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CJFWF Adopts Strong Resolutions on Israel, Soviet Bias, Domestic Issues; Fox Re-elected

CLEVELAND, Nov. 19 (JTA)—The 36th General Assembly of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, representing more than 200 Jewish communities, called on the United States Government today to "continue to work for policies which would bring Arabs and Israelis face-to-face at the peace table" for solution of the conflict in the Middle East. In a resolution unanimously adopted, the Assembly declared that "until peace is achieved, and to meet the new threat brought about by the rearming of the Arab states, it is crucial that Israel be enabled to maintain its capacity to uphold the peace and to deter further aggression, and we therefore urge the United States Government to continue to take such steps as will help make possible this essential deterrent."

The resolution commended the Government's position that the Middle East "cannot return to the intolerable conditions which provoked conflicts in the past," and said that the "makeshift measures of the past must be replaced by a permanent peace." It stressed that "it is only through peace that the welfare of all the peoples in the region can be advanced. Peace in the Middle East will be a significant step forward toward the realization of peace throughout the world."

Louis J. Fox, of Baltimore, was re-elected president of the CJFWF; and Max M. Fisher, of Detroit, Alan V. Lowenstein of Newark, Edwin Rosenberg of New York, Cecil Usher of Montreal and Judge Nochem S. Winnet of Philadelphia were re-elected vice-presidents. Elected to first terms as vice-presidents were Morris Glasser of Chicago and Lawrence E. Irell of Los Angeles. Carlos E. Israels of New York was re-elected treasurer; and Mrs. Joseph Cohen, of New Orleans, secretary.

'Enormous' Sums Seen Needed, 'Vigorous Action' Required

The Assembly called on the American Jewish community for maximum efforts to provide the enormous sums needed for humanitarian and other crucial needs in Israel and the increased vital local and national needs at home. A resolution adopted without dissent at a plenary session of the Assembly stressed that "the utmost aid is required for Israel's human needs through contributions... and for other crucial needs through the sale of Israel Bonds, private investment and intergovernmental assistance." The resolution pointed out that home needs required additional support and noted that "despite the expansion of governmental health and welfare programs, increased contributions are required for Jewish voluntary services."

The resolution urged federations and welfare funds to take "the most vigorous action to raise the enormous sums required for Israel's human needs in 1968" and recommended that this could best be done by getting contributors to make larger gifts to the Israel Emergency Fund while, at the same time, increasing their support to the regular fund for essential local, national and overseas needs. The resolution welcomed the action of the Israel authorities in urging all Israeli agencies to limit their fund-raising efforts to their normal needs, and give priority and "complete and unlimited support" to the United Jewish Appeal's Israel Emergency Fund.

A related resolution stressed the need for continued aid and for closer budgetary planning by the Jewish Agency for Israel, the Joint Distribution Committee and the United Israel Appeal. The resolution called for utmost cooperation with the agencies concerned with rescue operations for the Jews in certain Arab countries, and called on the United Nations to take all possible protective measures for the support and safety of these Jews. It expressed gratitude to the governments and the Jewish and non-Jewish agencies whose efforts had enabled many of these Jews to leave.

Another resolution took note of the 50th anniversary of the Russian Revolution. It appealed to the leaders of the Soviet Union to act upon Lenin's promises of national self-determination and religious freedom for all groups. It urged that the continuing strangulation of Jewish religious, cultural and communal life in the Soviet Union be halted. The resolution also urged the Soviet Government to no longer impede the maintenance of synagogues, the training of rabbis, Jewish education and the reunion of families.

This measure noted that the Soviet regime had shown sensitivity to condemnation in the outside world of special discrimination against Soviet Jews. It urged that the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, the Canadian Jewish Congress and local Jewish community agencies should intensify their protests against the treatment of the Jews in the Soviet Union.

The Assembly also adopted a resolution mourning the death of Charles H. Jordan, calling his demise "a grievous loss to Jews throughout the world and to all mankind."

Civil Rights, Church-State Principle, War on Poverty Highlight Domestic Problems

On the domestic scene, the Assembly adopted resolutions taking stands on two controversial areas — civil rights and separation of church and state. On the former, it reaffirmed its long-standing commitment to equal rights and equal opportunity for all, regardless of race, religion or national origin, and stressed the belief that "this goal can and must be achieved through peaceful democratic means." It pointed out that "events of the past weeks in the courts and in the voting booths have demonstrated that historic progress can be made by these means." The resolution affirmed that "while we condemn anti-Semitism whenever and from whatever source it appears, we will not permit resort to anti-Semitism by some Negro demagogues and organizations to deflect us from our commitment to the cause of justice and equality. Anti-Semitism, like terror and violence, breeds in ignorance, want and deprivation. We pledge to intensify our efforts to eliminate these conditions."

