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Arab Educators in Israel Declare Boycott; Refuse to Open West Bank Schools

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Israel's Ministry of Education was informed today by the heads of the Arab Educational Association that they refuse to cooperate with the Israeli authorities and will not open their schools in Old Jerusalem and in the west bank, which have been scheduled to start classes for the next academic year on September 1.

At the same time, the association leaders addressed a letter to all Arab teachers ordering them not to accept the reunification of Jerusalem, to refuse to accept curriculum and textbook changes ordered by the Israelis, and to oppose "subjugation by the Israeli occupying powers."

The Arab opposition to the textbook changes is the result of efforts by the Israeli authorities to delete from the teachings given Arab pupils much anti-Jewish and Arab nationalist propaganda that have filled the Arab teachings previous to the Six-Day War. Regarding curricula, Israel had found that, prior to the war, many courses in geography, civics and contemporary history were also rife with pro-Arab and anti-Israeli propaganda.

Washington Pressures Israel to Extend Deadline for Repatriation of Arabs from Jordan

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Highly-placed State Department officials today made known that the Administration is displeased by Israel's intention to terminate the return of Jordanian refugees after August 31. These officials indicated that the Israel Government is being pressed to extend the deadline. They said that Israel should show humanitarian consideration in waiving the expiration date and allow the return of all those who wish to come back.

The view voiced by officials is that Jordan is, to some degree, responsible for the delay in the return of refugees because of Amman's attitude. American authorities also said they understood the reasoning behind Israel's screening procedures. However, it is felt that differences and problems have been resolved. The State Department view, approved by the Administration, is that Israel should make a concession and extend the deadline so that all Jordanians who wish may return to the west bank area.

(Political circles in Jerusalem said today that, "under no circumstances will Israel even discuss further extension" of the August 31 deadline on the admission of Arab refugees. The statement was made as a reaction to a United Nations report that U.N. Secretary-General U Thant was considering the possibility of asking Israel to extend the deadline, in response to such a demand by the Jordanians.)

President Johnson and Shah of Iran Issue Joint Statement on Arab-Israel Situation

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- The White House said today in a joint statement by President Johnson and the Shah of Iran, in the wake of talks here, that they paid particular attention to the Arab-Israel situation and "agreed that a solution to the current tensions in the area should be sought in strict compliance with the principles of the United Nations Charter," which would include Arab acceptance of the State of Israel.

The communique said that "the two leaders agreed to remain in close touch about the Middle East situation." The talks pertained to the dangers created by Arab extremism and Communist attempts to influence the course of events in the region, it was learned.

Israel Asks for U.N. Action on Mistreatment of Jews in Egypt, Syria and Iraq

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Israel requested United Nations Secretary-General U Thant today to "take appropriate measures" for action in regard to the "persecution and degrading treatment of the Jews in certain Arab countries," naming specifically Egypt, Syria and Iraq.

The request was voiced in a talk with Mr. Thant by Israel's envoy here, Ambassador Gideon Rafael, who was accompanied by his deputy, Shabtai Rosenne. They told the U.N. chief that Israel's Government views the mistreatment of Jews in the Arab countries as a matter of "grave humanitarian concern."

An Israeli spokesman said that his Government has recently received from most reliable sources authentic reports about the deplorable conditions of Jews in those countries. The reports concerned imprisonment of Jews, some held incommunicado; deprivation of decent livelihood and physical threats.

Gen. Rabin to Succeed Harman as Israeli Ambassador to U.S.; Embassy Has No Comment

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Major General Itzhak Rabin, Israel's Chief of Staff, whose strategy in the Six-Day Arab-Israel War was credited by many as a major factor in Israel's stunning victory, will succeed Avraham Harman as Ambassador to the United States, it was reported in reliable circles here today. The Israeli Embassy here said it had "no comment" on the report.

World Council of Churches Backs Integrity of Israel; Favors Free Access to Holy Places

CANDIA, Crete, Aug. 24. (JTA) — The 100-member central committee of the World Council of Churches adopted here last night a statement dealing with the Middle East, calling for "international guarantees" of the independence and integrity of all the states in the Middle East, naming specifically "both Israel and the Arab nations."

