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Jews Around Globe Express Grief Over Assassination Of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy

NEW YORK, June 6 (JTA)--Millions of American Jews reacted with profound grief and shock today over the death of Senator Robert F. Kennedy who was struck down by an assassin's bullet in Los Angeles early yesterday morning. They joined with all other Americans and with countless millions of people abroad in mourning the young New York Senator who was in the vanguard of efforts to better the lives of deprived and underprivileged people and nations everywhere.

The sentiments of American Jewry were expressed today in scores of messages of condolence sent to the Kennedy family by the leaders of Jewish civic, religious, philanthropic and service organizations. The burden of sorrow was also shared by the people of Israel whose Prime Minister, Levi Eshkol, and Ambassador to the United States, Maj. Gen. Yitzhak Rabin, added their messages to the Senator's widow this afternoon.

Typical of the expressions of grief and prayer was a statement issued today by Rabbi Jacob P. Rudin, president of the Synagogue Council of America, central coordinating agency for the congregational bodies of Conservative, Reform and Orthodox Jewry whose combined membership includes four and a half million synagogue-affiliated Jews in America.

The Council's statement said: "We express our profound sympathies to Mrs. Robert Kennedy and to the family of Sen. Robert Kennedy. The nation has lost a man who was admired as a great American, a genuine friend of the Jewish people and of the State of Israel and a standard-bearer of a vision for a better tomorrow. The graves of the Kennedy brothers, lying side by side in the national cemetery, will be an everlasting memorial to a nation's grief. Today, the flame that burns in Arlington symbolizes a scar on the soul and conscience of a society so wracked by division and violence that its bravest and most promising sons are struck down. We pray that this flame, and the two tragic graves over which it will keep its vigil, will come to symbolize healing and conciliation, an end to violence, and a new dedication to the vision of America that was the dream of Robert Kennedy."

Jordan C. Band, of Cleveland, chairman of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, commented: "The shock and horror that the assassination of Sen. Kennedy evoked in all of us is paralleled by the sympathy we have for his widow and children. We share their bereavement, for this wanton murder has deprived the nation and the world of a courageous, compassionate and imaginative man to whom many looked with hope and trust."

Administration Fears Assassination Could Hurt U.S. Relations With Arab States

WASHINGTON, June 6 (JTA)--The Johnson Administration is deeply concerned lest the assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy by a fanatically anti-Israel Arab affect American relations with the "pro-Western" Arab regimes of Jordan, Tunisia, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Efforts are being made at the highest levels to protect Arab diplomats from possible reprisals and to play down the fact that the killing was apparently linked with the Arab-Israel issue. A top official said, with the stipulation that he not be identified: "We cannot permit a wave of anti-Arab sentiment among the American public at a time when we are trying to restore good relations with our friends in the Arab world."

(At the United Nations, New York City and UN police were on security alert after telephone threats against the lives of the Jordanian, Syrian and Algerian ambassadors. It was assumed that the threats were linked to the assassination of Sen. Kennedy by an Arab.)

Some saw significance in the statement of President Johnson that "we do not know the reasons that inspired the attack on Sen. Kennedy." Before the President made the statement he had the benefit of detailed reports on the identification of the accused that presumably referred to a possible anti-Israel motive for the shooting. The gunman, Sirhan Bishara Sirhan, was identified in some reports as an Arab fanatic who shot Sen. Kennedy to dramatize the Arab case against Israel. The alleged assassin was born in Jerusalem while it was under British Mandate rule, on March 18, 1944.

Some law enforcement authorities are convinced that Sirhan acted from political motives. He is believed by some investigators to have been inspired by the principles of the El Fatah terrorist organization based in Jordan. When arrested, Mr. Sirhan had a newspaper clipping in his pocket by Washington columnist David Lawrence who had written that Mr. Kennedy was a dove on Vietnam but a hawk on the Arab-Israel issue. The suspect had been known to make passionate anti-Jewish and anti-Israel statements. He had held a Jordanian passport and came to the U.S. in 1957.

