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B'nai B'rith Leader Advises Membership To Protest Moves To Block Fortas Appointment

WASHINGTON, July 1 (JTA)--Dr. William A. Wexler, international president of B'nai B'rith, has sent a special communication to B'nai B'rith officials and leaders throughout the country deploring Senate efforts to block the nomination of Abe Fortas as Chief Justice of the United States, it was learned today. Dr. Wexler said the B'nai B'rith could not remain indifferent to an anti-democratic filibuster now threatening to deny an eminently qualified jurist the honor of becoming the first Jew to serve as Chief Justice of the United States.

The Wexler statement was issued in response to requests for guidance from all sections of the nation. Mr. Wexler deplored the use of the Fortas appointment as a "political football." He said he expects that members of B'nai B'rith, as individuals, will want to inform their Senators immediately of their confidence in Mr. Fortas and their resentment of the tactics used against him.

Believe Meridian, Jackson Temple Bombings Solved By Capture Of Suspected Nightrider

MERIDIAN, Miss., July 1 (JTA)--More arrests are expected in connection with the capture of a suspected night-rider who may be connected with bombing of synagogues and a rabbi's home. Police Chief Roy Gunn told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. The police and other law enforcement agencies are seeking possible cohorts of Thomas Albert Tarrants 3d, 22 years old, who was wounded yesterday by police after he fled from the yard of a prominent Jewish businessman's home here, leaving behind a box containing 29 dynamite sticks.

Chief Gunn said that Mr. Tarrants was in fair condition with numerous wounds at a local hospital and is charged with attempted murder with a deadly weapon. He wounded a policeman in an exchange of fire when police who had staked out the home of Meyer Davidson, 51, pursued him. His woman companion Mrs. Ralph (Cathy) Ainsworth, 26, who was in his car was killed.

Chief Gunn said Mr. Tarrants had been a "prime suspect" in the bombing of Temple Beth El here in May, the residence and synagogue of Rabbi Perry Nussbaum in nearby Jackson, a cottage at predominantly Negro Tougaloo College near Jackson, and other homes. The officer said he "now considers 11 recent acts of violence in Meridian as being solved." Mr. Davidson's home had been under surveillance after he put up a \$75,000 reward following the bombing of the Meridian Reform temple. Chief Gunn said he found a notebook in Mr. Tarrants' pocket which contained the following note: "Gentlemen: I have committed myself to defeating the Communist-Jew conspiracy which threatens our country -- any means necessary shall be used. Please be advised that since 23 March, 1968, I...have been underground and operating guerrilla warfare. I have always believed in military action against the Communist enemy."

Chief Gunn said he believed rewards for information leading to the conviction of the local bomber had been \$85,000. It was unclear to whom the note Mr. Tarrants had written was addressed, he said. He declined to answer questions about whether other Jewish homes in Meridian and Jackson had been under police surveillance.

The Meridian synagogue, whose rabbi is Milton I. Schlager, is planning to be rebuilt by the High Holy Days. The cost of the repairs is not known yet, Rabbi Schlager said. Its religious school was damaged but the sanctuary of the \$400,000 building escaped unscathed.

Cabinet Approves Nomination Of Allon As Deputy Premier And Minister of Absorption

JERUSALEM, July 1 (JTA)--The Cabinet today approved Prime Minister Levi Eshkol's proposed reshuffle of portfolios with only the Gahal (Herut-Liberal) Parliament faction in dissent. Mr. Eshkol made formal announcement of the changes to the Knesset (Parliament) this afternoon but debate on the matter was postponed owing to the convention of the Liberal Party whose members were absent from the chamber today.

Labor Minister Yigal Allon will be raised to the rank of Deputy Prime Minister and he will be placed in charge of the new Ministry of Absorption. Yosef Almogi of the Rafi faction will become Labor Minister. The Gahal members voted against the proposals. They told a meeting of Labor Party ministers headed by Mr. Eshkol that they wanted a much larger role in the Cabinet if the proposed changes were introduced. The National Religious Party voted for the appointments of Gen. Allon and Mr. Almogi to their respective Cabinet posts but voted against the appointment of Allon as Deputy Prime Minister.

