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Prague Daily Warns Of Mounting Anti-Semitism In Czechoslovakia, Asks Ban

LONDON, April 9 (JTA) -- An important Prague daily warned yesterday that there was danger of a new wave of anti-Semitism in Czechoslovakia and called for legislation to make anti-Semitic utterances illegal. The warning appeared in the newspaper Vecerini Praha, organ of the Prague Regional Trade Council, in an article by the Czech writer, Josef Lastuvka, on the 30th anniversary of the Nazi occupation of Bohemia.

The article indicated that manifestations of anti-Semitism in Czechoslovakia had become increasingly serious since the occupation of the country last August by Warsaw Pact forces under Soviet leadership. It asserted that "everyone has the right to disagree with the views of Sik and Goldstuecker but no one is entitled to spread anti-Jewish hysteria in this country to call for pogroms against the Jews." The references were to former Deputy Premier Dr. Ota Sik, who was the chief economist of the Alexander Dubcek regime, and Dr. Eduard Goldstuecker, the Czech-Jewish writer and champion of liberal reforms, who fled the country after the Soviet occupation. Both men were the objects of violent attack from Soviet and pro-Soviet elements and both were denounced as "Zionist" agents. Dr. Sik was quoted recently as denying that he was of Jewish origin.

Arabs Seek To Exploit American-Israeli Differences Over Big Power Talks

WASHINGTON, April 9 (JTA) -- An Arab diplomatic offensive aimed at exploiting apparent differences between Israel and the United States over the Big Four Mideast talks by urging American pressure for an Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab territories appeared to be gaining momentum here today. King Hussein of Jordan, who is in Washington as an official guest of President Richard M. Nixon, will have his third meeting with the President in the White House tomorrow. Dr. Mahmoud Fawzi, top diplomatic adviser to President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt, will meet with Mr. Nixon on Friday for what will be the first business talk between an American President and an Egyptian diplomat since Cairo severed relations with the U.S. during the June, 1967 war.

King Hussein was reportedly coordinating his diplomacy with the other Arab states. He was to meet today with all Arab chief of diplomatic missions to review the strategy of the Arab campaign to force an Israeli withdrawal. He was also to meet with Secretary of State William P. Rogers and with Defense Secretary Melvin R. Laird to review Jordanian military needs. Both King Hussein and Dr. Fawzi want to persuade the Nixon Administration that the Middle East is headed toward a new explosion which only prompt action by the Four Powers could avert. According to the Washington Evening Star's State Department correspondent, George Sherman, they have made some headway. Mr. Sherman reported today that the Arab campaign was gaining reception here while a gap has developed between Washington and Jerusalem. He said "American officials admitted, without apparent concern, that this growing dialogue with the Arab leaders is being fed by the persistent breach between the U.S. and Israel over Four Power talks at the United Nations. Israel charges--and the Administration denies--that the talks will be the mechanism for imposing an undesirable settlement on the Middle East."

In addition to his claim that time is running out in the Middle East, Dr. Fawzi is said to be ready to discuss the question of restoring diplomatic relations with the U.S. should President Nixon raise that question. The American position has been that relations could be resumed without "conditions" by a simple exchange of letters. But the Nasser regime has been insisting, as a condition, that the U.S. apply stronger pressure on Israel. The most the U.S. has done to meet the Nasser requirement is the statement by Secretary of State Rogers to the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the final Israeli borders must not reflect "the weight of conquest."

An Air Force jet will fly King Hussein to McDill Airforce Base in Florida tomorrow where he will inspect Jordanian Air Force personnel undergoing advanced training and military equipment destined for delivery to Jordan. The King's entourage includes a military mission which consists of his Deputy Prime Minister and Defense Minister, Ahmad Touqan; Lt. Gen. Amer Khammash, Chief of Staff of the Jordanian Army; Brig. Gen. Sharif Zaid Bin Shakir, commander of the Royal Armored Corps, and Col. Anwar Muhammed, aide-de-camp to the King.

