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## Senators Support Proposal for Senate Hearings on Middle East Situation

WASHINGTON, May 1. (JTA) -- Sen. Hugh Scott, Pennsylvania Republican, speaking in the Senate today, called for Senate hearings on the Middle East situation because of his concern lest the United States be drawn into military involvement there.

He endorsed an idea advanced last week by Sen. Jacob K. Javits, New York Republican, who linked the chain of recent events in the Middle East with apprehension that the area may become "another Viet Nam." He charged that the United States was not giving sufficient attention to mounting tensions in the Middle East. "It would be tragic indeed if inaction now led us into a military involvement which could have been settled beforehand at a conference table," he said.

A number of other Senators today similarly indicated agreement with an address by Sen. Javits, voicing concern lest the Middle East become "another Viet Nam" and asking for a Senate hearing on U.S. policy in the Middle East.

Sen. Bourke B. Hickenlooper, Iowa Republican and ranking minority member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, said American policy in the Middle East "has too long been one of confusion, uncertainty and too often a policy of surrender to bluff and bluster." He said he had long been concerned by the ability of President Nasser of Egypt to extract aid from the United States while denouncing this country and failing to keep commitments.

Sen. Hickenlooper blamed both Israel and the Arab states for the continued troublesome status of the Palestinian Arab refugees. Sen. Javits took issue with Sen. Hickenlooper on this point, stressing that the Arab governments used the refugees as political pawns.

Sen. Charles H. Percy, Illinois Republican, said he hoped that President Johnson would read Sen. Javits' speech. Sen. Percy expressed dissatisfaction with the Administration's response to developing problems in the Middle East.

Sen. Clifford Case, New Jersey Republican, commended the Javits position that new approaches are needed in the Middle East lest that area deteriorate into a worse situation.

## Jews in Switzerland Observe 100th Anniversary of Their Emancipation

LUCERNE, Switzerland, May 1. (JTA) -- Swiss Jewry, numbering now about 20,000 souls, will observe the hundredth anniversary of Jewish freedom in this country at a two-day Assembly of Delegates to open here Wednesday. The gathering was arranged by the Gemeindebund, the Swiss Federation of 24 local Jewish communities, each of which has autonomy.

Prior to the anniversary session, the Federation issued a report on its activities, showing that the organization administers an annual budget amounting to approximately 300,000 Swiss francs. Dr. Georges Brunschvig, of Berne, is president of the Gemeindebund. The report also noted that the federation is continuing its activities in defense of Judaism through its special "emancipation fund," established by the organization's delegate assembly last year, as well as through religious works, scholarships and the provision of emergency aid.

Anti-Semitism in this country was one of the federation's principal preoccupations last year, the report showed. Among the anti-Semitic manifestations was the appearance of a pamphlet containing many calumnies against the Jewish people, similar to the notorious "Protocols of the Elders of Zion," blaming the Jews of responsibility for both world wars, the Russian revolution and the "moral decay of society." There were also instances of anti-Semitic and pro-Nazi statements made in some publications and by individuals. The Gemeindebund not only protested those manifestations in this country but also protested against the signs of resurgent neo-Nazism in Germany.

## Shechita Still Forbidden In Switzerland; Import of Kosher Meat Permitted

Swiss Jews also continued to show concern over an old law, enacted in 1894, forbidding shechita anywhere in Switzerland. The Gemeindebund started fighting against that law in 1904, and that action continues today. Only a constitutional amendment could wipe out that form of discrimination. However, there is no difficulty in the import of kosher meat from neighboring countries into Switzerland.

## **Jewish Communities in Italy Charge Stangl with Crimes Against Italian Jews**

ROME, May 1. (JTA) -- Franz Paul Stangl, the ex-Nazi commandant of the Treblinka and Sobibor death camps, who is under arrest in Brazil, facing possible extradition as a war criminal, had also committed war crimes in Italy, it was charged here today.