Israeli Knowhow To Be Used In Project To Reclaim 5,000-Acre Rumanian Tract

JERUSALEM, July 1 (JTA)--Israel's extensive know-how in the field of land rehabilitation will be put at the disposal of Rumania in a cooperative effort to make 5,000 acres of land in that country arable, it was reported here today. The project was part of an agreement reached in Bucharest last week between a delegation headed by Israel's Minister of Trade and Industry, Zeev Sharef, and a Rumanian delegation headed by the Minister for Trade, Gheorge Ciaro.

In a joint communique issued by the conferees, the two countries expressed satisfaction over the growth of trade between them and announced that their economic cooperation would increase. An Israel-Rumanian trade agreement was signed early this year and additional agreements in industrial and agricultural fields are expected. Rumania is the only Communist-bloc country that did not break diplomatic relations with Israel following the June, 1967 Arab-Israel war.

Israel Postpones Signing Of Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty

JERUSALEM, July 1 (JTA)--Israel's signature on the nuclear non-proliferation treaty has been delayed pending consultation with other nations on possible atomic monopoly features that might apply to the peaceful uses of nuclear energy. Authoritative sources said today that Israel will sign the treaty if reservations on the peaceful uses of nuclear power can be clarified.

Border Incidents Reported On Jordan River; Jeep Hits Mine In Golan Heights

TEL AVIV, July 1 (JTA)--One Israeli soldier was injured today when an Army jeep hit a mine in the southern Golan Heights. More explosives and another mine were discovered nearby and dismantled. Jordanians twice opened fire on Israeli forces. In each case fire was returned and exchanges lasted a half hour. There were no Israeli casualties.

The Golan Heights, occupied in the June, 1967 war, will be converted into a summer resort area the Israeli Parks Authority announced. The plateau enjoys relatively cool weather during the summer months. It is strewn with wrecked armaments and pocketed with bunkers from which Syrians once fired regularly on Israeli settlements in the valley below.

Israeli Army Headquarters Announces Appointments In High Military Posts

TEL AVIV, July 1 (JTA)--The Israeli Army headquarters announced a number of changes of appointments for its higher command officers effective today. Brig. Gen. Rehavam Zeevi will take over the central command from Brig. Gen. Uzzi Narkis, who headed the operation against Jordan in the Six-Day War, including the capture of Old Jerusalem. Gen. Zeevi until now has been assistant chief of the general headquarters department. Gen. Narkis has been named general director of the aliyah (immigration) department of the Jewish Agency. Col. Itzhak HOFFIE will take over Gen. Zeevi's post as assistant chief of the general headquarters department.

Lithuanian-born Col. Itzhak Arad, who was a partisan in World War II and joined the Palmach, the Haganah's special striking force, after coming to Israel, was appointed Army chief education officer, replacing Col. Mordechai Bar-On, who will head the youth and halutz department of the Jewish Agency. Jerusalem-born Brig-Gen. Amos Vorev, former Army deputy chief scientist, has been appointed head of ordnance development at general headquarters, replacing Brig. Gen. Mathetyagu Pelled. Gen. Pelled will continue his higher studies and eventually join the academic staff at Tel Aviv University. Brig. Gen. Elad Pelled, who headed the division which took the Golan Heights during the Six-Day War, ended his active service in the Army and assumed the post of deputy head of the Israeli Electric Corp.

Tsur Says Small Body, Not Congress, Should Elect Jewish Agency Executive

JERUSALEM, July 1 (JTA)--A purportedly more democratic method of electing members to the Jewish Agency Executive was proposed here today by former Ambassador Yacov Tsur, outgoing chairman of the Zionist General Council (Actions Committee). Mr. Tsur, who is president of the Jewish National Fund, recommended that the elections be taken out of the hands of the Zionist Congress where, he said, political factions determine the candidates, and be vested with a smaller, separate body. According to Mr. Tsur, Congress delegates are not familiar with the intricacies involved in the nominations and often serve as a rubber stamp for pre-determined candidates. He said that the Congress should retain the right to approve the Executive but not to nominate or elect it. Mr. Tsur will be succeeded as chairman of the General Council by Ehud Avriel, Israel's former Ambassador to Italy. The General Council is the governing body of the Zionist movement between Congresses.