British Foreign Secretary Reports Progress In Big Four Mideast Talks

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 9 (JTA) -- British Foreign Secretary Michael Stewart said here today that progress had been made at the first two meetings of the Big Four on the Mideast and that the escalation of Mideast fighting had made more rapid progress essential. Mr. Stewart spoke to reporters after an hour-long meeting with United Nations Secretary-General U Thant. He was accompanied at the meeting by Lord Caradon, Britain's Ambassador, and its representative at the Four Power talks.

Mr. Stewart, who left for Washington to attend the 20th anniversary of the North American Treaty Organization, said that Mr. Thant had "agreed on the urgent need of progress in the Four Power talks." He said progress had been made in the two rounds of talks last Thursday and again Tuesday. He declined to say whether the East-West positions had been brought closer together at the sessions or whether they were still far apart. "I hope the Four Powers will be able to reach such a measure of agreement as to enable (UN) peace envoy (Gunnar) Jarring to put proposals to the parties that would

lead to agreement between them," Mr. Stewart said. The next round of Big Four talks was set for Monday at Lord Caradon's residence.

(The New York Times, which has supported the concept of Big Four talks, warned editorially today that the talks themselves "are a spur to belligerence." It criticized Secretary of State Rogers for his statement earlier this week indicating his belief in "Soviet-American omnipotence, the ability of the two superpowers to solve all problems when they agree" and it warned against the dangers of an imposed peace.)

("World history is full of examples of the dangers of a dictated peace, as against one freely negotiated by the parties," the Times said. "The Eisenhower Administration, in agreement with Moscow, imposed withdrawal on Israel without adequate guarantees after the 1957 war. A new war a decade later was the predictable result." The role of the Big Four, the Times concluded, "should be primarily to get the parties to reconcile their differences, ultimately by direct negotiations.")

Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring, Secretary-General U Thant's special Mideast peace mediator, is resuming his duties as Sweden's Ambassador to Moscow, but is not discounting his peace mission. Mr. Thant announced today that Dr. Jarring, who has been in Moscow for the Easter holiday, would be "immediately available for any renewed effort in connection with his mission...whenever developments may require it."

It was expected that Dr. Jarring will resume his Mideast duties at a time deemed appropriate by Mr. Thant in light of possible progress by the Big Four in their current conferences.

Israeli Forces Exchange Fire With Jordanians, Egyptians On Two Fronts

JERUSALEM, April 9 (JTA) -- Israeli and Jordanian forces traded artillery fire today along the Jordan River cease-fire line in the wake of yesterday's El Fatah rocket attack on Eilat which the Israeli Air Force answered with a rocket bombardment of neighboring Aqaba. Both Eilat and Aqaba observed a complete blackout last night. The exchange of fire today, which also involved mortars, took place north of the Allenby Bridge near the Sea of Galilee and lasted some 25 minutes. Further exchanges of fire along the Suez Canal were also reported today following a five-hour artillery duel there yesterday between Egyptian and Israeli forces.

(Israel and Egypt filed counter-charges with the United Nations Security Council yesterday, each accusing the other of responsibility for the cease-fire violation. Israel filed another complaint with the Security Council today, blaming Egypt for the renewal of hostilities.)

Israeli authorities commented today that Jordanian officials should be mindful of the vulnerability of Aqaba, that country's only outlet to the sea, to Israeli military action. The tacit warnings reflected an awareness that yesterday's rocket bombardment, for which El Fatah guerrillas took credit, had violated an unwritten understanding that the two Gulf of Aqaba ports would be kept out of the war zone.

Eilat is Israel's southernmost municipality, port of entry for oil and other materiel, and window to the East, Aqaba, some four miles to the east, services incoming oil, military equipment and food.

