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25 Jewish Organizations Urge Washington To Adhere To Policy On Negotiated Peace

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA) -- The leadership of 25 American Jewish organizations called on the United States Government yesterday to "adhere to its policy of advocating a negotiated peace among the parties directly involved" in the Arab-Israel conflict in order to serve "the best interests of our country, as well as the interests of the entire Middle East." The appeal was contained in a resolution unanimously adopted at the close of the National Leadership Conference on Peace in the Middle East, a two-day gathering convened here by the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations and attended by over 600 delegates.

The resolution was approved by three non-members of the Conference, the American Jewish Committee, Synagogue Council of America and the North American Jewish Youth Council, which attended as full participants along with the 22 regular Conference member organizations. The resolution will be presented by a delegation of Jewish leaders to Secretary of State William P. Rogers at a State Department meeting, to be held at his invitation within a few days.

Rejecting an imposed settlement, and "illusory guarantees," the resolution warned against a "Franco-Soviet initiative to produce a Big Power formula for a political settlement." It said such a formula "would absolve the Arab governments from the necessity of entering into negotiations with Israel which alone can achieve a genuine peace treaty that would settle all outstanding issues between the countries directly involved." It stated that the signatories were convinced "that any attempt to replace such a freely negotiated peace between Israel and the Arab states by any substitute would encourage the intransigence of the Arab governments in rejecting all constructive proposals for negotiations leading to an agreed and lasting peace" and "would tend to globalize a regional conflict creating the danger of Big Power involvement."

The resolution said further, "We are confident that American statesmanship will not yield to current Soviet maneuvers intended to strengthen the Soviet position in the Mediterranean and ensure complete Soviet domination of the Middle East...Such a development cannot be regarded as consonant with the national interest of the U.S."

The Conference's consensus saw in the recent Arab intensification of attacks against Israel and assaults upon its civilian population and El Al airlines "a strategy...to conjure up the false threat of an imminent conflagration, thus creating an artificial atmosphere of acute crisis and panic." The resolution said this was strategy aimed at stimulating the Big Four to "join forces to bring about Israel's withdrawal" from territories it seized during the Six-Day War.

Observers regarded the assembly here as historic, noting that it was attended by "the most representative assembly of American Jewish leadership" since a 1942 conference that issued the "Biltmore program" calling for establishment of Palestine as a Jewish commonwealth. In addition to the 25 national organizations, scores of community councils across the country took part in the sessions.

The resolution was adopted without major controversy--"one indication of the new unity of the American Jewish community as it rallies to defend Israel in the political confrontation that is expected to be a major outgrowth of the Four Power Mideast talks," said Presidents Conference chairman Rabbi Herschel Schacter. Israel's UN Ambassador Yosef Tekoah told the concluding session that "Israel must brace itself for a crucial period--not only in terms of terrorist activity but in terms of the pressure from Great Powers to accept an imposed settlement. In the period ahead, we count on the understanding of the U.S. Jewish community." The conference plans to undertake an "educational campaign" to bring the views of the assemblage, which it regards as a cross-section of American Jewry, to the U.S. public.

U.S. Proposals On Big 4 Meetings Reportedly Include 'Contractual Agreement', Treaty

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., March 25 (JTA) -- The United States has presented new proposals on the Middle East to Britain, France and the Soviet Union which, if accepted, could lead to the elevation of current bilateral talks among the powers to a full dress Big Four meeting, it was reliably reported here today. The proposals were said to have been made by Ambassador Charles W. Yost, chief U.S. representative to the United Nations to the delegates of the three other major powers--Yakov A. Malik of the Soviet Union, Lord Caradon of Britain and Armand Bernard of France. Mr. Yost's proposals reportedly spoke of working "toward a contractual agreement" between the parties to the Middle East conflict. He did not use the word "treaty" but indicated that the agreement would have to be signed by the parties concerned. The proposals were also submitted to Secretary General U Thant, and the delegates of Israel and the Arab states were informed of their contents, it was reported.