Mr. Kennedy had been an outspoken friend of Israel. Last Saturday on a television debate with Sen. Eugene McCarthy, another Democratic Presidential nomination contender, he had urged that the U.S. sent 50 Phantom jets to Israel. Mr. McCarthy agreed with him.

Government Seeking To Play Down Impact On Public Opinion

Officials, Congressmen among them, said they could not deny that Mr. Kennedy's murder was a political one motivated by Arab fanaticism. But they said instructions had been issued at top levels of Government to help spare the Arabs, especially the State of Jordan, from any outburst of American public opinion against Arab peoples. The theory advanced is that the slaying serves the interests of El Fatah and other extremists. It could undermine King Hussein's regime if Washington were forced to sever arms shipments to Jordan and end other forms of aid because of outrage among U.S. citizens.

The Department of Justice and intelligence agencies are assembling the facts pertaining to possible links between Mr. Sirhan's activities in the Organization of Arab Students and El Fatah or other extremist groups or Arab Governments. But the aim is for internal security purposes rather than an indictment of Arab terrorism.

Some legal authorities here predicted that Mr. Sirhan would seek to turn his murder trial into an anti-Israel propaganda show. Prospective jurors might be challenged if they are Jewish, they said. Mr. Sirhan may seek to use the widely publicized trial as a forum for diatribes against Israel encompassing the Arab refugees, the occupation of the West Bank, Jerusalem and Gaza, and the whole scope of what the Arabs call "the crime of Palestine," they said. (An Arab newspaper in Lebanon today proclaimed that at last "the murder of the Palestine homeland" has been brought dramatically to the attention of the American people.)

Officials of the Southern California Civil Liberties Union have expressed concern that Mr. Sirhan might not be receiving his proper constitutional rights. They said the statements by Los Angeles Mayor Samuel W. Yorty about discovery of a notebook detailing an apparent intention to kill Sen. Kennedy before June 5 may have prejudiced the rights of the accused to a fair trial. The material was said to also reflect extreme anti-Israel and pro-Communist views. Mr. Sirhan had reportedly written "Long Live Nasser."

The Organization of Arab Students in Washington wired a message of sympathy to Mrs. Ethel Kennedy, the Senator's wife, and sought to dissociate itself from the act of violence.

(The press in some Arab countries today said that Sen. Kennedy was made to pay for U.S. pro-Israel policies. In other newspapers, regret was voiced over the assassination. The Beirut newspaper "Al Kifah" said the slaying was a "Jewish plot" designed to prevent Sen. Kennedy from reaching the White House where he would find "the Jews were behind" the murder of his late brother, President John F. Kennedy. Some Palestinians expressed the belief that Mr. Sirhan had been a "hired killer" and an agent in a Zionist plot to discredit the Arabs. Jordan's Ambassador to the United Nations, Muhammad el-Farrah, expressed today the Jordanian Government's "strong condemnation" of "the criminal act committed against an outstanding American and a leading public servant.")

The suspect's father, estranged from the family, lives in El Taiyiba, a small village on the Israel-occupied West Bank. He expressed horror at hearing about his son's alleged role in the murder and said that if his son was guilty, he should be hanged.

Israelis React To News Of Assassination With Profound Sorrow

JERUSALEM, June 6 (JTA)--Israelis, who were stunned yesterday by news of the shooting of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, reacted with profound sorrow this morning as they learned of the Senator's death. News of the assassination attempt, and identification of the accused gunman as a Palestinian Arab from what was formerly the Jordanian sector of Jerusalem, made banner headlines yesterday and crowded virtually all other news off the front pages. Word of Mr. Kennedy's death reached Israel at 11:00 a.m. local time, after this morning's newspapers had gone to press. But it was broadcast on radio and spread in minutes all over the country.

