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Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin To Visit Hungary -- His Second Visit Outside Soviet Union

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- Rabbi Yehuda Leib Levin, the rabbi of Moscow's Choral Synagogue, will make his second trip abroad this week. He is scheduled to visit Budapest on Oct. 16 to participate in a service marking the 25th anniversary of the Nazi killing of 600,000 Hungarian Jews. Rabbi Levin visited the United States in June, 1968.

Rabbi Levin's plans were disclosed here today by his friend, Rabbi Arthur Schneier of the Park East Synagogue, president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, following telephone conversations with Rabbi Levin and Dr. Geza Seifert, president of the Council of Hungarian Jewish Communities, who invited the Moscow rabbi to Budapest. Rabbi Levin's visit to the U.S. marked the first time a Jewish religious leader was permitted to leave Russia to visit Jewish communities abroad since the Communist Revolution. Rabbi Schneier said that even though Hungary is in the Soviet sphere, contacts between the Jewish communities there and Soviet Jewry were limited. Last February, however, Dr. Seifert participated in Rabbi Levin's 75th birthday celebration program in Moscow, also attended by Rabbi Schneier.

According to the New York rabbi, Rabbi Levin informed him that he would stay in Hungary for eight days and would visit various Jewish religious institutions including religious schools sponsored by the Hungarian Jewish community.

Israel Regards Egypt's Rejection Of 'Rhodes Formula' As Its Last Word On Talks

JERUSALEM, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- Egypt's rejection of any negotiations with Israel, direct or indirect, is considered in Israeli circles to represent the final and authoritative word on that subject by the Cairo Government. The semi-official Cairo newspaper Al Ahram, which is known to speak for President Gamal Abdel Nasser, stated unequivocally Friday that "Egypt does not believe there is any possibility of holding direct or indirect negotiations with Israel -- not through the Rhodes formula or any other formula."

The Al Ahram statement sharply contradicted Egypt's official spokesman, Dr. Esmet Abdel Meguid, who said last Wednesday that Egypt would not object to participating in indirect negotiations with Israel along the lines of the Rhodes armistice talks in 1949 "provided this is not construed as direct negotiations." Israel insists that Israeli and Egyptian delegates met face-to-face during the final stages of the Rhodes talks under the aegis of the then acting UN mediator, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche. Egypt denies that there were any direct contacts at Rhodes.

But the argument was rendered academic, according to Israeli sources, by the Al Ahram statement that undercut Dr. Meguid's offer. A similar reported hint by Egyptian Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad in New York Sept. 24 that Egypt might participate in so-called Rhodes formula talks was described by Al Ahram as "deliberate gross distortion aimed at undermining the position of the United Arab Republic."

The Al Ahram statement also downgraded the mission of United Nations peace envoy, Gunnar V. Jarring, who was mentioned as the person most likely to bring Israelis and Arabs to a neutral site for Rhodes-style talks. According to Al Ahram, Dr. Jarring's mission is confined to working out a time table for implementation of the Security Council's Nov. 22, 1967 resolution calling for Israel's withdrawal from occupied Arab territory and Arab recognition of Israel's right to exist within secure, recognized boundaries, among other things. The Arabs have insisted that Israeli withdrawal is a precondition to implementing other elements of the resolution.

The newspaper Haaretz said today that Israeli circles viewed the seemingly flexible statements by Mr. Riad and Dr. Meguid as no more than an Egyptian attempt to torpedo Israel's stand in the United States during and after Premier Golda Meir's meeting with American leaders. These meetings are over now, the statements have served their purpose, and Egypt is reverting to its basic intransigent stand, Haaretz said.

Mrs. Golda Meir, Israel's Premier, told Israel on a radio broadcast yesterday that the Government would be willing to open "Rhodes - style" negotiations but indicated that Israel would regard them as direct talks.

Israel Reported To Be Mounting Campaign Against Election Of Syria To Security Council

JERUSALEM, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- Israel was reported today to be mounting a strong campaign against the election of Syria to a two year term on the UN Security Council on the grounds that a nation which holds captive victims of aerial hijacking cannot be seated on a body entrusted with safeguarding world peace and international order. The election of new Security Council members will be held Oct. 20. Two Israeli nationals, Prof. Shlomo Samueloff, and Salah Muallem, have been prisoners in Syria since Aug. 29 when the TWA airliner aboard which they were flying to Israel was hijacked by Arab commandos and forced to land in Damascus.

Iraqi Jews Have Registered To Emigrate But Are Held Back, AJCommittee Official Says

JERUSALEM, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- Thousands of Jews have registered for emigration from Iraq but they are not being permitted to leave, the director of the American Jewish Committee's European office, Zachariah Shuster, told newsmen here. Mr. Shuster said the condition of Jews in the Arab world varied from country to country -- in some, they are repressed and live in fear, in others they are unmolested and free to come and go as they please.