The U.S. proposals were reported to have spelled out definite views on the implementation of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 Mideast resolution which called for Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territories in return for agreed and secure borders and on support of the mission of UN special envoy Gunnar V. Jarring. They were also said to contain a list of "desirable ingredients" in a settlement that would be discussed by the Four Powers. They were seen as constituting, in effect, a U.S. counterpart to the Soviet Mideast proposals of last Dec. 30 that the U.S. had previously answered. An informed

source here said the proposals insured that in any Big Four conference there will be "two points of view on the table." Mr. Yost reportedly presented his proposals to the other powers on the grounds that the bilateral talks that have been going on since January had established enough points of agreement and had sufficiently clarified areas of difference to make Four Power talks meaningful. France and the Soviet Union were said to have agreed to certain border rectifications which would permit Israel to retain small amounts of occupied territory. But it was believed that the agreements were more on matters of what the Big Four should discuss and how the talks would be held rather than on any Four Power initiative that might be taken toward Israel and the Arab countries. U.S. officials hoped that a favorable response would enable Big Four talks to get underway here next week.

Sources here said the U.S. proposals indicated that efforts by Israel's Foreign Minister Abba Eban to forestall Big Power talks on the Middle East had been rejected by the Nixon Administration. Mr. Eban recently conferred in Washington with President Nixon and Secretary of State William P. Rogers. He was known to have argued that Big Four involvement in the Middle East dispute would globalize a local conflict and increase the risk of a Big Power confrontation. He insisted that only direct talks between the parties concerned could achieve a genuine peace settlement and that Big Power intervention would be a deterrent to such talks.

The U.S. proposal apparently did not mention the establishment of a new UN peace-keeping force in the Middle East, a suggestion recently made by Mr. Yost. Israel has rejected the idea on the grounds that UN forces had failed to prevent war in the past.

Israeli Foreign Ministry Denies Reports Of Meetings Between Allon, Eban and Hussein

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA) -- The Israel Foreign Ministry and Kol Israel today denied newspaper and press service reports that Foreign Minister Abba Eban and Deputy Premier Yigal Allon held separate meetings with King Hussein of Jordan in recent months. It was also reported that a third Israeli, who was identified only as a "senior official," also had participated in the talks on the Arab-Israeli deadlock. (A United Nations source said that Mr. Allon and King Hussein had met at night in a tent near the Israel-Jordan border near Eilat.)

Observers here deemed it unlikely because of the sensitive nature of the subject, that Israel or Jordan would admit that such conferences took place. King Hussein has been under strong pressure not to make a deal or hold to meetings with the Israelis. His grandfather, King Abdullah, was assassinated on July 20, 1951 after meeting with Israeli officials, including the present Premier, Mrs. Golda Meir.

Reports of a Hussein-Eban meeting in the Dorchester Hotel in London have been circulating for months. On Feb. 21, the New York German-language weekly newspaper Aufbau published a report on the purported meeting by its correspondent Richard Yaffe. During his recent visit to the United States, Mr. Eban was asked about the Dorchester rumor on the nationally televised program "Meet the Press" and denied that he and Hussein had met. It is widely reported that contacts have been maintained between the Israeli Government and Amman since the Six-Day War through West Bank Arab "notables" who have carried messages back and forth.

The New York Times carried a Washington report today citing "reliable sources" as saying that King Hussein and Mr. Eban have held at least two secret meetings in recent months to try to arrange a settlement but that "their efforts were unsuccessful." Reporter Hedrick Smith said that the "neutral sources disclosed that King Hussein was dissatisfied with the terms that Israel had offered and had broken off the meetings for the sake of Arab solidarity. "He is understood to have insisted from the outset that any tentative understandings would have to be made known through Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring of Sweden, the United Nations representative for the Middle East, to insure that other Arab governments would be properly informed. But this never became necessary."

Mr. Smith said his sources reported that the King and Mr. Eban met "in London one or more times last fall...and again in January." He reported also that Yusuf Khamis, an Israeli Arab and onetime Knesset member, told an audience at Chicago City College on Feb. 26 that he had been present when the two leaders met in the Dorchester last January. "Western diplomatic specialists were skeptical that either government would have included a minor politician in such sensitive talks," Mr. Smith wrote. Mr. Khamis said that King Hussein had initiated an agreement that would have granted Jordan access to an Israeli Mediterranean port and that would have left Jerusalem under Israeli control but would have given King Hussein custody of the Islamic Holy Places. According to the earlier Yaffe report, Jordan would have also been given use of Kalandia airport in northern Jerusalem. Israel was said in the Times report to have demanded the right to keep military settlements along the Jordan River. Mr. Yaffe, citing his source as an "extraordinarily well-informed and dependable" Israeli, said that under the agreement Jordan would get the port of Gaza and that the West Bank would be demilitarized and returned to Jordan.