The Council embraces 223 Protestant, Anglican and Eastern Orthodox churches in more than 80 countries, including the Soviet Union and the Arab states. The vote on the statement was nearly unanimous, only the representatives of the USSR and Hungary voting against it. One ranking delegate from the Soviet Union, Metropolitan Nikodim of Leningrad, abstained. A Soviet proposal that Israel be told to withdraw its military forces to the pre-June war armistice lines was voted down.

The statement also said: "No nation should be allowed to keep or annex the territory of another nation by armed force. This applies to the present situation. National boundaries should rest upon international agreements, freely reached between or accepted by the people directly concerned." That last sentence was interpreted as calling for direct negotiations between the Arab states and Israel.

The Council also called for an international agreement on access to the holy places in Jerusalem, without mentioning the plan advanced two months ago by Pope Paul VI for placing those shrines under international control. The Rev. Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, of the United States, general secretary of the Council, explained he favored the granting of "free access" to the holy places "by whoever is sovereign at the moment."

Prelates Arrive in Israel to Confer with Eshkol on Holy Places

JERUSALEM, Aug. 24. (JTA) — Two prelates acting as emissaries of the World Council of Churches, which had just closed its central committee meeting at Crete, came here today to urge Prime Minister Levi Eshkol against Israel's placement of the administration of the Christian holy places in Jerusalem under the jurisdiction of the Roman Catholic Church.

The bishops said the Council favored the objective of having Israel retain for herself full control over the Jerusalem holy sites. The prelates are Bishop Stephens, of India, and Bishop Maris, of the Netherlands.

Germany Plans to Remove Statute of Limitation on Major Nazi War Criminals

BONN, Aug. 24. (JTA) — West Germany's Cabinet will be asked to tighten the law setting a December 31, 1969 deadline on the prosecution of Nazi war criminals, so that major criminals accused of "murders and genocide" would still be subject to prosecution after the cut-off date. Announcement of the planned move was made here at a news conference by Dr. Gustav Heinemann, Minister of Justice.

According to Dr. Heinemann, he was informed recently by the Central Office for the Discovery of Nazi Crimes, at Ludwigsburg, that there were "blank spots" in the group's investigative work that would require more time for probing murders committed during the Hitler regime. Among the "blank spots," he said, are investigations into the activities of Hitler's SS, as well as suspected war crimes by Germans in East European areas occupied by Germany during World War II.

The Minister expressed the hope that other East European regimes would follow the lead of the Soviet Union which had just informed him that West German war crimes investigators would be allowed to study archives regarding such crimes now on file in Moscow. The USSR's permission is the first in the war crimes field ever granted to West Germany by any of the Communist countries.

(Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, hailed the move on the part of the West German Justice Minister to remove the statute of limitations on major Nazi war criminals as a clear indication of West Germany's awareness of its responsibility "to remove the vestiges of the Hitler period." He expressed the hope "that West Germany will continue to be vigilant against all intimations of Nazi, anti-Semitic, and authoritarian ideologies.")

Council for Judaism Official Attacks Jewish Body in Negro 'Black Power' Organ

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24. (JTA) — A leading organ of the Negro black power extremist movement, a monthly known as The Liberator, has published an attack on American Jewish groups written by Dr. Norton Mezvinsky, executive director of the anti-Zionist American Council for Judaism. The Mezvinsky article was accompanied by atrocity photographs purporting to depict alleged Arab victims of "Israel's napalm bombing" and Arab refugees fleeing Israeli-held territory.

Dr. Mezvinsky wrote in the black power publication that his group noted "with concern the propaganda activities of an organization which calls itself the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations." Assailing this group of Jewish leaders, the anti-Zionist charged that "it is a Zionist-inspired and controlled amalgam of the presidents of some organizations of American Jews. Most of these organizations have been chartered for purposes other than such direct political action in the interests of another country."

The same issue of The Liberator lauded the black power revolution and such undertakings as "parliamentary training for Negro youths," "a nation-wide buy black movement," and "a black national holiday to honor such heroes as Malcolm X."

Czech Authorities Still Continuing Investigation into Jordan's Death, JDC Reports

NEW YORK, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- "Czech authorities have indicated that their police investigation of the circumstances of the death in Prague of Charles H. Jordan, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, is still continuing," Louis Broido, JDC chairman, said today following the return of Mrs. Jordan from Prague, back to New York. Mrs. Jordan was with her husband in the Czech capital on vacation when he disappeared and when his body was found several days later in a river in Prague.

