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NCRAC Proposes Massive Program To Outlaw Inequality, Injustices, Poverty

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA)--Nine major national Jewish agencies and 81 community relations agencies affiliated with the National Community Relations Advisory Council, called today for a comprehensive Federal program to "banish inequality, injustice and poverty" from this land and said that they and their membership were prepared "willingly to assume whatever share may fall upon us" of the economic costs entailed. They called upon President Johnson to propose this comprehensive program and on Congress to enact it.

A resolution adopted by the executive committee of NCRAC Sunday and transmitted to President Johnson affirmed that this country "has the resources to provide all our people with the essentials of a decent, dignified human life, while meeting our obligations abroad." It said that "failure to use those resources to banish inequality, injustice and poverty is as immoral as it is indefensible. There can be no higher priority for the nation." The resolution expressed readiness to assume a share of the costs involved and urged member organizations and their constituents "to make known to their legislators and other officials of government their like commitment." It pledged the fullest commitment to programs of education and interpretation to assure acceptance and support of the proposed measures "as matters of the greatest urgency."

Resolution Stresses Need For Speedy Action To Avoid 'Destructive Course'

The program urged on the President and Congress would provide, the resolution stated, a decent job for all who are employable or can be made so by retraining; income sufficient to provide all others with essentials of civilized living; decent dwellings for all; medical care for all; education to the limits of each person's capacity, and the elimination of all forms of discrimination and segregation from the life of our society.

The resolution noted that the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the emotions aroused by it, attested to the urgency of decisive action. It warned that such action must be initiated now lest the nation "be precipitated into an irreversibly destructive course toward internecine strife that could sunder our national unity and debase the character of our social order." It denounced rioting, pillaging and looting but warned that the alternative to violence must not be "blind repression," noting that the sources of the disorders "lie deep in the long history of enslavement, oppression, denial, segregation and discrimination to which Negroes have been subjected in our society."

In his letter of transmittal to President Johnson, Jordan C. Band, NCRAC chairman, expressed the hope that the Civil Rights Bill of 1968 would be enacted within the next few days. He urged, as "priority measures," passage of the Housing and Development Act of 1968, including funds for expanded rent supplement and model cities programs; legislation to create meaningful jobs in vitally needed public services for citizens able and willing to work but unable to find employment in the private sector; repeal of the restrictive welfare provisions freezing the number of children in fatherless homes who can receive help under the AFDC program, and a supplemental appropriation for the Office of Economic Opportunity to bring current appropriations to authorized levels, to replace diverted funds and to provide funds for special summer programs of employment, education and recreation.

Meeting Discussed Problem of Jewish Merchants Who Were Victims of Rioting

The resolution was adopted at a meeting last Sunday that had been in the preparatory stages for at least two weeks before Dr. King's assassination. Several major organizations which are not members of the NCRAC participated in the deliberations and made it clear that they considered themselves equally involved. Community relations councils throughout the country were advised following the meeting that it would be desirable for them to seek the involvement of other communal agencies in support of the program adopted.

It was learned that during the discussion in the committee session Sunday, deep concern was expressed for the Jewish merchants who were among the victims of the disorders that followed the King assassination. Community relations councils in cities where disorders occurred were urged to participate in developing special approaches for counseling and for practical assistance to these victims. Participants in the Sunday meeting stressed the belief that an immediate and greatly reinforced commitment to effective programs to meet the current crisis must be forthcoming from the Jewish community.

Guidelines for the community councils noted that "in the forefront of impediments to the enactment of meaningful legislation to meet the urban crisis is the question of money." It was, consequently, important that the lawmakers be made aware that there was "readiness to support additional taxes to finance the programs we are calling for." This was necessary in view of the mood of retrenchment in Congress on domestic issues and the prevailing reluctance to raise taxes, it was pointed out.

Israel Preparing New Moves To Help Jarring Mission Out of Impasse

JERUSALEM, April 10 (JTA)--Israel is preparing new political initiatives to help deliver the mission of U.N. envoy Ambassador Gunnar Jarring from its present impasse, it was learned here today. They have been screened and discussed at a Cabinet meeting and may be presented to Dr. Jarring when he sees Foreign Minister Abba Eban tomorrow at a meeting which many here consider crucial to the continuation of Dr. Jarring's peace mission in the Middle East.