Mr. Shuster came to Israel with Philip E. Hoffman, president of the AJCommittee, Judge Theodore Tennenwald Jr., and Bertram Gold, the organization's executive vice president. They are on a mission to promote better understanding between Arabs in the occupied territories and Israelis, a task undertaken by the AJCommittee's Israel office. They visited Arab leaders in East Jerusalem and on the West Bank. Mr. Hoffman said that the Arabs do not strive to fraternize with Israelis much less integrate. He said this view was expressed most vividly by Anwar Neuseibah, a former Jordanian Defense Minister in East Jerusalem.

Mr. Shuster said that last year Egypt permitted about 100 Jews to leave but that in recent months there has been no sign that it would continue that policy. He described the situation of Jews in Syria as "bad" but in neighboring Lebanon, he said, Jews are free to move about and even go abroad, but they have recently become apprehensive.

According to Mr. Shuster, the 40,000 Jews in Morocco and 50,000 in Tunisia are not discriminated against despite their Government's anti-Israel policies. Emigration is permitted and many of them go to France he said. In Algeria, the 2,000-member Jewish community is not being molested despite that country's bitterly anti-Israel stand. In Libya, the official attitude toward Jews had been very liberal under the regime of former King Idris. Libyan Jews living abroad were permitted to return periodically to look after their property. But, Mr. Shuster said, the military coup which deposed the King caught 156 Jews in Libya and there has been no word of them. He said their families in Italy are anxious over their fate.

Joint Study Finds 'Pejorative Image' Of Jews In French Catholic Textbooks

PARIS, Oct. 11 (JTA) -- A three year probe of Roman Catholic religious texts in the French language by a team of Belgian scholars has concluded that religious textbooks used in the world's French-speaking areas present "a pejorative image of Jews and Judaism." The study was undertaken by the Socio-Religious Research Center at Louvain University, directed by Canon Francoise Houtart and by the Catechetic Research Center headed by Canon Jean Giblet. The study was co-sponsored by Louvain University and the AJCommittee. It covered eight million words in a sampling of 79 volumes of religious texts used in France and the French-speaking areas of Belgium, Switzerland and Canada.

Completion of the study was announced simultaneously by Louvain University and the AJCommittee. According to AJCommittee president Hoffman, "that ranking Catholic scholars and institutions have been ready to undertake such critical self-examination of how their faith is taught, and seriously to enquire into whether religious factors play a role in the spread of anti-Semitism, is telling tribute to the better understanding stimulated by the Vatican Council II." In its declaration on non-Christians, the Vatican Council warned Catholic religious instructors against anything not in harmony with what it said was the truth of the Gospel and said specifically that "the Jews should not be presented as repudiated by God."

UNESCO Board Votes Unanimous Resolution Accusing Israel Of Violating Cultural Pact

PARIS, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- Israel stands accused by 26 nations of violating international agreements on the protection of archaeological treasures of the Holy Land. In a 26-0 vote, the board of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural organization called on Israel to preserve scrupulously all sites, buildings and other cultural properties, especially in the Old City of Jerusalem. Four members -- the United States, Britain, Canada and Nigeria -- abstained after a bitter Israeli-Jordanian three-day debate on the ownership of the Dead Sea Scrolls and other relics.

Russia, France, Asian, Latin American and African nations voted for a resolution which expressed the UNESCO's board's "deep concern at the violations by Israel" of the Hague convention for protection of cultural property in time of war. Israel did not vote. The resolution asked Israel to desist from Old City excavations and not to change the sector's "cultural and historical character."

In another move, the UNESCO board also voted 27-4 that school textbooks for Arab refugee children to which Israel objects are "not suitable" for UN schools. It called upon the Government of Israel "to remove immediately any obstacles to the import and use of textbooks approved" for use in occupied territories schools run by UNESCO and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA).

Report State Prosecutor Studying Possible Perjury Charges Against Kiesinger

BONN, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- Chancellor Kurt Georg Kiesinger, whose Christian Democratic Union will be out of the West German Government for the first time in 20 years as a result of last month's national elections , is under investigation by the State Prosecutor for possible perjury. Chancellor Kiesinger testified at a war crimes trial last year that he was unaware that genocide was being committed against Jews during the Nazi era. The prosecutor reportedly may enlist the aid of the United States to obtain certain pertinent documents. It is not known whether Chancellor Kiesinger will enjoy diplomatic immunity in ex-officio status.

