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Academics Hit New Kichko Book As Anti-Semitic, Protest To Western Communist Leaders

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA) -- A committee of 3,000 American college faculty members has reported today that a new anti-Semitic book has been published with official sanction in the Soviet Union by Ukrainian author Trofim Kichko who wrote a similar tome five years ago which touched off worldwide criticism and led to a retraction by Soviet authorities.

Dr. Nathan Glazer of Harvard University, chairman of the Academic Committee on Soviet Jewry, said that Kichko apparently had been "rehabilitated" because of the Soviet Union's intensified anti-Israel campaign. He reported also that the committee had sent appeals to Communist leaders and editors in 11 Western countries, urging their public condemnation of the new Kichko opus, "Judaism and Zionism." Many of the Western Communists had denounced Kichko's "Judaism Without Embellishment" as viciously anti-Semitic.

The new work was published as a 94-page paperback last August by the Enlightenment (Znania) Society of Kiev, a Government agency for promotion of atheism, Dr. Glazer said. He added that the new book "repeats the strident anti-Semitism" of and lifts whole sections from "Judaism Without Embellishment," published by the Ukrainian Academy of Sciences in 1963 and exposed in the West in 1964 when a copy was shown and its content denounced at a meeting of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The unprecedented worldwide criticism that erupted led to a special meeting of the Ideological Commission of the Soviet Communist Party, which repudiated the author and ordered the book withdrawn.

Dr. Glazer declared that the fact that Kichko "has resurfaced with official blessings as a widely published author in the Ukraine is an ominous and depressing development. This new book is an important element in a larger propaganda campaign to poison the atmosphere for Soviet Jews. "Judaism Without Embellishment" had a press run of 12,000 copies. A notation in "Judaism and Zionism" claims a first publication of 60,000 copies, Dr. Glazer said.

The committee's appeal has been sent to such Communist leaders as Waldeck Rochet, general secretary of the French party, and Luigi Longo, head of the Communist Party in Italy. Both had severely denounced the first Kichko book. Jean Paul Sartre also has received the appeal.

The committee said, in an analysis of the new book that it was "filled with derision, contempt and disgust for the Jewish religion, the Jewish faith and practices and for its practitioners." It accuses "ideologists of Judaism" of teaching Jews "to hate people of other faiths and even exterminate them." Distorting biblical quotations, Kichko depicts Jews as "ruthless cosmopolitans" disloyal to the Soviet society and cites acts of "consorting" between Israeli Zionists and American "imperialists" and "neo-fascists" of West Germany as "proof." "Cosmopolitanism" was a favored device of Stalin in his anti-Jewish purges of the late 1940s.

However, the new book does not contain the cartoons of vulgar anti-Semitic stereotypes, many of them markedly similar to those of the Nazi era, which illustrated Kichko's first book and which were a particular target of criticism of it.

After the official repudiation of that book, little was heard from the author until he "was brought forward to play a leading role in the orchestrated propaganda campaign against Israel and Zionism," Prof. Glazer said. A Kichko article in Komsomolskaya Znamya, the daily newspaper of the Ukrainian Young Communist leader, on Oct. 4, 1967, assailed "a conspiracy of Jewish millionaires, Western imperialists, American capitalists, Zionist ideologues and Israeli leaders, aimed at world conquest." Dr. Glazer noted that "Judaism Without Embellishment" was recently published in Warsaw in Polish and circulated in Poland during the recent anti-Jewish purges there.

Demonstrators On Behalf Of Soviet Jewry March To 4 Embassies In Tel Aviv

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) -- Demonstrators on behalf of Soviet Jewry marched to four foreign Embassies here Friday with petitions demanding the right of Russian Jews to leave their country if they wished. The demonstration was organized by the right-wing Herut Party. The American and British Embassies received deputations bearing the petition. The French Ambassador appeared in person to excuse himself from a discussion on the grounds of previous engagements but promised the marchers that they might approach him at any time with any requirements concerning Soviet Jewry. But the Finnish Embassy, which represents the Soviet interests in Israel, refused to admit the demonstrators. A spokesman explained that because of its status it could not deal with any political matter involving Russia. A copy of the petition was left at the Embassy entrance.

