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Israeli Press Voices Regret Over Johnson's Decision Not To Seek Re-election

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--A majority of Israel's newspapers expressed regret today over President Johnson's surprise announcement Sunday night that he would not seek re-election next fall. A consensus of the Israeli press was that President Johnson was one of the staunchest friends of Israel ever to occupy the White House.

The daily Lamerhav, organ of the Achdut Avodah, said that "more than all of his predecessors, with the possible exception of President Truman," Mr. Johnson showed comprehension of Israel's needs and "lent his support in days of trial." Hayom, organ of Gahal, the Herut-Liberal alignment, sounded the same note, declaring that "it has been many years since Israel had a friend in the White House like President Johnson." The President's friendship toward Israel was also stressed by Hamodia, organ of the Agudas Israel, Omer (Histadrut) and Shearim (Poale Agudas Israel).

Al Hamishmar, organ of the left-wing labor party, Mapam took a cautious view. "The Security Council is now discussing grave incidents on the Israel-Jordan border and we may discern there the first signs of American policy on the morrow of President Johnson's announcement," the paper said. "That may give us a clue to future U.S.-Israel relations."

Two of the countries leading dailies, Davar and Haaretz, speculated on the outcome of Johnson's peace overtures to North Vietnam. "If Hanoi should refuse to come to the conference table after an unconditional bombing pause, President Johnson's past Vietnam policy will be vindicated," according to Davar. Haaretz cautioned that the Communists may decide to "drag their feet until a new President enters the White House."

Economic Conference Hears of Need to Improve Conditions for Investment in Israel

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--Jewish business leaders from abroad, attending Prime Minister Eshkol's world economic conference here, voiced sharp criticism last night of red tape and bureaucratic obstructionism in Israel and urged that steps be taken to improve the climate for foreign investments in the country. The speakers apparently accepted the invitation of Minister of Commerce and Industry Zeev Sharaf who said at the conference's opening session yesterday that constructive criticism was welcome. They also indicated that they were here not only to confer but to work out specific deals with Israeli businessmen.

One of the sharpest critics, Victor M. Carter, of Los Angeles, complained that approval of an investment in Israel required 28 consecutive procedures which he said had a deterrent effect on potential investors. But, Mr. Carter noted, the conference's American regional committee of which he is chairman, has already concluded 32 deals between American and Israeli firms.

Lord Sieff, of Great Britain, said Israel needed a thorough revision of its tax and dues system. Investments are worthwhile, he said, only if the investor sends experts to check on production processes. Francois Pereire, of France, said that while the conference can conclude business deals, its main objective must be the development of trade agreements involving know-how and the training of young experts. A. Bronfman, of Canada, said that many investors had been disappointed by the depletion of the value of their investments. Israel must create an economic climate to make profits and, even more important, the Government must streamline its process for handling investments, he said.

At last night's plenary session, Leon Perahia of Argentina disclosed that Latin American Jews will invest \$10 million to establish a holding company in Israel. Fritz Hollander, of Sweden, warned against creating export industries without first making sure that there is a home market to absorb some of their products. Max Ratner of Cleveland, chairman of the American-Israel Chamber of Commerce, announced that the PVC electrochemical company that he heads in Israel will double its capacity. This year's output, he said, has been sold out.

The session heard Baron Edmund de Rothschild, of France describe Israel as a tremendous humanitarian challenge. It was also privy to one of Israel's internal quarrels when Z. Susayeff, president of the Israeli industrialists association, charged that Histadrut enterprises get preferential treatment from the Government. A. Yadlin of Histadrut, retorted that "we're here to stay." The conference split into more than 20 committees and sub-committees today to deal with specific projects and proposals.

See Government Acceptance of Plan to Share Absorption Functions With Agency

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--Government acceptance of a plan to allocate responsibility for the absorption of new immigrants between the Jewish Agency and the Government was predicted by members of the Jewish Agency Executive following a meeting here. They said that three Cabinet members at a joint Agency-Government conference supported the plan proposed by Jewish Agency chairman Aryeh L. Pincus. Only one, Labor Minister Yigal Alon, was reported to have dissented and demanded that the Government take over absorption activities in full.

