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SOVIET JEWS REPORTED UNDER PRESSURE TO DEMONSTRATE AGAINST ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 12. (JTA) -- "Terrible pressure accompanied by threats" is being exerted on Jewish leaders in the Soviet Union to write letters of protest and organize public demonstrations against Israel, the Washington Post reports on the basis of information received in Washington from travelers.

The report reveals that officials of synagogues in Moscow, Tashkent and other cities were summoned one by one recently to the office of a known Soviet secret police agent in the Government bureau in Moscow handling religious affairs. Under threat of retaliation unless they cooperated, they were urged to organize letter-writing campaigns and protest demonstrations to take place this Saturday.

Soviet concern supposedly was aroused by a "Week of Soviet Jews" devoted to the cause of Soviet Jewry held in Israel at the end of February. This observance was one of a series of the life of Jews in other countries sponsored by the World Jewish Congress. "Some synagogue leaders are said to have refused to call protest meetings on Saturday because it is the Jewish Sabbath. It is thought that in consequence some of the forced demonstrations may take place tomorrow," the report in the Washington Post said.

The "week" in Israel followed similar discussions of the situation of Jews in Britain, France and Latin America. No Israeli officials participated. The session on Soviet Jews had been postponed for six months because of pressure from the Soviet Government.

The Washington Post points out that the current Soviet efforts against Israel are apparently a sequel to the recent trial of a Soviet Jew for alleged espionage on behalf of Israel. The trial was disclosed in February. Solomon Dolnik, a retired engineer, was convicted in Moscow of conspiring for espionage purposes with members of the Israeli Embassy -- notably David Gavish, a second secretary who was declared persona non grata last August 14. Israel has categorically denied that members of the Embassy committed any impropriety with Dolnik.

An Israel source told the Washington Post that the Soviet charges were "total fabrications" and likened them to accusations against Soviet Jewish physicians in the "doctors plot" during the Stalin era.

(The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, representing twenty-five major national Jewish organizations, expressed its "shock and chagrin" today at the report published in the Washington Post that pressure accompanied by threats is being exerted on Jewish leaders in the Soviet Union to write letters of protest and organize public demonstrations against Israel. "The Jewish citizens of the Soviet Union are being subjected to a pattern of harassment, particularly in their relationships with their fellow Jews in Israel and the West," said Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the Conference. "This is but the most recent in a whole series of incidents which seem to be directed to arousing the fears of Soviet Jews against innocent and legitimate contact with their co-religionists abroad.")

Izvestia Attacks Israel for Permitting 'Week on Soviet Jews'

LONDON, March 12. (JTA) -- The Soviet Government intensified its anti-Israel propaganda yesterday with an attack in Izvestia, official government organ, charging Israel with joining in the "imperialist" cold war against the Soviet Union at the instigation of the World Jewish Congress.

The World Jewish Congress in Israel had sponsored a "Week on Soviet Jews" during which Israelis were told of the discriminations against Jews in the Soviet Union and school children were told in their classes of the situation of the Jews in Russia today. Izvestia, taking issue with the programs in Israel on the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union, strongly attacked the "ruling circles" in Israel and implied that the campaign on Soviet treatment of Jews is financed in various countries by the United States.

Russian-Language Weekly Starts Publication in Israel

JERUSALEM, March 12. (JTA) -- A privately-owned publishing firm began publication this weekend of a Russian-language weekly, the Tribune, which will have eight pages per issue.

NEO-NAZI PARTY IN GERMANY REPORTED IN CHAOS; INSIDE SPLIT WIDENS

BONN, March 12. (JTA) -- West Germany's neo-Nazi National Democratic Party was in absolute chaos today, on the eve of crucial provincial elections in which it had hoped to amass further successes. The national chairman and national deputy chairman had each other expelled from the party; a former leading Nazi was elected as national chairman; and the former incumbent in that leading position threatened to seek a court injunction.

The leaders in the fight were Fritz Thielen, until now national chairman, and Adolf von Thadden, for the last two years the deputy national chairman. The sequence of the events was as follows:

1) Thielen expelled from the national executive von Thadden; Otto Hess, a former SS (Nazi elite guard) colonel and another of the group's top national leaders; and six other national executive members.

