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Vatican Document On Jews Reported Not Final; Changes In Wording Said To Be Ahead

NEW YORK, Dec. 18(JTA)--The Synagogue Council of America reported today that the new Vatican document on Catholic-Jewish relations, which was widely hailed by Jewish organizations last week as a milestone, was not the final text. The Council said it would not issue any statement on the document for that reason. The decision was taken unanimously by its commission on inter-religious affairs after a meeting to study the document, according to Rabbi Fabian Schonfeld, commission chairman.

The Synagogue Council is the representative organization of the lay and rabbinic branches of Reform, Conservative and Orthodox Judaism. Informed sources intimated that there were changes in the final text, some of them "very significant."

The Vatican document, which proposed what were described as "unprecedented steps" to improve Catholic-Jewish relations, was revealed Dec. 10 by Lawrence Cardinal Shehan, Archbishop of Baltimore, at a Loyola College seminar on the image of the Jew in contemporary culture. The seminar was sponsored by the B'nai B'rith's Anti-Defamation League and various Christian institutions.

An ADL spokesman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that Cardinal Shehan had made it clear that the document he released was a "working paper" of the Vatican Secretariat on Christian Unity and not the final version. However, he said, the final text is "very likely" to contain no significant changes. The spokesman said that Benjamin R. Epstein, national director of the ADL and Father Edward H. Flannery, a member of the Secretariat on Christian Unity, would discuss the Vatican document on the nationally televised "Today Show" of the National Broadcasting Co. on Dec. 24.

Rabbi Marc Tannenbaum, director of the American Jewish Committee's inter-religious affairs department, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that he has been in touch with members of the National Conference of Bishops who were in Rome when the final text was drafted. He said that, according to his informants, the final text adheres closely to the working paper except for some modifications of language which were not significant enough to cause concern. Rabbi Tannenbaum said however that he "shared the hesitation" of the Synagogue Council until the final language was available.

The Synagogue Council stated after Cardinal Shehan's announcement in Baltimore that a document of such "far-reaching consequences...should not elicit a quick and easy response" but promised to give it "the most careful and respectful study."

According to Rabbi Tannenbaum, the final text will be released shortly by the Vatican. He said that the Church originally intended to release it some time in January but an earlier release date was set in order to forestall pressure for changes from the more conservative members of the Catholic Curia and from Arab bishops who object to the document's injunction to Catholics to understand Jewish ties to Israel.

Tekoah Criticizes United Nations, Offers High Praise To Miss Angie Brooks

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. Dec.18(JTA)--Israel's Ambassador to the United Nations, Yosef Tekoah, voiced criticism of the world body yesterday in a speech at the closing of the General Assembly's 1969 fall Session. But Mr. Tekoah had warm words for the Assembly's President, Miss Angie Brooks of Liberia, and expressions of high regard for the work of the Secretary General and the members of the UN Secretariat.

Mr. Tekoah said, "With the UN playing a marginal role in the world's main conflicts, with some of the gravest mass violations of human rights remaining outside the scope of its action, with states impervious to Charter obligations appearing as mentors of international conduct and sometimes elected to the highest positions in the organization, many member governments and world opinion have come to share in a growing sentiment of frustration and concern." He said, "This sentiment is enhanced by the sterile and repetitive acrimony of certain UN discussions and by such resolutions as are divorced from equity and reality."

Referring to Miss Brooks' exercise of her office, the Israeli envoy said, "You have brought great honor on yourself, your country and the entire continent of Africa."

Israeli Firm To Protect U.S. Oil Pipeline To Safeguard Israeli Water Supply

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18(JTA)--An Israeli company will embark on a \$300,000 project this week to protect the Trans-Arabian oil pipeline in the Golan Heights from damage by saboteurs. The pipeline, which passes through the Israel-occupied heights in its run from the oil fields of Saudi Arabia to the coast of Lebanon, has been hit twice by Arab marauders in the past year.

The objective of the Israeli firm, a subsidiary of the Mekorot Water Co., is to protect Israeli fresh water sources from oil pollution. The project will take four months to complete. It includes the construction of roads paralleling the pipeline, concrete walls and earth ramps. The Trans-Arabian pipeline is owned by the Arabian-American oil Co. an American firm.

Labor Alignment Is Considering Appointment Of Arab As A Deputy Minister

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18(JTA)--Leaders of the Labor Alignment are considering the appointment of an Arab deputy minister. The question was raised by 50 Arab members of Histadrut at a meeting with the Speaker of the Knesset, Reuben Barkat. They observed that the Independent Liberal faction with four members in the Knesset has one Cabinet minister and one deputy minister while the Arab List, also with four members, has none. They suggested that a Druze MK, Jaber Maadi, be made Deputy ministry of Agriculture or Police. Another Arab faction however wants a Moslem Arab rather a Druze to be appointed.

