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Rogers Tells Editors That U.S. Policy On Mideast Is Devoted To Reconciliation

WASHINGTON, April 16 (JTA) -- Secretary of State William P. Rogers told the American Society of Newspaper Editors today that the policy of the United States in the Middle East is devoted to reconciliation and compromise rather than confrontation. Mr. Rogers cited the Middle East as a situation which required patience and skilled diplomacy rather than military rigidity.

With interest centered on the Far Eastern situation following the shooting down of an American electronic intelligence plane by North Koreans, Mr. Rogers stressed that "in international affairs, the weak can be rash" but, he said, "the powerful must be restrained." He urged a United States global policy emphasizing negotiation and compromise rather than confrontation that might result in nuclear war. In the Middle East, he said, the United States was actively seeking a lasting peace in that volatile area. He remarked that the Middle East crisis posed a danger of renewed conflict into which the United States could be drawn.

In a speech in Congress today on the Far East developments, Rep. Samuel S. Stratton, a New York Democrat, told the House that the United States should emulate Israeli reprisal tactics in striking at North Korea in response to the shooting down of the American reconnaissance aircraft. Urging an Israeli-style raid, Rep. Stratton said "the Israelis have evoked both respect and cooperation from their enemies by their prompt and pin-pointed reprisals against attacks directed on them. Certainly we in this country can safely do no less."

Hussein Indicates That El Fatah Would Not Be Party To Mideast Peace Talks

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., April 16 (JTA) -- The El Fatah guerrilla organization would not be a party to peace talks with Israel, King Hussein of Jordan indicated today. He admitted that the guerrillas' role in the Mideast deadlock was "explosive" but made the point that his regime--and by implication, not the Palestine liberation movement--was the government of Jordan. The King spoke on these and other issues relating to the Mideast dispute at a luncheon given by the United Nations Correspondents Association.

The Palestinians and Jordanians, the young monarch said, "will be one people" until there is a "resolution" of the Mideast problem. Whatever differences arise afterward would be dealt with as a "family problem" and settled in a "satisfactory way," he said.

He expressed confidence that "the overwhelming majority of our people" would accept a settlement based on the six-point peace plan that he enunciated last week at the National Press Club in Washington. Asked about this week's rejection by the five main commando organizations of his six-point blueprint, King Hussein noted that Israel had rejected the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution which formed the basis of his plan and that others apparently felt Israel should not be alone in voicing rejections.

He reiterated the position that his six-point plan represented an identity of viewpoints between himself and President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt. Asked about the rejection by the authoritative Cairo newspaper Al Ahrām of a point in his plan which called for freedom of navigation for Israel in the Suez Canal, the King noted that the newspaper had linked the canal usage with the Arab refugee problem. He said that he does not differ with Cairo on this issue. The King had high praise for Arab guerrilla leader Yassir Arafat as a man who "loves his country, is dedicated to it and is struggling in the face of tremendous odds." He said that if Jordanian rights in Jerusalem were recognized, Jordan would do everything to see that everyone's rights in the city would be observed.

The King repeatedly declared that Israel had not accepted the Security Council's 1967 resolution and was not prepared to implement it and said that Jordan was not prepared to enter into direct negotiations until Israel's position is clear. Israel, he asserted, is continuing to alter the status of Jerusalem and the other occupied areas and says she will not give up territory for peace. "What then shall we talk about?" he asked.

He maintained that a "crossroads" was being approached and that if there was no movement now toward peace, the opportunity to avoid war may be lost. He foresaw in the possible absence of progress toward peace "a long and difficult struggle." What Jordan wanted from the U.S. in the current Big Four talks, he said, was "even-handed" treatment.

(The Times of London reported today that Arab reaction to King Hussein's six-point peace plan was negative and "less than encouraging" to its initiators in Amman and Cairo. The paper said that Saudia Arabia which gives Egypt an annual \$120 million subsidy to offset losses resulting from closure of the Suez Canal, and Iraq whose troops are stationed in Jordan and Syria and constitute the only tangible evidence of a unified Arab command, were the principal objectors.)

