the relief of the parties when marriage has been irretrievably broken down."

SAN FRANCISCO POLICE INVESTIGATE CAUSE OF FIRE IN JEWISH SCHOOL

SAN FRANCISCO, March 2. (JTA) -- Police here today were investigating the cause of a fire that swept through four classrooms in a complex adjoining Temple Rodef Shalom in Santa Venetia near San Rafael after it was learned that vandals had forced open a door to the building a short time before the blaze was discovered.

Damage to the rooms and their contents was estimated at \$40,000. The sanctuary itself, separated from the classroom structure, was not damaged. Rabbi Morton Hoffman, spiritual leader, said that congregational activities have not been interrupted.

HEAD OF JEWISH COMMUNITIES IN HUNGARY DECORATED BY GOVERNMENT

BUDAPEST, March 2. (JTA) -- Dr. Geza Seifert, chairman of the Union of Jewish Communities in Hungary, was decorated by the Hungarian Government today with the Order of the Knights of the Cross.