Saphir, New Finance Minister, Resigns As Labor Party Secretary General

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18(JTA)--Finance Minister Pinhas Saphir announced today that he is resigning as secretary general of the Israel Labor Party effective Jan. 1, 1970 in order to devote his full time to ministerial matters. The Mapai faction of the party will meet in two weeks to select a candidate for the vacated post. Shimon Peres, a Minister-Without-Portfolio in the new Government, has resigned as deputy secretary general of the Labor Party. His successor will be named by the Rafi faction.

Israeli Forces Repulse 2 Egyptian Raiding Parties At Suez Canal

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18(JTA)--Israeli forces repulsed two Egyptian raiding parties on the east bank of the Suez Canal last night. A medical corpsman, Bezalel Shimoni, was killed by Egyptian artillery fire while treating a wounded Israeli soldier. There were no other Israeli casualties. Cairo radio conceded the loss of three men but did not say whether they were killed, wounded or captured.

Cairo's version of the attacks was branded false by Israel. According the Egyptian account, large contingents of infantry crossed the canal during the night and inflicted heavy casualties and damage on Israeli forces, fortifications and equipment. The Egyptians claimed that one Israeli position was "wiped out" and that one tank and three armored halftracks were destroyed. The Egyptians also claimed to have mounted their "heaviest" artillery barrage along a 70 mile stretch of the waterway.

An Israeli military spokesman said a patrol encountered a group of about 10 Egyptian commandos on the Israeli side of the canal opposite Diel el Balah at 8:30 p.m. local time. The commandos retreated as soon as they came under fire and re-crossed the canal under cover of an Egyptian artillery barrage. An hour later, Israeli units engaged another raiding party of about 20 Egyptians who soon retreated under artillery cover. Israel suffered its two casualties in the latter action. A military spokesman said Cairo was desperately trying to achieve some kind of victory and was making extravagant claims in order to enhance Egypt's stature at the Arab summit conference which opens at Rabat, Morocco Dec. 20.

Gaza Merchants, Concerned About Growing Violence, May Establish 'Defense Force'

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18(JTA)--Leading Gaza merchants, alarmed by the growing incidence of terrorism and sabotage, met yesterday to consider the establishment of a "civil defense" corps to forestall acts of violence. The proposal was to employ 20 guards whom the merchants would pay.

Violence in Gaza has had a serious impact on business. A curfew on the main street which has been a favorite target of grenade throwers has caused hardship to shop owners. But the local municipality has made no effort so far to talk to the Israeli military authorities about lifting the curfew.

Military Tribunal Passes 15-Year Sentence On 17-Year-Old Terrorist

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18(JTA)--A military tribunal in Hebron pronounced a 15-year sentence yesterday on a 17 year-old Arab who attempted to murder an Israeli policeman on guard near the Machpela Cave last June. The youth struck the policeman with an iron bar and held off rescuers until he was shot and wounded. He was brought to trial when he recovered.

A 27 year-old Christian Arab housepainter from Haifa was charged with espionage for Egypt and ordered detained pending trial. According to security officials, Labib Emille Najar was recruited by Egyptian intelligence agents while visiting Cyprus and agreed to supply them with Israeli military information and Israeli authorities intercepted a cable he sent in code informing the Egyptians that Israel was calling up its reserves.

Stiff prison sentences were imposed by a Ramallah military tribunal on two El Fatah leaders, the sole survivors of a 13-member guerrilla band destroyed in an encounter with an Israeli patrol near Jericho last June. The court pronounced sentences of 45 years and 30 years respectively on Abas Ahmed 28 the gang leader, and Jihad Sabah, 22. The guerrillas crossed the Jordan River into the West Bank last June 21 on a sabotage mission. They hid during the day in a banana grove but were spotted by an Israeli patrol that killed 11 of them and captured two.

Pincus Says Initial Emergency Fund Contributions Are 40 Percent Ahead Of 1968

TEL AVIV, Dec. 18(JTA)--The chairman of the Jewish Agency reported today that initial contributions to this year's Israel Emergency Fund campaign abroad are running 40 percent ahead of the same period last year. Louis A. Pincus made the report on his return from a visit to the United States, Canada and Europe on behalf of fund-raising organizations.

Knesset Votes To Extend Age Of Eligibility For Draft To Persons 45-54.

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18(JTA)--The Knesset has voted unanimously to extend the age of eligibility for military draft to persons aged 45-54. The bill, which passed its first reading, also extended the validity of emergency regulations governing draft age to the end of 1970. Defense Minister Moshe Dayan said the older age group would serve in civil defense and that the bill was intended primarily to strengthen the civil defense corps.

The Knesset also unanimously approved a measure to increase the national budget by \$21.5 million through defense loan sales abroad.