London 'Observer' Publishes Appeal By Riga Students Against Soviet Repression

LONDON, May 4 (JTA) -- An appeal to the West for help against the Soviet repression of Jews and restrictions on emigration to Israel has been made by Jewish students of Riga, Latvia, the Sunday

Observer reported. The paper published a reproduction of a letter in Russian which the students purportedly smuggled out of Latvia after the attempted suicide by fire of 21-year-old Ilya Ripps, a student in the physics and mathematics department of the Latvian State University. The Observer quoted the letter as saying, "We Jewish students of Riga appeal to the students of Israel, the United States, England and the world for help."

The letter described how young Ripps set himself afire at the foot of the liberty monument in Riga with a placard on his chest protesting discrimination against Jews in the Soviet Union. It said he ran burning through the streets shouting in Russian, "Let's go to Israel," until a group of passing sailors knocked him down, stamped out the flames and beat him. Secret police who quickly arrived on the spot hustled Mr. Ripps into a car and drove away. He has not been seen or heard from since then and is believed to be in the prison of the State Security Committee, the letter said. The account contained in the letter coincided with purported independent eye-witness accounts of the episode that reached Western countries last week.

According to the appeal published in the Sunday Observer, "Ilya Ripps expressed the demand of hundreds of thousands of Jews in Russia." The student's father is an engineer and his mother is a doctor. The Observer said that this episode marked the first time since the establishment of Israel that young Russian Jews have dared to organize themselves and show a keen interest in emigrating to Israel. The Observer said that about 30,000 of 100,000 Russian Jewish students have already applied for passports but only a handful have been allowed to leave. Mr. Ripps' application was denied and he attempted self-immolation to dramatize his plight, the account said. The Observer reported a small group of Russian Jews who have been allowed to emigrate recently say the Jewish spirit is alive among vast numbers of Russian Jews.

(A conference of French intellectuals on behalf of Soviet Jewry, the third to be held since 1960, closed in Paris yesterday after adopting a resolution that expressed anxiety over the fate of Ilya Ripps. The resolution authorized the conference to send a mission to Riga to gather details on the incident and make inquiries about Mr. Ripps' whereabouts. The gathering, attended by 80 scholars, writers and clergymen from France and Switzerland, heard papers on the general position of Soviet Jews and on Soviet anti-Semitism in the guise of anti-Zionism. One resolution adopted demanded that Soviet Jews be granted the same cultural and organizational rights enjoyed by other national minorities in the USSR. Another called for a halt to the present anti-Semitic campaign masked as anti-Israel policy, and a third urged the right of Russian Jews to maintain contact with fellow Jews outside of Russia, to move freely and to leave Russia if they wished to re-unite with their families abroad.)

Israeli Jets Strike Saboteur Bases In Araba; New Spa At El Hamma Hit By Guerrillas

TEL AVIV, May 4 (JTA) -- Israeli Air Force jets struck at saboteur bases in the Araba wilderness region of Jordan south of the Dead Sea today. A military spokesman said the sortie lasted less than 20 minutes, that only a small number of planes were involved, no opposition was encountered and all planes returned safely to their bases.

Two Israeli soldiers and two Arab guerrillas were killed in a brief but fierce gunfight in the resort town of El Hamma near the southeast shores of the Sea of Galilee on Friday. Three Israelis and two Arabs were wounded in the fray which lasted three minutes. Retreating guerrillas blew up one of two bath houses that had recently been completed at the town's thermal springs which Israel is trying to promote as a tourist center.