2) The Lower Saxony branch of the party, at Bremen, Thielen's home city, expelled Thielen from the Lower Saxony executive. It reinstated von Thadden and the seven others purged by Thielen.

3) The national executive met yesterday at Frankfurt, supported von Thadden, and elected Wilhelm Guttman as successor to the national chairmanship. Guttman was a high-ranking member of the Nazi Party during the Hitler regime and a leader in the S.A., the Hitler storm troops.

4) Thielen announced today he would seek an injunction against the election of Guttman, on the grounds that the Frankfurt meeting has been held "illegally" and not in accord with the NDP constitution.

U.N. BODY ADOPTS DRAFT OF PACT OUTLAWING RELIGIOUS INTOLERANCE

GENEVA, March 12. (JTA) -- More than seven years after a subcommission proposed the idea -- and after three years of intensive study and broad debate -- the United Nations Commission on Human Rights adopted unanimously here this weekend a draft U.N. Convention, calling for the worldwide outlawing of religious intolerance. The Commission, however, left to the General Assembly the task of drafting further articles for the implementation of the instrument.

Morris B. Abram, chief representative of the United States in the Commission, hailed the action as "a milestone in the progress of the human family, which would not have been possible several decades ago." The Convention calls for action by all member states of the United Nations, and by other states not belonging to the U.N., who would ratify the document, to "insure equal protection of the law against promotion of or incitement to religious intolerance or discrimination on the grounds of religion or belief."

The Commission made progress this weekend on another item on its agenda of prime interest to Jews and others around the world. This item calls for the elimination of statutes of limitation on the prosecution and trial of major war criminals, meaning those responsible for murder, and on crimes against humanity. After receiving a number of amendments to a draft Convention dealing with that subject, the Commission set up a working party to try to coordinate the various proposals, some of them differing sharply as to definition and purpose.

The working party includes three prominent Jews, all of them representing their respective governments in the Commission. They are Prof. Rene Cassin, of France; Mr. Abram who, in a private capacity, is president of the American Jewish Committee; and Israel Supreme Court Justice Haim H. Cohn. The working party is to meet this week and report back to the full Commission, whose current session is scheduled to conclude by the end of this month.

EDITOR OF LONDON 'JEWISH OBSERVER' DISMISSED BY ZIONIST FEDERATION

LONDON, March 12. (JTA) -- The Board of Directors of the Zionist Review dismissed Jon Kimche this weekend as editor of the Jewish Observer and Middle East Review as the culmination of a dispute in which Mr. Kimche accused the Zionist Federation of Britain of censorship of material in the Observer. The Zionist Federation is the principal stockholder in the Zionist Review, publisher of the Observer. The dismissal was contained in a lengthy letter to Mr. Kimche which was released in its entirety.

The letter denied that the dispute with Mr. Kimche emanated from an intervention last week by Israel's Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, who was reported objecting to an article published in the Observer against Israel's Minister of Justice Yaacov Shapiro. It charged Mr. Kimche with ignoring instructions from the editorial committee not to print an article on unemployment in Israel, which the committee considered "misleading," whereupon the printers were ordered not to print that issue, and Mr. Kimche was charged with repeated violations of an agreement of his duties as editor.

BEN-GURION ADDRESSES OPENING OF JEWISH BIBLE SOCIETY IN CHICAGO

CHICAGO, March 12. (JTA) -- Unquestionably tired after almost two weeks of an American tour in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and Israel bonds that has taken him as far south as Miami and as far west as Los Angeles, David Ben-Gurion devoted the entire 12th day of his visit to the opening of an American branch of the World Jewish Bible Society.

The former Israel Prime Minister, who is president of the Israel Society for Bible Research, made four appearances today at the founding conference at the Falmer House of an American Jewish Bible Society, one of which was his participation in an intensive 90-minute Bible study group discussion on three chapters from the Book of Exodus.

