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## NON-CONFIDENCE MOTION AGAINST ESHKOL GOVERNMENT DEFEATED IN KNESSET

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- With the full backing of all the parties that are members of the Government coalition, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's Government today by a vote of 62-41 overrode a motion in the Knesset (Parliament) that would have expressed lack of confidence in the Government.

The line-up against the Government was the most complete mustered during the present regime by the opposition parties. The voting came on a motion submitted by Rafi, the Israel Workers Party led by former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion, and Gahal, the fusion of Herut and Liberal Parties. However all the other opposition parties, including the pro-Israel Communist Party, the "new Communists, Agudath Israel and Haelem Hazeh stated their lack of confidence separately.

All the opposition members criticized the Government for the economic crisis at home and for the alleged lowering of Israel's prestige abroad. However, the coalition partners backed the Government solidly, and the single no confidence motion, presented by Rafi and Gahal, fell through after an address by Mr. Eshkol.

"This Government," Mr. Eshkol told Parliament, "has been shouldering burdens which none of the preceding governments dared lift." The Premier alluded to the possibility of renewed Jewish immigration from abroad "coming shortly, not only from countries of affluence." The Government, he stated, "enjoys the continued support of Jewry abroad," and has proved its intimate contacts with Jewish leaders around the world.

### Says Unemployment Is Much Lower than Opposition Claims

Unemployment in Israel, the Prime Minister maintained, was much lower than the figures mentioned by the opposition. Even the figures on registrations of persons as unemployed were wrong, he said, because these figures include people living on income as well as students who do not look for work.

Criticizing those who attack Israel, "at home or abroad," Mr. Eshkol took the opportunity to announce that the two editors of the weekly magazine Bul, recently sentenced to one-year prison terms for endangering the state's security, will be freed from jail just before Passover, which starts April 24. They had previously been scheduled for release in connection with Israel Independence Day, to be celebrated this year on May 15.

The men, he said, will be released earlier because the Cabinet does not want to ignore petitions from abroad, where the impression had been created that the imprisonment of the men was an infringement on freedom of expression. The men, he said, had in reality undermined confidence in the State on the whole, and not only in the Government.

### Refutes Allegations that Government Holds Secret Trials

Mr. Eshkol refuted references in the Israeli press which had intimated that the Government conducts secret trials. The editors of Bul, he said, and all others in prison are there after due process of law. In the Bul case, Mr. Eshkol noted, the ban on publishing reports about the arrests, trial and convictions had been imposed by the judge, who belongs to an independent judiciary which is not subject to Government orders.

Turning to the case of Jon Kimche, the dismissed editor of The Jewish Observer and Middle East Review, of London, Mr. Eshkol charged that the publication had printed material influenced by a member of Rafi "with whom Kimche is friendly." He was believed to have referred to Shimon Peres, the former deputy defense minister who is one of the Rafi leaders.

Mr. Eshkol said that an article by Mr. Kimche not only asked for the resignation of Minister of Justice Yaacov Shapiro, but "cast suspicion on the integrity of the entire administration of justice in Israel." He also said that Mr. Kimche's article on unemployment in Israel was the cause for his dismissal because it contained a veiled call for dis-

continuation of efforts toward Jewish emigration to Israel from Britain at the very time when appeals for emigration to Israel were being made in England.

### Dayan Speaks of 'Unfulfilled Promise' on Labor by Government

Arie Ben-Eliezer, of Herut, who made the motion for Gahal, told the Knesset that the severe economic crisis had followed "artificial affluence." He put the number of unemployed at 75,000 to 100,000. He decried the Government's "extreme nervousness" as manifested in the Bul and Kimche cases.

On behalf of Rafi, Gen. Moshe Dayan told the Knesset that there was no way for the opposition to put through a non-confidence motion that would topple the Government without "a crisis inside the coalition." However, he said, the purpose of the non-confidence motion, which Rafi supported, was to give Parliament the opportunity to examine what the Government has done or failed to do.