The guerrilla attack came as a complete surprise. Israeli officials said that that section of the Israel-Jordan border along the banks of the Yarmuk River had always been quiet. They had thought Jordan wanted to keep it that way since Jordanians drew water from the river only a few yards from Israeli soil. Last week an Israeli worker was killed and 20 others were injured when guerrillas detonated a mine under a bus bound for El Hamma. The Israel Government began work four months ago on a modern spa at El Hamma. Israel has another spa directly across the Sea of Galilee about two miles south of Tiberias.

Thant Asks That Neutral Zones Be Set Up Around UN Observations Posts At Suez

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., May 4 (JTA) -- A proposal that neutral zones be set up around United Nations observation posts along the Suez Canal to protect UN personnel from Arab and Israeli gunfire was contained in a report on the Suez situation submitted to the 15-member Security Council yesterday by Secretary-General U Thant. Mr. Thant is presently travelling in Europe.

The proposal for the zones was made by Lt. Gen. Odd Bull, of Norway, chief of the UN cease-fire observers corps in the Mideast. Mr. Thant said in his report that he was "increasingly concerned about recent developments which threaten the effectiveness" of the observers of the "cease-fire in the Suez Canal sector." He asserted that the recent firing across the waterway by both sides exposed UN personnel to "grave danger" and interfered with their work.

(Foreign Ministry officials said in Jerusalem today that Mr. Thant's full report confirmed Israel's assertion that Egypt was responsible for any danger to UN observers. They noted that the appendix to the report showed that Egyptian troops had prevented for more than two hours the evacuation of a wounded UN officer on the Israeli side of the canal.

(They said, however, that Israel would reject Mr. Thant's demand to place patrol boats on the canal. They said that this would further endanger UN personnel in the boats and would violate the mutual agreement between Israel and Egypt precluding any navigation on the waterway. The officials

said, however, that Israel might agree to remove its gun positions from the vicinity of UN observation posts although the Secretary-General's report made it clear that there were no Israeli guns closer than several score yards from any UN post while the Egyptians positioned their guns only a yard or two away from UN posts on their side of the canal.)

Eban Says Nasser's May Day Speech Strengthens Resolve To Fortify Suez Line

JERUSALEM, May 4 (JTA) -- Foreign Minister Abba Eban said yesterday that the May Day speech of President Gamal Abdel Nasser of Egypt had strengthened Israel's resolve to fortify itself along the Suez Canal cease-fire line. Col. Nasser declared in Cairo on Thursday that the shelling of Israeli positions on the canal's east bank would continue and was a phase in an all-out military effort to drive Israel back from the waterway. He threatened to strike Israeli civilian targets.

Mr. Eban said in a Kol Israel radio interview that Israel's willingness for peace continues but that Col. Nasser not only avoided any mention of peace in his address but actually rebels against the idea. "This is the speech of a man for whom the mere idea of a relationship of peace and mutual respect is not to be countenanced," Mr. Eban said. "This speech must, of necessity, dispel any illusion that may still prevail in any capital in the world that the possibility of peace still exists in the conscious thoughts of this ruler."

Israelis meanwhile ridiculed Col. Nasser's claim that 60 percent of the Bar Lev Line, Israel's fortifications on the Suez Canal, had been destroyed by Egyptian shelling. And some observers claimed to see in the Egyptian leader's May Day speech a defensive note that indicated he realized that Egypt was not ready for all-out war with Israel. They said that while Col. Nasser claimed Israel's April 30 commando raid into southern Egypt was a "complete failure" because it was anticipated by Egyptian intelligence, he also noted that such raids were "unexpected" and could not always be avoided. The observers suggested that the May Day speech was aimed at militant elements in Egypt including military officers who have become restive in recent months.

Schacter Appeals For Public Opposition To Re-Opening Of Bergen-Belsen Graves

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA) -- A plea to the conscience of the world not to permit the "desecration of the graves" at the Bergen-Belsen concentration camp site was made this weekend by Rabbi Herschel Schacter, chairman of the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations. With the hearings of the International Court of Arbitration scheduled for this Tuesday at the gravesite in West Germany, Rabbi Schacter said it was important that world opinion be mobilized against the attempt of the French Government to remove the bodies of 139 French citizens buried there.

