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ISRAEL BACKS NAMING OF U.N. HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

GENEVA, March 22. (JTA) -- A powerful plea for the establishment of a new United Nations office to be named "High Commissioner for Human Rights" -- a move strenuously opposed by the Soviet Union -- was made by Israel here today before the U.N. Commission for Human Rights. The appeal was voiced by Israel's member of the 32-nation Commission, Supreme Court Justice Haim H. Cohn, who, in the course of his speech, condemned the Soviet Union's "policy of forcible assimilation" of Russian Jewry without, however, naming the USSR.

"A High Commissioner for Human Rights," Justice Cohn told the Commission, "who would be able to conduct proper investigations, might take effective action against the violation of some of the very rights and freedoms for which the last great war was heroically fought and won. With the defeat of the German master-men by the combined moral strength of the great nations, one would have thought that the singling out of the Jews for special treatment would have become a subject of contempt and ridicule. But prejudices leading to systematic violation of human rights still persist in spite of vehement denials. The evidence is so overwhelming as not to leave any reasonable doubt in the mind of any unbiased observer."

Aiming, then, directly at the Soviet Union and the fate of its 3,000,000 Jews, but avoiding in accordance with protocol the mention of any country by name, Justice Cohn continued:

"I refer not to physical but to the cultural suppression of a people. You may prevent discrimination in social and economic fields and still violate fundamental rights and freedoms -- by not allowing a people to develop their own culture, speak their own language, practice their own religion, maintain their own schools, and by pursuing a policy of forcible assimilation to the culture, language and irreligion of the majority. The propaganda is generally so formicable that what results is not persuasion but fear; not conviction but panic; not voluntary self-determination but a coerced self-denial under duress.

"We must, in this Commission, find ways and means to bring home to all nations, even the most powerful and prestigious among them, that the rights and freedom of religious and racial minorities are being watched and taken care of by the international community. The establishment of the office of a High Commission for Human Rights may perhaps lead to the solution of these problems."

"The proposal for the establishment of a U.N. Commissioner for Human Rights has been on the United Nations agenda for more than two years, and was formally proposed to the Commission by Costa Rica last year. Since then, a nine-member working group named by the Commission had set up guidelines for the formation of the new office, but left the decision on whether or not to establish the new office to the full Commission.

At a stormy meeting of the Commission yesterday, the chief Soviet delegate, Yakub A. Ostrovski, attacked the United States representative on the Commission, Morris B. Abram, for backing the move toward establishment of a U.N. Commissioner for Human Rights. Mr. Ostrovski, ignoring the fact that Mr. Abram spoke formally for the U.S. Government, attacked Mr. Abram, instead, as president of the American Jewish Committee. Mr. Abram replied to the Soviet representative with a sharp rebuke.

ISRAEL'S LABOR MINISTER TO HEAD DELEGATION TO PARLEY IN RUSSIA

JERUSALEM, March 22. (JTA) -- Labor Minister Yigal Allon will head an Israeli delegation to the International Conference on Social Security in Leningrad in May, it was announced here today. The first Israeli minister to visit the Soviet Union, he will come in a private capacity, and not at the invitation of the USSR.

Mr. Allon conferred Tuesday with Soviet Ambassador to Israel Dimitri Zubakhin and informed him of his intention of attending the conference. In Russia, he will visit a number of cities upon conclusion of the conference, including Moscow and Odessa.

DR. GOLDMANN TO MAKE FIRST VISIT TO COMMUNIST COUNTRIES

GENEVA, March 22. (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, will leave next week on his first visit to East European Jewish communities. Dr. Goldmann will be in Prague from March 31 to April 3; in Budapest from April 3 to 7; in Belgrade from April 7 to 10; and in Bucharest from April 11 to 15.

In an address here today at the opening session of the Governing Council of the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Goldmann reviewed developments in the situation of Soviet Jewry and in other areas of international Jewish concern. Gerhard M. Riegner, WJC secretary-general, reported on recent action by the organization relating to Germany, Austria, Eastern Europe, the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States as well as internal matters.

Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the Governing Council, who presided at the meeting, reported on current problems of American Jewry in his introductory remarks. Dr. Arieh Tartakower, chairman of the WJC Israel executive, reported on the observance in Israel last month of Soviet Jewry Week.

HERUT LEADERS WHO QUIT PARTY FORM INDEPENDENT FACTION IN KNESSET

JERUSALEM, March 22. (JTA) -- Three former members of Herut, who broke away from their party several weeks ago, announced here today the formation of a "Free Bloc" for independent faction inside the Knesset (Parliament), of which they are members. They are Shmuel Tamir, E. Shostak and A. Tayar. They announced the formation of the new parliamentary bloc after Gahal -- the fusion of Herut and the Liberal Party -- refused to recognize them as a third division inside Gahal.

The action followed Gahal's refusal to restore to the three their parliamentary rights, including membership in parliamentary committees, from which Herut expelled them six weeks ago. Gahal appointed a committee to examine the possibility of the restoration of those rights to the three members. But the three refused to wait for that committee's decision. They also spurned proposals which, they said, failed to give them an equal footing with Herut and Liberal members.

As a result of the formation of the independent faction, Gahal is now left with 23 members, of whom 12 belong to the Liberals and 11 to Herut. Mr. Tamir said today, after his group's announcement, that the new faction would seek a new parliamentary line-up with the Liberals -- if Gahal should break up -- or with Rafi, the Israel Workers Party led by former Premier David Ben-Gurion.

ISRAELI DEMONSTRATORS AGAINST AUTOPSIES RELEASED ON BAIL

JERUSALEM, March 22. (JTA) -- Twelve persons arrested after last Tuesday's demonstration against autopsies were released from jail yesterday on 1,000 pounds (\$333) bail each. They were detained on suspicion of assaulting policemen and disorderly conduct and the Legal Adviser is considering whether to charge them.

Meanwhile, police were searching the Kurdish quarter of Jerusalem today for the body of a Kurdish Jew that was stolen from the morgue at Shaarei Zedek Hospital in an apparent attempt to prevent police from carrying out a post-mortem examination. The dead man, Nahum Nahum, had been knifed in an argument during a card game in a Jerusalem cafe and he died on the way to the hospital.

Rumors that the police intended to perform an autopsy on the body spread yesterday throughout the Kurdish quarter where the victim's family lives and several hundred religious zealots, mainly yeshiva students, gathered around the hospital and urged the family to remove the body from the morgue. Shortly after midnight last night several persons broke into the morgue and stole the corpse. Police believe the body is either hidden or has been secretly buried in the Kurdish quarter.

GERMAN HIGH COURT ORDERS NEW TRIAL OF TWO EICHMANN AIDES

KARLSRUHE, March 22. (JTA) -- The High Court today set aside the unusually lenient sentences handed down by a Frankfurt court in February 1965 on Otto Hunsche and Hermann Krumei, two aides of Adolf Eichmann who were charged with participating in the murders of hundreds of thousands of Jews. Hunsche was acquitted and Krumei was sentenced to five years imprisonment for his role in the murder of 300,000 Jews.

The High Court found that the jury at their trial had been improperly constituted and ordered a new trial. Both men were members of Eichmann's special execution commando units.

CARDINAL BEA RECEIVES U.S. JEWS; PLEASSED WITH CATHOLIC-JEWISH MEETINGS

ROME, March 22, (JTA) -- Augustin Cardinal Bea, the Catholic prelate at the Vatican who was the principal proponent of the Ecumenical Council's decision two years ago to adopt a declaration calling for broad improvement of Catholic-Jewish relations, expressed satisfaction to a group of American Jews who visited him at the Vatican over the efforts being made in some countries, including the United States, to implement the Church's decree relating to relations with the Jewish people.

As an example of the type of action which he views with satisfaction, Cardinal Bea mentioned a recent meeting at St. Joseph's College in Philadelphia, where concrete plans were made by Catholic and Jewish representatives for implementation of the decree. Such meetings, he said, should be repeated elsewhere.

