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Mrs. Helen Zeidmann Undergoes Second Conversion According To Orthodox Rites

TEL AVIV, June 15 (JTA)--Israel's Orthodox religious establishment scored an unexpected victory today when an American-born woman who was converted to Judaism by a Reform rabbi here, underwent a second conversion according to Orthodox rites. Mrs. Helen Zeidmann also signed papers withdrawing her petition to the Israel Supreme Court to be registered as Jewish; something the Ministry of Interior refused to allow because the Israeli rabbinate does not recognize non-Orthodox rabbis. The court was to have acted on her petition this Wednesday at which time the Orthodox National Religious Party threatened to quit the Cabinet unless the government initiated legislation banning non-Orthodox conversions. A Cabinet crisis was averted. But it was obvious that Mrs. Zeidmann acted under the most severe personal pressure from the highest echelons of government. President Zalman Shazar made two appeals to her to undergo Orthodox conversion, one by telephone call yesterday which she rejected and another conveyed to her at her home this morning by a delegation consisting of Labor Party Knesset member Itzhak Korn and other prominent personalities.

The foreign-born woman who married an Israeli in a civil ceremony abroad three years ago and is now an Israeli citizen, yielded and the second conversion was performed here this afternoon in the presence of three Orthodox rabbis, presided over by the Israeli chief military chaplain, Rabbi Shlomo Goren. The latter reportedly took charge of the matter at the request of Premier Golda Meir. The Zeidman case became a major issue here last month when the States Attorney refused to contest the plaintiff's petition to the Supreme Court. Conversions to Judaism by Reform or Conservative rabbis are not specifically ruled out by the Law of Return as amended by the Knesset last March. The Orthodox establishment, fearful that its exclusivity in these matters was threatened, demanded new legislation but the Labor Party refused to sponsor a new law. It was considered a foregone conclusion that the Supreme Court would render a decision in favor of Mrs. Zeidmann and under those circumstances the NRP politicians were under orders from the Chief Rabbinate to leave the cabinet.

U Thant Says He Has Tried To Help Jews In Several Arab Countries; Scores Hijackers

LONDON, June 15 (JTA)--United Nations Secretary General U Thant told the Royal Commonwealth Society here today of his personal efforts to intervene with the governments of several Arab states on behalf of the Jewish minorities in those countries. Mr. Thant brought up the subject in connection with what he said had become "an almost routine function of the United Nations" to arrange for the repatriation of civilian or military personnel detained by one side or another in the Middle East conflict. The Secretary General said that a continuing source of concern, especially since 1967, was the situation of the small Jewish minorities in some Arab states. "After the 1967 war I approached the government of the United Arab Republic concerning the Jewish community in the UAR, of whom some were imprisoned and others were unable to get exit permits. Eventually, some 1400 of them were released and, with the help of the government of Spain, enabled to leave the UAR," Mr. Thant said. He continued, "My approaches to the government of Iraq on the question of the Jewish minority in that country have been less successful, but my concern continues and I still hope for results." Mr. Thant said that his approaches to this situation, like his interventions on behalf of the accused who were publicly hanged in Iraq last year, "can be based only on humanitarian considerations and in the interest of lessening tensions in the area, since the Jewish people concerned, being citizens of the countries in which they live, are under the exclusive jurisdiction of the government."

Mr. Thant also referred to attempts to hijack and sabotage commercial aircraft which, he said was "one of the deplorable and quite recent phenomena of the Middle East crisis." He recalled that he had intervened in two instances, the hi-jacking of an El Al airliner to Algiers in 1968 and of a TWA airliner to Damascus last August. He said that in his view it was "extremely important that the hijackers should derive no advantage from the criminal act of hijacking by bargaining over, or making deals for, the release of the crew, passengers and aircraft. If this is allowed to happen," Mr. Thant said, "hijacking will be encouraged and will become more widespread." He said the country to which an aircraft is hijacked may find itself in a delicate position, especially in the Mideast, and while it may wish to act in a proper manner, "it may find it politically very difficult to do so." Mr. Thant criticized "highly publicized international pressures such as threatened boycotts" which, he maintained, could only increase the political difficulties for the recipient government. He said these considerations should be borne in mind if, as sometimes happens, he is accused of tardiness, appeasement or ineffectiveness in securing the release of plane, passengers and crew. Mr. Thant also spoke of the failure of the UN so far to have the Suez Canal cleared so that 13 stranded ships of eight nations could be extricated. He attributed it to the "extreme suspicion and hostility which so often prevents constructive developments in that part of the world."