He said, "We are deeply and sorely disturbed to learn the shocking news that the French authorities insist on disturbing the rest of the thousands of martyrs who were murdered with brutal inhumanity by the Nazis. It is difficult to believe that such a macabre act will be permitted 25 years later. All decent individuals and world opinion must react with horror to such a desecration. We plead with our fellow human beings against any desecration of the remains of those who suffered so long in life and who ought now to be left in reverent peace."

The West German Government has issued a temporary order preventing the French Government from opening the graves. Appearing as key witnesses at the hearings before the nine-man international court of arbitration will be Joseph Rosensaft, president of the World Federation of Bergen-Belsen Associations, and Gen. Glyn Hughes, the British Army officer who liberated the camp in 1945. Gen. Hughes will testify that it was impossible to differentiate 25 years ago to determine which were the bodies of the Frenchmen. Mr. Rosensaft said that opening the graves would not make it possible to determine which of the bodies were French.

Roman Professor Appeals Conviction For Interrupting Sermon On Deicide Theme

ROME, May 4 (JTA) -- An Italian law professor who protested a sermon accusing the Jews of the death of Christ has appealed his conviction for interrupting a church service. Thirty-year-old Fabrizio Fabrini, who teaches law at the University of Florence, was given a two month suspended jail sentence for shouting, "Fool, you are preaching Nazi concepts" at the Rev. Riziero Trioni during a Palm Sunday service in 1968 at a Rome parish church.

Mr. Fabrini was arrested on charges brought by the rector of the church. He was acquitted in his first trial but the case was re-opened by the Rome District Attorney. A lower appeals court reversed the acquittal last Wednesday and gave him the suspended sentence.

Mr. Fabrini, a devout Roman Catholic, testified that he felt justified in interrupting the sermon on the ground that the Ecumenical Council (Vatican II), had nullified the ancient charge of deicide against the Jews. He said the Council had also urged lay Catholics to take a more active part in religious affairs and that he was attempting to hold a dialogue with the priest who "spoke a phrase that is not admissible by human or Catholic ethics." Father Trioni had claimed that the Jews were punished through the ages for killing Christ. Mr. Fabrini said that after a further exchange of views the priest gave him communion. But by then the rector had summoned the police.

First Latin American WIZO Parley Ends, New Branches Are Planned In Israel

MEXICO CITY, May 4 (JTA) -- The first Latin American WIZO (Women's International Zionist Organization) conference closed here Friday after agreeing to establish new branches to assist women and children in Israel and to encourage Jewish education and further the Youth aliya movement. The conference lasted five days and was attended by 105 delegates from eight Latin American countries.

Jerseyites Appeal To Senators To Reject Bill Dealing With Public School Prayer's

NEWARK, May 4 (JTA) -- An ad hoc committee on church and state has appealed to New Jersey State Senators to reject a bill approved by the Assembly which would require all public school pupils in the state to take part in a daily period of silent prayer. The committee also informed Gov. Richard Hughes of its strong opposition to the measure which it said would violate the First Amendment.

The message was signed by 13 Jewish community councils in New Jersey and three national Jewish community relations councils. It stressed that "while we support and encourage the vitality of religious life in America, we maintain that the place for religious worship is in the home, the church or the synagogue and not in the public school." It was noted that such a law would create a serious conflict for many public school pupils who, because of pressure from teachers and classmates, might feel obligated to act in violation of their personal beliefs."

The national Jewish organizations in the committee are the regional groups of the American Jewish Committee, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, and the American Jewish Congress. John Kaufman is chairman of the ad hoc unit and Meyer Fine is secretary. In a separate statement, Robert Stivler, American Jewish Congress regional director, said the proposed legislation would "amount to nothing more than hypocrisy" and would do nothing "to strengthen the vitality of religion."