(The Washington Post reported Lebanese concern over the activities of Syrian commandos using Lebanese territory from which to mount attacks on Israel. The Lebanese have made a deal with El

Fatah under which that organization avoids giving Israel any grounds for reprisals against Lebanon, but the Syrian commandos take their orders directly from Damascus.)

Fighting Continues 10th Day Along Suez; New Clashes Along Jordanian Border

TEL AVIV, April 16 (JTA) -- Fighting continued today across the Suez Canal and along the Israel-Jordan border where two Israeli Air Force jets went into action to destroy mortar positions that were shelling Israeli settlements in the Beisan Valley.

A military spokesman said the shelling was the work of Jordanian regulars who added 81-mm. mortar fire to the bazooka and small arms fire aimed by guerrillas at Ashdod Yaacov, Neve Urr and Bet Yosef. The jets silenced the mortar positions. Heavy smoke was seen rising from the site by Israeli farmers after the attack. No casualties were reported on the Israeli side. But an Israeli soldier was reported slightly wounded in a clash with guerrillas two miles north of the Dead Sea.

Fighting erupted along the Suez Canal for the 10th consecutive day. Artillery, tanks and other weapons duelled from Port Suez, near the canal's southern entrance, to the Bitter Lakes region. In Cairo, in line with the Arab tactics of building up the threat of renewed war, the semi-official Al Ahram warned that the fighting would escalate. It urged a Big Four settlement for the area before a new war erupted in the Middle East.

Jewish National Fund To Mark 50th Anniversary By Planting Hundredth-Million Tree

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA) -- The Jewish National Fund, marking the 50th anniversary of its afforestation program, disclosed today that it will soon be planting its one-hundred-millionth tree in Israel. Yaacov Tsur, JNF chairman, said at a press conference that 90 million trees have been planted on some 100,000 acres of land since the State of Israel was established in 1948. Only 5,000 acres were planted during the period of the British Mandate in Palestine from 1921 to 1948.

Mr. Tsur said that planting sites are mainly in mountainous, desert or rocky areas where the soil is unsuitable for agriculture. Trees arrest soil erosion, drain marshes and also act as a security belt in border regions, Mr. Tsur noted. He said three million trees are now being planted beyond the former armistice lines with Egypt and Jordan which existed until the June, 1967 war. At the request of the military governors, the JNF employs some 1,000 Arabs from the occupied territories in afforestation work, according to Mr. Tsur.

The JNF official said the tree-planting program has provided Israelis with 60 new picnic sites and camping grounds complete with running water and cooking facilities installed by the JNF. In addition, the Israeli land reclamation agency has sent its experts abroad in connection with various projects of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO). Mr. Tsur said that Israeli experts in the past three years have managed to plant trees all over the rocky island of Malta, something the British, Italians and the Maltese failed to do after numerous experiments.

Jewish Agency To Develop Projects For New Settlement At Kfar Etzion

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency announced today that several new projects will be initiated shortly on the site of Kfar Etzion, a complex of Orthodox settlements which was captured by the Jordanian Arab Legion in the bitter fighting that preceded the Liberation War in 1948. The area was retaken in the Six-Day War and a settlement reestablished there by children of the original settlers, most of whom were massacred by the Arabs.

Yehuda Dekel, head of the Jerusalem area of the Agency's settlement department, said the projects would include a metal-working plant and a large restaurant to cater to tourists. Kfar Etzion is southwest of Jerusalem near the Bethlehem-Hebron road.