Israel claimed after its retaliation attack for the 30-40 Katyusha rockets fired at Eilat that the Arab rockets were triggered from an emplacement in the courtyard of a girls' school in Aqaba. Amman charged that the Israeli air raid had preceded the rocket attack and asserted that the rockets had been fired from the hills outside the town.

Some 13 or 14 Israelis were wounded as the rockets struck buildings and cars in Eilat. Jordan charged that eight persons were killed and nine wounded in the Israeli reprisal.

Israeli diplomatic observers saw political motives behind the Arab rocket assault. One theory was that El Fatah wanted to embarrass King Hussein while he was having discussions in Washington to show that, in taking a "moderate" stand on Mideast affairs, he was not speaking for the Palestinians, who oppose any settlement which would accept Israel's existence. Another hypothesis was that the King may have tolerated--or even authorized--the attack to emphasize the warning that he made in the United States that the Mideast situation was "explosive" and that Big Power intervention may be "inevitable."

Soviet Fails In Move To Deprive COJO Of Accredited Status At United Nations

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 9 (JTA) -- A Soviet attempt to deprive the Coordinating Board of Jewish Organizations (COJO) of accredited status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council failed today. A resolution introduced by the Soviet Union in the Council's Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations that COJO be given no status at all was defeated by a vote of five to four with two abstentions. Bulgaria, Libya, and Indonesia supported the Soviet resolution which was opposed by Britain, France, the United States, Uruguay and Tanzania. India and Turkey abstained.

A resolution to assign the organization to Category II, on which a tentative decision had been taken last year, failed of passage by a vote of four-to-four with Tanzania joining the abstainers. A third resolution, by Libya, assigning the organization to the roster, failed by the same vote. It was consequently decided to record that the committee had been unable to take action on the Jewish organization at this time.

COJO represents B'nai B'rith, the Board of Deputies of British Jews and the South African Jewish Board of Deputies. The Russians have been extremely critical of the Jewish non-governmental organizations which have spoken out against the Soviet treatment of the Jewish minority in Russia. They are being supported by the Arab states in their efforts to bar the Jewish organizations from speaking before UN bodies.

Labor Zionist Movement Endorses Proposed Changes In Jewish Agency And WZO

TEL AVIV, April 9 (JTA) -- The secretariat of the Labor Zionist movement announced yesterday that it had endorsed proposed changes in the structure of the Jewish Agency and the World Zionist Organization. It noted that the tasks facing the Agency were so great that it was essential to enlarge it to include all those organizations active in support of Israel. L. A. Pincus, chairman of the executive of the Jewish Agency, said there would be a definite line of separation between the Jewish Agency and the Zionist Organization from a juridical point of view but there would be a union of personalities. Both organizations, he said, would have the same president, chairman and treasurer.

Itzhak Koren, secretary of the Labor Zionist movement, stressed that with acceptance of the proposals for expanding the Agency, "everything must be done to strengthen the Zionist movement and the Labor Zionist movement must start an all-out campaign to imbue the various factions from left to right with a Zionist impulse."

4 Consortiums Are Bidding To Build Egyptian Pipeline, Out Of Israeli Gun's Range

LONDON, April 9 (JTA) -- The Financial Times reported from Cairo yesterday that four West European consortiums representing Britain, France, Italy and West Germany are bidding to construct a \$130 million oil pipeline which the Egyptian Government appears determined to build, by-passing the Suez Canal. According to the Times, the 42-inch pipeline would extend 110 miles to a Mediterranean outlet at Alexandria. Its southern end would be located on the shores of the Gulf of Suez, some 30 miles south of the canal entrance and well out of range of Israeli artillery on the canal's east bank, the paper said.

(A British oil expert addressing a transportation seminar in Evanston, Ill. last week predicted that neither the projected Egyptian pipeline or the \$100 million Israeli pipeline now under construction between Eilat and Ashkelon would be able to compete economically with supertankers in the transportation of oil from the Persian Gulf to northwest Europe.)