According to the Pincus plan, absorption would be divided into two phases. The initial phase, which would remain the responsibility of the Jewish Agency, includes the reception of immigrants at the ports of entry, Hebrew language studies for the newcomers, initial financial assistance and the procurement of housing, either flats or dwellings at an agricultural settlement. The later phases to be the sole responsibility of the Government, would cover employment, education, health and social services. The broad lines in those fields would be laid down by the Government-Jewish Agency joint authority on immigration and absorption.

Security Council Session Adjourned Again Until Thursday

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 2 (JTA)--The current Security Council session on the Middle East situation was adjourned tonight until 4 p.m. Thursday after continued debate in which Arab and pro-Arab delegates repeated a variety of familiar anti-Israel complaints and Israel vigorously rejected the charges. The meeting was the third since Israel and Jordan clashed in a day-long battle last Friday, and called for the session.

The Indian delegate, Gopalawaski Parthasarathi, declared that until Israel withdrew from the occupied territories, there could be no hope for peace in the Middle East. The Arab delegates again charged Israel with "genocide" and alleged plans to "destroy" the Arab residents of the occupied sectors.

No substantive proposals were brought up at the afternoon session today. The United States proposed at a previous meeting that United Nations observers be stationed on the Israel-Jordan demarcation line, a proposal about which Israel reportedly was dubious and which Jordan rejected yesterday at the Council.

Harman Tells American, Canadian Settlers to Shelve Plans for New Villages

JERUSALEM, April 2 (JTA)--Ambassador Avraham Harman, Israel's former envoy to the United States, advised the Association of American and Canadian Settlers in Israel last night to shelve their ambitious plans for the creation of small townships to absorb newcomers from North America and to concentrate instead on plans to absorb the few dozen immigrants who are definitely known to be coming from there this year. Ambassador Harman who was named president of the Hebrew University last week, spoke at the closing session of the association's conference. The group decided to establish a share-holding company to construct immigrant housing for rental or purchase. It elected Eli Klein, director of the Kerem Beyavneh Yeshiva, as its president.

David Breslau, retiring president of the association, sharply criticized the Government's handling of absorption which, he said, was administered by people who knew nothing about American immigrants. The association called for the establishment of a central authority for immigration and absorption in which the various immigrant associations would participate.

Jordanians Deliver Dirt-Filled Coffins Instead of Bodies of Slain Israelis

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--Two coffins which Jordanian authorities claimed contained the remains of Israeli soldiers killed in the March 21 military action against terrorist bases in Jordan were found to be filled with earth when they were opened at the Tel Hashomer hospital here, it was learned today. Israel has asked the International Red Cross to intervene with Jordan for the return of the two bodies.

The two earth-filled coffins and a third coffin containing the remains of an Israeli soldier, were exchanged for eleven Jordanian prisoners of war at the Allenby Bridge last Thursday. The flag-draped coffins were accorded full military honors and traditional ritual prayers were recited over them by the chief chaplain of Israel's armed forces.

New Acts of Sabotage, Jordanian Shelling Reported from Beisan Valley

TEL AVIV, April 2 (JTA)--A water pumping station was damaged by explosive charges last night at Kibbutz Neveh Eitan in the southern Beisan Valley as Jordanian units on the East Bank of the river fired mortar shells at nearby settlements. The incidents occurred at about 9:30 p.m., local time, when mortar shells fell in the Tirat Zvi area. An hour later, shells fell near Maoz Chaim and an explosion was heard at Neveh Eitan. An investigation disclosed that explosives had been placed in the pumping station, the first El Fatah sabotage since last Friday's fighting along the Israel-Jordan demarcation line.

The curfew on Hebron was lifted today following the arrest of 20 suspects in the fatal shooting of an Israeli border policeman in the town's marketplace on Sunday. The suspects will be screened for El Fatah members on the wanted list. When those are weeded out, the others will be released, it was reported today. The shooting was the first incident of its kind in Hebron since the June war.

(The London Daily Telegraph said today that Israel is building roads near the Jordanian border to permit the rapid deployment of troops against guerrilla bands crossing over from the east bank of the river. The paper also said that Israel was experimenting with secret electronic devices that would make it easier to detect infiltrators.)

Gaza Strip Oranges Marketed in Europe But Quality Considered Poor

BRUSSELS, April 2 (JTA)--Oranges from the Gaza Strip are being marketed in Europe but their quality is poor and the price they bring is low, it was reported here today.