According to political circles, Mr. Eban will clarify to the U.N. envoy Israel's stand on various problems, based on the Cabinet discussions. It is believed he will give Dr. Jarring more definite information on Israel's demands for talks with the Arabs, either direct, through U.N. mediation or through another third party, which Dr. Jarring can convey to Cairo and Amman when he next visits those capitals.

Egypt's "barely disguised view" that the peace mission of Ambassador Jarring is a failure may give additional impetus toward a new Arab summit conference which King Hussein of Jordan has been urging, the London Financial Times reported from Cairo today. The paper said that an Arab summit would mark a new phase of pan-Arab action to recover the territories lost to Israel last June. The paper noted that Ambassador Jarring visited Cairo Tuesday and quoted the Egyptian Foreign Minister, Mahmoud Riad, as saying that his efforts had resulted in a stalemate. The semi-official Cairo newspaper, Al Ahram, said that the entire question may be taken back to the U.N. General Assembly which is due to convene on April 24.

(In Rome, the Socialist Party headed by Pietro Nenni, stated in its pre-election program today that a solution of the Near East conflict must be sought by direct negotiations between Israel and the Arab states under United Nations auspices.)

Israel May Use 'Counter-Terror' Measures Against Infiltrators, Bar-Lev Says

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA)--The Chief of Staff of Israel's armed forces indicated here yesterday that Israel may employ "counter-terrorist" measures to combat the incursions of Arab marauders against its territory. Addressing the nation over Kol Israel Radio, Maj. Gen. Chaim Bar-Lev said that Israel "has other means in its possession to fight El Fatah besides the conventional methods used hitherto." He warned, however, that the struggle against terrorists and saboteurs will not be easy and that counter-terrorist methods do not offer "a magic formula to solve the problem."

Gen. Bar-Lev spoke of using minefields and electrified fences to stop the infiltration by marauders. Mines and fences are reported to be already in place along some stretches of the Israel-Jordan demarcation line. Amman asserted yesterday that three Jordanian soldiers had been killed when their vehicle struck a mine said to have been laid by Israelis on Jordanian territory south of the Dead Sea. The question of combating terrorism with the same methods used by terrorists has been debated in the Cabinet and among the Israeli public. It has apparently found increasing favor since the large-scale military operation against Arab terrorist bases in Jordan on March 21 which had only limited success and resulted in a censure of Israel by the U.N. Security Council.

Labor Minister Yigal Allon told a Labor Party meeting in Haifa today that Israel cannot consider a return to the old armistice borders that existed before last June's war. Gen. Allon said that the Arabs are incapable of waging conventional war against Israel and that terrorist activities remain their only weapon. Israel has no alternative but to fight it, even if it means crossing the border, he declared. Referring to the political consequences of such a policy, particularly as they might effect King Hussein, of Jordan, the Labor Minister said Israel has no special interest in bringing about Hussein's downfall, but when security is involved, "nothing can prevent us from doing what we think is essential even if it endangers Hussein's throne."

(El Fatah saboteurs and terrorists "in many ways now call the tune in the Middle East crisis" and King Hussein's days would be numbered if he attempted to contain them, the London Daily Mail reported in a dispatch from Amman today. According to the paper, the Israelis no longer look on Hussein as "the one moderate voice in a babble of Arab extremism. The activities of El Fatah have converted Hussein into Israel's public enemy No. one." The paper took a dim view of Hussein's future. "His position seems impossible even by Arab standards," the dispatch said.)

Gaza Strip Residents Fail To Return After Pilgrimage To Mecca

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA)--The Military Government office reported today that a significant number of Gaza Strip residents failed to return to their homes after making the annual pilgrimage to Mecca earlier this year. Military Government sources said that many of them probably went to seek employment in Saudi Arabia, Kuwait or the oil-rich Persian Gulf sheikdoms. This was the habit among Arab youth in Gaza even before last June's Six-Day War, they noted.

Moshe Dayan Leaves Hospital After Three Weeks; To Be on Job Sunday

TEL AVIV, April 10 (JTA)--Defense Minister Moshe Dayan was released from Tel Hashomer Hospital today where he spent the last three weeks recovering from injuries he received while exploring an archaeological excavation. Gen. Dayan is expected to rest at his home for the next few days and to resume work on Sunday.

Envoy Promises To Speed-Up Passports for Jews Wishing to Leave Poland for U.S.