Classes in Israeli schools were interrupted by the news. Teachers set aside the day's lessons and gave their pupils impromptu talks on Sen. Kennedy and his family. Prime Minister Levi Eshkol, who yesterday cabled to the Kennedy family and President Johnson Israel's wishes for the Senator's recovery, sent a message of condolence today. Prayers were said in synagogues throughout the country for the Senator and his family.

Two Israeli Field Workers Injured By Jordanian Guns; Israelis Return Fire

TEL AVIV, June 6 (JTA)--Two Israeli field workers were injured and hospitalized this morning when Jordanian guns opened fire on a group of Israelis tending crops in a field north of Shaar Hagan in the Yarmuk river area. Israeli forces returned the fire in an exchange that began at 9:00 a.m. local time and lasted 10 minutes, a military spokesman reported. Fields on both sides of the cease-fire demarcation line were blackened as a result of Tuesday's fierce artillery duels which set fire to ripening crops. Israelis had returned to their fields but not Jordanian farmers. Jordanian gun positions were also blackened by fires started by Israeli direct hits Tuesday. A Jordanian water conduit was damaged and a nearby area was flooded.

Government Mandates Permit For Visits To Occupied Territories Exceeding 48 Hours

JERUSALEM, June 6 (JTA)--The Government announced here today that any person wishing to remain in Israel-occupied Arab territories for longer than 48 hours must secure a permit from the Military Government administering the area. Observers here said the order was intended to forestall attempts by private groups or individuals to establish settlements in the occupied territories without official sanction. One such group, consisting of Orthodox Jews, has settled in the West Bank town of Hebron and declared that it intends to remain permanently to re-establish the defunct Jewish community there.

In a related development, members of the so-called Movement for a Greater Israel held their first national conference here yesterday and called on the Government to reject the Security Council's resolution of Nov. 22, 1967. The movement advocates the establishment of Israel's permanent boundaries on the present cease-fire demarcation lines. It numbers among its followers several Knesset (Parliament) members and public figures and a number of former ambassadors and reserve generals.

Willy Brandt Denies That West Germany Has Sent Arms To Israel Or Arab States

BONN, June 6 (JTA)--West German Foreign Minister Willy Brandt hotly denied at a press conference here today that West Germany has sent arms to the Middle East, either to Israel or the Arab states. He said the charges, which he termed "slandorous," emanated from East Germany. The Bonn Government, he declared, adheres to its position of 1965 that no arms will be sent to areas of tension.

Mr. Brandt avoided direct comments on two other questions. Asked if he shared the view of Herbert Wehner, deputy chairman of the Social Democratic Party, that the extreme rightist National Democratic Party should be outlawed, the Foreign Minister said it was up to the Interior Minister to decide whether to initiate any such action. Questioned about the statute of limitations which will bar future prosecution of Nazi war criminals after it goes into effect at the end of 1969, Mr. Brandt said that problem would soon be discussed by his party.

Petition Brazil For Travel Documents For Jews Of Poland And Arab Countries

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 6 (JTA)--The Jewish community of Brazil has petitioned the Government to issue travel documents to Jews in Poland, Egypt, Syria and Iraq which would enable them to leave those countries to join their families living in Brazil. The petition was presented to Foreign Minister Jose De Magalhaes Pinto by a delegation representing the Confederation of Jewish Communities of Brazil. They asked the minister to use his "good offices" to expedite the issuance of visas. The Foreign Minister was said to have received the petition favorably. The petition was prompted by the continuing anti-Jewish campaign of the Polish Government and new reports of the harassment of Jews in the Arab countries. In Iraq laws were promulgated last March which deprive Jews of control over their property and debts owed to them and place a minimal ceiling on the wages that Jews can receive.

Forty-eight Brazilian Jews are en route to Israel aboard the liner Theodor Herzl to settle there. They comprise the fourth and largest group of immigrants to leave Brazil for Israel since January, 1968. They are mostly young men and girls under 22 years of age.