Another resolution, expressing concern over current pressures to undermine traditional separation of church and state in the United States, reaffirmed support of this principle, described religious education as "a responsibility of voluntary organizations" and stressed the belief that Government aid to religiously controlled schools, "whether in the form of direct or indirect subsidies, violates this principle and would do a grave disservice to both religious and public education."

The Assembly also took a strong position on the war on poverty, calling for action on the social problems involved "by a far greater attack, more comprehensive in scope, going to the roots of the problems." It said that "this can be made possible by financing, especially by the Federal Government, far beyond anything heretofore provided." The resolution on this subject called on the federations and welfare funds to "undertake the most earnest action either in cooperation with other groups or independently when appropriate, making full use of our special experience, knowledge and skills." It urged cooperation with the National Community Relations Advisory Council and with local community relations groups which, it noted, were increasingly involved with issues of urban blight and poverty.

Another resolution urged federations to "take the initiative in planning and acting with the appropriate bodies, to stimulate the changes necessary to advance the quality and impact of Jewish education." A workshop on involvement of college youth in Jewish communal responsibilities and services heard a plea today from Dr. Bernard Martin, chairman of the department of religion at Case-Western Reserve University. He appealed to the federations to provide funds for establishment of professorships of Jewish studies at American colleges and universities. He said that Jewish learning should be made part of the total educational learning experience, and that courses in Jewish history, theology, philosophy and literature would be meaningful and useful to students on the college level. Dr. Martin, who is Abba Hillel Silver Professor of Jewish Studies at Western Reserve, deplored the concentration of Jewish education efforts on the primary and secondary levels, and said that too much emphasis was being placed on the teaching of the Hebrew language. He said Jewish college students were not secularized, but should be given intense interest in religious thought, although the students were not yet ready to identify themselves with the synagogue.

One of the Assembly's resolutions dealt with a problem that had been extensively discussed in the workshop sessions, calling for an augmented program to deal with the critical shortage of personnel for the national agencies and in the federations and welfare funds. The resolution detailed specific steps to be taken, and urged each federation to establish machinery to carry out comprehensive local training and recruitment programs.

Abram, Lelyveld, Schary, Whitney Young Participate in Major Events

At an earlier session, the heads of the three American Jewish human rights agencies agreed that the Jews, as Jews and American citizens had a vital role and responsibility in the human rights revolution, and that equality of rights cannot be attained without equality of opportunity and elimination of what one of the three termed the "affluence gap." Participating in the panel of reassessment of the Jewish role in the human rights revolution were Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee; Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, president of the American Jewish Congress; and Dore Schary, chairman of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith. The three agreed that Negro anti-Semitism was a serious factor, but warned that its manifestation must not deter Jews from active participation in the civil rights struggle and the war against poverty.

A noted liberal Negro leader told the Assembly last night that the American Jewish community had a special obligation in the area of civil rights, and must recognize that the Negro is its first line of defense. Delivering the annual Herbert R. Abeles Memorial Address, Whitney Young, Jr., executive director of the National Urban League, warned that if the Klan, White Citizens Councils, the John Birch Society and other bigot elements, including the whole new class of "affluent peasants" overcame the Negro, "you know who is next in line." Mr. Young was introduced by Irving Kane, of Cleveland.

The newly-elected Mayor of Cleveland, Carl B. Stokes, first Negro to head the government of a major American city, made his first public appearance at the banquet since his election, and was accorded an ovation. He paid tribute to the Jewish role in the civil rights struggle, and called on the Jewish community to intensify its participation in the war against poverty.

Max M. Fisher, of Detroit, who was chairman of the function, told the assemblage that American Jews recognized that, since the Six-Day War, a new Israel had come into being a new American Jewish community had also come into being and, "while we are in a sense a new community, we are still a community dedicated to the great themes that have motivated us since the 1930's."

Israelis, Jordanians Exchange Fire as Terrorism Goes on Along Jordan River

TEL AVIV, Nov. 19 (JTA)—Exchanges of fire erupted along the Jordan River yesterday afternoon and again this morning, while explosives planted by saboteurs wrecked a pumping station south of Kfar Ruppin in the Beisan valley last night, a military spokesman reported.

This morning's incident occurred when Jordanians opened fire on an Israeli patrol that was dismantling an anti-vehicle mine discovered on an unpaved road just west of the Jordan River crossing at Umshurt. The Israeli forces returned the fire and continued to search the road, discovering another mine which they dismantled without incident. The exchange lasted for half an hour. No casualties were reported. The Jordanians opened fire on an Israeli patrol and were fired on in return in another half-hour exchange yesterday afternoon. Following the blast at the pumping station last night, the footprints of three men were found leading to the Jordan River bank.

