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Jews Linked Throughout World in Observance of First Seder Tonight

NEW YORK, April 11 (JTA)--Jews throughout the world completed preparations today for the first Seder of Passover which coincides this year with the Sabbath Eve tomorrow night, an occasion for prayers for the welfare of Israel and for the buffeted Jewish minority of Poland.

For American Jews it was a time of sharing in the unprecedented prosperity of a society nevertheless profoundly troubled by its unsolved racial problems at home and the absence of many of its sons fighting in a war in southeast Asia. The themes of a troubled time for Jews, Israel and humanity were keyed in messages from the leaders of American Jewry.

Edward Ginsberg, general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal, reminded American Jews that the task of resettling 1,500,000 immigrants to Israel during the past 20 years had been buttressed "by the great and mighty philanthropic contributions of the people of Israel." He warned that with prospects for peace in the Middle East "growing dimmer, the people of Israel are no longer in a position to continue this help." He appealed for a response to the 1958 UJA campaign for the Israel Emergency Fund and the regular campaign that would be "even greater than the magnificent outpouring of support that the 1967 drive enjoyed."

Dewey D. Stone, chairman of the United Israel Appeal, warned in a Passover message that the crisis for Israel of last May and June "is not over" and that "peace has not been won." He declared that "our people in Israel face many serious problems, some of which must become the primary responsibility of world Jewry." Recalling the years during which "the miracle of the return" had "transformed the lives of hundreds of thousands of our brothers overseas," he said "we realize that had it not been for the assistance provided by Diaspora Jewry, their absorption in a young nation surrounded by hostile neighbors would have faced insurmountable obstacles." Adding his belief that the needs of Jews in Israel "is greater today than ever before," he expressed confidence American Jewry "will meet this challenge."

Jews Reminded of Parallel Between Exodus and Modern Israel

Abraham Feinberg, president, and Samuel Rothberg, national campaign chairman, of the Israel Bond Organization, stressed the parallel between the story of the Exodus from ancient Egypt and the peril for Israel posed by modern Egypt. They noted that the Haggadah appeals to all Jews in all times to put themselves "in the place of those persecuted" by Pharaoh and that it was the duty of modern Jews "to identify with the people of present-day Israel" and to aid them "in their constant striving for a better life."

A similar note was sounded by Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, in a message which said it was "tragic" that Passover came this year at a time when Israel "must unhappily fight for the protection of its citizens." She noted that Israel's brilliant victory last June had not brought an end to "continuing acts of terrorism" requiring Israel to remain on guard and world Jewry to "remain steadfast" in support of Israel as it prepares to observe its 20th anniversary.

Louis J. Fox, president of the Council of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, declared in his Passover message, that the same enemies who had sought Israel's destruction last June "still surround Israel and are still plotting her destruction" and that Jews must on this Passover rededicate themselves "to helping maintain Israel's hard-won freedom." He emphasized that thousands of other Jews still lived in danger and in deprivation in the Soviet Union and in Arab countries for whom "the exodus is not yet possible." He also appealed to American Jews to be "the leaders" at home "in correcting injustice, eradicating the slums, the job discrimination, the education barriers -- the obstacles put in the way of our fathers and grandfathers," but suffered to a much greater degree by the Negro today.

A condemnation of the "campaign of propaganda and purges" by Communist Polish leaders against the Jews in Poland was made by Morris B. Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee, who noted the connection between last June's Middle East war, and the rise of anti-Semitism in the Soviet Union, as well as in Poland. He appealed also, in his Passover message, for peace in the Middle East between Israel and the Arabs through direct negotiations.

Rabbi Arthur Lelyveld, president of the American Jewish Congress, said the assassination of Negro rights leader Martin Luther King "recalls to us our Moses" and asserted that Jews were now called on to renew their commitment "to the cause of every man who is denied justice and equality" and to reaffirm support of "every initiative" to end the war in Vietnam.

Rabbi Israel Miller, chairman of the American Zionist Council, declared that the attack by the Polish authorities upon "Zionists" is "an attack upon freedom for all," as are the "religious and cultural disabilities" of Soviet Jewry. He warned that the modern Pharaohs were determined to destroy not only the "valiant citizens of Israel" but also the "spiritual values upon which Israel is based."