Mr. Broido said in his statement today that Dr. Alexander Gonik, of the JDC medical department in Geneva, who also arrived in New York from Prague, where he was sent to establish the cause of Mr. Jordan's death, confirmed the earlier information received by the JDC here that the authorities in Prague are still going on with their investigation of the circumstances of Mr. Jordan's mysterious death.

"We have already made it clear that, in our minds, there is not the slightest possibility that Mr. Jordan took his own life," Mr. Broido stressed. "We will have no further comments until the investigation is completed. Mr. Jordan's body is to be returned to New York in a few days. At that time we will be in a position to announce arrangements for his funeral."

Congressmen Request State Dept. to Get More Facts from Prague on Jordan's Death

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Two Congressmen demanded here today that the State Department act more forcefully on obtaining the facts surrounding the mysterious death of Charles H. Jordan, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, whose body was found in a river at Prague four days after he had vanished in the capital of Czechoslovakia. They are Rep. Richard Schweiker, who represents a district in Philadelphia, Mr. Jordan's home town; and Rep. Seymour Halpern, of New York. Both are Republicans.

In a message to Secretary of State Dean Rusk, Rep. Schweiker said the United States Government "must not be silent, when such irregularities surround the death of an American in a nation with which the United States maintains diplomatic relations." He told Secretary Rusk that Congress and the American public were entitled to know the facts about Mr. Jordan's death. He stressed that persons close to Mr. Jordan rule out the Czech conclusion of suicide. He pointed out that the river where the body was found was 3 miles away from Mr. Jordan's hotel and that the Czechs had rushed an autopsy before others could make medical examinations.

Rep. Halpern criticized the State Department for failing to take a strong stand in the Jordan case, and said he was "fearful that the State Department is excessively timid in dealing with Czechoslovakia because of over-sensitivity to Communist propaganda attempts to link America with Israel and world Jewry in the wake of the Middle Eastern war."

In a letter to Secretary Rusk, Mr. Halpern said that "failure to take a strong stand in this issue may have the effect of tempting the Communists to further excesses." He told Mr. Rusk that "Czechoslovakia should be added to the list of totalitarian countries which the State Department advises Americans not to visit for their personal security, including Communist China, Cuba, Egypt, Syria and others."

Histadrut Body Withdraws from International Parley in Prague

TEL AVIV, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Yaacov After, general manager of Mashbir, central body of Histadrut cooperatives, today accused Czechoslovakia of having murdered Charles H. Jordan, executive vice-chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, whose body was discovered in a river at Prague after the JDC official's mysterious disappearance last week.

The charge was made by Mr. After in a cable co-signed by Asher Yadin, a member of the secretariat of Histadrut, the Israel federation of labor, to the central committee of the International Cooperative Association. In the cable, they notified the ICA that they would not attend the ICA's central committee meeting, scheduled to be held at Prague, next month, and demanded that the ICA hold its session elsewhere because "Jordan's murder was part of a wild anti-Israeli and anti-Jewish campaign conducted by Czech authorities."

At the same time, Zeev Harring, head of Histadrut's international department, announced that Mr. After and Mr. Yadin, who had been named as the Israeli delegates to the ICA session, have withdrawn from the scheduled Prague meeting "as a result of the mysterious death of Mr. Jordan."

Jews in Argentina Mourn Jordan's Death; Send Condolences to JDC

BUENOS AIRES, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- The Buenos Aires Kehilla and the Federation of Argentine Jewish Communities today cabled the Joint Distribution Committee headquarters in New York expressing "deep sorrow" over the tragic death of Charles H. Jordan, JDC executive vice-chairman.

Noting that Mr. Jordan "was well-known in Argentina due to many activities with the Argentine Jewish community," the cable added that "we regard this murder as a new sign of increasing hatred toward Israel and the Jewish people behind the Iron Curtain." The cable was signed by Dr. Tobias Kamenzain, president of the Kehilla, and Hirsch Triwaks, general secretary of the Federation.

