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Abe Fortas Nominated By President As First Jewish Chief Justice

WASHINGTON, June 26 (JTA)--Abe Fortas was nominated today as Chief Justice of the United States, succeeding Earl Warren who resigned last week. Mr. Fortas, 58, who was named an Associate Justice in June, 1966, is the fifth Jew to serve on the Supreme Court and the first Jew in U.S. history to be nominated as Chief Justice.

The Jews who preceded him on the High Court were Louis D. Brandeis, Benjamin Cardozo, Felix Frankfurter and Arthur J. Goldberg. Mr. Fortas was named to fill the vacancy created when Mr. Goldberg resigned at the request of President Johnson, to be U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. Mr. Goldberg, whose resignation as Ambassador became effective Monday, has become a partner in the New York City law firm of Pauls, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison.

Mr. Fortas, who was a prominent Washington lawyer before his Court appointment, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency at the time that he considered himself to be Jewish. He said this to clarify his conception of his religious identity in view of his lack of formal affiliation with Jewish institutions or organizations. Although he was not formally affiliated with any Jewish group, he was a contributor to the United Jewish Appeal in Washington. He has appeared as a speaker several times before Jewish organizations since becoming a Justice. He has consistently manifested a warm and friendly attitude toward Israel.

A fight in the Senate over confirmation of his nomination was expected in view of the opposition of some Republican and Democratic Senators to what they regard as a "lame duck" appointment by Mr. Johnson.

Senator Robert P. Griffin, Michigan Republican, is leading a Senate effort to block the confirmation of Mr. Fortas. He said yesterday that he had 11 Senatorial signatures supporting a move to prevent a "lame duck" presidential lifetime appointment. He said that such an appointment should be made by President Johnson's successor in January. Senate Republican leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois supports the appointment.

Mr. Fortas was born in Memphis, Tenn., on June 19, 1910, and was sent by his parents to study first at Southwestern University and later to Yale University. He came to Washington to work as an attorney in agencies of President Roosevelt's New Deal Administration. Mr. Fortas, a close personal friend of President Johnson, served under Presidents Roosevelt and Truman as Undersecretary of the Interior. He was a member of the President's Committee on Equal Opportunity in the Armed Forces and was a member of the National Citizens Committee for Community Relations.

Mr. Fortas was awarded the Stephen S. Wise award of the American Jewish Congress in 1966. He had been a member of the national advisory committee of the Congress' Commission on Law and Social Action. Last April Mr. Fortas, who is known for his liberal views, addressed an American Jewish Committee dinner honoring Gustave Levy, chairman of the New York Stock Exchange. At that time he said, "Jews must join Negroes in their struggle for more civil rights because both minority groups are trying to achieve the same goals." He warned that Negro extremists are trying to turn the Negro against the Jew. Mr. Fortas appeared twice at B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League annual meetings.

He is among those who accepted invitations to attend an Israeli Embassy farewell reception in Washington tonight for Minister Ephraim Evron. He served as adviser to the U.S. delegation to the United Nations in 1945. He was a professor of law at Yale University.

Ford Raps Johnson For Failing To Speak Out On Soviet, Polish Anti-Semitism

NEW YORK, June 26 (JTA)--Rep. Gerald R. Ford, Republican House Minority Leader, today leveled a blistering attack on the Johnson Administration for its alleged failure to speak out against anti-Semitism in Soviet Russia and Poland. Rep. Ford challenged the Administration to counter the Soviet's "manipulation of world opinion" with a sweeping exposure of the "growing anti-Semitism of the Soviet Government." He suggested that any further East-West trade agreements be predicated on the stand that America cannot do business with foreign governments that practice discrimination. He chided the Administration for permitting the sale of strategic goods to Poland while "a wave of anti-Semitism" sweeps that country "under the guise of anti-Zionism."

Congressman Ford, who is chairman of the Republican National Convention, delivered his remarks here today at ceremonies dedicating the new Center For Russian Jewry. The Center, according to its vice-president, Jacob Birnbaum, is a privately financed organization with a program to stimulate public opinion on behalf of Soviet Jews.