Similar warnings were sounded by the heads of the nation's rabbinical and congregational bodies. Rabbi Levi A. Olan, president of the Central Conference of American Rabbis, linked the struggle of the Children of Israel against Pharaoh with "the struggle for freedom" from discrimination, poverty and ignorance in this country. He said that "we must cry out to the world community for the right" of the Jews of Israel to exist, to be independent and to fashion their lives "in the spirit of justice and peace with their neighbors." Dr. Maurice Eisendrath, president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations, said that never before in Jewish history had the meaning of Passover been "so immediately relevant not only to Jews but to people everywhere tormented by the problems of an age in convulsion." He asserted that the struggle of the American Negro for full citizenship corresponds "much more closely to the experience of the Exodus than does any problem facing the Jews in America."

Helping Downtrodden in America Seen As Another Urgent Duty for Jews

Henry N. Rapaport, president of the United Synagogue of America, also cited the parallel between the struggle of the Negro today and that of the Israelites and warned that Jews must not allow their vision "to become blurred from the realities of the plight of the Negro community" by the "evil of Negro racists" and become deflected from "our moral obligation to help create better living conditions for our Negro fellow citizens."

Rabbi Joseph Karasick, president of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, appealed urgently to the Polish Government, in his Passover message, to condemn publicly and to denounce the anti-Semitism unleashed against the remnant of Polish Jewry "saved from the holocaust."

Dr. Israel Goldstein and Mrs. Halprin, in a message as co-chairmen of the World Confederation of General Zionists, declared that the road to true peace for Israel remained "fraught with dangers and obstacles," requiring the Zionist movement to continue giving Israel whole-hearted support and to "make great and sustained efforts" for greater Western immigration to Israel.

Carlos I. Israels, president of United Hias Service, declared that the "current exodus" of Jewish men, women and children from danger zones in many parts of the world "demonstrates that the survival of our people through migration is as real today as it was in Biblical times" and that from such zones, Jews in increased numbers "continue to call upon us for migration assistance."

The Joint Distribution Committee reported it had shipped 617,500 pounds of matzohs and other Passover supplies to Europe and North Africa. Samuel Haber, JDC executive vice-chairman, said this was an increase of about 73,000 pounds over 1967. The largest shipment went to Rumania, which included 340,000 pounds of matzohs, nearly 85,000 pounds of matzoh meal, 500 pounds of shmurrah matzohs and 20,000 bottles of Passover wine.

He said Passover supplies also had been sent to Jewish communities in Belgium, France, Greece, Italy, Portugal, Spain, Yugoslavia and Melilla in Spanish Morocco. Special grants are being issued to needy Jews in Algeria, Morocco and Iran to enable them to buy Passover supplies produced locally.

Seders Prepared for Troops Overseas and for the Aged and Sick

Passover observances by Jewish military personnel throughout the world will range from Seders for servicemen able to come together to solo Seders for men at isolated outposts or in posts in Vietnam which prevents them from joining other Jewish troops, the National Jewish Welfare Board reported. In announcing it had sent Passover supplies to more than 600 overseas and domestic military installations, as well as to Veterans Administration hospitals and other federal facilities for hospitalized veterans.

Seders will be conducted in Da Nang, Nha Trang and Saigon in Vietnam. Packaged Passover meals for solo Seders have been distributed to Jewish troops there who cannot be given leaves for the larger Seders. The JWB Women's Organization's Services, aided by B'nai B'rith and B'nai B'rith Women, shipped a record number of such packages, which also have been supplied to men on duty in domestic areas and at remote weather and radar stations, as well as to Peace Corps Jewish personnel. The more than 330 full and part-time Jewish chaplains will conduct Passover services in the United States and at 70 overseas installations. Qualified Jewish military lay leaders will conduct observances at places which cannot be covered by a chaplain, such as aircraft carriers and missile bases.

The Jewish sick and aged also will join in Seders in the hundreds of hospitals, medical centers, homes for the aged and similar institutions under Jewish sponsorship throughout the United States. At Beth Israel and other hospitals of the Federation of Jewish Philanthropies of New York where kashruth is observed, kitchens were made kosher for Passover. Special seders for the deaf will be conducted by the New York Society for the Deaf in Manhattan and by similar groups in other cities. The Joint Passover Association of New York City and the Joint Passover Committee of Queens and Nassau, have again distributed Passover aid directly to more than 5,000 needy families.

A demonstration Seder was held at the Lutheran Theological Seminary at Gettysburg, the first in the 141-year history of the oldest Lutheran seminary in the Western hemisphere. The service was sponsored by the seminary's student ecumenics committee in connection with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and conducted by Rabbi Solomon S. Bernards, director of the ADL department of interreligious cooperation.