Nasser: Six-Months Cease-Fire If Israel Withdraws From Territory; Israel Rejects Bid

NEW YORK, June 15 (JTA)--Egyptian President Gamal Abdel Nasser asserted in a filmed interview last night that he would accept a temporary cease-fire of six months or less and would promise to keep Arab terrorists from using the now-occupied territories as anti-Israel bases if Israel would agree immediately to carry out the provisions of the United Nations cease-fire resolution which includes withdrawal from the territories occupied since 1967. "Our object," he said, "is the withdrawal of the Israelis from the occupied territories" and the repatriation or compensation of the Palestinian refugees.

He said he would recognize the existence of Israel only if it returned to the June 4, 1967 boundaries. The interview, filmed in Egypt within the past month, was telecast nationally on "The Advocates," a public-TV series. Col. Nasser agreed that Israeli withdrawal should be part of a "package deal," contained in the UN cease-fire resolution. He repudiated the cease-fire agreement last year. He also contended in the interview that Israeli Premier Golda Meir is "not ready to accept the word 'withdrawal.'" Mrs. Meir and Foreign Minister Abba Eban recently indicated acceptance of the cease-fire and willingness to negotiate the territories. Col. Nasser again rejected direct Arab-Israeli negotiations, alleging that "it will be a table of capitulation."

(Political circles in Jerusalem dismissed today President Nasser's proposal as unacceptable. They asserted that his statements were calculated for foreign ears, as earlier Sunday he had told factory workers in Shabin El-Qawm: "We are determined to go to war against Israel. Having won the earlier stage of the war of deterrence and of attrition, we shall also win the war of liberation." Col. Nasser also told the mass rally: "Since May last year, when we initiated the war of attrition, we have been determined not to accept the cease-fire demanded by America and Israel. We declared that the cease-fire should be conditional on Israel's withdrawal from all occupied Arab territories." The Israeli sources also noted that Col. Nasser's reference to the restoration of the rights of the Palestinian Arabs was an Egyptian euphemism for Israel's absorbing all of them, which would be tantamount to Israel suicide.) In the interview, President Nasser was asked how many Russians are in Egypt. He replied with a broad grin: "That is a secret." Asked if they included pilots, he replied: "We have advisers." Asked, "Do they fly?" he said: "Yes, of course. They train our pilots, so they have to fly."

Australian Government Seen In Possible Shift Away From Sympathy With Israel

CANBERRA, June 15 (JTA)--A possible shift of the government's sympathies away from Israel is receiving wide attention here. The country, under the current Labor Administration and the previous Liberal rule, has been officially neutral while leaning openly toward Israel. But the Minister for External Affairs, the Rt. Hon. William McMahon, said in the House of Representatives today that Australia will maintain "strict neutrality" in Arab-Israeli conflicts. Concurrently, the Australian press has been taking a more reserved tone in its comments on the Middle East. Observers say that even if the government has not changed its policy, it has certainly changed its emphasis significantly. Mr. McMahon had been asked by an opposition member why Australia had not protested the Soviet buildup in Egypt and why Australia's national airline, Qantas, lands in Arab countries but not in Israel. He replied: "Our attitude has been one of strict neutrality and we will continue to maintain that position." He added that Qantas had landing rights in Damascus, Syria, but that he did not know its policy regarding Israel.

Lebanon-Based Guerrillas Attack Metullah; Israel Soldier Wounded By Mine

TEL AVIA, June 15 (JTA)--An Israeli soldier was wounded today when an Army vehicle struck a mine in the Mt. Hermon area. Lebanon-based Arab guerrillas attacked the Israeli border village of Metullah with bazookas last night without causing casualties. An unconfirmed report in the newspaper Maariv today said Lebanese Army troops battled with the guerrillas who attacked Metullah. An Israeli Army officer said soldiers heard shooting behind the Lebanese border which could have been a skirmish between Lebanese regulars and Arab guerrillas. A senior Army officer said today that Israeli air attacks on Egyptian positions along the Suez Canal have achieved their purpose of preventing the installation of anti-aircraft missiles along the waterway. He said Israeli pilots had reported Egyptian efforts to build missile bases along the canal. The officer added however that air strikes were not the sole weapon and that commando raids would be necessary to destroy new missile sites. Israel launched two commando raids across the canal last Thursday night in which 20 Egyptian soldiers were reported killed to Israeli losses of four dead and 15 wounded. Two suspected terrorists captured in an Israeli raid on guerrilla bases in Jordan yesterday were released following an investigation. They were returned to Jordan under Red Cross auspices via the Allenby bridge.