(The Israeli pipeline is expected to have an initial capacity of 19 to 20 million tons when it is completed in 1969 and an ultimate capacity of 50 million tons per year. The Egyptian pipeline is expected to begin with an annual capacity of 50 million tons.)

Dusseldorf Police Seeking Vandals Who Daubed Swastikas Throughout Community

BONN, April 9 (JTA) -- Dusseldorf police, aided by four teenage youths, are searching for young vandals who daubed swastikas and Nazi slogans on a church, several shop windows and on about 20 parked cars.

In Osnabruck, 39 members of the City Council apparently failed to persuade two of their colleagues representing the right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) not to join them on a goodwill visit to the Dutch city of Haarlem. The Osnabruck Council members were invited by the Haarlem city fathers but feared that the presence of members of the NPD in the liberal Dutch town would mar the visit.

Round-Up Of The News

JERUSALEM, April 9 (JTA) -- Israeli geologists have reported finding "vast water resources" under the surface of the Sinai Desert which, if tapped, could transform the entire region into an arable one. According to Prof. Jacob Bentor, head of the Hebrew University's geology department, the water lies at depths of several hundred yards and bringing it to the surface would be "an enormous task."

BUCHAREST, April 9 (JTA) -- Large numbers of Rumanian Jews celebrated Passover at public seders last week and matzoh and Israeli Carmel brand wine were distributed to needy families by the Federation of Jewish Communities. The Jewish Federation of Bucharest held two seders attended by more than 1,700 persons, mostly students and intellectuals. Chief Rabbi Moses Rosen officiated at both. An additional 2,000 Jews reportedly took part in community seders in provincial cities and towns. A special seder was held for children who attend Hebrew classes in Bucharest.

LONDON, April 9 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency's aliya (immigration) department is encouraged by the volume of British immigration to Israel so far this year. A spokesman for the agency told JTA that 350 settlers left for Israel during the first three months of 1969 compared to 209 during the same period in 1968. He said the figures did not include temporary residents. According to the official, if the trend continues, the 1968 total of 1,035 will be surpassed easily this year. He said most of the immigrants were between 18 and 29 and that 20 percent are professionals.

NEW DELHI, April 9 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Dinesh Singh said here that India had "no animosity towards Israel" and believed that "Israel as an independent country has the right to exist." Mr. Singh spoke during a parliamentary debate on West Asia (Middle East) in which many members accused the government of hostility toward Israel. The debate revealed no new Indian policies on the Middle East conflict. But government circles were apparently keenly interested in the outcome of the current Big Four talks at the United Nations.

Israeli Leaders Denounce Zealots' Vandalism Of Home Of Hospital Head, Ex-New Yorker

JERUSALEM, April 9 (JTA) -- The leaders of Israel's Orthodox religious establishment have promised to attempt to restrain young zealots from further violent demonstrations like one which occurred here Sunday when a gang of about 80 Yeshiva students broke into the home of the director of the Shaare Tsedek Hospital to protest against his refusal to prohibit autopsies at the hospital. Rabbi Isser Untermann, the Ashkenazic chief rabbi, and Dr. Zerach Warhaftig, the Minister for Religious Affairs, said they would urge Yeshiva heads to prevent further incidents. Dr. Warhaftig expressed regret over the incident and praised the hospital's director, Dr. David Maier, as "a good doctor and a good Jew."

The raid on his home, in which his aged mother was manhandled and furniture smashed, was denounced as a "pogrom" by Mayor Teddy Kollek of Jerusalem who urged police to take every legal measure against the perpetrators. Rabbi Shear Yashuv Cohen, the deputy mayor, who belongs to the Orthodox National Religious Party, sent a telegram to Dr. Maier describing the affair as a "desecration". Police took 79 of the raiders, members of the ultra-Orthodox "Eidah Charedit" group into custody. They were released on parole Monday for the Passover holiday. The group is one of several extremist religious sects which do not recognize the State of Israel; it regards the Satmar Rebbe in New York as its spiritual leader.