Warsaw Paper Denounces JDC, Former Jewish Security Officials, For 'Espionage'

LONDON, April 2 (JTA)--The Warsaw Communist youth newspaper, Sztandar Mlodych, has attacked the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee for alleged espionage in Poland and leveled the same charge against three Polish Jews who held high military and police posts in the Communist state apparatus before they defected to the West between 1955 and 1965, it was reported here today. The attack was the latest development in a growing press campaign to discredit Communist officials of Jewish origin and to back up charges that Jewish leaders and organizations abroad were engaged in a conspiracy against Poland.

The JDC was ousted by the Warsaw regime last year because of its spying, the newspaper claimed. It accused the JDC of having used its charitable work as a cover for intelligence activities for Israel and the United States. The three Jews accused of espionage before defecting were Jozef Swiatlo, a former colonel employed by the Ministry of Public Security (secret police) who, the paper pointed out, was born Izaak Fleishfar; Wladislaw Tykocinski, who was once chief of the Polish military mission in West Berlin, and Pawel Monat, another former colonel and military attache. Swiatlo defected to the United States in 1955, Monat in 1960 and Tykocinski in 1965. He died there last autumn. All three were labeled "Zionists" by Sztandar Mlodych.

(The New York Times reported from Warsaw today that the traditional anti-Semitism that lies behind the current anti-Zionist campaign, is compounded by the proportionately large number of Jews who served in the secret police or important party posts during the Stalinist period. "Nonetheless," the Times said, "many Poles believe that the campaign is a smokescreen designed to keep public attention distracted from the party power struggle. Some observers suggest that the dismissal of many Jewish officials serves the purpose of making way for younger men.")

Joint Distribution Committee Denies Warsaw Newspaper's 'Espionage' Charges

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--The Joint Distribution Committee said today that "the only truth in the statement" by the Warsaw Communist youth newspaper, Sztandar Mlodych, attacking the relief and rehabilitation agency as an instrument of espionage "is that the Joint Distribution Committee was asked to terminate its activities in Poland at the end of last year." The statement, made by Samuel L. Haber, executive vice-chairman of the JDC, noted that "the accusations against the JDC are all the more astounding because of the Polish Government's recent acknowledgement of JDC's contributions and assistance."

Mr. Haber referred to a letter last August from J. Rutkiewicz, Undersecretary of State in the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare, expressing thanks for JDC activities in Poland which, he said, had "helped in the vocational retraining of a part of the Jewish population in our country" and "has facilitated their further independent work within the framework of our constantly developing economy." The letter pointed out that "because of this situation, I wish to inform you that we consider the period of the JDC's activity in Poland, which has lasted until now, as sufficient because the goals which have guided them have been reached."

Mr. Haber pointed out that at that time, JDC was assisting some 14,000 Jews out of 20,000 in the country, at a cost of about \$500,000 a year. Despite the feeling that Jews in Poland still needed assistance, he said, "JDC was left no option but to terminate its assistance programs in Poland at the end of 1967."

The JDC executive stressed that "JDC, in its work of relief and rehabilitation of Jewish victims of war and persecution, has scrupulously refrained at all times from political activities. It has never deviated from its principle of exclusive adherence to its humanitarian role. Wherever it has carried out its humanitarian programs, it has continued to guard zealously its complete independence from all political movements general as well as specifically Jewish," he declared.

American Youth Groups Join Protest Against Polish Revival of Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Representatives of a number of American youth organizations joined today in a protest against the Polish Government's repression of the student demand for freedom of speech and expression in Polish universities and in condemnation of the regime's resort to anti-Semitism as a means of discrediting the student demonstrators. The statement endorsed by these groups was drawn up and circulated by the Young People's Socialist League, the youth group of the Socialist Party which Norman Thomas headed until his recent retirement, and the Jewish Socialist Youth, the youth section of the Jewish Labor Bund.

The statement expressed objection to the "Polish Government's decision to employ one of the most vicious weapons of reactionary governments -- state-sponsored anti-Semitism." It said that "throughout history, both liberal and radical democrats have regarded official anti-Semitism as one of the most reactionary practices. We see no reason to suspend that judgment now, especially in a country which is the graveyard of three million Jews."

The signatories to the statement include Campus Americans for Democratic Action, the College Young Democratic Clubs of America, the United States Youth Council, the Youth and College Division of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the United States National Student Association.

