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JEWS START PASSOVER WITH PRAYERS FOR PEACE; SEDERS IN VIET NAM

NEW YORK, April 24. (JTA) -- Jews throughout the free world started the observance of Passover tonight with the fate of the Jews in the Soviet Union uppermost in their minds, and with the hope that peace will come to Israel and to the world. A special matzoh, designated as "Matzoh of Hope," was set aside at the Seder in thousands of homes in the United States and Israel, symbolizing "the indestructible link" that exists between world Jewry and the Jews in the USSR.

In Viet Nam, Seder ceremonies were held for Jewish servicemen arranged under the auspices of the National Jewish Welfare Board. Services were also conducted by Jewish chaplains for American men in uniform in Thailand and numerous American military bases abroad. Passover supplies had been furnished by the JWB to Jews on aircraft carriers, on naval installations and at Veterans Administration hospitals. B'nai B'rith also supplied Passover food parcels, called "Solo Seders," to 5,000 Jewish servicemen stationed in Viet Nam.

The Joint Distribution Committee announced, in a report by its executive vice-chairman, Charles H. Jordan, that it had sent 545,325 pounds of matzoh and other Passover foods to needy Jews in some 10 European countries. Included among the shipments to Jewish communities in Eastern Europe, France, Albania, Belgium, Greece, Italy, Spain, Spanish Morocco and elsewhere were Passover wines. Special supplies were also sent by JDC to aid needy Jews in their Passover observances in Algeria, Morocco, Tunisia and Iran. The JDC supplied equipment for matzoh baking to religious Jewish communities in Poland, where matzoh baking was permitted by the Warsaw Government, and gave special grants to needy Jews in Poland.

The American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, under the chairmanship of Rabbi Israel Miller, distributed more than 1,000,000 copies of a special prayer, which called attention to the situation of Russia's Jews. The prayer recalled the fact that the Jews of the USSR "can only sit in silence," denied their traditional links with their religion, languages and right to teach Judaism. The Conference represents 25 national, American, Jewish organizations.

Soviet Premier Reminded of Pledge on Jewish Emigration

Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, called attention in a Passover statement to the promise made in Paris last December by Soviet Premier Alexei N. Kosygin, who had pledged that USSR Jews would be permitted to rejoin their families in other countries. He called on the USSR to implement that promise, pointing out that many local Soviet authorities were blocking many visa applications, "thus preventing the deed from following the promise." Mr. Abram, who is also the United States Government representative on the United Nations Human Rights Commission, protested simultaneously against other anti-Jewish discriminations now practiced or condoned by the Soviet Government.

Louis J. Fox, of Baltimore, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, pointed out in his message that Passover, the holiday which commemorates the liberation of the ancient Israelis from slavery, "rekindles the Jewish mission to seek an end to injustice wherever it exists, whether in our own country or in other parts of the world." He noted that federations and Jewish welfare funds are now engaged "to free Jews and other Americans from the enslavement and degradation of poverty and discrimination, and to help attain dignity, self-sufficiency and justice."

Max M. Fisher, of Detroit, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, expressed confidence that the Jews of this country will, through the UJA's nationwide, \$75,620,000 campaign, help provide freedom for many Jews throughout the world, including those who have been brought from many "Egypt's" to "the threshold of a new life in Israel." "Passover," he noted, "is Judaism's testament to the great principle of human freedom, as in our own country, for whom the re-telling of the ancient Seder tale of liberation will hold any real meaning." He voiced an eloquent plea for aid to the immigrant absorption programs being carried on Israel.

A call for aid to the "building of freedom of Israel," was issued by Abraham A. Feinberg, president of the Israel Bond Organization. He urged American Jewry to help, in the spirit of Passover, to develop in Israel "a strong economy as the pedestal of her freedom." He noted the

success of the Israel Bond campaigns since 1951, and the fact that, in 1966, the bond campaign had sold \$880 million in bonds as compared to \$70 million in 1951.