Dr. Maier, himself Orthodox, has followed the policy on autopsies set by his predecessor which was to let the hospital's rabbi rule in each case on whether a post mortem was permissible according to Jewish religious law. The zealots claimed the hospital's officiating rabbi was not sufficiently Orthodox.

Sutton, Scheuer Join In Student Demonstration Outside Soviet Aeroflot Office

NEW YORK, April 9 (JTA) -- The Borough President of Manhattan and a New York Congressman who is a candidate for the mayoral nomination joined a demonstration by some 500 persons outside the New York offices of Aeroflot, the Soviet Airline, in a demonstration yesterday on behalf of the Jews in the USSR. The demonstration was the second organized during the Passover period by the Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry. The first was held last week near the Soviet Mission to the United Nations.

Borough President Percy Sutton, a Negro, declared that oppression must be condemned, whether it occurs in Mississippi or in the Ukraine. Rep. James Scheuer, New York Democrat, called on Soviet Premier Alexei Kosygin to honor the pledge he made in Paris on Dec. 3, 1966 to allow Soviet Jews to emigrate if they so desired in order to be reunited with their families abroad. The student group said they chose to demonstrate at the Soviet airline offices to symbolize their demand for a "freedom airlift" for Soviet Jews. They chanted, "Let my people go."

AJCongress Urges Congress To Bar Air Carriers From Countries That Discriminate

NEW YORK, April 9 (JTA) -- The American Jewish Congress called on the U.S. Congress today for legislation that would prohibit the awarding of landing rights to air "carriers of any country which discriminate on racial or religious grounds." The appeal was contained in a telegram to Rep. Charles Diggs (D., Mich.), chairman of the subcommittee on Africa of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, from Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the AJCongress commission on international affairs. Dr. Prinz protested against the Civil Aeronautic Board's decision granting permission to South African Airways to inaugurate direct flights between South Africa and the United States.

"Our government has repeatedly expressed its revulsion against apartheid and the racial practices of the South African Government," Dr. Prinz's message said. "It would therefore appear to be self-evidently against public policy to grant an economic reward to an airline which is an agency of the South African Government and thereby inescapably implicated in official policies of racial discrimination and persecution."

Pioneer Women Call On Families To Mark Israel's Birthday At Home For Children

NEW YORK, April 9 (JTA) -- Pioneer Women, the women's Labor Zionist organization of America, is urging Jewish families to hold Yom Haatzmaut (Israel Independence Day) birthday parties at home for the benefit of children and is distributing a detailed program of songs, stories and readings to be used on such an occasion. Israel's 21st anniversary occurs on April 23.

According to Rose Kaufman, president of the organization, the family party concept was originated by the Pioneer Women in 1963. She called it "an effective and tangible way to strengthen the bonds between our children and the people of Israel." The recommended program calls for a cake with candles, singing of Hatikvah, the Israeli anthem, a toast to Israel, songs, games, prayers, poems and stories of Israeli heroism. It also recommends readings from Israel's Declaration of Independence and the selection of outstanding events in Israel from the preceding year for special mention.

New Press Attache In Washington, Consul-General In Philadelphia Named By Israel

JERUSALEM, April 9 (JTA) -- Shaul Ben-Chaim, a member of the editorial staff of the evening newspaper Maariv, will replace Dan Pattir as press counselor at the Israel Embassy in Washington. Mr. Pattir is expected to return to the newspaper Davar from which he has been on loan to the Foreign Ministry. The shift is expected to take place next July or August.

The Israel Foreign Ministry has named Moshe Yegar, 39, to the post of Consul-General of Israel for the Philadelphia area, the state of Pennsylvania and southern New Jersey, it was learned here. Mr. Yegar previously served as Israel Consul in Los Angeles. He will succeed Yissakhar Ben Yaacov who served as Consul General in Philadelphia for the past five years.