Israel Participates In United Nations Industrial Development Promotion Program

LONDON, June 6 (JTA)--Israel is one of the countries participating in a United Nations sponsored program for industrial development promotion based here. Iraq and Egypt are also members. The program is under the aegis of the UN Industrial Development Organization. The Israeli representative is Ram Carni, deputy director of the Israel Investment Authority.

Ten Nazis Acquitted Of Participating In Killing Of 8,800 Jews In Soviet Union

BONN, June 6 (JTA)--Ten former members of Hitler's police were acquitted in Bochum yesterday of taking part in the killing of 8,800 Jews in Russia between 1941 and 1944. The court complied with the prosecution's demand that the men, now between 52 and 56 years of age, be cleared because they had acted under orders and their guilt could no longer be proved beyond reasonable doubt, a report said.

Soviet Sculptors Submit Proposals For Monument To War Dead In Kaunas, Lithuania

LONDON, June 6 (JTA)--A number of Soviet sculptors have submitted ideas for a memorial monument to be erected on a site in Kaunas, Soviet Lithuania, where tens of thousands of Lithuanian Jews and Jewish deportees from abroad were killed by the Nazis and their local collaborators during World War II. According to reports reaching here today, plans for the memorial are now on exhibition at the museum of art in Vilna, capital of the Lithuanian Soviet Republic. No date has been given on when work on the memorial will start.

Randolph S. Churchill Dead At 57; Had Represented His Father At Israel Functions

LONDON, June 6 (JTA)--Randolph S. Churchill, an internationally known author and journalist who was the only son of the late Sir Winston and Lady Churchill, died here today at the age of 57 after a long illness. Mr. Churchill was a life-long Anglo-Zionist and often represented his father at official functions in Israel. On many occasions he served as a go-between for his father and the late Dr. Chaim Weizmann, head of the World Zionist Organization during the pre-Statehood years, who became Israel's first President.

Mr. Churchill served as a major in the British Army during World War II and spent time in Jerusalem. His open support of Zionist aspirations made him unpopular with the British administration in Palestine. After last June's Six-Day War, he wrote a book on the conflict and its causes which became a best seller.

Eshkol Cables Condolence To Johnson Over Loss Of Submarine Scorpion With 99 Aboard

WASHINGTON, June 6 (JTA)--President Johnson has received a message of condolence from Israel Prime Minister Levi Eshkol over the loss of the nuclear submarine Scorpion somewhere in the North Atlantic with 99 men aboard. The Scorpion, missing for more than a week on a voyage from the Mediterranean to Norfolk, Va., was officially declared lost by the U.S. Navy yesterday.

Israel lost one of its submarines, the Dakar, which disappeared with all aboard in the eastern Mediterranean last February. Eshkol said, in his message to Johnson, that "Israel shares in the U.S. grief over the loss of the nuclear submarine Scorpion."

First Textbook On Holocaust For Jewish Schools To Be Issued In July

NEW YORK, June 6 (JTA)--The first textbook on the Nazi holocaust for Jewish school use will be published July 15 under auspices of the American Association for Jewish Education for pupils in Jewish high schools, it was disclosed today. It is one of three books on the murder of the six million European Jews for such Jewish students either published or in preparation.

The Commission on Jewish Education of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations published last January an anthology for use as a textbook in Reform Hebrew high school departments. It is entitled "Out of the Whirlwind: A Reader on Holocaust Literature." The Commission on Jewish Education of the United Synagogue of America is now working on a graded textbook for students in Conservative high schools. Still untitled, it is expected to be published in 1970, according to Dr. Morton Siegel, director of the Commission, who, with Dr. Daniel Greenberg of Sudbury, Mass., is writing the textbook.