Eban Cancels Visit To South America Amidst Rumors Invitation Cancelled By One Country

JERUSALEM, June 15 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban cancelled his projected visits to Brazil, Uruguay and Argentina, scheduled to take place next month amid rumors that his invitation was rescinded by at least one of those countries. The visits were announced last week. A Foreign Ministry spokesman denied press reports that the Argentine government had requested Mr. Eban to cancel his trip. According to an announcement made in behalf of the Foreign Minister who flew to Italy today for a four-day official visit, Mr. Eban called off his Latin American trip because "the latest events in the region (Middle East) made it impossible for the Foreign Minister to be absent from his duty in the government for a relatively lengthy period." The announcement said Mr. Eban hoped it would be possible to pay the visits at a later date convenient to himself and his hosts. Replying to newsmen's questions, the Ministry spokesman was unable to explain how the Foreign Minister knew in mid-June that he would be indispensable at home in July.

Pincus Repeats Charge That Dr. Goldmann's Views Do Not Coincide With Israel's

JERUSALEM, June 15 (JTA)--Louis A. Pincus, chairman of the Jewish Agency, today reiterated his charges against Dr. Nahum Goldmann over the latter's views on Arab-Israeli peace approaches which do not coincide with the official Israel government position. "It is inconceivable that the president of the World Jewish Congress, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, should not be bound by the resolutions adopted by the various forums of his own organization with regard to identification with and support for Israel," Mr. Pincus said in the course of a report to the Agency Executive. He said he had made his views on Dr. Goldmann clear at the Montreal meeting of the WJC's governing council on May 26. (The Jewish Telegraphic Agency in New York learned that at the Montreal meeting Mr. Pincus accused Dr. Goldmann of creating the impression that there was a fundamental divergence between the WJC and the government of Israel and of harming Jewish solidarity at a time of crisis. Mr. Pincus maintained that the president

of the WJC had to limit his right of free expression if it was likely to damage the cause of the Jewish people. Mr. Pincus made his charges in Montreal after Dr. Goldmann had explained his views to the governing council in a closed session. Dr. Goldmann subsequently declined to reply to Mr. Pincus' attack.) The Jewish Agency chairman reported today that the WJC had decided to set up a preparatory committee for the next session to deal with the question of candidates for the office of president and other senior positions.

Eban In Italy Marks First Official Visit To That Country By Israeli Cabinet Minister

ROME, June 15 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban arrived here for four days of meetings with top Italian officials. It was the first official visit to Italy ever made by an Israeli Cabinet Minister. Mr. Eban will hold formal and informal working conferences with Italian Foreign Minister Aldo Moro. He is also scheduled to meet with President Giuseppe Saragat, Premier Mariano Rumor, Deputy Premier Francisco de Martino and Senate President Amintore Fanfani. The invitation extended to Mr. Eban was viewed here as an important step in Italy's new diplomatic efforts to bring about a peaceful settlement in the Mideast. Foreign Minister Moro recently visited Cairo where he conferred with Egypt's President Gamal Abdel Nasser. Shortly after his arrival here today, Mr. Eban met with Mayor Clelio Darida and municipal officials. Mr. Darida recounted the important role of Rome in Jewish history and noted that Jewish presence had left its marks in Roman history. He pointed out that the cordial and fraternal feelings of the Roman population toward Jews did not subside even during the days of fascism. Mr. Darida said that even the Nazis complained about hostility of the Romans against anti-Jewish persecutions. The mayor expressed admiration for Israel's social and political organizations which he said was governed by humanity and reason. Mr. Eban responded by noting the "Mediterranean solidarity" between the two nations and peoples and the powerful links between the two peoples in recent common sufferings and in the conceptions of civilization which they represent.

Police Search For Vandals Who Broke Into Synagogue And Destroyed Sacred Items

BONN, June 15 (JTA)--Munich police are searching for vandals who broke into a synagogue there yesterday and destroyed a number of sacred items including a Torah scroll. Police said the act was non-political and had no connection with the arson four months ago when seven residents of the Jewish home for the aged in Munich perished in a fire. Dr. Hans Lamm, chairman of the Jewish community in Munich said the synagogue desecration was a new act of anti-Semitic vandalism.

