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American Jewish Leaders Take Part in Celebrating JTA's 50th Anniversary

NEW YORK, Nov. 2. (JTA) -- Several hundred leaders of the American Jewish community, joined by representatives of the world press and a delegation of American Jewish newspaper editors, joined today in celebrating the fiftieth anniversary of the establishment of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, at a luncheon at the Americana Hotel.

The agency, which began as the Jewish Correspondence Bureau, was launched in The Hague in 1917 by the late Jacob Landau, with the assistance of four young Belgian Zionists. One of this group, Sylvain Russ, was present at the celebration today, as were a number of former JTA staff members who had served JTA in posts around the world.

Three leaders of the American Jewish community: Louis J. Fox, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds; J.D. Weiler, national chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; and Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the Jewish Agency-American Section described different phases of the JTA role in and for the world Jewish community. Robert H. Arnow, president of JTA, and chairman of the function, stressed, in a brief speech, the vital nature of communications in the Jewish life of today and the importance of JTA in developing an alert and informed American Jewish community.

Mr. Fox told the assemblage that increasing coverage of Jewish news by the general press, stemming from a growing interest in Jewish affairs by readers generally, and the increasing sophistication of a university-educated American Jewry, presented JTA with both unique difficulties and opportunities.

He told the luncheon guests that the Jewish community needs the best possible Jewish news service now more than ever before. Citing the work of the JTA during the past 50 years as "the eyes and ears" of the Jewish world, Mr. Fox declared that the events of the May-June crisis and war in the Middle East had demonstrated that, despite all differences, "we now know that there is a real Jewish identity." The CJFWE leader said that, in the effort to convert the sense of Jewish identity manifested during the May-June crisis into permanent identification with Jewish life, the JTA "can give leadership in many ways." The JTA, he declared, should not only seek to provide Jewish news and Jewish interpretation not available from the general news media, but should also seek to set a standard of journalism for the whole press. He said that the 50th anniversary of the news service should be a time not only of congratulation for past achievements but also one to develop the news agency's future, to make sure it would be "greater than its past."

Mr. Fox called for a vigorous Jewish press in this country, and declared that JTA could give leadership in its development, not only as the indispensable source of national and overseas news, but as "the fountainhead for the development of top-quality Jewish journalism."

Other Speakers, Guests of Honor Listed; Citation Given to Boris Smolar

Others speakers included Eleazar Lipsky, chairman of the JTA Board; Charles Frost and Rabbi Edward Sandrow, members of the JTA Board; and Joel Schenker, managing director of the Theatre Guild. Adolph Rosenberg, president of the American Jewish Press Association, presented an award to JTA in recognition of JTA's contributions to Jewish journalism. It was accepted by Mr. Arnow.

Guests of honor included Wes Gallagher, general manager of the Associated Press; and Nahum Shamir, Economic Minister for the State of Israel.

Another highlight of the occasion was the presentation of a citation from the JTA board to Boris Smolar, editor-in-chief emeritus of the JTA, for 43 years of devoted and dedicated service to the JTA.

Mr. Weiler, noting that the JTA was continuing its reorganization to adapt to new conditions of the Jewish community in the United States and overseas, urged maximum support of the news agency to enable it to fulfill its essential role.

Mrs. Halprin noted that today's celebration coincided with the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the Balfour Declaration in 1917, and suggested that the first dispatches of the agency included coverage of that event. She pointed out that, because the first JTA headquarters was in a neutral country during the first World War, the Jews of Germany and Russia learned of the issuance of the declaration through JTA dispatches.

Arnold Reads Humphrey Message; Eshkol, Shazar Send Greetings

Mr. Arnold read a message from Vice-President Hubert H. Humphrey who praised the JTA for its services to the Jewish community and to mankind. The Vice-President said, in his message, that he was conveying his congratulations on the "golden anniversary" of the JTA "before departing on my trip to South Asia," in recognition of the fact that "rapid and comprehensive transmission of information provides the indispensable basis for public understanding, for decision making, for human progress." Mr. Humphrey added that "these five decades of service have witnessed JTA's impressive growth" and that "across its wires has come an increasing volume of news." He noted that, sometimes, that news "has been of triumph, sometimes of tragedy, sometimes of man's noblest achievements, other times of oppression, of persecution, of inhumanity. But whether in times of promise or of peril, the Jewish communities throughout the world and men of goodwill of every faith and every nationality have been linked and aided by up-to-the-minute knowledge of events, of trends, of personalities." The Vice-President expressed his "hope and prayer" that the news of future years would be "of peace and prosperity in the Middle East and throughout the world, and of ancient prophecy joyously fulfilled for human dignity."