In that context, he declared, the Bul and Kimche cases were secondary affairs, "although no Israel Government should ever tell Jews abroad to keep out of Israeli affairs." "On the contrary," he stated, "our aim should be to increase the engagement and the commitment of Diaspora Jews in Israeli matters."

The Government's principal "unfulfilled promise," said Gen. Dayan, was its pledge that the economic recession would not cause large-scale unemployment. He said that emigration from Israel of professionals and university graduates has increased, manpower employed in industry has decreased, while manpower in services has risen. He asked whether these shifts had met the Government's promises of shifting manpower to productive work.

### JEWISH CONGRESS ASKS CATHOLIC BISHOPS FOR STAND ON PASSION PLAY

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The president of the American Jewish Congress today called on the nation's Roman Catholic bishops to implement their recently published guidelines for Catholic-Jewish dialogue by clarifying the Church position on Jewish guilt for the Crucifixion and combatting religious prejudice resulting from the presentation of Passion Plays.

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, in a 1,500-word letter to Bishop John J. Carberry, chairman of the Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs, said he welcomed the guidelines as an "effective instrument in strengthening understanding between Catholics and Jews." But he added that he was "deeply troubled" by the "unfortunate" wording of one of the dialogue themes, which he said may be construed as being weaker than the Vatican Council pronouncement issued by Pope Paul.

And he cited the presentation of a Passion Play under church auspices in Union City, N.J. -- described as "permeated" by a "crude and blatant anti-Semitic atmosphere... of hatred for the Jew" -- which he said was "antithetical to both the letter and the spirit of Vatican Council pronouncements and to the thrust of your own guidelines."

The American Jewish Congress leader said the guidelines spoke "eloquently and directly" to some of the central problems of dialogue between Christians and Jews. "We especially refer to your sensitivity to the need to avoid proselytization; to your acknowledgement of the 'living and complex reality' of post-Biblical and contemporary Judaism, and to your espousal of a 'frank and honest' treatment of historic Christian anti-Semitism, including the need for maturity and discretion in the presentation of the Crucifixion story."

### Bishops' and Vatican's Statements on Crucifixion Differ

Rabbi Lelyveld noted, however, that the wording of the Bishops' statement on the presentation of the Crucifixion story urged that it be presented "in such a way as not to implicate all Jews of Jesus' time or of today in a collective guilt for the crime," whereas the Vatican Council declaration said: "What happened in His passion cannot be charged against all the Jews, without distinction, then alive, nor against the Jews of today." He pointed out that "the persistence of the claim of such guilt, even when it is ascribed in limited fashion, makes interreligious dialogue difficult."

He informed Bishop Carberry that a group of leaders of the American Jewish Congress had attended a special student matinee performance of the Passion Play which had been presented by the Holy Family Roman Catholic Church of Union City, N.J. in a local theater operated as church property and that these leaders had emerged "deeply disturbed by what they found to be the crude and blatant anti-Semitic atmosphere that permeated the entire production."

Rabbi Lelyveld declared -- "We in the American Jewish Congress recognize that no dialogue can or should seek to alter what is primary in the tradition and the scriptures of either faith. We are, however, encouraged by your statement to believe that we stand with you in seeking to combat religious prejudice and bigotry inherited in folk traditions and fortified by such spectacles as the Passion Play in Union City."

BRAZILIAN OFFICIAL INDICATES STANGL MAY NOT BE EXTRADITED

RIO DE JANEIRO, March 20. (JTA) -- A Brazilian Justice Ministry spokesman was reported here having stated last week that Franz Stangl, the former Nazi commandant of the murder camps of Treblinka and Sobibor, may be released from jail instead of being extradited because of a Brazilian statute of limitations.

Jose La Penha, Jr., said that Austria, which has requested Stangl's extradition on war crimes charges, would have to prove that he committed a crime within the past 20 years. "It has been more than 20 years since the war ended," La Penha declared, adding that "Austria would have to show good cause why the statute of limitations should be suspended."