National Democratic Party Routed In Elections; Fails To Win Minimum Required For Seats

BONN, June 15 (JTA)--The reputedly neo-Nazi National Democratic Party (NPD) that was posing a serious political threat at this time last year, appears to be on the road to oblivion according to the results of yesterday's provincial parliamentary elections. Although the election outcome showed a noticeable shift to the right, the ultra-right-wing NPD failed to win the minimum five percent required for seats in any of the state legislatures. The party polled only 3.4 percent in the Saarland, 3.2 percent in Lower Saxony, and 1.1 percent in North Rhine-Westphalia.

Former Nazi Soldier Describes How Jews Were Hustled Into Cattle Cars To Treblinka

DUSSELDORF, June 15 (JTA)--A City Councilman from Vienna who served in the Nazi Army in World War II, gave an eye-witness account here today of how Austrian Jews were hustled into cattle cars for deportation to Treblinka death camp in 1942. Hubert Pschoch testified at the trial of Franz Stangl, one-time commandant of the Treblinka and Sobibor death camps who was extradited from Brazil three years ago on war crimes charges. Pschoch said that as a 22 year-old soldier he was waiting with his unit at a railway station near Warsaw to be sent to the Eastern front when he witnessed brutality practiced by SS officers on Jews destined for Treblinka. They were beaten if they refused to enter the cattle cars and those that tried to run were shot down, Pschoch said. He said machineguns were firing all night and in the morning the railway platform was strewn with dead men, women and children. The ex-soldier said he was moved by the pleas for bread and water from Jews already locked in the cattle cars and approached a high ranking SS officer who he asked whether German honor was being served by shooting defenseless people. Pschoch said that in reply the officer threatened to throw him into a cattle car "together with the Jewish pigs from Austria." Pschoch said that he managed to photograph some of the happenings at the railway station.

Black American Leaders In Israel; Study Methods To Apply To Communities In U.S.

TEL AVIV, June 15 (JTA)--Seven black American community leaders are in Israel for a seven-week look at irrigation methods, technology and other aspects of Israeli communal life. Sponsored by Histadrut, they are studying the applicability of Israeli methods to their own communities in Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, Tennessee and Georgia, where they are active in the all-black Southern Cooperative Development Program. A similar group made a three-week study tour last year. This year's expedition was coordinated by Ze'ev Barash, assistant secretary general of Histadrut.

Histadrut; Israel Labor Party Leader Say ILO Exploited For Wild Charges Against Israel

GENEVA, June 15 (JTA)--Aharon Becker, a Knesset member and a leader of the Israeli Labor Party and Histadrut, declared today that it was "regrettable that several speakers have exploited" the forum of the International Labor Office "for the now-stereotyped wild charges against Israel." Mr. Becker, representing the workers' section of the Israeli delegation to the ILO plenary conference here, said: "I do not propose to follow them into sterile polemics. This is not the place for a discussion of Arab-Israel relations." He then stated that "The people of Israel want peace with their neighbors" and that direct negotiations are required to that end. Mr. Becker also added sympathy for the victims of the Peruvian earthquakes and the Rumanian floods.

Rockefeller Discloses He Has Urged Nixon To Sell Israel The 125 Jets She Requested

GROSSINGERS, N.Y., June 15 (JTA)--Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller said here last night that he had on two occasions last week urged President Richard M. Nixon to sell Israel the 25 Phantoms and 100 Skyhawk jets he has urgently requested. The New York Republican made the disclosure in an address to 600 delegates attending the 41st annual convention of the National Federation of Jewish Men's Clubs of the United Synagogue of America, the congregational branch of Conservative Judaism. Other speakers included Morton Tabas, Federation president, Sol M. Linowitz, head of the American Council on Education's special committee on campus tensions and Rabbi Joel S. Geffen, of New York. "Israel must remain free," Gov. Rockefeller declared. "To stay free she must stay strong. For her strength, she must have the support of the nations of the free world. Good will is not enough. Israel must have good arms. That is why I have long advocated that our government supply Israel with the arms she needs to insure her survival. Of all the nations of the world, none has a more vital interest in Israel than the U.S. We cannot fail her now. Our commitment to stand by her must be firm."