Security Council Meets Again Today; British Draft Seen Acceptable to Israel

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., Nov. 19 (JTA)—The Security Council, which has been debating the Middle East crisis again for 10 days, since Egypt's "urgent" call for such discussion, is to reconvene here tomorrow afternoon, with the top item on the agenda a British draft resolution equating Israel's withdrawal of its troops from Arab-occupied areas with an end to belligerence. The draft also calls for freedom of navigation through international waterways. It was believed here today that the draft stood a good chance of adoption. Israelis are known to have indicated unofficially that Israel "could live" with the British formula. The draft does not spell out Israel's withdrawal as to timing, nor does it say that the withdrawal is to be to the pre-June 5 armistice lines, but it is seen to contain many positive elements.

Eban Complains of Israeli Misquotation Regarding Borders; Interview Broadcast in New York

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA)—Foreign Minister Abba Eban today corrected a misquotation of a statement he made in a pre-taped television interview in New York, and protested angrily to the chairman of the Knesset Foreign and Security Committee for allowing that misquotation to be the basis of a political question raised at a session of the Knesset last week without consulting him as to its correctness.

In a cable from New York, Mr. Eban gave the correct quote as follows: "In the course of peace negotiations we will make our proposals about where the boundaries will be." It had been charged here that the Foreign Minister told the interviewer that the present cease-fire lines must not be the final boundaries "or else there would be nothing to negotiate about."

(Mr. Eban's pre-taped interview was included in New York, late Sunday night, on a local television broadcast, on Channel 5. Mr. Eban also delivered a major address Sunday night at Princeton, N.J.)

NEWS BRIEFS

WASHINGTON, Nov. 19 (JTA)—The International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, the so-called World Bank, has given Israel a loan of \$15 million, it was announced here this weekend. It is the financial institution's second loan to Israel, the first having been made in 1965, amounting to \$20 million.

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA)—Israel's Cabinet acted swiftly this morning, in the wake of the 14.3 percent devaluation of the pound sterling, to reduce the value of Israel's pound from 3 to the dollar to 3.5, effective immediately. The move, taken at a special Cabinet meeting which convened at 7 o'clock this morning, was intended to forestall rumors and minimize the period of uncertainty as to how Israel would react to the British currency devaluation. At the same time, the Cabinet ordered a halt to all foreign exchange transactions today and tomorrow, but exempted banks at the airport and seaports where travellers from abroad may convert currency at the new rate.

LONDON, Nov. 19 (JTA)—Great Britain and Egypt will resume diplomatic relations during the first part of next month, and an exchange of ambassadors will follow as soon afterwards as possible, it was announced here today. Relations with Britain were severed by Egypt on the issue of Rhodesia.

JERUSALEM, Nov. 19 (JTA)—Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, chief of the U.N.'s cease-fire observers in the Middle East, left here for Cairo today to continue discussions on implementing Secretary-General Thant's proposals for strengthening the cease fire observation machinery in the Suez Canal area.

ROME, Nov. 19 (JTA)—Vice Premier Nenni, leader of the Italian Socialist Party, called today for an end to the "absurd polemics that Israel is an aggressor" and declared that the time had come for a reconciliation in the Middle East that will safeguard the rights of both Arabs and Jews.

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA)—The nephew and namesake of the late Lord Arthur Balfour sharply criticized the British government's Middle East policy today and warned both Britain and the United States against appeasement of the Arabs because there can be no lasting solution to the Middle East problem until "Nasser and the Arab leaders acknowledge that the State of Israel is here to stay."

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA)—A first hand analysis of Israel's position in the Middle East crisis and an expression of very cautious optimism with regard to the Soviet Union's future role was delivered here today by Shimon Peres, former Deputy Defense Minister of Israel and now secretary-general of the Rafi party.

Becker, Head of Histadrut, Arrives Today; To Launch \$6 Million Drive in U.S.A.

MONTEVIDEO, Nov. 19 (JTA)—Aharon Becker, general secretary of Histadrut, left here today for the United States after completing an extensive tour of Latin America which took him to Peru, Colombia, Mexico, Argentina and Uruguay. He met here with Labor Minister Acosta Hara and with local trade union and Jewish community leaders. He is scheduled to arrive in Washington tomorrow.