Rep. Ford charged that the State Department and the White House had given American Jewish leaders "various run-arounds" including the explanation that America cannot intervene on behalf of Russian or Polish Jews because "the Communists might raise embarrassing questions about some of our own minority problems." He said the Kremlin was aware of its vulnerability and for that reason sent Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin of Moscow and Cantor David Stiskin of Leningrad here "for propaganda purposes to deceive Americans."

He suggested that the Russians refused exit visas to two other Jewish leaders who were originally supposed to accompany Rabbi Levin because they might have seized the opportunity "to ask sanctuary in a free nation and tell the truth." Rabbi Levin meanwhile continued his busy schedule meeting with Orthodox

rabbinical figures here. He was scheduled to appear in a Long Island synagogue tonight. The Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an interfaith group devoted to seeking religious freedom for Russian Jews, will hold a reception for Rabbi Levin tomorrow. He was invited to tea by Arthur J. Goldberg, former U.S. United Nations representative, at Mr. Goldberg's Waldorf Hotel suite yesterday. There he met with other rabbis and leading non-Jewish clergymen.

Rabbi Levin met the faculty and students of Yeshiva University today and spoke in Yiddish with its president, Dr. Samuel Belkin. Afterwards the students, many of them rabbinical candidates, lined up for his autograph. He later went to a Sephardic synagogue in Brooklyn and spoke there to 1,500 students, all of Torah Umesorah, the Hebrew day school movement. Next he went to an Orthodox girls' school next door, being mobbed en route despite a heavy police guard.

The rabbi is "completely worn out," one source close to him said. "He doesn't have a free minute." Telephone calls continue to pour into his hotel suite from synagogues across the country; one Jewish group in Mexico City phoned four times to invite him to a reception, but he has no plans to leave the New York area before returning to Moscow next Monday.

A constant flow of visitors is pouring through his suite. One of his visitors this week was author Herman Wouk. Yesterday a German nun came to talk about peace. In the meantime Cantor Stiskin has been visited and entertained by cantors and an Orthodox cantorial association here.

Clifford Tells House Committee Administration Holds Jet Decision In Abeyance

WASHINGTON, June 26 (JTA)--Defense Secretary Clark Clifford testified before the House Foreign Affairs Committee today that the Johnson Administration has made no decision on Israel's application to buy Phantom jet fighter-bombers. He said that he was "guided entirely by the President's statement after meeting Prime Minister Levi Eshkol of Israel" at the LBJ ranch in Texas last January. At that time, the President promised to keep the request under review. Mr. Clifford said the two governments had been in constant contact and that "sympathetic consideration" had been given to the Israeli request, but he would not go beyond that.

Testifying on a bill that would authorize credits for the supply of arms to various countries, Mr. Clifford said that nothing had come of efforts to achieve joint control with Russia on arms shipments to the Middle East. He said that the growth of Soviet naval power in the Mediterranean and Persian Gulf was "not benign."

(The NATO Council, meeting in Reykjavik, Iceland, yesterday, endorsed a report by the NATO defense committee on the dangers of Soviet infiltration into the Mediterranean area, specifically the build-up of Russian naval power there since last June's Arab-Israel war. The endorsement was given by 14 of the 15 members of the Western alliance. Only France abstained. The statement directed the Permanent Council of NATO to seek means to safeguard the southern flank of the alliance.)

France Delivers Parts For Training Aircraft To Israel

PARIS, June 26 (JTA)--France delivered parts for 25 Fouga Magister training aircraft to Israel this month for assembly at Israeli plants, it was learned here today. But official circles insisted that the deliveries can in no way be regarded as presaging the end of France's embargo on 50 Mirage V supersonic jet fighters that Israel ordered two years ago and paid for in full last April. Observers here linked the aircraft parts delivery to an attempt by the de Gaulle regime to mollify Jewish voters during the current election period.