Prague Radio Charges 'Zionists' Are Trying To Separate Jewish Youth From Other Czechs

LONDON, Dec. 18(JTA)--Prague radio charged today that "Zionists are seeking to separate Jewish youth from the rest of Czechoslovak youth." A broadcast said that "unfortunately Zionism has attracted supporters among Czechoslovak Jews."

The commentator maintained that there was no anti-Semitism in Czechoslovakia but that the Prague Government condemns the State of Israel as "one of the aggressive instruments of Zionism" although the Government has declared its solidarity with the Israeli Communist Party. The commentator charged that Zionists were ready to criticize any kind of nationalism but that they brand critics of Jewish nationalism as racists.

Book of Short Stories On Israel Has Been Publish In Czech In Prague

PARIS, Dec. 18(JTA)--A book of short stories about Israel has been published in the Czech language in Prague. The author, Mendal Mann, who resides here, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that arrangements for publication of his book "The House Among The Thorns" were made during the Dubcek regime prior to the Soviet occupation. Nevertheless, Prague has now published 150,000 copies of a translation by Camilia Juridokova.

Mr. Mann, 53, has written 16 novels. "The House Among The Thorns" contains stories about pioneering in the Negev and Israel's 1948 War for Independence.

Panamanian Ambassador Elio Ortiz Pledges Continued Support For Israel

TEL AVIV, Dec.18(JTA)--The Panamanian Ambassador pledged today that his country will continue to support Israel without reservations in the future as it has done in the past. Ambassador Elio Ortiz spoke at a luncheon given in his honor by the Israel-Latin American Chamber of Commerce. His words had particular significance in view of the abortive coup which briefly overthrew Panama's ruling military junta this week.

The coup was organized by a group of rebel colonels during the absence in Mexico City of Gen. Omar Torrijos, commander of the Panamanian National Guard who is the "strongman" of the junta. Gen. Torrijos returned to Panama on Tuesday and promptly quashed the rebellion. He was reported to have the overwhelming support of the military and apparently of most Panamanians. He has been in power since his junta overthrew Pres. Arnulfo Arias in October, 1968.

Ambassador Ortiz praised the contributions made by Panama's Jewish community to the country's economy and thanked Israel for the technical aid it has extended to Panama.

Ernst Benda, Former West German Interior Minister, Re-Elected German-Israel Unit Head

FRANKFURT, Dec. 18(JTA)--Ernst Benda, the former Minister of Interior, was re-elected president of the German-Israel Society at its annual general meeting here yesterday. State Secretary Heinz Westphal was re-elected vice president.

Narkiss Predicts That 8,500 Americans, Canadians Will Go On Aliyah In 1970

NEW YORK, Dec.18(JTA)--A prediction that at least 8,500 American and Canadian Jews will go on Aliyah to Israel in 1970 was made by Gen. Uzi Narkiss, director general of the Department of Immigration and Absorption of the Jewish Agency for Israel. Gen. Narkiss made this statement following the conclusion of a three day conference here of 29 Aliyah department emissaries in its 12 offices throughout the United States and Canada.

In 1969, General Narkiss said, the figure for American Aliyah will total some 6,000, as against some 4,300 in 1968. "The reports of the emissaries were most optimistic" Gen. Narkiss said. On the basis of their successes this year, we have every reason to believe that they will achieve in 1970 the figures that they realistically project. I would say there is a definite breakthrough in American Aliyah that is most encouraging," he said.

The emissaries were also addressed during their conference by Gen. Itzhak Rabin, Israel Ambassador to the U.S., Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency and head of its Aliyah and Absorption Department; Rehavam Amir, Consul General of Israel; Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, American member of the Executive of the Jewish Agency; General Josef Geva, director of the Ministry of Absorption of Israel; and Col. Nahum Golan, director of the Israel Aliyah Center in the U.S. and Canada.

Dutch Reported Considering Libyan Request To Extradite Young Jordanian Terrorist

THE HAGUE, Dec.18(JTA)--The Netherlands Government was reported today to be considering a request by the Government of Libya to place in its custody a teen-age Jordanian youth who threw a hand grenade into the Israeli Embassy here last September. The boy, Tasir El-Attar, was sentenced to three months in jail by a juvenile court. The state prosecutor has protested the sentence as too lenient and his appeal is pending. Libya said that if the youth is turned over, it would assume responsibility for him and provide him with an education in a Libyan school.

Apollo 12 Astronauts Will Visit Israel In Spring To Attend Planting Of Forest

JERUSALEM, Dec. 18(JTA)--The three Apollo 12 astronauts, Allen Bean, Charles Conrad and Richard Gordon, are expected to visit Israel next spring to attend the planting of the first trees in the Astronauts Forest which the Jewish National Fund is planting near Jerusalem. The moon voyagers and their wives have appeared at JNF functions in Houston and Dallas. Last week they were each presented with a certificate attesting to the planting of trees in their names in the Astronaut's Forest.