The AAJE book, "The Story of the Jewish Holocaust in Europe," is edited by Dr. Judah Pilch, retiring director of the AAJE National Curriculum Research Institute. The 318-page hard-cover textbook is a revision of an experimental mimeographed text which was prepared last year and tested in 21 pilot Jewish high schools. The first edition will be 4,500 copies and the textbook is intended for Jewish high school students of all denominations, according to Dr. Pilch.

Dr. Pilch said contributors to the textbook were asked to revise their chapters in the light of the reactions of both students and teachers who used the experimental version. Changes included a revision of language to make it more understandable to teenage users, addition of a glossary of names and places, elimination of all editorializing matter, and inclusion of information on the Nuremberg War Crimes trials, the Jerusalem trial of Adolf Eichmann, the Auschwitz camp personnel trials and related material. Material covers Jewish life in Europe before the holocaust, the "Jewish question" in Hitler's Third Reich, the factual story of the holocaust, literature, Jewish resistance, and a chapter on the theme that the world knew about the mass murders and was silent.

"Out of the Whirlwind" was edited by Rabbi Albert H. Friedlander, a Berlin-born scholar. Its preparation stemmed from a concern among Reform educators that the topic was being neglected in Jewish education. It includes material discussing how God could have permitted the holocaust. The anthology is being sold in a trade edition by Doubleday which received 5,000 copies from the first press run of nearly 20,000 and the Commentary Book Club took 4,500 copies. Doubleday has reported sales of 2,000 copies to date. A spokesman said that a discussion guide for use by Reform high school teachers was being prepared for use with the anthology in the 1968-69 school year. He added that orders for 1,000 copies have been received by the UAHC by individuals but that bulk orders by schools were not expected until later this summer.

Dr. Siegel, explaining the long delay in preparing such a textbook, said that it was a very difficult topic to handle because an effort had to be made to include the "how" and "why" of such a disaster. He added that in the past half decade there had been many books published on the holocaust and hence there was a belief among Jewish educators that the time was ready to incorporate the topic in Jewish education.

N.Y. Rights Unit Accepts U.S. Job Guidelines For Sabbath Observers

NEW YORK, June 6 (JTA)--The National Jewish Commission on Law and Public Affairs hailed today a "precedent-setting" ruling by the New York State Commission for Human Rights that employers in the state must make reasonable accommodations to the religious needs of prospective employees who are Sabbath observers.

The ruling was made by Human Rights Commission chairman Robert J. Mangum in a case brought by Bernard Rubin of Brooklyn, a computer programmer, who was denied employment by the Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. because he would have to leave work early on Friday afternoons during the winter to be home before sunset, the start of the Jewish Sabbath. In the ruling Mangum held that employers should follow Federal guidelines but held that employment of Rubin would impose undue hardship on the insurance company because of the nature of computer scheduling work.

In a second Sabbath observer case brought against the insurance firm by Rochelle Sachs of The Bronx, N.Y., Commissioner Francis Giaccone held that refusal to hire a secretary on a full-time basis because of such Sabbath needs constituted "probable cause to credit the allegations of the complaint." Giaccone based his findings on the principles of the Rubin case, according to Dr. Marvin Schick, president of the Jewish group, which represented both complainants in their suits.

Dr. Schick said that, in effect, Mangum adopted the "Guidelines on Discrimination Because of Religion" promulgated in July, 1967 by the Federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, which provide that non-discrimination by employers on religious grounds includes an employer obligation to "make reasonable accommodation" to the religious needs of employees, if they do not involve "undue hardship" for the employer, which the employer must prove. The Rubin and Sachs rulings were handed down last Friday.

Dr. Schick said his organization would appeal to the state commission for re-opening of the Rubin case and would submit affidavits from many firms which employ computer operators who are Sabbath observers. The case has been before the state commission for several years and rejected previously by the commission but not previously on the basis of the Federal guidelines. Howard Rhine, a New York attorney who represented the Jewish organization before the state commission, said four other complaints were now before the commission and one is before the Federal commission.