Mr. Becker will spend three weeks in the United States, meeting top government and trade union officials as well as American Jewish and Zionist leaders. While in the U.S.A., he will help launch the Histadrut's \$6 million campaign to aid in financing the organization's many medical, welfare, educational and job training programs in Israel. His first scheduled meetings next Tuesday and Wednesday are with Vice-President Humphrey, Secretary of Labor Willard Wirtz, House Speaker John W. McCormack and AFL-CIO president George Meany. A reception in his honor will be held at the Israel Embassy in Washington Tuesday night.

Before leaving here, Mr. Becker called on Eduardo Maiztegui, regional secretary for Latin America of the Socialist International, and Israel Ambassador Haggay Dikan. He was accompanied by Helmut Holz, president of the Uruguayan Federation of Jewish Communities. Mr. Becker said that he found support for Israel in all Uruguayan circles, and that he had discussed the possibility of training Uruguayan trade union members at Histadrut centers in Israel.

Synagogue Council Backs Right of Dissent, Opposes Draft for Youths Opposing Viet Nam War

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA)—The Synagogue Council of America representing the Reform, Conservative and Orthodox branches of Judaism, today defended the right of dissent and charged that Lt. Gen. Lewis B. Hershey's instruction to draft boards, to conscript youngsters who allegedly "obstruct" the draft procedure, was "a dangerous usurpation of the role of the courts."

Rabbi Jacob P. Rudin, president of the Synagogue Council, said in a statement here that, while dissent can and has been occasionally expressed in an illegal manner, it is the responsibility of the courts, not the selective service system, to determine whether a person has violated the law. He called on President Johnson to rescind Gen. Hershey's action, and to establish procedures "that would prevent the use of the compulsory draft in a way that threatens our democratic process."

Orthodox Leader Says Viet Nam War Policy Does Not Endanger Anti-Poverty Fight

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA)—Rabbi Pesach Z. Levovitz, president of the Orthodox Rabbinical Council took sharp issue here this weekend with those of President Johnson's critics who say that the war in Viet Nam jeopardizes the anti-poverty and Great Society programs. "We have every confidence in the President's assertion that the American economy is strong enough to cope with any commitments abroad as well as on the home front," he said.

As evidence, Rabbi Levovitz pointed to the fact that the Administration has introduced into Congress legislation to continue all aspects of the Johnson social program. "It is those elements both in Congress and elsewhere who are using the war in Viet Nam as an excuse to scuttle this great program and undermine the President's leadership."

Kaplan, Reconstructionist, Calls for 'Spiritual' Zionism, Rather than Political

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA)—The founder of the Jewish Reconstructionist movement called here today for a turn to "spiritual Zionism" rather than political Zionism as a force that can match and possibly cure the trauma suffered by the Jewish people as a result of the Nazi holocaust. Dr. Mordecai M. Kaplan, addressing the annual dinner of the Jewish Reconstructionist Foundation, said that the recent Six-Day war demonstrated that the Jewish people are still alive "but only with that kind of life that responds to the dangerous shock treatment of crisis."

The Jewish people, Dr. Kaplan said, must develop self-disciplined, organic communities throughout the world, all of which will be spiritually related to Zion "as the spokes of a wheel to its hub." Otherwise he warned, the image of the Jews will be that of a disbanded people "which, like veterans of an army that once fought a common enemy, parade once or twice a year in sentimental recollection of bygone days."

National Hebrew Day School Group to Bolster Movement Across the Country

NEW YORK, Nov. 19 (JTA)—The formation of a Torah Umesorah Guardian Society, composed of community leaders committed to the building of Hebrew day schools across the country, was announced here today by Julius J. Rosen, of Baltimore, at a reception given by Torah Umesorah, national society for Hebrew day schools, to honor 14 recipients of its "Amudim" award.

Mr. Rosen said that formation of the society was "part of a national blueprint to stem the tide of intermarriage and galloping assimilation, and to guarantee Jewish survival." Samuel C. Feuerstein, president of Torah Umesorah, inducted 30 charter members of the society. The importance of the Hebrew day school movement was stressed in an address at the reception by Congressman Joseph Y. Resnick of New York, president of the Sullivan County Hebrew Day School.

Chagall Painting Shown in Moscow Gallery for First Time Since Stalin

LONDON, Nov. 19 (JTA)—A drawing by Marc Chagall is being exhibited in the Soviet Union for the first time since the artist left Russia in 1922, according to information reaching here from Moscow. The small red watercolor sketch titled "Peace to the Huts, War to the Mansions," dated 1918-1919, has been on display in Moscow's Tretyakov Gallery for about a week as part of a special showing of revolutionary and civil war posters in honor of the 50th anniversary of the Soviet Revolution. Chagall's paintings have been barred from Russian galleries since the Stalin period.