The group that met with the cardinal consisted of young leaders active in the American Jewish Committee. The prelate cautioned, however, that "much patience, determination and wisdom" are needed. "We cannot," he declared, "undo in a few years the misunderstandings and prejudices among fellow-Christians going back so many centuries."

Joint discussions between Jews and Catholics on social issues as well as in the field of religious understanding are "desirable," the cardinal stated. Such discussions, he said, would also help to work out common points of view on questions of state aid to education and on textbooks. He approved the examination of parochial school textbooks being carried on now at Pro Deo University's Leonard Sperry Center here, and at Louvain University, in Belgium.

NATIONAL DAY AGAINST RACISM AND ANTI-SEMITISM OBSERVED IN FRANCE

PARIS, March 22, (JTA) -- The annual assembly of the Movement Against Racism and Anti-Semitism and For Peace took place here last night with the endorsement of the heads of the three religious communities of France. A National Day Against Racism and Anti-Semitism drew declarations of approval from Cardinal Feltin, the Rev. Charles Westphal and Chief Rabbi Yaacob Kaplan, leaders of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish communities, respectively.

The assembly featured the presentation of an anti-racist film, "The Old Man and the Child," by Claude Berri. Rev. Westphal declared that "there will be no peace in the world as long as all human beings, without distinction of race or religion are not equally respected."

French novelist Claude Roy declared: "Racism starts at the corner of the street. It starts in the thoughts of every one of us. The struggle against racism means above all the dissemination of the true facts about its agents and about its victims. The world must be well-informed about these matters."

OUSTED 'MODERATE' CHAIRMAN OF NEO-NAZI PARTY BACKED BY COURT

BONN, March 22, (JTA) -- The split inside the neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) widened today, with temporary victory going to the party's "moderate" national chairman, Fritz Thielen. A court in Bremen, to which Thielen appealed against a claim that he had been ousted from his leadership, granted an injunction, ruling that he is entitled "to continue in office for the time being."

The injunction was against the extremist party's faction led by the deputy national chairman, Adolf von Thadden. A group led by the latter had voted at a rump conference held in Frankfurt 10 days ago that Thielen had been "unseated." Thielen not only petitioned for the injunction but, in interviews, also charged that the report about his being "unseated" and about his alleged expulsion from the NPD had been put out by von Thadden's "right-wing clique."

Meanwhile, a prominent West German trade union leader and a leading Social Democrat, whose party is part of the Government coalition, called on West Germany to mobilize public opinion and politics against the NPD. Otto Brenner, leader of the Iron and Steel Workers Union, one of the country's largest trade unions, urged all political parties and organizations to "isolate the NPD in political life." He stated that "there can never be anything in common between democratic and right-wing radical" groups.

Ernest Haar, chairman of the Social Democratic Party in Stuttgart, and a member of the Bundestag, the lower house of Parliament, called for the formation of groups inside the Social Democratic Party "to counter the influence of the NPD."

From Stuttgart it was reported today that a 40-year-old schoolteacher, Dietrich Schuler, was sentenced to five months' imprisonment there for glorifying Hitler and attacking democracy. Schuler had been convicted of committing hostile acts against the West German Constitution by writing in a pamphlet that "Hitlerism is Europe's best chance."

REFORM AND CONSERVATIVE SYNAGOGUES IN DETROIT ANNOUNCE 'TRIAL MERGER'

DETROIT, March 22. (JTA) -- A "trial merger" of a Conservative congregation and a Reform temple has been effected in the suburban area of Livonia, it was announced here. Merged for one year of trial are the Livonia Jewish Congregation, Conservative, formed in 1958, and Temple Beth Am, Reform, formed in 1960.

During the first year, Rabbi David Jessel, spiritual leader of Beth Am, said, he will attempt to use prayers from both the Reform and Conservative prayerbooks. "By Rosh Hashana," he said, "we should know whether the trial merger will work."