Prime Minister Eshkol extended, in his message, "heartly congratulations and sincere good wishes" on the JTA anniversary and to its "long and distinguished record in disseminating news of the world of Jewish thought and activity in the political, social, economic and cultural fields" which he said had "contributed immeasurably to greater worldwide understanding of one of the most eventful and meaningful epochs in Jewish history."

The Israeli Prime Minister added that the growth and development of the worldwide Jewish news agency had "run parallel to the growth and development of our State in the making and of Israel itself which this week celebrates another golden jubilee, that of the Balfour Declaration. May it be granted to you to continue in this path and in the important role you have thus far performed with such outstanding success for the growth and welfare of Israel and the entire Jewish people."

President Shazar declared in his message that he remembered "vividly the birth pangs" of the JTA and recalled "the able men who were its founders." He added he was happy to be able to share in the golden jubilee celebration.

"As an independent and effective Jewish news service, the Jewish Telegraphic Agency has consistently made a valuable contribution to the unity and understanding of the Jewish people," the President declared. "Its function has become all the more significant now that Jews are scattered more widely than ever they were, and are at the same time building their national center and future in Israel."

"The JTA Daily News Bulletin that reaches Jewish leaders throughout the world is in effect a link that connects their communities with each other and with Israel, the heart of Jewry. May the Jewish Telegraphic Agency long continue to serve thus the Jewish people," President Shazar declared.

JTA News to be Basis of "Week in Jewry" Program, Sunday Night, Over WABC

NEW YORK, Nov. 2. (JTA) — "The Week in Jewry," a 20-minute segment of the weekly "The Faiths of New York" program broadcast by radio over New York station WABC, will be based next Sunday, beginning at 11:50 p.m., on news furnished by the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. Victor M. Bienstock, general manager and editorial director of JTA, will be the commentator. The moderator of the program will be Rabbi Edward Sandrow, president of the New York Board of Rabbis, under whose auspices "The Week in Jewry" is broadcast.

Israel's Charge D'Affaires in Lima Congratulates JTA

LIMA, Peru, Nov. 2. (JTA) — Asher Michaeli, charge d'affaires of Israel's Embassy here, cabled his "best wishes" to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today in a message to JTA headquarters in New York. He lauded JTA for its "most valuable work and constant information, as well as for the fruitful achievements in cementing the relations between Israel and Peruvian Jewry."

Israeli Diplomat Explains Government's Position On UN Issues to State Dept.

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 2. (JTA) — Ephraim Evron, diplomatic minister of the Israel Embassy here, met today with Undersecretary of State Eugene Rostow. He told the press later that the purpose of his visit was to clarify Israel's position on matters now under discussion at the United Nations.

Jordan Move to Military Conscription Seen As Refusal to Seek Israeli Peace

TEL AVIV, Nov. 2. (JTA) — An announcement from Amman yesterday that Jordan soon intends to establish compulsory military service was viewed by authorities here as indicating that the Hashemite Kingdom has no intention of agreeing to a peaceful solution with Israel. Qualified observers here doubt that Jordan can bear the financial burden of conscription without generous aid from outside sources. In any event, they feel that Israel has little to fear from the Jordanian army whether conscripted or voluntary.

Charles Jordan's Memory Honored With Award By Jewish Council of Germany

BONN, Nov. 2. (JTA) — The Central Council of Jews in Germany has posthumously awarded the annual Leo Baeck Prize to the late Charles H. Jordan, director of the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee, who mysteriously disappeared in Prague last August and was later found drowned. The prize was presented to Mr. Jordan's widow with 3,000 marks (\$750) which she will donate to Jewish charities.

Thousand At Rites Memorializing Weizmann, Marking Balfour Day at Rehovoth, Israel

REHOVOTH, Nov. 2. (JTA) — Thousands of persons, including delegations of overseas Jewish leaders, met this evening at the memorial plaza near the grave of Dr. Chaim Weizmann here, for an event which this marked the 50th anniversary of the issuance of the Balfour Declaration and the 15th anniversary of the death of Israel's first president.