Traditional Seders Planned For Israeli Troops on Distant Fronts

TEL AVIV, April 11 (JTA)--Massive preparations were underway today to assure a traditional seder feast for Israeli Army units stationed on far-flung fronts from the Golan Heights of Syria to the shores of the Suez Canal and the Red Sea.

The task is a major one because Israeli troops have never been so widely dispersed outside of Israel's territory since Israel was established 20 years ago. But the quartermaster's corps, under the direction of the Chief Chaplain, apparently has "Operation Passover" well in hand. Troops were assured of adequate supplies of matzo's, sacramental wine, charoset and all of the ritual appurtenances of a seder in addition to an ample meal wherever they are stationed. Seder services will be conducted by chaplains and cantors assigned to each unit.

For civilians, the holiday was marked by a steep rise in the prices of food and flowers. All chometz (leavened foods) of the State of Israel will be sold tomorrow morning to Arab villagers for a symbolic price, in accordance with Jewish tradition. For thousands of Israelis, Passover will be a holiday on wheels and the army set up information centers for those traveling south and into occupied territories. Tourists were arriving in record numbers.

Two Israeli Soldiers Wounded in Seven-Hour Gun Duel in Jordan Valley

TEL AVIV, April 11 (JTA)--Two Israeli soldiers were wounded in a seven hour gun duel today between Israeli and Jordanian forces in the northern sector of the Jordan Valley, a military spokesman reported. The main target of the Jordanians was Kibbutz Gesher but they also shelled Beth Joseph and Yardenia in the Beisan Valley, the spokesman said.

The shooting was started by the Jordanians at 8:30 a.m. local time and by 11:00 a.m. it had escalated from small arms exchanges to mortar and artillery duels. The Jordanians kept up the barrage intermittently through the afternoon and Israeli units returned the fire in kind. The Jordanians ceased fire at 3:30 p.m. local time, the spokesman said and the Israelis did likewise.

Jarring, in Jerusalem, Reported as Viewing Mission Continuing

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA)--Ambassador Gunnar Jarring had a 90-minute meeting today with Foreign Minister Abba Eban after earlier visits to Cairo and Amman. Authoritative diplomatic sources said after the talk that the UN special peace envoy regards his mission as continuing and that he did not yet plan to prepare his final report to Secretary General U Thant.

Dr. Jarring was expected to make another round of Arab capitals and may come to Jerusalem again next week. The same sources said that Egypt had rejected Jarring's proposal for peace talks under his auspices on Cyprus but that Jordan's rejection was "not so positive."

The speech by Egyptian President Nasser in Cairo yesterday was described by these sources as representing a "grave hardening" of attitude. In offering aid to the Arab terrorists, Nasser spelled out for the first time what he meant by the word "struggle," which he uses frequently in his speeches. He said struggle meant war. It was also the first time that he did not even mention the possibility of a political settlement with Israel.

The sources stressed that no one, including Dr. Jarring, had asked Israel to state its territorial aims until direct talks were started with the Arabs. The Israel position remains one of determination to maintain the present cease-fire lines until peace settlements are reached, with no discussion with third parties of any aspect of the substance of such settlements. They noted that the United States stands for the five-point program outlined by President Johnson last June which refers to the need for a peace agreement with secure, agreed-upon borders.

Socialist International Urges Polish Government to End Anti-Jewish Drive

LONDON, April 11 (JTA)--The Bureau of the Socialist International unanimously adopted an emergency resolution last night urging the Polish Government to call a halt to its present anti-Jewish campaign. The Bureau also said that it was informed that the Council of Europe would appeal to all the parliaments of Europe to protest against the treatment of Jews in the Soviet Union.

The resolution on Poland was adopted after an account of the situation of Polish Jews was presented by Dr. S. Levenberg, representative of the Jewish Agency. The resolution stated: "The Bureau of the Socialist International expressed its concern about the drive against intellectuals and the anti-Jewish campaign in Poland conducted by official spokesmen and the press. It is disturbed at the dismissal of officials on racial grounds and as punishment for deeds attributed to their children as well as the introduction of a loyalty test for Jewish citizens and others. The Bureau urges the Polish authorities to make an end to their anti-Jewish policy and the persecution of those pleading for freedom."

The Bureau disclosed that the Secretariat of the Socialist International has written to the Soviet Embassy in London calling their attention to the report of a special working committee on the situation of the Jews in the USSR.