American Jewish Committee Adopts Program for Support of Kerner Report

WASHINGTON, April 2 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee announced today plans for a nationwide effort to expand support for implementation of the recommendations of the Kerner Commission report on civil disorders. The organization's board of governors, which met here last night, approved a three-part program of regional meetings of AJC chapters and units, community-wide conferences in cities which have chapters and units and a report back for further action in this area at the organization's 62nd annual meeting in New York City, May 23-26.

The regional meetings will seek to map plans to involve members in the implementation activity, Orin Lehman, chairman of the board of governors, said. The community-wide conferences will seek to reveal problems in cities which have the potential for renewed summer disorders and to undertake remedial action in employment, housing services to young people and similar services. He said three regional meetings would be held within the next week.

Mr. Lehman said the committee's goal was to keep the issues raised by the Kerner report "alive and dramatic, pinpointing the factors that are likely to be inflammatory in the community." He said the program embodied an effort to determine what "as white Americans and as Jews," the organization could do "to help end the legacy of America's racism and what our members can do in their own communities to implement the recommendations of the Kerner report."

Six-Day War Was Cause of Many Jewish Defections from 'New Left' Movement

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Many of the American Jews who have defected from the "New Left" movement have done so as a result of the Six-Day War, according to an author and research analyst for the American Jewish Committee. Mrs. Lucy Dawidowicz, lecturing at Yeshiva University's school of religious education, pointed out that many anti-war, pro-civil rights American Jews had become disenchanted with the New Left and militant Negro organizations either because of their silence or, as in the case of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), outright hostility toward Israel, during and after the war.

She compared Jewish reaction to the "New Left" to the split in the Second Socialist International at the outbreak of World War I, during which time many dissidents abandoned the organization because of their views toward the war and involvement of the United States in it. "Similarly," she said, "the beginning of the Six-Day War brought forth a wave of support from Jewish New Left people who oppose the Vietnam war, uniting them behind Israel. When other elements of the New Left sided with the Arabs, the movement lost many of its Jewish members."

Course in Conventional Hebrew To Be Given in Jewish Braille Review

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--A beginner's braille Hebrew course for the blind is being undertaken by the Jewish Braille Institute of America in cooperation with the Tarbut Foundation for the Advancement of Hebrew Culture. The course in conversational Hebrew will appear in the Jewish Braille Review and will be available in book form as well. Dr. Sholmo Kodesh of Jerusalem is the author of the course which appeared originally in weekly newspaper columns in American-Jewish weeklies.

Prof. Lev Landau, Famed Russian Jewish Physicist, Dies in Moscow

LONDON, April 2 (JTA)--Lev Landau, an outstanding Soviet-Jewish physicist who was awarded the Nobel Prize and two Lenin prizes, the highest Soviet award for achievements in science, died in Moscow yesterday at the age of 60. Prof. Landau had been a semi-invalid for the past six years as a result of injuries he received in an automobile accident. He was able to speak and move a little and tutor students in his home. But he never returned to his scientific work. A year ago he received a Jewish journalist from Warsaw, to whom he said that he was not a political man but was born a Jew and would die a Jew.

Funeral Services Held for Jacob Mazer, Industrialist, Philanthropist

PURCHASE, N.Y., April 2 (JTA)--Funeral services were held today for Jacob Mazer, past board chairman of the Hudson Pulp and Paper Corporation. Mr. Mazer, who succumbed Monday at the age of 69 after an extended illness, was the oldest son of Abraham Mazer, philanthropist and founder of the Hudson company. He was chairman of the board for 10 years before retiring. In 1954, he was honored by the American-Israeli Chamber of Commerce for working to establish the American-Israeli Paper Mills, Ltd., at Hadera. He is survived by his widow, Ruth; two sons, two brothers, two sisters and seven grandchildren.

Milton B. Freund Succumbs To Heart Attack at 64

NEW YORK, April 2 (JTA)--Milton B. Freund, who initiated the idea of a Jewish center at the United Nations and was instrumental in its establishment, died today of a heart attack at his home. He was 64. Mr. Freund was the husband of Mrs. Miriam K. Freund, former national president of Hadassah. Funeral services will be held tomorrow at the Sutton Place Synagogue.

Isaac Freylich, Former President of Antwerp Jewish Community, Dies at 77

ANTWERP, April 2 (JTA)--Isaac Freylich, for many years president of the Jewish community of Antwerp, died here at the age of 77. Mr. Freylich also served as president of the Jewish school committee, Yesod Hatorah.