Among the leaders at the gathering were President Zalman Shazar, Premier Levi Eshkol, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, British Postmaster General Edward Short, Lord Rothschild and Lord Sieff of Britain, Latin American Jewish leaders, and members of the faculty of the Weizmann Institute. Meyer Weisgal, president of the Institute, presided.

Lord Rothschild called for a "new declaration for the Middle East to be issued by the international community" but one which would "also have the means to back it — a declaration which would insure the peace, progress and development of the Middle East." He urged Israel not to evacuate Arab-occupied areas as long as there was no peace and security.

"Israel wants peace," he told the assemblage, "and Israel would be ready to fight again if necessary to ensure it." He warned the world that peace in the Middle East was more important than space competition. He declared: "To hell with Venus or Mars. It's either peace in the Middle East or a charred world after a nuclear third World War."

President Shazar spoke of the life of Dr. Weizmann, "the Zionist who worked all his life for Jewish and Zionist causes." Before the meeting, the participants visited the Weizmann grave to pay homage to his memory. Lord Sieff announced that a historic research department will be established at the Weizmann Institute named for Lord Balfour.

Balfour Day Celebrated in Buenos Aires; Solidarity With Israel Stressed

BUENOS AIRES, Nov. 2. (JTA) — The 50th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration was marked here today at a mass meeting organized by the Argentine United Campaign which drew throngs in an expression of solidarity with Israel.

Among the speakers were Dr. Hardy Swarsensky, president of the AUC, and Mark Turkew, general secretary of the South American executive of the World Jewish Congress, who paralleled 50 years of Jewish history with the 50-year Russian history since the Bolshevik revolution. Itzhak Harkavi, former Ambassador to Uruguay and a member of the Jewish Agency executive, reviewed Zionist history up to the present international situation.

Lord Balfour's Kin Honored at Celebration in Philadelphia

PHILADELPHIA, Nov. 2. (JTA) — Lord and Lady Balfour, nephew and niece of the late Lord Arthur Balfour, were guests at celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration held here today under the auspices of the American Friends of the Hebrew University. Yissakhar ben Yaacov, Israel's Consul-General in Philadelphia, presented the couple with a cover of the Balfour and Weizmann stamps just issued by the Israel Philatelic Service.

London Times Views 'Black Side' of Balfour Stand; Laments Arab Refugees

LONDON, Nov. 2. (JTA) — The Times today took note of the 50th anniversary of the Balfour Declaration by lamenting "the black side" of the record of events that led to the creation of a Jewish national home in Palestine and, subsequently, the sovereign State of Israel.

The Times described the Declaration as an attempt "by men of good will to bind their fellow countrymen to what they believed to be the only honorable course for the treatment of a minority. They succeeded in doing so, but the political cost was higher than they could ever have imagined." The record is, said the Times, that a quarter of a million Arabs "have joggled along as second class citizens, and 1,000,000 have been left without homes. let alone rights."

The paper conceded, that "in view of later events—Hitler, the growth of territorial nationalism, the decline of Empire—it is hard to see how a (Jewish national) home could in fact have stopped short of a state. The only really surprising thing is that the state came about by conquest and that, in 1967, it stretched not from Dan to Beersheba but from within striking distance of Damascus to the Suez Canal."

Peruvian Government, Labor Leaders Greet Becker, Secretary-General of Histadrut

LIMA, Nov. 2. (JTA) — Peruvian Government and trade union leaders extended a warm welcome today to Aharon Becker, secretary-general of Histadrut, the Israel labor federation, who arrived here as a guest of the Confederacion Trabajadores Peruanos (Confederation of Peruvian workers). Mr. Becker, on a good-will tour of Latin America and the United States, was accompanied by Naftali Gal, director of the Latin American Division of Histadrut's international department.

Mr. Becker will leave here Sunday for Bogota on the invitation of Colombian President Restrepo. The stop there is a change from his original itinerary. He will then visit Mexico as the guest of the CTM, Mexican Labor Union, after which he will come to the United States. Mr. Becker visited a session of the Peruvian Parliament tonight. Saturday he will be a guest here of the Association of Syndicate Cooperatives.