Jewish Age-Long Quest for Peace Stressed in Passover Message

Passover messages calling attention to the fact that the Festival for Freedom emphasizes the Jewish people's age-long quest for freedom, liberty and peace, were issued among others by Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president of the American Jewish Congress; Rabbi Pesach Levovitz, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, an Orthodox organization; and Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow, president of the New York Board of Rabbis. Rabbi Lelyveld, who has spoken out previously for an end to the Viet Nam war, called on the United States Government to end bombings of North Viet Nam and urged North Viet Nam and the National Liberation Front in South Viet Nam to respond to such initiative by entering negotiations leading toward a final peace.

On behalf of Hadassah, the women's Zionist organization of America, Mrs. Charlotte Jacobson, Hadassah president, pledged Hadassah's "continued efforts to aid in the promotion of the welfare and the well-being of the people of Israel and to bring to world attention the plight of Soviet Jewry." Statements in the same vein were issued by Rabbi Eli Bohnen, president of the Rabbinical Assembly, the international association of the Conservative rabbinate; and Rabbi Joseph Karasick, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America.

A message in Hebrew, with English translation, was issued by Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, the Lubavitcher Rebbe, calling upon the Jewish people to rededicate themselves to Judaism during the season of Passover.

Carlos L. Israels, president of United Hias Service, the world-wide Jewish migration agency, said that "on Passover, when we commemorate the biblical exodus from Egypt, we rededicate ourselves to the age-old Jewish tradition of survival through migration." He pointed out that, since its inception, 83 years ago, the agency and its predecessor organizations had assisted more than 3,000,000 refugees and migrants to resettle in the United States and in other free countries.

A group of 100 Catholic and Protestant children joined some 400 Jewish youngsters yesterday in the annual interfaith model seder sponsored by the Stephen Wise Free Synagogue. Rabbi Edward E. Klein, spiritual leader of the congregation, explained the meaning of the various symbols and rites. The traditional four questions were asked by some of the Christian guests with children of the Stephen Wise Synagogue supplying the answers in the Haggadah.

Passover Message in Russian Beamed to Soviet Jews

NEW YORK, April 24. (JTA) -- A special Passover message in the Russian language was beamed tonight by the Voice of America, the radio facility of the United States Information Agency, after having been recorded by Rabbi George B. Lieberman, of the Central Synagogue (Reform), of Rockville Center, L.I.

In his message, Rabbi Lieberman spoke of the meaning and significance of Passover and voiced satisfaction with the news that Russian Jews were permitted this year to have matzoh baked. He concluded the message with the traditional hope of "next year in Jerusalem." Rabbi Lieberman has visited Russia twice, the last time as a member of a delegation of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, last summer.

J.D.C. LEADER ARRIVES IN RUMANIA; PARTICIPATES IN COMMUNAL SEDER

BUCHAREST, April 24. (JTA) -- Charles H. Jordan, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, arrived here today in response to an invitation from Dr. Moses Rosen, chief rabbi and president of the Federation of Jewish Communities of Rumania.

During his visit here, Mr. Jordan will hold a series of talks aiming at the development of a program of cooperation between the Federation and the JDC on behalf of the Jewish communities in Rumania. Tonight, Mr. Jordan was the guest of honor at the Bucharest community Seder.

The Journal of the Jewish Communities of Rumania published its special Passover issue today, featuring a report of the visit here, culminated last week, by Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress and other representatives of the WJC. Rabbi Rosen is editor-in-chief of the Journal.

GERMAN NEO-NAZI PARTY WINS EIGHT SEATS IN TWO STATE PARLIAMENTS

BONN, April 24. (JTA) -- West Germany's extreme right-wing political grouping, the National Democratic Party (NPD), won eight seats in two more state parliaments, as a result of yesterday's local elections in those areas. Complete but unofficial returns tabulated today showed the NPD had polled 5.8 percent of the votes in Schleswig-Holstein, and 6.9 percent of the ballots in Rhineland-Pfalz, giving the grouping, often called a neo-Nazi party, four seats in each of the state parliaments in those two provinces.

BEN-GURION TO ATTEND THE ADENAUER FUNERAL IN GERMANY TODAY

JERUSALEM, April 24. (JTA) -- Former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion left by air for Bonn early today to attend the funeral services for ex-German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, after a high-ranking but unidentified West German personality had asked him to attend.