According to information by the Jewish community of Venice, Stangl had ordered during World War II the deportation of patients at a hospital for the aged in Venice. It was also learned here through Giuseppe Fano, a Jew living in Trieste, that Stangl had been active during the Nazi occupation of Italy in the country's northeastern section, between September 1943 and April 1945. Mr. Fano declared that a gas chamber had been built at San Saba, near Trieste, where 2,000 victims were murdered. He said Stangl had "specialized" in uncovering Jews in hiding. The Trieste Jewish community is preparing a file on Stangl for possible use in his trial whenever it takes place.

"Italian Jewry attributes great importance to the extradition proceedings now pending for the former Nazi death camp commandant before the Brazilian Supreme Court," Judge Sergio Piperno, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities, told the Brazilian Ambassador here during a visit. Stangl has been under arrest in Sao Paulo since March 2. His extradition is being sought by Austria, West Germany and Poland.

## **Germany to Continue Investigation of Nazi War Crimes, Minister Says**

BONN, May 1. (JTA) -- Despite the fact that, under the amended West German law, the statute of limitations on the prosecution of war criminals is due to become effective December 31, 1969, the Government's Central Office for the Investigation of Nazi War Crimes, at Ludwigsburg, is expected to continue operating for 18 months longer, it was announced here today.

The Baden-Wurttemberg Minister of Finance, in whose province the office is located, made that announcement and gave figures showing the activities of the office. Since its establishment in 1958, the Finance Minister said, the Central Office had started investigations into 1,154 cases. Of that total, he said, 780 were given to State Prosecutors for trial or were brought to a conclusion in connection with other cases.

Right now, the province Cabinet member reported, 378 cases are in the category of pre-investigation, and about 950 to 1,000 cases are in the stage at which state prosecutors are investigating them, or are ready for presentation to the courts. In the last six months, he said, 102 cases were added.

## **Weisbaden Municipality Refuses to Rent City Hall for Neo-Nazi Congress**

BONN, May 1. (JTA) -- The management of the city hall of Wiesbaden has canceled a contract it had to rent the hall to the National Democratic Party (NPD) for the party's congress. The contract was canceled as a result of pressure by the Wiesbaden Municipality, which holds 75 percent of the ownership of the hall's management. A spokesman for the NPD said that a suit would be brought against the management to fulfill its contract.

Karl Arthur Rittler, the only member of the Munich City Council elected by the neo-Nazi NPD, has resigned from that party, it was announced today by Munich Mayor Hans Jochem Vogel, who is a member of the Social Democratic Party. According to the mayor, Rittler, however, remains as a member of the City Council.

## **Austria Charged with Seeking to Increase Pension for Ex-Nazis But Not for Jews**

NEW YORK, May 1. (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress today charged the Austrian Government with seeking to increase the retirement income of former Nazis while claiming it lacked funds to improve pension benefits for Jewish victims of Nazi persecution.

Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the commission on international affairs of the Congress, made public a letter he had sent to Austrian Ambassador Lemberger, accusing Vienna of having "chosen to aid those who collaborated in the crime of the Nazis at the expense of those who suffered at the hands of the Nazis." Dr. Prinz said the Austrian proposal for enlarged aid to ex-Nazis was contained in a bill which is to be submitted to the Austrian Parliament by the government of Chancellor Joseph Klaus.

"The proposed legislation, described as a measure to grant additional payments to federal civil servants, will have the effect of greatly expanding retirement benefits for persons who were denied reinstatement into the Austrian civil service because of their Nazi affiliations," Dr. Prinz said. "These former civil servants and their heirs will be awarded substantial increases in benefits. At the same time, we are told by the Austrian Government that benefits and pensions cannot be increased for Jewish victims of Nazism because of the unavailability of funds."

Dr. Prinz recalled that, last October, Austrian Foreign Minister Lujo Tomic-Sorenj met in New York with representatives of the American Council for Equal Compensation for Nazi Victims from Austria. At that meeting, Dr. Prinz said, Mr. Tomic-Sorenj rejected requests for additional restitution payments on the ground that -- among other reasons -- Austria was a small and poor country without the means to indemnify Jewish victims of Nazism as Germany had done.

## Six Jewish Groups Insist on Barring N.Y. State Aid to Religious Schools

NEW YORK, May 1. (JTA) -- Six member agencies of the Jewish Community Relations Council of New York today called for retention of the state constitutional provision that bars public funds for religious schools.