Declaring that the "greatest reward of his American tour will be the successful establishment of the American Jewish Bible Society," Mr. Ben-Gurion proudly reported the "key position achieved by Bible study in Israel" and expressed the hope that hundreds of Bible study groups will be founded in the United States.

That his dream may come true, was indicated by a simple one-sentence resolution unanimously adopted by more than 2,000 participants saying: "The modern Jew must re-establish a close connection between his deep self and his Bible, so that, together, he can find identity and strength for Jewishness, and the Bible can become vital in his life."

Stating that he was "proud to be a Bible missionary," Mr. Ben-Gurion said that the "Bible is one of the main links among Jews today -- a link which will become even more important in the future." Referring to the growth of Israel, and recalling his early days as a pioneer on a farm in what was then Palestine, the 80-year-old former Prime Minister said: "The cultivation of the soul is as hard as the cultivation of the soil. The survival and return of our people to the Third Jewish Commonwealth would not have been possible had they not carried in their consciousness the existence of two national homelands, and geographical territory, and the cultural, spiritual fatherland -- the Bible. Were not the eternal Book of Books inscribed in the Jewish heart, the survival of our people -- a miracle to some, an enigma to all -- could not have been feasible."

A statement from Mrs. Rose L. Halprin of New York, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency for Israel, was read when she was unable to attend because of an indisposition. She pointed out that American Jewry has a Biblical heritage both as Americans and Jews. Calling for a renaissance of Biblical study and interest in this country, especially among our youth, she said:

"As Jews, we are the spiritual heirs of the great testament that is so basic to the Judaic-Christian tradition of our western civilization. The Ten Commandments of Moses, the glorious Psalms of David and the inspired prophetic writings of Isaiah and Jeremiah are the essence of Judaism. And as Americans, we are the heirs of our Puritan forefathers, the men for whom, as Lecky, the British historian said, "Hebrew cemented the foundation of American democracy." It is even true that as the Mayflower sailed across the Atlantic almost 350 years ago, the Pilgrim fathers held a little known meeting that considered the choice of Hebrew as the official language for the colony that was to be settled as Plymouth.

"Our colleges, too, were Hebrew oriented. Hebrew appears on the official seal of Yale. One of the first presidents of Harvard read a chapter of the Bible in its original Hebrew every morning in the college hall. And the first president of Columbia said "as soon as a lad has learned to speak and read English well, it is best to begin a learned education with Hebrew -- the mother of all language and eloquence."

Chicago Bible Society to Establish Ben-Gurion Institute

Harry H. Ruskin, Chicago attorney, who is president of the American Jewish Bible Society, in introducing Mr. Ben-Gurion, said the organization has been founded in response "to the conditions and needs of the American Jew. There was a time," he pointed out, "when the question concerning the American Jew was whether he was an authentic American. Today the question is whether we are authentic Jews. There was a time when personal closeness to our Bible was the distinguishing characteristic of the Jew. Today, the Bible is like a revered relic or classic, to be held in high repute, but not in one's hands. Today, unhappily, the personal involvement of the Jew with his Bible, the primary interest of the Jew in past ages, has largely ceased in America.

"What the modern Jew needs," Mr. Ruskin said, "is a new dimension of involvement within the modern world through which he can remove himself increasingly from the severely depersonalizing influences of modern life, and from which his deep inner self can derive strength and a sense of fulfillment. It is to the Bible that the modern Jew must turn to find for himself the dimension of inner involvement with life which he requires. Nothing written, no work of man or nature, none of life's encounters can affect the deep self and the totality of the modern Jew so deeply as his Bible."

Dr. Haim M. Gevanyahu, of Jerusalem, director of the World Jewish Bible Society Foundation, announced that the new American group has already made arrangements for the establishment of the Ben-Gurion Institute for Advancement of Group Bible Activity at

the College of Jewish Studies in Chicago, which will also house the national offices of the American organization. He said the American organization also hopes to establish 12 centers at colleges and universities for the purpose of training discussion leaders of Bible groups.