Jordan's New Premier Expresses Support For Palestinian Commandos

JERUSALEM, March 25 (JTA) -- Israeli diplomatic sources said today that the new Jordanian cabinet headed by Premier Abdel Moneim Rifai, a reputed moderate, may be more loyal to King Hussein but would not manifest a changed attitude toward Palestinian guerrillas who have been given free run of Jordan and can cross the frontier at will for forays against Israel.

This first semi-official evaluation of the changes in Amman appeared to be confirmed today by Mr. Rifai himself who told a Beirut newspaper that there would be "more escalation" by the Arabs against "Israeli aggression." The new Premier said in an Al-Jarida interview that he would endorse the efforts of Palestinian commando groups. Diplomatic observers saw little difference between that statement and the policy of his predecessor, Bahjat al-Talhouni, who was supposed to have been at odds with King Hussein over his support for the terrorists.

Kosygin Blasts Statute of Limitations, Accuses Bonn Of Planning Amnesty

LONDON, March 25 (JTA) -- Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin assailed the statute of limitations on West German war crimes prosecutions today and accused West German authorities of planning to grant amnesty to Nazi war criminals including many notorious SS and Gestapo men. The Soviet Premier addressed an international conference on the prosecution of war criminals in Moscow. He said the USSR would insist that international agreements for the punishment of Nazi criminals be observed.

The statute of limitations is due to go into effect in West Germany on Dec. 31, 1969. It would ban further trials for persons accused of war crimes involving murder. Demands for abolition of the statute have been raised inside and outside of Germany. Abolition is favored by Gustav Heinemann, the newly elected President of the Federal Republic. It was the subject of talks last week between a delegation of Israeli Knesset-members and top West German officials.

Premier Kosygin charged that Bonn's attitude on the issue stimulated "chauvinistic and neo-Nazi ideas" among the German people. He accused West Germany of trying to relegate to oblivion "the crimes of those who are guilty of the death of millions of people."

Italian Says Anti-Semitism Is Clothed In Anti-Zionism In Tracts Published By Leftists

ROME, March 25 (JTA) -- A writer in a left-wing journal says "crude anti-Semitism" is emanating from extreme leftist parties in the guise of anti-Zionism. Pietro Buttita, an author and journalist, noted the appearance of anti-Semitic leaflets and inscriptions in Rome streets during recent public demonstrations and while President Richard M. Nixon visited Rome last month. Writing in Opinion, a weekly published by the left-wing of the Nenni Socialist Party, Mr. Buttita said the authors of the leaflets were neo-Nazi and neo-Fascist groups but that they shared the anti-Zionist attitudes of the extreme left-wing parties. "Are we not in the presence of anti-Semitism originating in non-traditional quarters?" he wrote. Mr. Buttita is the author of "The Seventh Day, a book about the June, 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

Goldman Terms Psychology Is Necessary To Solve Problems Of Immigration And Peace

LONDON, March 25 (JTA) -- Dr. Nahum Goldmann, former president of the World Zionist Organization, said here that the solutions of the two main problems confronting Israel--increased immigration and peace with the Arabs--lay in the realm of psychology rather than in propaganda, peace treaties or imposed settlements. Dr. Goldmann delivered the closing address at the 68th annual conference of the Zionist Federation of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. Other speakers included Mrs. Rose L. Halprin, a member of the Jewish Agency Executive, and Ambassador Aharon Remez of Israel.

Dr. Goldmann said the responsibility for bringing large numbers of Jews to Israel will continue to rest on the Jewish communities of the free world. "It is a much more difficult task than most of us realize," he said. "It will require a prolonged education designed to alter the mental and emotional processes of Diaspora Jews. This is far beyond propaganda appeals or organizational schemes."