Reform Group Plans Mixed Prayers At Wailing Wall Despite Ministry Ban

JERUSALEM, July 1 (JTA)--Despite a ban by the Israeli Ministry for Religious Affairs, the World Union for Progressive Judaism is expected to go ahead with plans for mixed prayers at the Western Wall Thursday. The Ministry was not planning to rely on ushers or police to evict the women from the men's section or vice versa since several Orthodox congregations have called for mass prayer by their followers near the wall Thursday. If the plans of the Orthodox leaders are carried out, the area facing the wall would be jammed to capacity so that both sexes would be unable to approach the wall. The World Union is an organization of Reform rabbis.

New Bonn Envoy To Israel Says Germans Can't Forget Burden Of War Crimes

BONN, July 1 (JTA)--West Germany's Ambassador-designate to Israel expressed surprise today that he was selected for the post but said he was "very keen to go to Israel" as a result of many meetings with Israeli colleagues. Karl Herman Knoke, who is presently Bonn's Ambassador to the Netherlands, added, in an interview with German newspapers, that "one should not forget what crimes the Germans committed against the Jewish people and this is a burden which is upon us."

Former Australian Laborite Leader Urged Soviet Authorities To Permit Jews To Go

MELBOURNE, July 1 (JTA)--Arthur Calwell, former Australian Labor Party leader, disclosed here that he had urged Soviet authorities, during a recent visit to Russia, to allow Jewish families with relatives in Israel to join them there.

He also said that anti-Semitism existed in the Soviet Union partly as a result of the Israel "problem" and partly because of a "black streak" in many Russians stemming from the Czarist period. He asserted that Russians considered Jews as a "vestigial anachronism" and that they wanted them to leave, on the one hand, but were afraid of losing the "significant contributions" made by Jews to Russia, on the other.

Jewish Leaders Assemble In Emotional Farewell To Rabbi Levin Of Moscow

NEW YORK, July 1 (JTA)--Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, of Moscow, and Cantor David Stiskin, of Leningrad, the first Soviet Jewish religious leaders to visit the United States in more than 50 years, were given an affectionate and emotional farewell here last night. One hundred and eighty Jewish leaders attended a banquet marking the end of their two-week visit. The banquet was sponsored by Rabbi Pinchas Teitz, of Elizabeth, N.J., a close personal friend of Rabbi Levin. He described the gathering as the greatest assemblage of American-Jewish leaders under one roof. The array of Jewish leaders — secular and religious — was joined by a representative of the Soviet Embassy, Ikar I. Zarazhnov, who voiced the hope that Rabbi Levin's visit would "improve certain thoughts of certain people about the Soviet Union."

But it was the personality of the Moscow chief rabbi — gentle and scholarly, yet commanding — the poignancy of his mission and the air of historic precedent that it engendered which drew the unusual cross-section of Jewry to his farewell appearance. Seated at various tables were patriarchal Orthodox rabbis, Talmudists and Yeshiva heads, the presidents and officers of secular Jewish organizations and representatives of Reform and Conservative Judaism. At one table was Richard Korn, president of the American Council for Judaism, the anti-Zionist organization that originally sponsored Rabbi Levin's visit. Nearby sat Jacques Torczyner, president of the Zionist Organization of America. There was also Gottfried Neuburger, who heads the Friends of Jerusalem, the American branch of the Neturei Karta, religious zealots of Jerusalem who do not recognize the State of Israel. Mr. Neuburger's organization took over sponsorship of Rabbi Levin's visit a few days after the Council for Judaism discontinued its role.