Elath, Retiring President of Hebrew U., Named Red Mogen David Head in Israel

JERUSALEM, April 11 (JTA)--President Zalman Shazar named today Eliahu Elath, retiring president of the Hebrew University and former Ambassador to the United States, as president of the Mogen David Adom, Israel's national Red Cross service. The post is an appointive one by the President under Israeli law. Ambassador Elath served as president of the Hebrew University since 1962. Prior to that he held Ambassadorial posts in Washington and London. He is the successor, in his new position, to Mrs. Vera Weizmann, widow of Israel's first President, who served as president of the Mogen David Adom until her death in 1966.

The Mogen David Adom operates more than 70 first aid stations throughout Israel as well as the nation's ambulance and blood bank services. Its supply and support branch in the United States is the American Red Mogen David for Israel.

British Chief Rabbi Proclaims May 26 Day of Thanksgiving for June War Victory

LONDON, April 11 (JTA)--Chief Rabbi Immanuel Jakobovits of the British Commonwealth has proclaimed Sunday, May 26 as a day of thanksgiving for Jews to mark Israel's victory in the Six-Day War and the re-unification of Jerusalem. The date corresponds to the 28th of Iyar, 5728 on the Hebrew calendar.

In a pre-Passover broadcast, the Chief Rabbi declared that the "real significance" of Israel's victory last June "lay not only in the conquest of territory, not even in the relief of two and a half million Jews from mortal danger, but rather in the vindication of Divine promise."

American Jews of 'New Left' Seen Backing Soviet-Arab Anti-Semitic Line

NEW YORK, April 11 (JTA)--A charge that American Jews of the 'New Left' are following the Soviet-Arab anti-Israeli, anti-Semitic propaganda line was made here today by Dr. Abraham G. Duker, professor of history and social institutions at Yeshiva University. Dr. Duker spoke at the third of a special series of spring invitational lectures sponsored by the department of Religious Education at the University's Ferkauf Graduate School of humanities and social science.

He characterized Jews of the "New Left" as "the alienated, the radical and the extremist." He said that in views widely reported at the recent "New Left" conference "they have taken up the propaganda line equating Israel's lightning victory in the Mid-East war with those methods used by Nazi Germany in World War II." Others, of the "New Left," he said, "are overlooking Israel's plight by contending that the Jewish State is merely acting as a colonial outpost of the United States. They have also overlooked the ominous rise of standard anti-Semitic stereotypes against Israel and Zionism."

American Jewish Congress Lauds New Rights Law, Calls for More Legislation

NEW YORK, April 11 (JTA)--The American Jewish Committee congratulated Congress today for passage of the 1968 Civil Rights Bill but warned that unless "desperately needed legislation" is forthcoming, the nation will move toward "a divided society of blacks and whites" such as the President's Commission on Civil Disorders warned about.

The statement, issued by Bertram H. Gold, executive director of the AJC, said: "Congress merits congratulations for passing the long overdue civil rights guarantees including the Civil Rights Bill of 1968. Now we hope that the momentum so generated will continue, and that the desperately needed legislation pointed out by the Kerner Commission will be forthcoming. To do otherwise will result in an intensification of the disastrous trend toward a divided society of Blacks and Whites about which the Kerner Commission has warned us."

N.Y. Bank Leumi Branch Gets State Charter, First for a Foreign Bank Unit

NEW YORK, April 11 (JTA)--The New York branch of the Bank Leumi, Israel's oldest and largest bank, has received approval for a New York State charter that will convert it to the First Israel Bank and Trust Co. of New York. It was announced here today. Approval for the issuance of the charter, the first ever for a branch of a foreign bank, was effected by the New York State Banking Board in Albany yesterday.

The new bank has capital funds of \$7 million. A majority of its stock is owned by the Bank Leumi Le-Israel in Tel Aviv of which it will become an affiliate. Dr. Y. Foerder, chairman of the Bank Leumi, will serve on the board of directors of the First Israel Bank and Trust Co. of New York. The new bank will open for business on July 1 at 60 Wall Street, the premises from which the New York branch of Bank Leumi has been operating since 1961.

'Israel Through The Ages' Exhibit To Open in Paris Museum

PARIS, April 11 (JTA)--An exhibition titled "Israel Through The Ages" will be opened at a museum here on May 8 by Andre Malraux, French Minister of Cultural Affairs, it was announced today by Ambassador Walter Eytan, Israel Ambassador to France. The exhibit will be on display for three months.

Glasgow University To Have Chairs in Israeli Studies and Hebrew Language

GLASGOW, Scotland, April 11 (JTA)--The University of Glasgow has accepted an offer by the Israel Government to support two new academic posts, one in Israeli studies and the other in the Hebrew language and literature. The posts will be financed by the Israel Government and the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture for a period of three years with an option to extend them for another two years.