Saboteurs Active In Gaza Strip And Dead Sea Area; No Israeli Casualties Suffered

TEL AVIV, June 26 (JTA)--Saboteurs were active in the Gaza Strip and in the Dead Sea area last night where explosions caused slight damage but no casualties, a military spokesman reported today. Two explosive charges went off under two small railroad bridges near Khan Yunis, in the southern end of the Strip and another detonated on the railroad line near the town of Gaza. Two other explosive charges, discovered near the Gaza airport and near Khan Yunis, were safely dismantled.

An Israeli halftrack struck a mine at Neot Hakikar at the southern shore of the Dead Sea, near evaporation ponds of the Dead Sea Potash Works. There were no casualties, according to the military spokesman. An Israeli soldier was injured in a mine explosion near the same spot last week.

Israeli security forces blew up two houses in Kablan village, near Nablus. The buildings were owned by two El Fatah members who were killed in a clash north of Jericho last Saturday. The dead men were identified by a third guerrilla who was wounded in the encounter and captured. The latter's house in Kablan was destroyed earlier.

A military tribunal in Gaza today imposed stiff prison sentences on five members of an Arab spy ring that had been supplying Egypt with military information by wireless from the Gaza Strip. Abdul Wahab, ringleader and its chief communications man, received three sentences totaling 49 years, but the court ruled that they are to be served concurrently which means that Wahab will be jailed for 20 years. He was found guilty of transmitting military intelligence to Egypt, possession of military intelligence and membership in an underground terrorist organization. Wahab was formerly a sergeant in the Egyptian signal corps.

His four subordinates were each given sentences totaling 34 years but will serve only 15 year terms according to the court's ruling.

See Chances Dimming For Delay Of Statute of Limitations On Nazi War Crimes

BONN, June 26 (JTA)--Chances dimmed today that there would be any extension of the period before the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes goes into effect. Two of West Germany's three major political parties -- Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger's Christian Democrats and the Free Democrats -- are opposed to an extension. The Social Democrats, while officially in favor of extending the period beyond the Dec. 31, 1969 deadline, are split over the issue. A majority of the Christian Democratic parliamentary faction that met here today decided that the effective date of the statute could not be set back. When it goes into effect it will bar any future indictment and prosecution of Nazis charged with murder. A statute of limitations already in effect prevents the prosecution of war criminals accused of lesser crimes.

There is, however, a strong tide of public opinion running in favor of the outright abolition of the statute of limitations. But it appears to be mostly outside of Germany. In Brussels today, an organization representing 36 associations of former resistance fighters, political prisoners and youth movements, appealed to the West German Government to abolish the statute and proclaim that there can be no end to war crimes prosecutions. The Belgian Committee Against the Statute of Limitations asserted that its views are shared by the United Nations Commission on Human Rights and by many nations. It urged organizations and public opinion to remain alert to the dangers represented by the statute.

Crewmen Of Troubled Israeli Freighter Strike, Halt Unloading Of Cargo

BREMERHAVEN, W. Germany, June 26 (JTA)--Crewmen of the Israeli freighter Avocadocore went on strike today and refused to permit German longshoremen to unload a cargo of bananas that the 5,955 ton motorship brought here from Central America yesterday. The strike was the latest in a series of crew troubles that has plagued the vessel since last Thursday when her master called the Israel Embassy in London by wireless phone to report that "a rebellion" had broken out at sea among 11 of the 45 crew members. That "rebellion" -- or mutiny -- caused the Avocadocore to make an unscheduled call at Dover, England, where harbor police were alerted when she dropped anchor a mile off port late Monday afternoon. The ship was boarded by Consul Shlomo Levy, who was sent by the Israel Embassy, and a representative of the Israel Seamen's Union who flew in from Haifa. But the troubles were not resolved and the vessel sailed.

According to Astramaris, West German steamship agency which represents Israel Maritime Fruit Carriers Ltd., of Haifa, owners of the Avocadocore, the master reported all quiet aboard. But eight crew members were reported determined to strike and the rest of the crew did not interfere. Meir Ayalon, the Israeli Consul General in Bonn, flew here to talk to the crew but stressed that no force would be used against the strikers. If the bananas are not unloaded, the ship's owners face a considerable financial loss.