Hillel Foundations Say U.S. Universities Are More Receptive To Judaic Studies

GROSSINGER, N.Y. Dec. 18(JTA)--American universities are increasingly receptive to inclusion of accredited Judaic study courses in their curricula, a B'nai B'rith Hillel Foundations study reported here today. Preliminary findings of a survey of more than 200 major (institutions) indicated a general acceptance among college administrations to recognize the "academic authenticity" of such study courses.

The findings, reported at the Hillel directors' annual conference, also indicated--on the basis of spot checks--about a doubling in attendance since 1965 among students enrolling in courses of Judaism studies. The increase in the number of courses as well as in departments of Jewish studies was attributed primarily to both individual and organized efforts by Jewish students and faculty, stimulated in some measure by the success of Negro student demands for black study courses.

However, the preliminary findings showed that Jewish students have been able to make their case in negotiations with college administration. No instance of a need for "confrontation tactics" has showed up yet in the survey, which is being conducted by Dr. Alfred Jospe, Hillel director of program and resources.

The directors, in a proposal that appears to be a precedent in management-employee relations among Jewish institutions, petitioned for voting representation on the Hillel Foundations' national commission, its highest policy body. A request by the National Association of Hillel Directors for three seats on the 67-member commission is now under study by a special committee of the commission. Earlier this year, the commission authorized the inclusion of four student representatives with full voting powers into its ranks. A student proposal for four additional seats is also under study.

Rabbi Robert P. Jacobs, Hillel director at Washington University, St. Louis, elected today as president of the Hillel directors' association, said that his group's proposal conformed to the practice in the academic community where Hillel directors serve and where joint administration-faculty student policy boards are prevalent. "In this instance, Hillel directors are the equivalent of the faculty," he said.

Rabbi Jacobs contended that Hillel directors have a "unique role" in Jewish institutional life in that, in addition to their academic milieu, they are also "comparable to and a part of the American rabbinate as well as Jewish communal workers." The proposal, he added, "would enable community leaders who serve on the commission to learn first-hand the practical problems of serving Jewish students and, equally, provide the Hillel staff with a closer relationship to the administrative realities" that confront a policy board. The association, which under the proposal would elect its three representatives to the commission, comprises Hillel rabbis who serve at 90 major universities. It excludes Hillel's national headquarters staff.

At a closing banquet session, the directors honored Rabbi Samuel Perlman of Boston University and Rabbi Meyer Greenberg of Maryland University on their 25th anniversaries with Hillel, and Rabbi Maurice Zigmund, who retired last year after also serving with Hillel for 25 years.

New York Rabbi Urges Support For Small Jewish Community In Portugal

NEW YORK, Dec. 18(JTA)--A New York rabbi today urged the Jewish communities of the United States, Israel and Western Europe to help preserve the tiny Jewish community in Portugal by ending its isolation, Rabbi Arthur Schneier of Park Synagogue said that the Jewish community in Portugal today numbers 700 including every man, woman and child. While it possesses all of the necessary facilities to conduct a Jewish religious life, its numbers have been diminished by assimilation and the exodus of its youth to Israel and other countries to live and study.

Rabbi Schneier recently spent seven weeks in Portugal in his capacity as president of the Appeal of Conscience Foundation, an inter-faith group concerned with religious freedom for all denominations. He met with leaders of the Catholic, Protestant and Jewish communities and had an audience with the Primate of Portugal, Cardinal Cerejeira. He said there were no social restrictions imposed on Portuguese Jews who are to be found in business, banking, law, medicine and the academic community. But the Jewish population itself generally desires to remain inconspicuous, he said. With the exception of 50 who live in Oporto, the second largest city, the Jews live in Lisbon, the capital.

He said they are mostly of Sephardic origin who came to Portugal from North Africa and Gibraltar only 150 years ago. During World War II, Portugal was the point of exit from Europe for tens of thousands of European Jewish refugees.

Adas Israel, Washington's Oldest Synagogue, Completes Move; Will Be Museum

WASHINGTON, Dec. 18(JTA)--Washington's oldest synagogue has completed a two-day move on 28 ballroom tires to a new site and a new role as a museum operated by the Jewish Historical Society of Greater Washington. The 93 year-old building was the home of Washington's Adas Israel Congregation when it opened its doors in 1876. It has not been used as a house of worship since 1908 but was retained by the congregation and recently declared an historic landmark.

The Historical Society acquired the building but it had to be moved to a new site to make way for Washington's subway system. It took two days to move the 270-ton, 58-by-25-foot structure to its new location three blocks from the old site. A Virginia-based moving firm received a \$45,000 contract for the job. The Historical Society conducted ceremonies today celebrating the preservation of the building.