Rockefeller Gets Bill On State Aid For Religious-Sponsored Colleges

ALBANY, N.Y., May 4 (JTA) -- A bill that would permit colleges under religious auspices to participate in a \$15 million state aid program for private institutions of higher learning was passed by the New York State Assembly by an 88-43 vote on Thursday. It will now go to Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller though it is not certain whether he will sign or veto it. The bill was supported mainly by Republicans and opposed mainly by Democrats. Opponents said the measure was in violation of the state constitution. Supporters of the bill said that under the program, state funds could not be used to teach religious subjects.

Gov. Rockefeller has signed into law a controversial bill that will prohibit elected school boards and the State Commissioner of Education from ordering the bussing of students to correct racial imbalance in public schools. Several Jewish organizations active in civil rights had urged the Governor to veto the measure.

Long Island Jewish Hospital Changes Name, Undertakes \$25 Million Fund Drive

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA) -- The 15-year-old Long Island Jewish Hospital in Queens will become the Long Island Jewish Medical Center and will undertake a campaign to raise \$25 million to effect the expansion, it was announced today. The announcement was made by Gustave M. Berne, president of the hospital, at a dinner honoring past president Jack S. Liebowitz. Mr. Berne said the hospital was expanding in order to better serve the rapidly growing communities of Queens and Nassau County. He said that as a medical center it would "provide new concepts of highly sophisticated facilities and services for patient care, teaching, research and community health." Plans call for a separate unit for overnight facilities for patients undergoing diagnostic tests and a complete "walk-in" diagnostic clinic for ambulatory patients, a coronary care pavilion, a kidney dialysis center and a pediatric intensive care unit.

AJC Congress Slates Parley In Face Of Bundestag Opposition To Statute Of Limitations

NEW YORK, May 4 (JTA) -- A conference of leaders of Jewish and non-Jewish groups will be held here next Sunday to discuss the status of the statute of limitations on Nazi war crimes prosecutions which is scheduled to take effect in West Germany on Dec. 31, 1969. Dr. Joachim Prinz, chairman of the American Jewish Congress' commission on international affairs, who announced the gathering at Stephen Wise Congress House, said there was substantial public opinion in Germany opposed to abolition of the statute. He noted that the Bonn Cabinet decided on April 22 to press for legislation to abolish the ban on war crimes prosecutions but that it faced determined opposition in the Bundestag (lower house).

"While the problem is one for the German people to decide," Dr. Prinz declared, "it also is one in which everyone affected by the Hitler period and World War II has a legitimate interest, if not indeed a vital stake." He said public sentiment throughout the world must be brought to bear to prevent the exoneration of war criminals by a statute of limitations on their crimes.

Neo-Nazi Unit Defies Interior Ministry Ban, Holds First Session

BONN, May 4 (JTA) -- A neo-Nazi group which declares itself to be "permeated with the spirit of our Fuehrer, Adolf Hitler," met in secret session in Hanover on Friday in defiance of a ban by the Ministry of Interior. The group calling itself the Association of German National Socialists, is headed by Wolf-Dieter Eckart, a 29-year-old electronics engineer from Hamburg. He said last week that about 25 persons would attend its founding convention. Eckart said his group supports "the ideals of Adolf Hitler and the Third Reich" and wanted to give other Germans "the possibility of working with us for the reconstruction of Germany. We agree with all he (Hitler) did," Eckart said. "The Jews are an international problem today. They are not our job anymore." In a related development, an East German court has passed a death sentence on Josef Bloesche, a former SS (elite guard) corporal convicted of the mass shooting of Jews in the Warsaw Ghetto and rounding up Jews for deportation to the Treblinka death camp during World War II. The sentence was reported by the East German news agency, ADN. According to the agency, Bloesche was assigned to the Gestapo office in the Ghetto and detailed to liquidate Jews, "Polish patriots" and Russian civilians. It said he shot Jewish men, women and children during Ghetto patrols and participated in nine mass executions in which more than 1,000 Jews were killed in 1943.