Mr. Linowitz, who accepted the Federation's 1970 award for "Distinguished service to Jewry" spoke on the right of dissent. "We have enough violence in our society, on and off the campus," he said. "Students have the right to speak, to print, to assemble peacefully, to picket--to engage in any and all activities which fall under the heading of peaceful persuasion." He said "youthful rejection of established attitudes is far less damaging than would be uncritical acceptance of what is." Mr. Tabas urged the leaders of Conservative Jewry to give the highest priority to "bridging the generation gap." He said, "The answer to our convention theme, the quest for Jewish identity...is largely a problem of survival and is thus primarily directed to our youth." Rabbi Geffen stressed the need for "self education" and said that "the time for superficial learning is long past. Jewish identity can only come from self-pride and knowledge of one's heritage."

Themes At Menorah Institute: Israel Must Not Be Abandoned; Passion Play Rapped

SOUTH ORANGE, N.J., June 15 (JTA)--"We dare not abandon Israel in the hour of her greatest need," was the plea of Monsignor John Oesterreicher to participants in the opening session yesterday of the Second Annual Menorah Institute at Seton Hall University. The institute, which will continue through June 24, is sponsored by the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith and Seton Hall's Institute of Judeo-Christian Studies. Msgr. Oesterreicher said "We must shout from the housetops that this State, so full of promise, has a right to live, that it must be allowed to continue its pursuit of justice and its contribution to humanity." "Though small and struggling herself, Israel, a people of heart, sends doctors, engineers and agricultural experts to far-away places...And it is this unselfish land that Arab leaders and terrorists wish to wipe off the map," he continued. "The greatest danger to Israel's existence today, he stated comes not from Arab armies or bands of terrorists but from the presence of Russian military experts, gunners and pilots in Egypt. "There are those who like to belittle the danger, who feel that the Russians just wish to frighten Israel's government into yielding to all sorts of demands," he declared. "Into the ears of all those who view the Middle East situation as not grave, I would like to shout: Remember Hungary, remember Czechoslovakia!...We must not hesitate to demand of our administration that it give to Israel all the aid she needs..."

Dr. Joseph L. Lichten, national director of the department of intercultural affairs of the ADL discussing the present state of Catholic-Jewish relations in the light of Vatican II, and events of the past year, observed that a number of positive developments have occurred. These include the emergence from the Catholic community of a document adopted by the bishops of New York, Brooklyn-Queens and Rockville Center dioceses "Guidelines for the Advancement of Catholic-Jewish Relations," and an in-service teacher training program on Jewish religion and Jews in the literary field jointly sponsored by the ADL and the New York Archdiocese. Dr. Lichten, however, expressed concern that "Catholic-Jewish cooperation is losing its priority within the Catholic community" and urged that "interreligious cooperation must not be pushed to the bottom of today's agenda." He declared that he was concerned because "the memory of the Nazi holocaust, instead of remaining a lesson to all of us, has faded into non-existence." He said that what must be remembered is that the "disaster of Auschwitz symbolizes our real brotherhood, the fate of many nations, of many religions, and not only of the Jewish people." Dr. Lichten said he was concerned because in the town of Oberammergau, a Passion Play is being performed. "Rather than emanating love for all men, as would have been fitting, it is propagating prejudice and hatred," he declared. "With only slight changes, this is the same performance and the same Passion Play which Hitler praised so highly during the Second World War, while the gas chambers and ovens of Auschwitz were in full operation."

Memorial Foundation Head Says Group Did Not Adopt Resolution On Scholarships

NEW YORK, June 15 (JTA)--Mark Uveeler, executive director of the Memorial Foundation for Jewish Culture, reported today that the Foundation's Board of Trustees did not adopt a resolution to seek ways of providing yeshiva students studying for rabbinic diplomas with eligibility for scholarships on the same basis as university students with doctors' degrees. A story to the effect that such a resolution was adopted appeared in the Jewish Telegraphic Agency Daily News Bulletin on June 11 after M.R. Springer of London, a Board member and a delegate to the Foundation's annual meeting informed the JTA of its adoption. Mr. Uveeler told the JTA today that Mr. Springer was mistaken. According to Mr. Uveeler, the resolution was introduced but died for lack of a second.

B'nai B'rith Sends \$1000 To Peruvian Government To Aid Earthquake Victims

NEW YORK, June 15 (JTA)--B'nai B'rith, expressing "profound sympathy" for the victims of the Peruvian earthquakes, has sent a \$1,000 relief check to the government there. A spokesman said the money was for general relief aid, not specifically for Jewish victims. B'nai B'rith earlier sent \$500 to aid those made homeless by the Rumanian floods.