SOCIALIST INTERNATIONAL TO INVESTIGATE POSITION OF JEWS IN RUSSIA

LONDON, March 20. (JTA) -- The Bureau of the Socialist International completed today, after a two-day meeting in London, its organization of a group of seven Socialist leaders to form a working party for investigation of the situation of the Jews in the Soviet Union.

At the request of Pietro Nenni, leader of the United Italian Socialist Party, his name was added to the membership of the working party. Robert Pontillo, international secretary of the French Socialist Party, was named by the Bureau as chairman of the investigatory group. The working party will hold a plenary session next month. It was instructed to have its report ready by next October, for presentation to the annual meeting of the International's Council, to be held in Switzerland.

Dr. S. Levenberg, Labor Zionist leader here, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that the establishment of the working party to study the position of Soviet Jewry "is an unprecedented step in the history of the Socialist International, and is due to the deep Socialist interest in human rights." He pointed out that three of the parties represented in the working group -- those of Britain, Italy and France -- are members of parties represented in the governments of their countries. He attached special importance to the fact that the Nenni group in Italy wanted to be associated with a study of the situation of the Jews in the USSR.

STUDY ON BIROBJIDJAN WINS AWARD IN ISRAEL; REGION HAS 14,000 JEWS

JERUSALEM, March 20. (JTA) -- The BiroBidjan section of Siberia, which was once set up by the Soviet Government as a Jewish Autonomous Region, now has a Jewish population of about 14,000 persons constituting only about 9 percent of the total population there, according to a new book on BiroBidjan written by Jacob Levavi, an Israeli author.

Mr. Levavi, who spent five years researching the history and the current situation of BiroBidjan, was today the recipient here of the Leib Yaffe Prize, named in memory of the well-known poet who was director of Keren Hayesod, fundraising arm of the World Zionist Organization. The 1,000 pound (\$333) award was given Mr. Levavi by Dr. Israel Goldstein, chairman of the Keren Hayesod.

Of the five deputies representing the region in the local Soviet, only one is a Jew, according to Mr. Levavi. All official business is conducted in Russian. The only Jewish identification found by Mr. Levavi in the region was the thrice-a-week publication of the Yiddish newspaper Birobdjaner Shtern.

(The New York Times reported yesterday from Khabarovsk, far-eastern Siberia, that the Soviet authorities are now attempting to attract non-Jews from various parts of the Soviet Union to settle in BiroBidjan. The report describes the arrival there last week-end of 142 families from Eastern Russia, and says: "When their trains arrived in Biro-Bidjan, immediately west of here, after a two-week journey, they were greeted by representatives of various state farms in that Jewish Autonomous Region, who sang the praises of their farms. Although founded in 1928 as a Soviet alternative to Zionism, Biro-Bidjan failed to become a magnet for many Jews and has long since been open to all ethnic groups.)

SOVIET COURT SENTENCES NAZIS TO DEATH IN ABSENTIA FOR KILLING JEWS

MONTREAL, March 20. (JTA) -- A Soviet court in Latvia sentenced three former Nazis to death in absentia for murdering Jews during World War II, Michael Garber, president of the Canadian Jewish Congress, was informed officially today by the Latvian Soviet Socialist Republic, part of the USSR.

The Latvian SSR sent Mr. Garber the full transcript of the trial, showing that one of the men found guilty lives now in Toronto, a second is in Brooklyn, N.Y., and the third at Karlsruhe, West Germany. The material sent to Mr. Garber included photographs that had figured in the trial of the three men. The material, Mr. Garber said, will be translated from the original Russian into English and will be made available to government authorities in Canada, the United States and West Germany.

ZIONIST LEADER PROPOSES DRIVE IN U.S. FOR PURCHASE OF ISRAELI PRODUCTS

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- A proposal that a campaign be undertaken in the United States for the purchase of Israeli products so as to counteract the Arab boycott and, at the same time, to offset unemployment in Israel has been made here by Rabbi Isachar Dov Bergman, president of the National Council for Torah Education of the Religious Zionists of America.