One problem not as yet settled, Rabbi Jessel said, concerns the religious school. Beth Am conducts religious classes from kindergarten to 12th grade. The Conservative congregation has been conducting classes only to second grade and from eighth grade up, with the interim-age children being educated under the direction of the United Hebrew Schools.

During the trial year, the names and finances of the two congregations will remain separate, permitting a complete unification and formal merger to be decided upon only after the year of trial.

ISRAELI ARMY VETERAN SAVES DROWNING BOY IN BINGHAMTON RIVER

BINGHAMTON, N.Y., March 22. (JTA) -- Thanks to the heroism of an Israel army veteran, a nine-year-old boy is recovering today at Wilson Hospital, here, following his immersion in the icy waters of the Susquehanna River. His rescuer, Yitzhak Hadari, 30, former principal of the Hillel Academy, a Hebrew day school in this city, is now engaged in private business and plans to return to Israel.

The boy, Charles E. Wasley, fell in the water while fishing, when the ice along the bank on which he was standing broke beneath his feet. Mr. Hadari was walking home with Rabbi J. Bernard Merzel, spiritual leader of Temple Beth David, when the accident occurred. They were apprised of the boy's danger by the shouting of an onlooker.

Mr. Hadari scaled a five-foot-high concrete wall and dropped to the river bank, waded waist-deep into the water and pulled the boy to safety just as the rushing stream was sweeping him away. Two policemen who then arrived on the scene had to be boosted bodily over the wall, a fact that led Mr. Hadari to comment: "They didn't have Israeli Army training." As he brought the boy to shore, Mr. Hadari said the child, blue from the cold, told him, "Thank you, sir, I love you," and lost consciousness.

LONDON 'JEWISH OBSERVER' ANNOUNCES APPOINTMENT OF NEW EDITOR

LONDON, March 22. (JTA) -- The board of directors of the Zionist Review, Ltd., publishers of the Jewish Observer and Middle East Review, today appointed Maurice Samuelson, assistant editor of the publication, as acting editor.

Earlier this month, Jon Kimche, editor of the weekly, was dismissed from his post in a dispute over his insistence on the publication of an article on Israeli unemployment. Dr. L. Schafier, who had served as acting editor since Mr. Kimche's dismissal, has been named managing editor.

SIXTH EUROPEAN SYMPOSIUM ON YIDDISH ATTRACTS LARGE AUDIENCE

ANTWERP, March 22. (JTA) -- An audience packing one of the largest auditoriums in this Belgian city attended tonight the closing session of the sixth European Symposium on Yiddish. The gathering, which opened in the capital, Brussels, on Sunday, considered every phase of Yiddish literature around the world, including the impact of Yiddish in the Soviet Union, Israel and North and South American continents. Leading Jewish scholars, authors and poets participated. Tonight's meeting was held under the auspices of the Antwerp Zionist Federation.

DAVID OPPENHEIM, PRESIDENT OF NATIONAL HEBREW CULTURE COUNCIL, DEAD

NEW YORK, March 22. (JTA) -- David Oppenheim, 72, president of the National Hebrew Culture Council, who championed the introduction of modern Hebrew in public schools and colleges throughout the United States, died here last night of a heart attack.

A prominent attorney, he was a member of the board of trustees of the Jewish Education Committee of New York, past president of the Long Island Zionist Region and an active leader of the America-Israel Public Affairs Committee.

PHIL B. LEVITCH, JEWISH COMMUNAL LEADER, DIES IN LOUISVILLE; WAS 68

LOUISVILLE, March 22. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held today for Phil B. Levitch, 68, president of the Conference of Jewish Organizations here, who died Monday at the Jewish Hospital. Mr. Levitch was general chairman of the Combined Jewish Campaign of Louisville in 1960 and 1961 and was designated B'nai B'rith's "man of the Year" in 1961. He was vice-president of the Bureau of Jewish Education, and a director of the Jewish Community Center and the Louisville Hebrew Home.