Leningrad Police Dispersed Youth With Truncheons On Simhat Torah, 'Yediot' Reports

TEL AVIV, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- An Israeli newspaper claimed today that Leningrad police armed with clubs dispersed 5,000 Jewish youths attempting to participate in Simhat Torah celebrations outside of the Leningrad synagogue last week. The evening daily Yediot Achronot attributed its information to a tourist who arrived here from Russia and said he witnessed the incident. According to the account, about 5,000 Jewish youths assembled outside the synagogue even though the street was closed by police. The police apparently thought the gathering was too large and moved in to break it up, using their clubs. The tourist said he saw scuffles between youths and police.

Reports in the world press last week said that some 12,000 Jews, mainly youngsters, danced and sang outside the main synagogue in Moscow on Simhat Torah. The street was blocked to traffic but there was no reported interference by police. A Jewish elder was quoted as saying that he doubted that Simhat Torah celebrations on such a scale were permitted in cities other than Moscow.

Round-Up Of Canadian Simhat Torah Demonstrations Broadcast To Russia

MONTREAL, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- A round-up of Simhat Torah demonstrations in six major Canadian cities in behalf of Soviet Jews was included in the Russian language program of the Canadian Broadcasting Corp. international service, the Canadian Jewish Congress reported. The round-up was included at the CJCongress' initiative.

Delegates To Conservative Party Parley Criticize British Vote On UN El Aksa Measure

LONDON, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- Delegates to the Conservative party conference at Brighton unanimously criticized the British vote for the recent Security Council resolution implicitly blaming Israel for the El Aksa Mosque fire in East Jerusalem. The delegates expressed that view at a reception given by the local Anglo-Israel Friendship League.

Anthony Kershaw, Member of Parliament and personal assistant to Edward Heath, the opposition leader, said in a speech at the reception that he spoke for Mr. Heath as well as for himself in strongly criticizing the Labor Government for its vote on the resolution.

Prime Minister Harold Wilson has personally replied to a Jewish protest against the vote. The protest was lodged by Sidney Goldberg, general secretary of the Poale Zion, a Labor Zionist organization affiliated with the British Labor Party. In a letter to Mr. Goldberg, Mr. Wilson wrote, "I am sure you will have read Lord Caradon's (Britain's permanent representative to the UN) two speeches during this debate and the resolution in favor of which the Government voted. I hope that you would agree that there was nothing in the resolution itself or in the statement made on behalf of the Government by Lord Caradon which could be construed as support for an Arab campaign in incite racial prejudice and hatred."

Mrs. McKay Pledged New Arab Center Planned In London Will Be Closed To Commandos

LONDON, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- Mrs. Margaret McKay, the controversial pro-Arab Labor Member of Parliament from Clapham, has pledged that the new Arab center she is opening in London will be used for cultural and propaganda purposes and will be closed to Arab commando groups. Mrs. McKay, presently touring the Arab countries to raise funds for the Arab cause against Israel, had reportedly described her new center as a "commando outpost."

That description aroused a storm of protests here, especially in view of recent Arab terrorist bombings of Israeli and Jewish property in London and on the continent. According to Daily Telegraph correspondent John Bulloch, who talked to Mrs. McKay in Kuwait, she said she had meant "truth commandos" whose weapons are words. Mrs. McKay claims to be an honorary member of El Fatah, the Palestinian guerrilla organization. Mr. Bulloch said she told him that she was presented with an El Fatah badge and dagger when she visited one of its encampments in Jordan last year. "They made me an honorary commando," she reportedly said, "but that does not mean they will be welcome at the London center. I am dealing only with Arab governments and no unofficial organizations will be allowed."

Mrs. McKay, a Labor Party member since 1928, drew the wrath of her party last month when she told a New York audience that Zionist Jewish Labor MPs were exerting pressure on Prime Minister Harold Wilson to take a pro-Israel stand.

South African Jews Fail To Persuade Government To Change Date Of National Election

JOHANNESBURG, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- South African Jews have apparently failed to persuade the Government to change the April 22, 1970 national election date because it conflicts with the observance of Passover. The South African Jewish Board of Deputies and the local rabbinate have appealed to Premier John Vorster on grounds that the conflict will affect Jewish voters, candidates and election workers. Mr. Vorster has explained that the date was set without knowledge of the Jewish calendar and expressed regrets.

He invited Chief Rabbi Bernard Casper and Dr. Teddy Schneider, president of the Board of Deputies, to meet with him in Pretoria. The two Jewish leaders issued a statement after the meeting Friday. They said, "the Prime Minister again assured us that the selection of April 22... was due to an oversight. The Prime Minister acknowledged the difficulties which would, as a result, confront the Jewish community. It is regretted that in spite of these considerations, the Prime Minister explained that for reasons he held to be important, he was unable now to change the date."