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA)--The Polish Ambassador in Washington has told the American Jewish Committee that he would ask his government to see what could be done about speeding up issuance of passports for Polish Jews who wish to come to the United States, it was disclosed today. Ambassador Jerzy Michalowski's pledge was in response to urging by a Committee delegation that the emigration of Jews who have expressed a desire to leave Poland be expedited.

The envoy told the delegation that those Jews who are intimately linked with Israel and do not feel fully at home in Poland would be permitted to leave. He said he did not know how many Jews wanted to come to the West, including the United States, but he promised the delegation that he would notify the Polish Government of the concern here and would see what could be done about speeding up the issuance of passports.

Mr. Michalowski denied that recent job dismissals and other signs of unrest in Poland had anything to do with anti-Semitism or that there was persecution of Jews there. But he said that "there are anti-Semites who would like to take advantage of the present situation." He declared that the March 19 statement by Wladyslaw Gomulka, Communist Party chief, was the only official policy position announced by the Government. He denied that articles in the Polish press which have been interpreted as anti-Semitic necessarily represented official views. He said there was press censorship in Poland but there was no control of the entire press.

Polish Embassy, Ignoring Warsaw Developments, Lauds Ghetto Uprising Heroes

WASHINGTON, April 10 (JTA)--A communication crediting the "heroic fight" of "Jewish insurgents" for temporarily halting the Nazi extermination campaign through the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising was sent to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency bureau here today by Andrezej Konopacki, First Secretary of the Embassy of Poland. The letter offered the JTA four articles by "distinguished Polish historians" for publication in connection with the 25th anniversary of the Ghetto Uprising. It revealed that the Polish Communist authorities, despite the current anti-Jewish campaign, have decided to celebrate the uprising publicly, although the letter made no mention of current developments in Poland affecting the Jews.

Mr. Konopacki said the Jewish revolt on April 19, 1943 was "the first time, in the eleventh year of the Nazi rule in Europe, when the criminal realization of the thesis of final solution of the Jewish question was suddenly stopped. For a month, the Jewish insurgents fought their heroic fight on the barricades of the Ghetto." (This statement was in contrast to recent allegations in Warsaw that sought to minimize and debunk the Jewish resistance.)

The Embassy First Secretary said "the 25th anniversary of the uprising is being celebrated all over the world as the struggle that appealed to all the world." He revealed that the anniversary would be observed this month in Warsaw. "On the eve of the anniversary, celebrations will begin in Warsaw -- the city which was the eye-witness of the heroism of the insurgents," said Mr. Konopacki. The four articles were:

"The Uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto" by Wladyslaw Bartoszewski -- an account of the Jewish combat organization and heroism that appeared basically factual.

"Passiveness vs. Armed Resistance for Self-Preservation" by Wojciech Sulewski -- a pseudo-scholarly exaggeration of "the psychosis of non-resistance" and collaboration that minimized Jewish resistance but did give credit to the Hashomer Hatzair.

"Establishing the Ghetto in Warsaw" by Leszek Moczulski -- condemned "Jewish traitors who were dependable tools of Hitler's policy of extermination, credited Polish non-Jews with "great sacrifices" to aid the Jews of the Ghetto, attacked American Jewish and Zionist groups for failing their Polish co-religionists. This was the most biased and distorted of the four articles.

"Commemorating the 25th Anniversary of the Ghetto Uprising" by Andrzej Szczypiorski -- a philosophical essay that emphasized the enormity of German barbarism. It paid tribute to "my Jewish and Polish brothers who lost their lives in the fight against Hitlerism" and stressed the guilt of Germans. The writer portrayed Jews in a sympathetic light.

ORT Leader Denounces Polish Charge Agency Carried On Espionage in Poland

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA)--Dr. William Haber, President of the American ORT Federation and chairman of the central board of the World ORT Union, rejected today as "utterly preposterous and without a scintilla of truth," accusations made over the Polish State television system earlier this week that the Jewish training and rehabilitation agency had been involved in espionage activities in Poland.

"The only activities in which ORT has ever been engaged in Poland or elsewhere are educational and humanitarian," Dr. Haber declared. "Our only motive has always been the welfare of Jews in the areas where we work. The government of Poland was perfectly aware of what we were doing and approved of it." He stressed that the ORT organizations have "at all times and everywhere refrained from political activities."