Regarding peace prospects with the Arabs, Dr. Goldmann said, "If the Arab world is not ready to accept the State of Israel psychologically as an equal neighbor, the best agreement will not be decisive. History is full of examples of solemn treaties scrapped at will because the problem is primarily a psychological one and cannot be decided either by military victories or by imposed solutions of Big Powers. It requires a change of heart and mind on the part of the Arabs."

Yugoslavian Jews Assured Moslem Was Not Authorized To Make Anti-Israel Statement

LONDON, March 25 (JTA) -- The Federation of Jewish Communities in Yugoslavia has been assured by an official of Yugoslav's ruling Socialist Alliance that a Yugoslav representative who denounced Israel at a meeting in Cairo had not been authorized to make any such statement, according to information received here. The development was reported in the current issue of the Jewish Review, the official publication of the Federation, a copy of which arrived here. The Yugoslav official, described as "high ranking," told the Cairo meeting that the "Moslems of Yugoslavia were absolutely ready to join in a holy war against Israel, the tribe cursed by Heaven." The secretary-general of the Socialist Alliance told the Federation that the representative had no authority to make such a statement on behalf of Yugoslav Moslems. He also said he would arrange to have his explanation published in the Yugoslav press.

Council Of Jews From Czechoslovakia Plans To Observe Millennium In Britain

LONDON, March 25 (JTA) -- A spokesman for the Council of Jews from Czechoslovakia said yesterday that the millennium of Jewish settlement in that country will be celebrated by his group here simultaneously with celebrations in Prague which are scheduled for next July. He told JTA that the Council planned to hold an exhibition and a series of lectures. The group aids Jewish arrivals from Czechoslovakia to integrate into the life of this country.

Rumanian Jewish Community Journal Publishes Translation Of Poem By Itzik Manger

BUCHAREST, March 25 (JTA) -- The Journal of the Rumanian Jewish community has published a Hebrew translation of "Ballad of a Lost Sheep," a poem by the late Rumanian-born Yiddish poet, Itzik Manger who died recently. The journal appears in Rumanian, Yiddish and Hebrew.

Two Yiddish poets, one in New York and the other a resident of Tel Aviv, were the first recipients of the annual Itzik Manger Award established in memory of the late Yiddish poet who died in Israel last month. The winners of the \$1,400 award are Aharon Zeitlin of New York and Abraham Sutzkauer of Tel Aviv. The awards were announced in Tel Aviv yesterday at a memorial meeting for Mr. Manger ending the 30-day mourning period. It was attended by Premier Golda Meir, Finance Minister Zeev Sharef and a gathering of writers, poets, artists and journalists. Meyer Weisgal, head of the award committee, presented a special award of \$2,800 to the poet's widow, Mrs. Genia Manger, who will start a fund to build an archive for her late husband's works. Mr. Zeitlin, who was unable to come to Israel for the ceremonies, advised the award committee that he would donate half the sum to assist new immigrant poets and writers in Israel.

Court Declines To Review Ruling On License Of Station Accused Of Broadcasting Bigotry

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) -- The Supreme Court yesterday declined to review a lower court's decision upholding the license renewal of a suburban Los Angeles radio station accused of broadcasting anti-Semitic material. The renewal had been opposed by the southwestern regional office of the B'nai B'rith Anti-Defamation League which charged that the taped broadcasts of an ultra-conservative commentator, Richard Cotten, contained "bigoted appeals to anti-Semitic prejudice."

The Federal Communications Commission (FCC) renewed the license of station KTYM on the grounds that broadcasters had the right to air controversial material provided they adhered to the "fairness doctrine" providing equal time for opposing views. The lower court upheld the FCC. It was noted that the station had offered reply time to the ADL but the latter declined.

In its appeal to the FCC to deprive the station of its license, the ADL cited broadcasts in which Mr. Cotten equated Communism with Socialism and Socialism with Judaism. He also accused Arnold Forster, general counsel of the ADL, of being a Communist spy. The ADL asserted that the commentator's statements were defamatory and not in the public interest.