The strike and the earlier unrest aboard the vessel appear to stem from an inter-union dispute. Some crew members demand an independent union. The Israeli Seamen's Union is affiliated with Histadrut, Israel's labor federation. Press reports from Dover yesterday said that Mr. Levy and the union representative were held aboard the ship against their will for 90 minutes. A statement by the Israeli Embassy in London denied this but admitted that some crewmen had been abusive to the union representative. The Embassy said that the Avocadocore's final destination was Finland.

Australian Jewish Council Expresses 'Regret' Over Condition Of Jews In Poland

MELBOURNE, June 26 (JTA)--The executive council of Australian Jewry said today it had expressed "regret" concerning anti-Semitic developments in Poland in a letter to B. Tlaskowski, the Polish Consul General in Australia. The Council also sent a memorandum to External Affairs Minister P.M. Hasluck over the plight of the remaining Jews in Arab countries.

The letter to the Consul General emphasized that Australian Jewry included thousands of Jews of Polish origin who had found refuge in Australia from the "reactionary anti-Semitic Polish regimes" of earlier years. The letter added that such Australian Jews "feel very deeply the dark shadow which has fallen on the remnants of Polish Jewry" and urged a return by the Polish Government to "ideals of justice and humanity."

World Jewish Dignitaries Greet Rumanian Chief Rabbi On 20th Anniversary

BUCHAREST, June 26 (JTA)--Jewish personalities from all over the world have sent greetings to Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania who is celebrating the 20th anniversary of his accession to that office. Many of them were published in Revista Cultului Mozaic, the organ of the Rumanian-Jewish community. Among the American notables congratulating the Chief Rabbi were Dr. William Wexler, president of B'nai B'rith, and Morris Abram, president of the American Jewish Committee. From Jerusalem there were messages from Sephardic Chief Rabbi Itzhak Nissim; Dr. Zerah Wahrhaftig, the Minister for Religious Affairs; Louis Burg, Minister for Social Welfare; Dr. Israel Goldstein, president of the Keren Hayesod; and Prof. Aryeh Tartakower of the World Jewish Congress. World Jewish Congress president Dr. Nahum Goldmann also sent greetings as did Alderman Michael Fidler, president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews; and Sir Barnett Janner, Labor MP. Greetings were also received from Louis Horowitz, head of the Joint Distribution Committee in Geneva.

Chief Rabbi Rosen has uncovered an international gang that has been buying old scrolls in his country and selling them as antiquities at high prices to foreign collectors, the daily newspaper, Yediot Achronot reported yesterday.

Tekoah Renews Appeal To Thant For UN Study Of Jews in Arab Nations

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 26 (JTA)--Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations Yosef Tekoah today told Secretary-General U Thant that Arabs in Israeli-held territories were treated better than Jews in Arab states. Mr. Tekoah conferred with Mr. Thant at Mr. Tekoah's request and reiterated Israel's position that a special UN mission to investigate the situation of civilians in the occupied territories must also look into the situation of Jews in Egypt, Syria and Lebanon. There is no Jordanian Jewish community.

The Israeli told Mr. Thant, sources said, that the Arabs in the occupied territories were free to talk with journalists and visitors, and can keep in contact with the outside world, whereas Jews in the Arab states were kept isolated from the world. He said that the human rights of those Jews had been tragically abused.

Mr. Tekoah's meeting with Mr. Thant followed the submission of a letter to the latter by Israel yesterday alleging maltreatment of Jews in Iraq. He presented Mr. Thant with a second note today dealing with Jews of Egypt, Syria and Jordan.

(It was reported this week from Jerusalem that Egypt's refusal to permit a UN envoy to probe the condition of that country's Jewish community has been responsible for Mr. Thant's delay in naming a special envoy to report on civilian populations in the Israel-administered territories. Mr. Thant announced his intention to nominate a special representative on the eve of the reconvening of the General Assembly last spring. The mission would be based on humanitarian resolutions voted by the General Assembly and Security Council.)