British Press Hits Saudi Arabia for Withdrawing Acceptance of New Envoy

LONDON, April 10 (JTA)--The British press reacted sharply today over the Saudi Arabian government's reneging on its agreement to accept Horace Phillips as the new British Ambassador, because he comes from a Jewish family.

The Daily Mail gave the story a front page banner headline stating, "Arabs ban our ex-Jewish envoy." The paper noted that in addition to "disgust at the racialism" there is "irony in the fact that Phillips abandoned the Jewish faith long ago." The diplomat's parents were Jewish and he was a practicing Jew in Glasgow in his teens.

The Times said that no one at the Foreign Office could recall a precedent for the Saudian withdrawal from an agreement once it was given. "The Saudians indicated clearly that the decision was taken because of Phillips' Jewish background." The Daily Express declared that "diplomatic courtesy prevents a formal protest by Britain but the Foreign Office statement regretting the Saudian action only thinly conceals the indignation in Whitehall."

Britain's New Race Relations Bill Does Not Apply to Anti-Semitic Acts

LONDON, April 10 (JTA)--Jewish organizations and the Jewish community generally welcomed the introduction of the new Race Relations Bill in Parliament last night as a matter of principle although the proposed legislation hardly affects the Jewish community or affords it protection against race hatred. The bill, which is assured of passage, supplements the 1965 Race Relations Act which dealt with racial discrimination in public places.

Such anti-Jewish discrimination as exists in England is of a social nature and it would not be likely that a British Jew would invoke the provisions of the proposed new legislation to sue a golf club or country club which blackballed his membership application.

Seder Ceremony in Street Near Soviet Mission Asks Freedom for Russian Jews

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA)--A traditional seder, the feast celebrating the liberation of Israelites from slavery in Egypt, 4,000 years ago, was held on a sidewalk in mid-Manhattan tonight in a symbolic demand for freedom for Soviet Jews to practice their faith and lead a cultural life according to their tenets without official repression. The seder, for which a police permit was obtained, was held on Lexington Avenue and 67th Street, near the building occupied by the Soviet Mission to the United Nations.

It was organized by the New York Jewish Community Relations Council Coordinating Committee for Soviet Jewry and was attended by 40 presidents and officers of major Jewish organizations in the New York metropolitan area. The seder was conducted by Rabbi Jacob Goldberg of the Fort Tryon Jewish Center, chairman of the Committee. He said that "through this public seder, performed freely and proudly on the streets of New York before the Soviet Mission building, the three million Jews of New York appeal to the makers of Russian policy -- let the Jews in Russia express their Jewishness freely, let them have their books and cultural institutions, let them teach their young and remove fear from the old and end the anti-Semitic propoganda that portrays Jews and Judaism as unworthy and shameful."

The group, through the seder, called on the USSR "to restore religious rights of Soviet Jewry; restore instruments of cultural expression to Soviet Jews; permit the reunion of families and to cease and desist from anti-Semitic propoganda." It was pointed out at the ceremony that Soviet Jews cannot easily obtain matzohs for the Passover holiday and that the printing of the Haggadah, the Passover prayer book, is prohibited in Russia.

Jewish Women Organize Latin-American Workshop on Communal Service Problems

CLEVELAND, April 10 (JTA)--A workshop on Latin-American communal problems, organized by the International Council of Jewish Women, will open in Buenos Aires, April 22, with representatives from seven South American countries participating. Mrs. Ronald Brown, president of the organization, said here today.

The conference will consider Latin American requirements in such areas as the role of the volunteer in communal service, relations with the Jewish and general communities, leadership training, the enlistment of youth in Jewish affairs, the status of women under Jewish law and the human rights issues at the United Nations. The conference will continue until April 25. Two vice-presidents of the international organization, Dra. Rosa A. de Herczeg, of Buenos Aires, and Mrs. Susanna Frank, of Sao Paulo, will direct its activities.

Israel Realigns Economic Office Here Linking Export, Investment Promotion

NEW YORK, April 10 (JTA)--The Israel Government has realigned its economic offices in this country to incorporate export promotional activity with the functions of its Investment Authority office here, it was announced today. The combined operation will be known as the Israel Government Investment and Export Authority and will be under the direction of Baruch Barak, who recently assumed direction of the American office of the Investment Authority.

Mr. Barak said today that combining export promotion with investment promotion illustrates the new Israeli approach to the country's economic expansion. "Israel's export capacity is directly related to her production capability," he said.