The six groups, in a joint statement, declared their opposition to proposals at the State Constitutional Convention for amending the provision in the State Constitution which forbids the state to use its credit or money to aid or maintain "directly or indirectly...any school or institution wholly or in part under the control or direction of any religious denomination, or in which any denominational tenet or doctrine is taught."

Voting for retention of this provision were the New York sections of the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Jewish Labor Committee, the National Council of Jewish Women, the Federation of Reform Synagogues, and the United Synagogue of America. The dissenting organization was the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. In a separate statement, the Orthodox group said it "favors the use of public funds for the benefit of all children of school age, whether students of public or religious day schools, to the fullest extent compatible with the separation of church and state as guaranteed by the Federal Constitution."

Four other members of the Jewish Community Relations Council did not participate in the meeting at which the issue was discussed. They were: The Brooklyn Jewish Community Council, Hadassah, the Jewish War Veterans, and the Labor Zionist Organization.

The six Jewish groups that urged retention of the present bar against public funds for parochial schools warned that any change in the present provision would result in a "significant undermining of church-state separation." Such a development, the majority statement declared, "would inevitably be followed by further legislative, judicial and administrative action resulting in the destruction of this vital protection for religious liberty."

While opposing public support of parochial schools, the six agencies comprising the Council majority said they supported the "right of any parents to send their children to sectarian rather than to public schools." "At the same time," the statement added, "we firmly believe that sectarian education has been, should and can be supported by religious groups without the use of funds raised by public taxation. Any public support of religion by the state holds dangers for both religion and the state."

## Bill Outlawing Propaganda Encouraging Genocide Introduced in California

SACRAMENTO, Calif. May 1. (JTA) -- A draft bill outlawing the encouragement and public advocacy of genocide was under consideration here today by the State Assembly's Criminal Procedures Committee, after a public hearing at which testimony favoring the measure was heard from representatives of political, civic, religious and other groups, including Jews and non-Jews, from various sections of California.

The bill had been introduced by Assemblyman Lester A. McMillan, Los Angeles Democrat. In addition to making public advocacy of genocide a felony, the measure would classify as misdemeanors, slander or defamation of "citizens of any race, color, religion or ethnic origin" and the wearing of the uniforms of Nazi storm troopers or Ku Klux Klan.

Heading the witnesses favoring the bill at the hearing were Leonard Horwin, former mayor of Beverly Hills, who represented the Jewish War Veterans. Mr. Horwin, by agreement with Mr. McMillan, presented amendments to strengthen the McMillan draft. The witnesses included Henry Birnbaum and Rudy Waxman, representing the Survivors of Nazi Concentration Camps. Appearing against the draft were five men associated with various anti-Semitic groups such as the American Nazi Party, the Klan and the Christian National Alliance.

## Trial of Youth Charged with Setting Yonkers Jewish Center Afire Opens

WHITE PLAINS, N.Y., May 1. (JTA) -- Eighteen-year-old Thomas A. Ruppert, charged with setting the Yonkers Jewish Community Center afire, claiming 12 lives during a Chanukah celebration on December 20, 1965, went on trial today in the County court.

The fire, described by the Yonkers police chief as the worst in the city's history, resulted in the death of nine children and three adults. The flames broke out suddenly when a class of children was taking music lessons on the fourth floor of the center. Most of the 100 children in the building were led to safety along ledges four stories above the ground, until they reached firemen's ladders.

Among the victims were three sets of brothers and sisters, aged 7 to 11. Nine other persons were injured in the blaze, including four who were hospitalized. The victims all apparently died from smoke poisoning.

## Opera Depicting Fate of German Jews Under the Nazis Performed in Germany

DORTMUND, May 1. (JTA) -- The premiere was held here this evening of an opera "Eili Eili," based on a poem by Nobel laureate Nelly Sachs, which depicts the tragedy and ultimate fate of the German Jews under the Nazis.

**Quebec Minister Charged With Anti-Jewish Remark During House Debate**

MONTREAL, May 1. (JTA) -- Charges and counter-charges exploded in the Quebec provincial legislature after a Union National member made remarks about the Jewish origin of an opposition member, who had been a cabinet minister in the previous government.