Soviet Organ Says Israel Used West German Mercenaries In Six-Day War

LONDON, April 16 (JTA) -- The official Red Army newspaper, Red Star, hit at two favorite targets in one story today when it charged that Israel had used West German mercenaries in the Six-Day War. The Moscow daily asserted that 7,000 German mercenaries and 800 West German military vehicles had been employed by the Israelis in the fight against the Arab states. The Communist organ accused the West German Government of urging Israel "to oppose any peaceful settlement in the Middle East, including threats to use the atomic bomb." The paper said West Germany's Middle East policy was based on cooperation with Israel against the Arab states.

Israel's Consumer Price Index Rises 1.4% For Month Of March

JERUSALEM, April 16 (JTA) -- A 1.4 percent rise in Israel's consumer price index for March was disclosed today by the central bureau of statistics. The rise was attributed to higher prices for fruit and vegetables and higher price tags on clothing with the beginning of the spring season.

Buenos Aires Jews Unveil Monument To Fallen Heroes Of Israel's Wars

BUENOS AIRES, April 16 (JTA) -- A monument to Israel's fallen soldiers was unveiled at the Tablada cemetery by representatives of the Buenos Aires Jewish community. The monument consists of a tent-like structure superimposed by a Star of David and a book in metal and marble. Hirszt Triwaks, secretary of the community organization, stressed the solidarity of Argentine Jews with Israel. The monument is the work of the sculpture, Simcha Schwartz.

Soviet Authorities Back Down On Assistance In Prosecuting War Criminals

BONN, April 16 (JTA) -- Moscow has withdrawn entry permits it had previously granted members of a West German jury from Essen who were to visit Russia to hear eyewitness testimony in the case of three former SS (Elite Corps) officers charged with shooting more than 100 concentration camp inmates near Mauthausen during World War II. The jury has already heard evidence in Warsaw and in the United States where one of the witnesses was the German rocket expert, Dr. Werner Von Braun. They were scheduled to go to Russia on May 5.

Soviet authorities have provided the West German Ministry of Justice with microfilmed documents relating to Nazi war crimes. But their refusal to admit the Essen jury indicated to some observers here that Moscow was not ready for full-scale help in prosecuting Nazi criminals.

The State Prosecutor in Darmstadt asked for the acquittal today of three former SS (Elite Corps) officers on trial there for the mass murders of 600 persons in the Ukraine during World War II. He told the court there was insufficient evidence against Theodor Christiansen, 63 and Karl Kretschmer, 62. The third defendant, Wilhelm Sinden, was deemed by the prosecutor to be guilty of complicity in the murders, but his acquittal was asked nevertheless. A request by the State Prosecutor in such cases is tantamount to acquittal. The three defendants were charged with being members of a special commando unit which operated in the Ukraine. Christiansen was commander of the Nazi security police in Chernichoc and allegedly ordered two mass executions in which 600 persons were shot.

Justice Minister Sees NPD As Bad Publicity For Germany But Not As A Danger

BONN, April 16 (JTA) -- West Germany's new Minister of Justice is concerned over the detrimental effects the ultra right-wing National Democratic Party (NPD) may have on Germany's image abroad but he does not believe it constitutes a danger at home. Replying in the Bundestag to questions about possible Government action to ban the party as anti-democratic, Hosi Ehmke said that from a foreign policy point of view, the reputedly neo-Nazi NPD could harm Germany, especially if it won seats in the Bundestag in the forthcoming national election. He said that an electoral victory would give NPD members a forum for inflammatory speeches that would be quoted abroad and reflect badly on the Federal Republic.

French Intellectuals To Confer On Plight Of Jews In The Soviet Union

PARIS, April 16 (JTA) -- A number of France's outstanding intellectuals, writers and artists, including some identified with the extreme left-wing, will attend a conference opening May 1 on the plight of Jews in Soviet Russia. The conference will be held under the auspices of a group of French writers and philosophers who organized nine years ago to keep tabs on the situation of Russian Jewry. Among those who will attend are Nobel Laureate Prof. Rene Cassin; Mayor Gaston Deferre of Marseilles, a former Presidential candidate; former Premier Pierre Mendes-France; the novelist Francois Mauriac; the artist, Pablo Picasso, and the French Protestant leader, Pastor Westphal. The conference's standing committee said in a public declaration that despite slight improvements, Soviet Jews still suffered from serious social and cultural discrimination and lacked all normal educational and cultural facilities granted to ethnic minorities by the Soviet constitution.