David Starr, 'Long Island Press' Managing Editor, Elected To JTA Board Of Directors

NEW YORK, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- David Starr, managing editor of the Long Island Press, has been elected to the Board of Directors of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency, Robert H. Arnow, JTA President, announced today. Mr. Starr, 47, has been managing editor of the Long Island daily since 1962. He is a member of the American Society of Newspaper Editors and of the Associated Press Managing Editors Association and has served as president of the New York State Associated Press Association. A World War II Army veteran, Mr. Starr is active in the communal and cultural life of Long Island, He is a trustee of the Nassau Community College of the State University of New York, a director of the Health and Welfare Council of Nassau County and a vice president of the United Fund of Long Island.

Hadassah President Scores Double Standard Of Justice At UN, Rising U.S. Conservatism

NEW ORLEANS, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- A double standard of justice at the United Nations and a rising tide of conservatism in the United States were assailed today by Mrs. Max Schenk, national president of Hadassah, the women's Zionist Organization of America, at the opening plenary session of the organization's 55th annual convention here. In her address to 2,000 delegates, Mrs. Schenk deplored the low priority accorded by the U.S. Government to anti-poverty programs, education and foreign and domestic aid to medical research and warned that "delaying tactics" by Government officials heralded "a frightening return to segregation in the South."

Mrs. Schenk took the UN Security Council to task for having "failed miserably" to preserve peace in the Middle East. "It has been resoundingly silent in its condemnation of member nations who have violated all canons of law and decency," she said. She noted that Israel's position in the world body was such that it made it difficult for Israel "to obtain any semblance of justice."

Mrs. Schenk recalled that last June, Hadassah undertook a far-reaching experimental program to help combat hunger and poverty in the U.S. She noted that several thousand Hadassah women are now working in school lunch and school tutorial programs in 30 cities. She said that Judaism will not be deterred from its quest for the "good society" which rests in "clearly defined" ideals and objectives.

Mrs. Schenk cited Hadassah's activities which are helping to "relieve human needs." They included: A growing medical complex including Hadassah's rebuilt hospital, rehabilitation center, and school of occupational therapy on Mount Scopus, in Jerusalem, and new institutions of oncology and neurology; rehabilitation and rescue of Jewish youth from oppression; and education and training of young men and women through the organization's Israel education services. The largest Zionist organization in the world, Hadassah spends more than $12 million dollars annually on its undertakings.

President Richard M. Nixon, in a message to convention delegates, commended the organization's "dedication in advancing opportunities for the young and in improving the health and education of men and women of all ages." He praised Hadassah for its "wide range of interests and activities" which, he said, "exemplify the kind of human concern and civic involvement which are so vitally needed in our world."

Ambassador Lourie Tells Mizrachi Women U.S. Support For Israel Based On Own Interests

CHICAGO, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- An Israeli diplomat said here today that United States support for Israel is based on "a sober estimate of America's interests." Arthur Lourie, ambassador-at-large and a member of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, spoke at the opening of the 44th annual national convention of the Mizrachi Women's Organization of America.

The Mizrachi Women received messages of greetings from President Richard M. Nixon and Premier Golda Meir of Israel. Mr. Nixon wrote to Mrs. Aaron Leifer, national president, that "your good works reflect the finest instincts of mankind and play a significant role in the pursuit of justice, brotherhood and equality. . . . My best wishes for continued success and my appreciation for the noble work you are doing." Mrs. Meir cited the organization's work as "an inspiring example for all the House of Israel."

Mr. Lourie had high praise for former President Lyndon B. Johnson, who supported Israel during and after the 1967 war and for President Richard M. Nixon who, he said, "reflected all shades of American opinion in the magnificent reception accorded Prime Minister Golda Meir in her visit to this country."

Ambassador Lourie observed that "if the Phantom aircraft promised by President Johnson are being delivered by President Nixon, the basic reason is that it is an American and not merely an Israeli interest that Israel should be strong enough to deter aggression. And if the U.S. has remained steadfast in rejecting the pressures of the Arab countries and the Soviets for a withdrawal of Israel from the cease-fire lines and a return to the status quo, it is because the U.S. is convinced that to do so would be as short-sighted from the American point of view as it would be disastrous to any hop for peace in the Middle East."

Washington Area Synagogue Rededicated After $200,000 Fire Bomb Attack

WASHINGTON, Oct. 12 (JTA) -- A Washington area synagogue that was severely damaged by a fire bomb last Jan. 11, was rededicated and reopened yesterday. The ceremonies at Shaare Tikvah Synagogue in Prince George's County, Maryland, were addressed by Rep. Lawrence Hogan, a Maryland Republican. A blast that shook the area for blocks around caused an estimated $200,000 damage to the synagogue building which was unoccupied at the time.