Cardinal O'Boyle Says Supposed Church-State 'Impasse' Can Be Resolved

WASHINGTON, Nov. 2, (JTA) — Every issue confronting Christians and Jews today, including the "supposed impasse" over separation of church and state, "can be resolved in mutual respect if both groups approached the problem in a spirit of humility, fairness and good will," Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington, told the local chapter of the American Jewish Committee here tonight.

Cardinal O'Boyle was honored at the chapter's annual meeting dinner, receiving the organization's first Isaiah Award for Human Relations. The event was attended by 350 AJC members and dignitaries representing the various denominations and religious communities of the capital. David Lloyd Kreeger, a member of the national and Washington executive boards of the AJC, presented the award to the cardinal — a two-foot statue of the Prophet Isaiah. On the dais at the event was Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, the Vatican's apostolic delegate to the United States, who made his first public appearance here at an interfaith meeting.

Mr. Kreeger and Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum, director of the interreligious affairs department of the AJC, lauded Cardinal O'Boyle for his achievements in the field of social justice in general and for what Rabbi Tannenbaum called "his invaluable support to the Vatican Council's Declaration on Non-Christian Religions and to the progress of implementation of Jewish-Christian dialogue."

After asserting that all Christian-Jewish issues can be resolved mutually, the Cardinal told the largely-Jewish audience: "Religion is often described as the social and institutional expression of the religious conscience of a people. Let us, together and through our respective communions, endeavor to set a shining example of that conscience, of faith in God and love of neighbor, for all the world to see. And let us join our voices in that ancient cry of the Hebrew peoples as they were driven in persecution and despair across the face of the earth, a cry repeated in Christian churches, in our cities, in the jungles half a world away, wherever there are witnesses of man's inhumanity to man. Shalom, Shalom."

Rabbi Tannenbaum called, in his address, for "radical transformations in attitude toward black militancy" on behalf of the white Christian and Jewish communities. Conceding that black militancy, "in its meaning of helping Negroes to achieve mastery over their own destiny, has a justifiable claim on our support and our compassion," he stated, however, that "black nationalism, especially that brand that has assumed the ideological covering of anti-Semitism and anti-Zionism, must be repudiated as one of the most destructive forces, whose only outcome will be the undermining of everything that black militants want and have a right for their people."

During the meeting, Robert H. Moses, an attorney here, was elected chairman of the AJC's Washington chapter. Mr. Moses is the first white president of Hospitality House, a Negro settlement house.

Rabbi Joins Catholic University Faculty To Teach Contemporary Judaism

NEW YORK, Nov. 2, (JTA) — Rabbi Leonard W. Stern, of New Hyde Park will join the theology department of St. John's University next February to teach an undergraduate course in "contemporary Judaism", the University announced today. The course is an elective open to both Catholic and non-Catholic students. Rabbi Stern was ordained in 1954 by Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion and serves as spiritual leader of Temple Shalom Congregation in Floral Park.

United Synagogue Women Urge United States To Press For Arab-Israeli Talks

NEW YORK, Nov. 2, (JTA) — The National Social Action Conference of the National Women's League of the United Synagogue of America was on record today with an appeal to the United States Government to help bring Israel and the Arab states together for bilateral peace talks. The 400 participants in the conference acted after hearing reports on the Middle East situation and an appraisal by David L. Gamon of the Department of State's Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs.

Mr. Gamon expressed the hope that Israel and the Arabs would be able to work out a solution to the problem, asserting that, "in the final analysis, the responsibility must be theirs. It cannot rest with outsiders." He said, however, that outsiders could be of assistance in helping along the process of accommodation and asserted the United States was playing that role.

The conference also called on Congress for more resolute action to attack the causes of unrest and violence in American cities and urged law enforcement agencies to deal firmly with elements advocating violence in the streets.

Long Beach Drive Nets \$35,000 In Emergency Appeal

LONG BEACH, Calif., Nov. 2, (JTA) — The Jewish Federation of Long Beach, which had previously reported that its current campaign had fallen short by some \$48,000, reported today that an emergency appeal had produced contributions of \$35,000 in eight days. Dr. Gilbert G. Lapid, president of the Federation, in disclosing the development, said that it appeared certain that an additional \$12,000 needed to assure Jewish communal services would be forthcoming. Dr. Paul Hillinger, president of the Long Beach Jewish Community Center, remarked that "the Long Beach Jewish community cares and is coming of age."