Rabbinical Council Asks U.S. Action On Arab Student 'Hate Activities'

FALLSBURG, N.Y., June 26 (JTA)-- "Arab students on American college campuses are engaging in a vicious campaign of defamation against American Jews and are casting aspersions on their loyalty, integrity and devotion to the ideals of America," Rabbi Zev Segal of Newark, N.J., the newly-elected president of the Rabbinical Council of America, declared here today.

Rabbi Segal, speaking at the 32nd annual convention of the association of Orthodox rabbis, blamed "these Arab students for causing the recent assassination of Sen. Robert F. Kennedy due to their inflammatory, irrational and brazen hate activities." Rabbi Segal, in his acceptance speech to the 600 delegates, appealed to Attorney General Ramsey Clark to "undertake an intensive investigation of the nature of Arab propaganda and action on the campuses and to suppress any manifestations, illegality, abuse and violence which are being indulged in by these Arab students organizations." He said, "It is absurd to permit these students to castigate the American Government which is extending to them extraordinary opportunities for study, learning and travel. They are abusing the hospitality and generosity of the American taxpayer who is defraying the costs of their lengthy stay in the United States."

Rabbi Segal also called upon the State Department "to revoke the scholarships of these 7,000 Arab students who are not adhering to the requirements of the moral and legal code which is explicit in the grant of financial assistance. The Arab students are collaborating actively with a variety of subversive elements such as the Communists and the Black Nationalists in a deliberate effort to damage and undermine the security of the United States. They are daily waging a most contemptible program of hatred and animosity against American Jewry throughout the length and breadth of the United States," Rabbi Segal declared.

Rabbi Segal warned the State Department and the Department of Justice that "failure to stem this type of Arab campus involvement will inevitably result in other homicidal tragedies, weaken the diplomatic status of the nation, and create an environment of mutual hostility among our populace. It is incumbent upon all of our Government officials to prevent such catastrophes by adopting drastic means to curb this well-financed Arab machine," he asserted.

Farewell Fete Given 125 Young Zionists Planning Israel Settlement

NEW YORK, June 26 (JTA)--A farewell reception was held here today for 125 young American adults, members of three Zionist youth movements, who are leaving within the next three months for permanent settlement in Israel. The reception was given by the American Zionist Youth Foundation, the American Zionist Council and the American Zionist Youth Council. The settlers are members of Bnei Akiva, Hashomer Hatzair and Ichud Habonim. Many are parents of infant children. About two-thirds of the group, whose members range in age from 18 to 40, will go to kibbutzim. A large contingent from Ichud Habonim will establish an urban collective in Carmiel, a development town. A Bnei Akiva group will settle in Kvutza Yavne and another is going to Kvutza Lavie. Hashomer Hatzair members are bound for Kibbutz Galon. There are also individuals going as professionals and technicians.

The Ichud Habonim group of 30 members plans to create a new experience in urban collective living, officials said. All salaries and other sources of money will be pooled and redistributed among the new settlers in Carmiel on the basis of member family size and needs. The settlers include social workers, psychologists, teachers, chemists and businessmen. The program included brief addresses by Ambassador Moshe Leshem, member of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations; Rabbi Israel Mowshowitz of the Zionist Youth Foundation; Pesach Schindler, chairman of the Association of Americans and Canadians for Aliyah; and Avraham Frank, director of the Israel Aliyah Center in New York.

Shlomo Argov Arrives In Washington To Be Israel Embassy Minister

WASHINGTON, June 26 (JTA)--Shlomo Argov, who served in Jerusalem as director of the United States division of the Israel Foreign Ministry, has arrived to assume the post of Minister of the Israeli Embassy here. He will replace Ephraim Evron, whose tour of service here has been completed. President Johnson met for about 20 minutes today with Mr. Evron to bid him farewell. Mr. Evron figured in the dramatic meetings of Israeli officials with the President during the tense days before the Six-Day War.