The Supreme Court's refusal to review the KTYM case may have a bearing on a similar case involving the New York radio station, WBAI-FM. A petition to deny its license renewal was filed by the ADL over a January broadcast on which a Negro teacher read an anti-Semitic poem. The case is pending before the FCC.

Says April 2 Is 2,000th Anniversary Of Hillel's Appointment As Sanhedrin President

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA) -- A Yeshiva University historian has reported that, on the basis of 35 years of research, he has determined that April 2, the Passover eve this year, marks the 2,000th anniversary of the appointment of Hillel as the first president of the Great Sanhedrin, the ancient Jewish supreme court-legislature. The finding was calculated by Dr. Sidney B. Hoenig, the Dean Pinkhos Churgin Professor of Jewish History, on the basis of historical, mathematical and astronomical calculations. He said the work was an aspect of a study started in 1943 which includes his book, "The Great Sanhedrin." A detailed presentation of these calculations appears in an article in the current Bitzaron, a Hebrew-language research publication. Dr. Hoenig proposed a celebration of the Hillel Year to begin on Passover eve in honor of the "greatest proponent of rabbinic Judaism," who is believed to have said "what is hateful to thee, do not do unto thy fellowman."

Scholar Disputes Assertion Of Music Authority On 'Jewish' Nature Of Music Fragment

CHICAGO, March 25 (JTA) -- A Chicago scholar has disputed the assertion of a Jerusalem music authority that a musical selection heard at the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York was the earliest known work of Jewish music. The performance was based on a 12th century manuscript fragment identified as the work of Obadiah the Norman, a monk converted to Judaism about 1102 C.E., and found in the Conservative Seminary's geniza archives. At the time that the selection was presented here late last year, the Seminary quoted Dr. Adler in a report published by JTA as saying that the fragment of music not only helped understand Jewish liturgical tradition but served as a key to its relationship with church music, particularly the Gregorian plainsong.

Dr. Adler is the head of the music department and national sound archives of the Jewish National and University Library in Israel, and is director of Jewish music research at Hebrew University. His disputant is Dr. Norman Golb, associate professor of medieval Jewish studies, department of Near Eastern languages and civilization, University of Chicago.

Dr. Golb, who claims to have been the first to identify the fragment's scribe as Obadiah, said that "competent Jewish musicologists" who had recognized the Gregorian chant characteristics of the fragment were "led astray" by "eastern Hebrew handwriting" on the fragment into thinking that the music was "Jewish." What Obadiah did, the scholar claims, was to merely "adapt the melodies of his youth to the Hebrew poetry learned by him after his conversion." The music, he said, is not "of demonstrably Jewish origin."

Offers Bill To Provide Federal Protection To Synagogues That Are Arson Targets

WASHINGTON, March 25 (JTA) -- A bill to improve Federal protection of synagogues and other houses of worship that are the target of arsonists was introduced today by Rep. Benjamin S. Rosenthal, New York Democrat. The legislation would "close the gap among state laws and between Federal and state law in those instances where states have weak or ineffective protection for houses of worship victimized by arsonists," he said. The present law makes it a Federal crime to use explosives to destroy a house of worship and some states have no laws covering certain categories of arson. In introducing his measure, Rep. Rosenthal cited the recent wave of fires and vandalism in synagogues in the New York metropolitan area. He noted that the Bill of Rights guarantees Americans freedom of worship and the Civil Rights Act of 1968 extended Federal protection to individuals whose civil rights, including the right to worship, are violated.

Julius Simon Dead At 93; Was A Founder, Former Head Of Palestine Economic Corp.

NEW YORK, March 25 (JTA) -- Julius Simon, a founder and for 20 years president of the Palestine Economic Corp., died here yesterday at the age of 93. He was a resident of Princeton, N.J. Mr. Simon, a partner in a New York brokerage firm, helped form the PEC in 1926 to enable Americans to participate in the economic development of Palestine and to help Jewish settlers there become self-supporting. He served as its president from 1931 to 1951 and was a director and president emeritus at the time of his death. Mr. Simon was born in Germany, the son of a naturalized American citizen who had served as a Confederate soldier in the Civil War. He became a Zionist and worked in banking and real estate and did not come to the United States until 1921, at the age of 45.