Dr. Bergman voiced the proposal at a celebration last night of the Council's 25th anniversary, attended by 1,200 persons. Rep. Leonard Farbstein, New York Democrat, one of the principal speakers at the event, read a message from President Johnson lauding Dr. Bergman. He assured the audience of President Johnson's continuing and constant friendship to Israel.

MERGER OF TWO N.Y. JEWISH TEACHERS SEMINARIES ANNOUNCED AT DINNER

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The forthcoming merger here of two leading institutions of higher Jewish learning -- the Jewish Teachers Seminary and the Herzliah Hebrew Teachers Institute -- was lauded at a dinner held at the Americana Hotel last night. The announcement was made by Abraham Goodman, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the forty-six-year-old Herzliah, and Jacob Katzman, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the forty-nine-year-old Seminary. Dr. Gershon Winer, Dean of the Jewish Teachers Seminary, has been selected to head the combined institutions when the merger takes place.

The banquet was tendered in honor of three national personalities with long records of distinguished service to the American Jewish community: Samuel Bonchek, national president of the Farband-Labor Zionist Organization; Israel Breslow, national president of the Workmen's Circle and vice-president of the International Ladies Garment Workers Union; and Mendel Haber, veteran Zionist leader and president of Herzliah. Dr. Ira Eisenstein, prominent American rabbi and author, was principal speaker. Other speakers included the Yiddish poet Chaim Grade, and Hebrew poet Gavriel Preil.

A citation was presented to Solomon Slutsky, Seminary librarian, on the occasion of his eightieth birthday. Mr. Slutsky has been associated with the Seminary since 1918. The Seminary library is the largest Yiddish circulating library in the country.

JEWISH THEATER FOR CHILDREN OFFERS \$1,000 PRIZE FOR PLAY

NEW YORK, March 20. (JTA) -- The Jewish Theater for Children is offering a prize of \$1,000 for the best full-length play for children in English on a Jewish theme, according to an announcement made by Philip Kasakove, chairman of the Theater. This is the eleventh time in as many years that the Theater has offered a similar prize in its annual Golden Pen Playwriting Contest.

The purpose of the contest is to stimulate the creation and development of an original dramatic literature in English for the older age group of elementary and for junior high school children, which will give expression to meaningful ethical and spiritual values as reflected in Jewish life, folklore, history and culture. Funds for the prize are made available by Norma U. Levitt, a member of the Theater's board of directors. Prize-winning manuscripts are also given a professional production. Manuscripts for the 1967 competition must be submitted no later than September 20, 1967.

The Theater is financially supported by grants from Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York, the Jewish Education Committee of New York, and membership fees of the children in more than 700 Jewish and secular schools in metropolitan New York. It is under the educational guidance and supervision of the Jewish Education Committee of New York.

CATHOLIC, PROTESTANT CLERGYMEN PLACE MEZUZAH ON MISSISSIPPI SYNAGOGUE

JACKSON, Miss., March 20. (JTA) -- The dedication today of the new building of Congregation Beth Israel was marked by interfaith ceremonies here with leading Protestant and Catholic clergymen heading the procession to the new quarters and with the placing of a mezuzah on the entrance by Catholic and Episcopal clergymen.

The mezuzah was a gift from the Right Rev. John M. Allin, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Mississippi and the Most Rev. Joseph B. Brunini, Apostolic Administrator of the Catholic Diocese of Natchez-Jackson. The new octagonal-shaped building encircles the sanctuary which has permanent seating for 230 persons and can be expanded to accommodate 500. Congregation Beth Israel is Reform.

NEW ROCHELLE CATHOLIC COLLEGE APPOINTS RABBI TO ITS FACULTY

NEW ROCHELLE, N. Y., March 20. (JTA) -- Rabbi Henry E. Kagan, spiritual leader of Sinai Temple in Mount Vernon, has been appointed to the faculty of the Iona College Graduate Division of Pastoral Counseling, a Roman Catholic institution. A certified psychologist and an instructor in guidance at Columbia University, Rabbi Kagan will teach a seminar course in mental health and religion.