The Israeli Foreign Ministry issued a statement saying "Knesset (Parliament) member Ben-Gurion is leaving for Germany to join the official delegation representing Israel at the funeral." The other members of the official delegation are Foreign Minister Abba Eban; Ambassador Asher Ben-Nathan, Israel's envoy to Bonn; and Felix Shinnar, former Israeli representative to West Germany, who had been in charge of Israel's Cologne purchasing office under the German-Israel reparations agreement.

It was explained here that, after Mr. Ben-Gurion had acceded to the request made by a West German personality that he go to Bonn for the funeral, Prime Minister Levi Eshkol had appointed him a member of Israel's official delegation.

Ben-Gurion's Arrival Attracts Attention in Germany

BONN, April 24. (JTA) -- Israel's former Prime Minister David Ben-Gurion who, over many years, had many dealings with the late Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, arrived here today to attend Dr. Adenauer's state funeral. With him was Felix Shinnar. Foreign Minister Abba Eban arrived a few hours before Mr. Ben-Gurion came in, and both were temporary guests at the home of Israel's Ambassador Asher Ben-Nathan at the Bonn suburb of Bad Godesburg.

Although the funeral participants include President Johnson and President de Gaulle, the German press focused much attention on the fact that Mr. Ben-Gurion had come here for the funeral. Among the first official mourners to arrive here last night was Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress. He laid a wreath of white lillies and red carnations at the foot of the catafalque in the Cabinet room of the Federal Chancellor's office here which had been occupied for so many years by Dr. Adenauer.

Dr. H.G. Van Dam, general secretary of the Central Council of Jews in Germany, issued a statement today on behalf of organized German Jewry, mourning the passing of Dr. Adenauer. On behalf of the Council, Dr. Van Dam stated: "Dr. Adenauer had in his time helped the establishment of this central and unified representative body of German Jews, and had taken a personal interest in it."

Jewish Claims Conference Emphasizes Adenauer's Role

NEW YORK, April 24. (JTA) -- A statement mourning the death of Dr. Adenauer and emphasizing the role he played in the establishment and implementation of West Germany's program for indemnification and restitution of victims of Nazi persecution, was issued here today by the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany. Signed by its senior officers: Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president; Jacob Blaustein, senior vice-president; and Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, treasurer, the statement reads:

"The Claims Conference mourns the passing of Dr. Konrad Adenauer, first Chancellor of the German Federal Republic, who played a historic and decisive role in framing the program for the indemnification and restitution of victims of Nazi persecution. It was Dr. Adenauer's deeply felt determination that did most to translate that program into reality.

"The establishment of the program for indemnification and restitution and its implementation were grounded by Dr. Adenauer upon a foundation of morality. On September 27, 1951, he had stated to the German Parliament in a historic declaration: 'Unspeakable crimes against the Jews were perpetrated in the Third Reich in the name of the German people and they make it obligatory to extend moral and material reparation for injuries and damages suffered by individuals.'

"Dr. Adenauer's statement served as the starting point for the negotiations with the Claims Conference and the Government of Israel, which led ultimately to the signing of the Luxembourg Agreements in 1952. The compensation provided by those Agreements was for material losses suffered by Nazi victims and was not in reparation for moral wrongs inflicted. Those wrongs were irreparable in their totality, a conviction shared by Dr. Adenauer with the Claims Conference and the Government of Israel.

"Dr. Adenauer was a signatory of the Luxembourg Agreements and we know that he ranked them among the most significant and lasting accomplishments of his regime. For the rest of his life, he remained a steadfast supporter of the program for indemnification and restitution of Nazi victims. We shall always remember Dr. Adenauer as one of the great statesmen of our era. But above all, we shall hold his memory dear as a man of courage and integrity who refused to compromise the moral convictions which he deeply held."

ANNIVERSARY OF WARSAW GHETTO REVOLT COMMEMORATED IN BERLIN

WEST BERLIN, April 24. (JTA) -- An appeal to ex-Berliners of the Jewish faith to return to Berlin and "give their native city the opportunity to make amends" for the Hitler era and the holocaust, was made here last night by Senator Dietrich Spangenberg, of the Berlin City-State. He spoke at a meeting commemorating the martyrs of the Warsaw Ghetto rebellion.