Rabbi Feinstein Urges Greater Soviet Understanding Of Jewish Religious Desires

There were many speakers during the evening, among them Rabbi Moses Feinstein, dean of the Yeshiva Tifereth Jerusalem and head of the Council of Sages of Agudath Israel, who made a plea for greater Soviet understanding of Russian Jewry's desire to live a religious life. "We are not a people of revolution. We want peace," he said. "We are happy to hear that there are religious, Torah-educated Jews in Russia and we hope that our people in Russia can keep their Judaism." There were virtually no references to Israel during the evening and no mention of the condition of Soviet Jewry. Those omissions were in deference to Rabbi Levin's delicate position and to the fact that a Soviet representative was among the invited guests. Rabbi Levin himself only made one public reference to Soviet Jews during his entire visit. It occurred during his appearance at the Hunter College auditorium where his assertion that there is no official anti-Semitism in the USSR brought jeers and catcalls from a section of the audience.

Commenting on the meaning of the visit, Rabbi Zev Segal, of Young Israel of Newark and the Rabbinical Council of America, said "there is no question that we are happy that he came. We hope there will be more visits between both communities. This, however, does not alleviate the serious situation of Jews in the Soviet Union."

Rabbi Levin, who is 74, said at the farewell banquet that he appreciated the display of American friendship from his heart. He spoke fondly of his meetings here with Mayor John V. Lindsay, of New York and Arthur J. Goldberg, former United States Ambassador to the United Nations. He said he had never dreamt "what I saw with my eyes" — the variety and strength and prosperity of the American Jewish community. Rabbi Levin visited many synagogues, religious schools and institutions during his brief stay and maintained a schedule that might have wearied a much younger man.

Cantor Stiskin, a simple, quiet and direct person, rendered several selections which implied for many present the troubled existence of Jews in Russia. He told the JTA later that what interested him most in America was its richness and its scholarly and educational bent. He said he had visited many cantors and was warmly welcomed by them.

Rabbi Levin and Cantor Stiskin were scheduled to fly to Canada today for meetings with Canadian Jewish leaders today and tomorrow. They will fly to Moscow aboard a Soviet airliner on Wednesday. The most moving moment of the farewell, one that brought tears to many eyes, came at the end of the banquet. The men joined hands and danced in a circle around the hall singing "Siman Tov, Mazel Tov." Rabbi Levin, though slow of foot because of his advanced age, joined them. The dancers came back to the table and, when they sang "V'koreiv Pzureinu" the rabbi looked as if he were holding back tears. He sat impassive, staring at the napkins. When the group sang "Ani Maamin" he began to sing, with emotion.

Before his departure today, Rabbi Levin received a gift of mezuzot and tephillin from Charles J. Tanenbaum, of Scarsdale, N.Y., president of the American Council for Judaism's philanthropic fund. He had requested the religious objects, which are in short supply in the USSR.

Rumanian Moslem Leader Greets Chief Rabbi Nissim At Rosen Anniversary Function

BUCHAREST, July 1 (JTA)--Mufti Yakub Mehmet, the Moslem religious leader of Rumania, today exchanged greetings and professions of friendship with Rabbi Itzhak Nissim, the Sephardic Chief Rabbi of Israel. The occasion was a state luncheon in honor of Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen of Rumania, the final event in a week of celebrations marking Rabbi Rosen's 20th anniversary as chief rabbi. The Moslem leader quoted the Koran and stressed the need for peace.

Speaking before an international audience that included Jewish religious and secular leaders from all over the world and representatives of the 13 major faiths in Rumania, the Mufti declared that "Israel and the Arabs must come together and talk peace directly." He praised Rabbi Rosen as a champion of peace. The luncheon, an official event, was given by Prof. Dimitriu Dogaru, secretary general of the religious department of the Rumanian Council of Ministers.

New Immigration Law Abolishing National Origins Quota System Enters Into Effect

WASHINGTON, July 1 (JTA)--United States admission policies for refugees from Communist or Arab countries, some of whom are Jews, will remain unchanged although that category of immigrant is the last among the preference lists established by the Immigration Act of 1965 which went into effect today. The new immigration act abolished the quota system which had long favored migrants from Anglo-Saxon and northern European countries in favor of an elaborate order of preferences based on professional qualifications and work skills, with the highest priority going to immediate relatives of United States citizens or alien residents of the United States. It also established a maximum of 170,000 immigrants a year from countries outside of the Western hemisphere with no more than 20,000 numbers allotted to any country.