(In Buenos Aires, following a three-day seminar on the plight of Jews in the Soviet Union, Jewish students established a University Committee for the Defense of Soviet Jews. They said the committee would seek to inform Argentine public opinion on the cultural and religious repression of Jews in the Soviet Union and to press for permission for Jews desiring to do so, to leave Russia.)

Famed 16th Century Italian Synagogue, Damaged By Nazis, Is Restored

ROME, April 16 (JTA) -- A 16th Century Italian synagogue, devastated by the Nazis during World War II, has been completely restored and promises to become a tourist attraction and a repository of Jewish religious art of the Renaissance period. The synagogue is located in Casale Monferrato, in Northern Italy, between Turin and Milan. The restoration work was accomplished over the past 10 months by Jewish and non-Jewish volunteers under the supervision of the regional art department.

The synagogue was rededicated at ceremonies attended by Dr. Elio Toaff, Chief Rabbi of Rome, and Dr. Sergio Piperno, president of the Union of Italian Jewish Communities.

The synagogue was built in 1595 under a special concession to the Jews by the Duke of Mantua. It served a community that, at its peak, numbered some 800 Jews but which has dwindled to 15 since World War II. During the 16th and 17th Centuries it was embellished with art and came to be recognized as one of Italy's architectural masterpieces. When the Nazis occupied Italy, the building was severely damaged but most of the religious objects had been hidden and were saved.

Max Gottschalk, 80, Is Paid Tribute By University Of Brussels

BRUSSELS, April 16 (JTA) -- The University of Brussels paid tribute yesterday to Max Gottschalk, a research professor for 45 years at the University's institute of sociology. Mr. Gottschalk, who is 80, has been active for many years in Jewish affairs. He has been associated at various times with the Jewish Colonization Association, ORT and the Alliance Israelite Universelle. He is chairman of the National Center for Higher Jewish Studies which he founded in 1960 under the auspices of the University of Brussels.

Preparations Nearing Completion For United States Participation In Maccabiah

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA) -- Preparations are nearing completion for American participation in the eighth World Maccabiah Games to be held in Israel from July 28-Aug. 7. Teams from 32 nations will compete in 20 Olympic-type sports events, according to the United States Committee, Sports For Israel, Inc.

Jews Around World Mourn Victims Of Holocaust, Mark Warsaw Uprising Anniversary

NEW YORK, April 15 (JTA) -- As several hundred survivors of the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp celebrated the 24th anniversary of their liberation in 1945 at a dinner here, Joseph Rosenhaft, president of the world-wide Federation of Bergen-Belsen associations, announced that the 25th anniversary will be commemorated in June 1970, with a pilgrimage of more than 300 survivors to the unmarked graves of the thousands of martyred dead who fell in the Nazi Holocaust.

"We will return to Germany, some for the first time since their liberation, for only one purpose: to say a Yahrzeit for our dead brethren," said Mr. Rosenhaft. "We will light a candle, large enough for the entire world to see, as an act of remembrance--a part of our continuing effort to see that the world does not forget to remember the six million Jewish victims of Nazi genocide."

Principal speaker at the 24th anniversary commemoration was Rabbi Joachim Prinz, himself a German refugee, who attacked the "conspiracy of silence" that he said seemed to be developing throughout the world about the Nazi murder of six million Jews. After having made retribution through the United Nations 1947 Palestine partition decision, resulting in the establishment of Israel, Dr. Prinz said, the world now prefers to forget "the stigma of guilt that all people of the world share by not having taken steps to halt the Nazi slaughter of Jews."