President of Synagogue Council Named by Johnson to Commission on Elections in Viet Nam

NEW YORK, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- President Johnson has named Rabbi Jacob Philip Rudin of Great Neck, N.Y., president of the Synagogue Council of America, to a 20-man commission that will observe the campaign and elections in South Viet Nam, it was announced today. The Synagogue Council is the central coordinating agency for the national rabbinical and synagogal organizations of Conservative, Orthodox and Reform Jewry in the United States.

The group, which includes governors, mayors, businessmen and civic and labor leaders, will leave Monday and return September 6, three days after the South Vietnamese election of a President and Vice-President.

N.Y. City Commissioner Unable to Go to Israel to Reorganize Social Welfare Program

NEW YORK, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- New York City's Commissioner of Social Service Mitchell I. Ginsberg has announced that he is unable to accept an invitation to go to Jerusalem to help reorganize the social welfare department in Israel's capital. Declaring he was "not happy" about the decision, he said he does not have the time for such an undertaking. Last week, Mayor Lindsay appointed him to one of the city administration's topmost jobs, as Human Resources Administrator.

Mr. Ginsberg was invited to Jerusalem last June by Jerusalem's Mayor Teddy Kollek, and Mayor Lindsay approved his acceptance of the bid providing he stayed on long enough to help clear up a workers' stoppage in the Department of Social Service. That dispute ended August 1. Last night, in informing Israel's Consul-General Michael Arnon here of his decision not to go to Jerusalem now, Mr. Ginsberg said he hoped to go to Israel "some time in the future."

Christians Must Learn to Understand Contemporary Judaism, Rabbi Tells Catholic Parley

TORONTO, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Christians "who are interested in speaking seriously to Jews will also have to be prepared to listen carefully to them," a noted Canadian rabbi today told more than 4,000 Roman Catholic priests, laymen and interested non-Catholics at a theological conference on the University of Toronto campus here.

Rabbi Stuart E. Rosenberg, spiritual leader of Beth Tzedec Congregation here, and a writer on Jewish theological subjects, addressed the International Congress -- devoted to "Theology of the Renewal of the Church" -- on the subject of "Contemporary Renewal and the Jewish Experience."

Rabbi Rosenberg, speaking at the final session of the four-day gathering, sponsored by the Catholic Bishops Conference in honor of Canada's centennial, pointed out that Christian students of the Bible today can no longer bypass the Talmud or the medieval rabbinical commentaries in the effort to understand contemporary Judaism.

Christian scholars who want to engage in useful dialogue with their Jewish counterparts, he said, "will have to face up to the ineluctable fact that Jews will simply not conform to the image projected for them in classical Christian theology, nor will they generally accept a fraternal dialogue with those who can conceive of Christian renewal only on Christian terms which overlook the renaissance of Jewish life and vitality in the State of Israel."

Jewish Woman Appointed for First Time by Catholic College as Academic Dean

NEW YORK, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Marymount Mahanattan College, a Catholic-supported women's institution, has appointed, as its first lay academic dean, a woman of the Jewish faith. She is Elaine Small Klein, 38, who lives with her husband and two children in New Rochelle, N.Y. A member of the college faculty for 16 years, Dr. Klein earned a doctorate at Columbia University and a degree from Trinity College of Speech in London.

Reform Jewish Congregation in Denver to Use Church for Interim Services

DENVER, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Denver's new Reform congregation, Temple Sinai, which is now planning construction of its own house of worship, will use the First Plymouth Congregationalist Church as interim headquarters, it was announced here today.

The church will be used for Friday evening services and for Saturday religious classes, as well as for next High Holy Days, according to the leaders of the Reform congregation. The contract for the arrangement was signed by Irwin Kornfield, president of the congregation; the temple's spiritual leader, Rabbi Raymond Zwerin; and the pastor of the church, Rev. Dr. Stuart C. Haskins.

Hassidic Synagogue Desecrated in Johannesburg; Another Synagogue Burglarized

JOHANNESBURG, Aug. 24. (JTA) -- Two local synagogues were burglarized and one of them was desecrated, it was reported here today by police authorities, who pledged that they were hunting for the criminals.

At the Hassidic Synagogue, the sanctuary was desecrated. At the same time, a safe containing the congregation's archives was broken open, and the record books were stolen along with linens, crockery and other items. At the Yeoville Synagogue, cupboards were broken open, the contents stolen as well as some petty cash kept on the premises.