Montreal Liberal Yves Michaud sparked an hour-long debate by attacking allegedly anti-Semitic remarks made in the House by Tourism Minister Gabriel Loubier against Claude Wagner who was Minister of Justice in the former (Liberal) government.

The day before, Wagner had been complaining about a slowdown in the government's fight against organized crime. As he was quoting a newspaper headline that read "Mafia black hand clutches for Canada," Loubier shouted: "How do you say that in Yiddish?" Wagner is half Jewish and his father became a Roman Catholic upon marrying a French-Canadian. Michaud said he wanted an apology from Loubier or he would be forced to conclude that the government "feeds dangerously on xenophobia and racism." Loubier denied that his remarks carried any anti-Jewish intent.

The debate on the slowdown in the justice department also gave rise to other remarks such as one from an anonymous Union Nationale backbencher. As Wagner read the names of a few persons now before the courts, a voice shouted: "These are all Jews, French-Canadian Jews." This is not the first time the Union Nationale has been in hot water over alleged anti-Semitism. Premier Daniel Johnson sparked widespread protests for his comments after the June, 1966 elections. He repeatedly pointed out that if the Union Nationale had received a minority of the overall vote in Quebec, it had received a majority from French-Canadian ridings. He added that the English and the Jews had voted against him.

**Member of Argentine Anti-Semitic Group Who Killed Policeman Released on Bail**

BUENOS AIRES, May 1. (JTA) -- A Buenos Aires judge released on bail this weekend a member of the ultra-nationalist and anti-Semitic Tacuara group who was arrested in an incident in the Di Tella Theater two weeks ago in which a policeman was shot and killed.

The suspect, Enrique Gustavo Graci Susini, a 29-year-old law school student, was charged with causing injury, damage and theft, which are bailable offenses. After his release, Susini told the director of the Di Tella Theater that he was considering damage suits against journalists, who, he said, gave him and his movement "a bad press." He said the incident was due to "alcohol" and that it was "not so significant as had been said."

**Israel American Diversified Fund in New York Absorbs Israel Fund, Inc.**

NEW YORK, May 1. (JTA) -- Israel American Diversified Fund, Inc., New York, the only American open-end mutual fund holding a percentage of its portfolio in Israel securities, today announced the absorption of The Israel Fund, Inc., Baltimore, a closed-end investment company with net assets of approximately \$350,000, it was announced by Isaac Imber, president of Israel American Diversified Fund.

IADF, which was originally incorporated in 1963, remained inactive until the beginning of this year when a new board was elected and Mr. Imber became president. As a result of the absorption of The Israel Fund, IADF will have outstanding more than 100,000 shares with a net asset value of \$800,000.

Mr. Imber also announced that IADF is negotiating to take over the assets of The American Israel Growth Fund, Inc., with the expectation to absorb that open-end fund towards the end of May. Following the consolidation of the three funds, the net asset value of Israel American Diversified Fund is expected to be about \$1.2 million.

**Dramatic Housing Experiment Built by Israeli Attracts Attention of Expo 67**

MONTREAL, May 1. (JTA) -- Visitors to Expo 67, the Canadian world's fair that opened this weekend, were impressed by Habitat, the dramatic housing experiment built by 28-year-old Israeli architect Moshe Safdi and sponsored and paid for by the Canadian Government. (It was described yesterday as the "permanent symbol and landmark" of the fair, by NY Times architecture writer Ada Louise Huxtable.)

Habitat is a group of one-story and two-story homes arranged in a cluster of pyramids and jutting boxes, vaguely resembling a streamlined version of the cliffside pueblo dwellings of American Indians in the southwest. It is considered to be one of the most impressive housing experiments ever undertaken. Budget for the project came to \$11,500,000 as skyrocketing costs greatly raised original estimates.

**Government of Brazil Invites Two Israeli Scientists to Lecture in Country**

RIO DE JANEIRO, May 1. (JTA) -- The Government of Brazil announced today it has invited two prominent Israeli scientists to deliver a series of lectures in this country. Those invited were Dr. Israel Dostrovsky, an atomic physicist; and Prof. Ephraim Katchalski (Katzir), a biophysicist.