Observance of Holocaust Day in Israel was concluded Tuesday evening at a concert in Tel Aviv attended by Prime Minister Golda Meir, Defense Minister Moshe Dayan, Transport Minister Moshe Carmel and other notables. They heard Nehema Lifshitz, a Yiddish folksinger from Eastern Europe in her Israeli debut. In Antwerp, Simon Wiesenthal, head of the Jewish Documentation Center in Vienna, memorialized the fallen six million Jewish victims of Nazism at an assembly arranged by the Belgian Zionist Federation.

The 26th anniversary of the uprising in the Warsaw Ghetto was officially observed in New York Tuesday by proclamation of Gov. Rockefeller. In Toronto, some 2,700 packed Shalom Synagogue at memorial services arranged by the Canadian Jewish Congress with Elie Wiesel, the novelist, as principal speaker.

In Buenos Aires, Argentine Jews filled the Hebraica Theatre at memorial services organized by DAIA, the central Jewish representative organization, the Buenos Aires Jewish community and the Argentine Zionist Organization. Six huge candles, each representing a million Jewish victims of Nazism, were lit. Yosef Govrin, Israeli charge d'affaires, told the assemblage that a "great power" was using anti-Semitism today as an instrument of its political strategy and was openly aiding those who proclaimed the destruction of Israel to be their goal. Dr. Gregorio Faigon, president of DAIA, compared the anti-Jewish hatred of Arab leaders with the fanaticism of Hitler.

Campus Group Seeks To Prevent Dismissal Of Columbia Jewish Student Adviser

NEW YORK, April 16 (JTA) -- A student and faculty group on the Columbia campus is circulating petitions accusing the University's administration of complicity in the firings of the Jewish chaplain, Rabbi A. Bruce Goldman, and Rev. William Starr, the Protestant student counsellor, because they opposed the administration's actions in last spring's Columbia students' uprising. Rabbi Goldman, a 33-year-old graduate of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, was dismissed by the Jewish Advisory Board, a body of Jewish alumni who engaged him for the campus post two years ago. Rev. Starr was dismissed by the Ecumenical Foundation, a group that selects Protestant chaplains for college campuses.

The campus group, which calls itself the New University Conference, charged in its petition that "it is well-documented that the University actively collaborated with the Ecumenical Foundation, the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the Jewish Advisory Board to effect these firings." They said they based their charge in part on correspondence between University Vice President David Truman and Gerard Oestreicher, chairman of the Jewish Advisory Board, copies of which they obtained by undisclosed means.

The New University Conference quoted from an alleged letter from Mr. Oestreicher to Mr. Truman, dated July 12, 1968. In it the writer said that the Jewish Advisory Board "did not want to be responsible for not rehiring Rabbi Goldman in a frame of reference in which he would be the only University appointee...who was refused re-appointment for the forthcoming academic year." The statement also quoted from a letter of July 22, 1968, in which Mr. Truman severely criticized Rev. Starr for statements he allegedly made during campus rally. Rev. Starr and Rabbi Goldman received their dismissal notices last month.

Rabbi Goldman said his dismissal was without explanation and that the Jewish Advisory Board gave no official reason for their action. He said he was fired because his sympathy with student protestors damaged the "Jewish image" which the Jewish Advisory Board wanted to maintain before the "Wasp (Protestant) establishment."

At least two other unrelated campus groups are supporting Rabbi Goldman and Rev. Starr. The Ad Hoc Committee for Freedom for University Clergy was formed last month. Its chairman, Keith Karnofsky, a Columbia graduate now attending Hebrew Union College, said the group planned "to research the issue", distribute leaflets and hold campus demonstrations. The Earl Hall Student Governing Board issued a statement last month warning that the dismissal of Rabbi Goldman and Rev. Starr "raises serious questions as to the appointment of campus ministers and the safeguarding of their freedom in that ministry."