Also taking part in the program of the Bible conference were Dr. Richard R. Goldberg of Northwestern University, Dr. Azriel Eisenberg, director of the World Council of Jewish Education; Prof. Abraham I. Katsh of New York University; and Mrs. Edward M. Lewis, national education chairman of Hadassah.

\$2,552,000 RAISED AT CHICAGO DINNER HONORING BEN-GURION; 1,200 ATTEND

CHICAGO, March 12. (JTA) -- More than 1,200 Jewish leaders, the largest group ever to attend a Jewish fundraising function in this city jammed the ballroom of the Pick Congress Hotel last night to hear David Ben-Gurion. The occasion, the dinner launching the 1967 drive of Chicago's Combined Jewish Appeal for local, national and overseas netted the record sum of \$2,552,000 in contributions. This sum represented a 27 percent increase over the gifts these 1,200 contributors gave in 1966. The drive is seeking \$6,750,000.

The State of Israel and Mr. Ben-Gurion were praised by Max M. Fisher, General Chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, and Rabbi Ralph Simon, chairman of the Chicago drive. Mr. Fisher called the creation of Israel, in which Mr. Ben-Gurion played a major role, the fulfillment of a dream that summed up the longings of a hundred Jewish generations. "It was a hope which represented the deepest desire of a people oppressed and dispossessed for 2,000 years," he said. Rabbi Simon credited Mr. Ben-Gurion with removing a 2,000-year-old stigma of the "wandering Jew" with the simple declaration that no Jew who seeks a home in Israel would be denied admission.

Mr. Ben-Gurion, in his address, again appealed for Jewish contributions of manpower, know-how and technical skill to help develop Israel's largest land area -- the Negev. "The Negev, largely desert, which occupies 60 percent of Israel's territory has great economic potential," the former Prime Minister said. "Given the industrial development that modern technology can make possible, the Negev can become a flourishing center of trade with East Africa, and thus speed the day of Israel's economic independence."

Early this morning, Mr. Ben-Gurion went to the Circle Campus of the University of Illinois to speak to the B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations of Chicago. Some 1,000 students attended. Mr. Ben-Gurion, who arrived here from Los Angeles Friday, was greeted by Mayor Richard J. Daley and by Lt. Gov. Samuel H. Shapiro, representing the State of Illinois. Representatives of Chicago's City Council presented Mr. Ben-Gurion with an embossed scroll reproducing a City Council resolution, hailing Israel's eldest statesman as "the giant of the 20th Century" for his achievements on behalf of the State of Israel.

Las Vegas Jewish Leaders Pledge \$100,000 for Negev School

CHICAGO, March 12. (JTA) -- A group of leaders of the Las Vegas Jewish community told former Israel Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion that they would contribute \$100,000 toward the construction of a high school in his Negev desert home community of Sde Boker.

In the group, which met with the Israel statesman during his stay in Los Angeles, were Hank Greenspan, publisher of the Las Vegas Sun; Jack Entratter, president of the Sands Hotel and of Temple Beth Sholem in Las Vegas; and Jerome D. Mack, banker and president of the Las Vegas Combined Jewish Appeal. The gift brings to \$800,000 the money raised by the Israel Education Fund of the United Jewish Appeal for the construction of a million-dollar regional high school and for teacher-training scholarships at the Midrashah in Sde Boker, the College of Negev Studies founded by Mr. Ben-Gurion.

U.S. JEWISH RELIGIOUS REAL ESTATE HOLDINGS VALUED AT 7 BILLION DOLLARS

NEW YORK, March 12. (JTA) -- American synagogues and other religious Jewish institutions in the United States were reported today to have real estate holdings totaling \$7,000,000,000, according to an estimate by Bishop James A. Pike.

In an article in Playboy Magazine advocating the imposition of taxes on the property and income of religious institutions, the Episcopal bishop estimated Catholic church holdings in this country at \$44,500,000,000 and Protestant and other church holdings at \$28,000,000,000.

Bishop Pike contended in the article that the wealth of organized religion in this country has become a "menace" and, without carrying its share of public expense, has grown so large as to threaten the American economy.