Another address was delivered by Dr. Heinz Galinski, chairman of the Jewish Community Council of Berlin. A feature of the evening was the award of this year's Heinrich Stahl Prize, given to Dr. Joseph Wulf, historian and chronicler of the Nazi era. Dr. Wulf is the Jewish Telegraphic Agency's correspondent in West Berlin.

DR. SCHWARTZ ELECTED PRESIDENT OF ENCYCLOPEDIA JUDAICA FOUNDATION

NEW YORK, April 24. (JTA) -- Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz has been elected president of the Encyclopedia Judaica Research Foundation, it was announced today by the Foundation which is to publish its 15-volume work in 1970. Dr. Schwartz, succeeding Jim Novy, is also executive vice-president of the Israel Bond Organization.

The election took place at the annual meeting of the foundation's board of trustees last week under the chairmanship of Dr. Nahum Goldmann, honorary president. Honorary chairman of the foundation's international board is Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg, chief United States delegate to the United Nations.

At the meeting a report was given by Yitzhak Levi, general manager of the Israel Program for Scientific Translation, the publisher of the encyclopedia. Announcement was made that the foundation's executive vice-president, Dr. Frederick R. Lachman, has opened an office in New York. He will handle all editorial and administrative matters in connection with American scholars who, as divisional and departmental editors or contributors, are working on the encyclopedia.

The editor-in-chief of the Encyclopedia Judaica is Cecil Roth. Mr. Novy was elected honorary vice-president, and the following were elected officers of the foundation: Walter Artzt, Rabbi Isadore Breslau, Dr. Oskar Rabinowicz, Samuel Rothberg and Joachim N. Simon.

ISRAEL PRESIDENT RECEIVES SEN. BROOKE; SCHOOL TO BEAR SENATOR'S NAME

JERUSALEM, April 24. (JTA) -- President Zaiman Shazar received United States Senator Edward Brooke, Massachusetts Democrat, who arrived here for a private five-day visit. Sen. Brooke, who is accompanied by his wife, will attend the seder at Kvutza Kinneret, a kibbutz near Lake Tiberias. On Wednesday, he will attend groundbreaking ceremonies for a school bearing his name. Sen. Brooke has been active for years in the Boston Histadrut Committee.

Another foreign visitor here is Jacques Soustelle, a French politician and opposition leader, who arrived today for what he described as a private visit in connection with a book he is preparing. He was met at the airport by Menachem Begin and other leaders of Meryu.

ISRAEL RATIFIES AGREEMENT WITH MEXICO ON TECHNICAL AID

JERUSALEM, April 24. (JTA) -- The Israel Cabinet yesterday ratified a technical cooperation agreement with Mexico providing for Israeli experts to go to Mexico to advise that country on sanitation problems, agricultural development, soil conservation, water desalination and the exploitation of water and natural resources.

The two countries also agreed to pool their experience in fiscal and financial matters. Since the Mexican Cabinet has already ratified it, the treaty will now go into effect.

TEL AVIV AND PHILADELPHIA DESIGNATED AS 'SISTER CITIES'

TEL AVIV, April 24. (JTA) -- The United States and Israeli flags were flown over the Tel Aviv Municipality here today as the Municipal Council officially marked the designation of Tel Aviv and Philadelphia as "Sister Cities."

The ceremonies were held after Philadelphia Mayor James Tate sent a message to Mordechai Namir, Mayor of Tel Aviv, noting that the declaration was being issued on the eve of Passover, "Feast of Freedom" and pointed out that both cities have been sites of declarations -- the U.S. Declaration of Independence on July 4, 1776 in Philadelphia, and the Israeli declaration of independence on May 14, 1948 in Tel Aviv.

CATHOLIC UNIVERSITY BUYS ISRAEL BONDS; IS FIRST UNIVERSITY TO DO SO

PITTSBURGH, April 24. (JTA) -- Duquesne University, a Catholic institution, has become the first university in the United States to purchase shares of the Industrial Bank of Israel as part of the Capital for Israel program of the Israel Bond Organization.