But the new act does not alter the refugee provisions of the law under which a majority of the Jewish immigrants have come to the U.S. during recent years, according to Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive director of the United Hias Service, the agency aiding Jewish immigrants to this country. Mr. Jacobson noted, in an article written earlier this year for the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, that the refugee provision allows persons who have fled from Communist or Middle East countries to transit countries such as France or Italy to be admitted to the United States as conditional entrants. They may obtain permanent residence after two years, Mr. Jacobson said. He added that Hias is assisting clients in filing petitions for their relatives in the Eastern hemisphere and in finding jobs for applicants who can immigrate only under the Labor Certification Program. In order to qualify, applicants must obtain certification from the U.S. Department of Labor showing that there are insufficient American workers "able, willing, qualified and available" to fill the job openings sought by the would-be immigrants.

Proponents, Foes Of State Aid To Parochial Schools Debate Effect Of Court Rulings

SAN FRANCISCO, July 1 (JTA)--Two Jewish authorities on constitutional law with opposing positions on Government aid to church-related schools, each predicted today the strengthening of his viewpoint as a result of recent decisions of the Supreme Court. Dr. Marvin Schick, of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America, said that the Court's ruling upholding the loan of textbooks to parochial school pupils, was the first "clear-cut ruling" that schools under religious supervision "serve the public interest." He told 250 community relations leaders attending the annual plenary of the National Community Relations Advisory Council, that the time had come for the Jewish community "to re-examine intelligently" its traditional opposition to most forms of Government support to sectarian education.

But Dr. Leo Pfeffer, of the American Jewish Congress, calling the textbook case decision "quite narrow and not particularly new," said the court's language also indicated it was not prepared to change its long standing position that direct support to sectarian education is unconstitutional. Dr. Pfeffer also predicted that church-state separation would be re-enforced by an "era of litigation" as a result of a related court decision, handed down on the same day, permitting tax-payers' suits to challenge alleged violations of the First Amendment.

The conflict of views was an indication that the Orthodox movement will again enter a dissent, as it has in recent years, from the joint policy statement on church-state issues that is to be reviewed here by the NCRAAC agencies. Dr. Schick said that Jewish groups must "forego sterile pronouncements and threatening cliches that have already been rejected by other libertarian forces." He urged that they participate "in working out an equitable formula" for pupils in public and parochial schools. "The old Jewish position on church-state relations serves neither to advance the public welfare nor to promote a healthy relationship among governmental authorities of all types of schools," he said.

Dr. Pfeffer strongly disagreed. He described the textbook decision as only a "fringe benefit" reaffirming earlier court rulings. He said the court's concern appeared to be "the extent of religiosity" in the classroom acceptable when it is "a small and incidental" aspect of the curriculum but likely to be ruled unconstitutional "when it permeates the teaching and practices of the school."

This requires religious groups "to choose between operating their schools in the traditional way, in which religious teachings and practices play a major role, in which case they would have to give up their claims to public financing," or make "radical changes" in curriculums and subject their schools "to much more supervision and control of public authorities," Dr. Pfeffer said.

Summer Exodus Of American Jewish Youth To Israel Gets Under Way

NEW YORK, July 1 (JTA)--Three airlifts are carrying 192 American students from New York to Tel Aviv to inaugurate the overseas student program of Tel Aviv University. The first group left New York Sunday with two additional flights tomorrow and Wednesday.

In messages to the departing students, Vice President Hubert Humphrey predicted that a "wonderful experience" awaited them. Former Ambassador Arthur J. Goldberg expressed his belief that "all of you who are departing for Israel will benefit from your study there" and that "Israel will have a better understanding of the United States from your study in Israel."

Nearly 1,000 American and Canadian teenagers and college-age youths will visit Israel on study tour programs arranged by the Histadrut Foundation for Educational Travel. Max Mermelstein, executive vice-president of the Foundation said the youths range in age from 13 to 25 and will spend from five to seven weeks in Israel working in kibbutzim, touring the country and studying the Hebrew language and Israeli culture.