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Rabbis, AJCongress, Mrs. Meir Denounced Violent Tactics Associated With JDL

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 29 (JTA)--The Jewish Defense League came under withering fire here during the five-day 72nd biennial national convention of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. Rabbi Moshe Feinstein, regarded as one of the greatest living authorities on Jewish Religious Law, declared that "the actions of the Jewish Defense League directed against governments and states are contrary to the Torah which prohibits us from such deeds of violence." Rabbi Emanuel Rackman, Provost of Yeshiva University in New York and former president of the Rabbinical Council of America, stated that victims of violence in the urban centers require protection and that "self-defense is not illegal." He noted, however, that it "is a matter of regret that the Jewish Defense League which promised to achieve this result--even in cooperation with the blacks--did not concentrate on this function and fulfill it." The criticism of the JDL came against the background of the bombing Wednesday morning of the Soviet Aeroflot and Intourist building in New York. Rabbi Meir Kahane, chairman of the JDL, said he had "no idea" who had planted the bomb but said he "applauded" whoever did. Police officials probing the blast stated the bombing may have been carried out by some individuals or group seeking to implicate the JDL. Shortly after the bomb blast in the early hours Wednesday morning an anonymous caller told the Associated Press: "Let the world know that while Jews are on trial in Russia, the Soviet Union will be on trial. 'Never again!'" The final phrase is the slogan of the JDL.

In New York, the American Jewish Congress deplored the bombing as "the kind of mindless violence that plays into the hands of Russian propagandists" and "harms the cause of Soviet Jewry. In Tel Aviv, Premier Golda Meir assailed the bombing as reckless acts that "undermine the organized efforts for Soviet Jewry." She told the annual luncheon of Israeli newspaper editors on Friday "this is not our way. This is playing into our enemies' hands." Rabbi Feinstein's statement to the UOJCA convention noted that "it is obvious that our brethren who reside in the affected countries do not wish any such actions to take place. No one who follows the Torah and observes its precepts will participate in actions of this kind." Rabbi Feinstein, who is Dean of the Rabbinical Seminary Tefereh Yerushalayim of New York, said he was issuing the statement "for the sake of clarity and truth." Neither he nor Rabbi Rackman linked the bombing of the Soviet building with the JDL but condemned the general tactics of that organization which has been involved in a number of anti-Soviet escapades. Rabbi Rackman told the 2000 delegates and guests that there was a crisis in law enforcement in the United States, that American cities "are becoming jungles" and that most Jews live in cities and, like all other residents, they "are afraid."

'Jewish Defense Agencies' Fearful Of New Approaches; Rallies Better Than Violence

Declaring that police protection was "woefully inadequate" and warning that these conditions would get worse, Rabbi Rackman stated that "It is absolutely necessary for citizens to assist police by engaging in police work themselves. He suggested that there should be "squads of volunteers" to help prevent "muggings, unlawful entries and holdups." The rabbinical leader noted that black residents of urban ghettos were talking about the need to establish such citizen squads because "they are the most numerous victims" of the urban crime crisis. "It is not only proper for Jews to think likewise but imperative that they do something about it," he said. Rabbi Rackman asserted that "in many instances," the JDL had demonstrated, "its ability to be the instrument presently required by the Jewish community" and criticized the "Jewish defense agencies" that attacked the JDL. He declared that those agencies "were fearful of new approaches and unwilling to change programs to cope with new needs." He added, however, that the JDL "has gone so far afield" from its announced purposes "that it has spent its energies on areas in which its tactics were often destructive rather than helpful." In fact, he stated, "they were irresponsible." Declaring that it is not the function of the JDL to engage "in reprisals for the hijacking of Israel bound planes" nor is it within "the purview of a defense organization" to battle "for more appropriations" by Jewish Federations for Jewish education, Rabbi Rackman stated: "If the Jewish Defense League would only have limited its activities to defense, it might have helped save the cities in the United States."

Eleazer Lipsky, chairman of the AJCongress' Commission on International Affairs, declared that "the bombing of Soviet offices and the threats to innocent lives that such violence always presents are an intolerable response, criminal in nature and counter-productive in effect. We hope the guilty will be swiftly apprehended and brought to justice." Mr. Lipsky said that the more effective method of bringing the plight of Soviet Jews to the attention of the public was through rallies, "through street demonstrations and corridor conversations with U.S., UN and Soviet officials, (and) through the establishment of an American Jewish Congress 'hot line' telephone number (879-4553)." Mrs. Meir condemned the Soviet Union's refusal to permit Jews to emigrate to Israel and to live Jewish lives in the Soviet Union but assailed the violence in New York. She said she was certain no responsible Jewish organization had been behind the violence and that it would be unjust to associate those responsible for the bombing with the masses of Jews and non-Jews campaigning on behalf of Soviet Jews. On Oct. 28, when Mrs. Meir was in New York, she issued a plea for organized and responsible efforts on behalf of Soviet Jewry and scored the "irresponsible Jews who are harming this cause by using tactics similar to (Yasir) Arafat (El Fatah leader)." Although she did not identify by name the "irresponsible Jews" it was understood she referred to the JDL.

Cabinet Approves Dayan's U.S. Visit; Will Meet With Rogers, Laird, Kissinger

JERUSALEM, Nov. 29 (JTA)--The Cabinet today officially approved Defense Minister Moshe Dayan's visit to the United States next month and confirmed that he would meet with Nixon Administration officials in Washington. The Jewish Telegraphic Agency learned today that a meeting with President Nixon is not excluded but has been left open for the time being. The JTA learned from reliable sources that meetings have already been scheduled for Gen. Dayan with Defense Secretary Melvin Laird, Secretary of State William P. Rogers, Assistant Secretary of State for Near Eastern Affairs Joseph J. Sisco and Dr. Henry Kissinger, President Nixon's chief advisor on national security affairs. The statement issued after today's cabinet meeting mentioned "Administration personalities" but gave no details. It said that Gen. Dayan's trip was on behalf of the United Jewish Appeal and that Premier Golda Meir would be acting Defense Minister in his absence. Under Israeli law, every government minister's trip abroad is subject to cabinet approval. The cabinet's communique stated that Foreign Minister Abba Eban reviewed political affairs, Chief of Staff Haim Bar Lev briefed the ministers on the security situation and U.S.-Israeli relations were discussed by Ambassador Yitzhak Rabin who was recalled from Washington for consultations last week.

The reports of Gen. Dayan's forthcoming high level meetings in Washington indicated a change of mind by the Government on his activities while in the U.S.. Previous rumors that he would hold high level talks in Washington had been denied by Foreign Ministry spokesmen. Premier Golda Meir, however, told a meeting of Israeli editors on Friday that she thought it would be very desirable for the Defense Minister to meet with American Administration officials though she did not say which ones or when such meetings would take place. Gen. Dayan said on a television interview Thursday night that he would visit Washington only if Mrs. Meir asked him to. Mr. Eban has reportedly dropped his objections to political meetings by Gen. Dayan in the U.S., provided that the Defense Minister sticks to terms of reference drafted by the government here. Israel's Ambassador to Washington, Ambassador Rabin, was said to be of the same opinion. He and Mr. Eban reportedly have expressed the view that no harm would be done if Gen. Dayan raised the matter of re-negotiating the Suez cease-fire while he is in Washington though neither believed that the proposal would be acceptable to the U.S. Gen. Dayan has suggested on several occasions that the cease-fire be re-negotiated on the basis of a mutual partial disengagement of Israeli and Egyptian forces along the Suez Canal. He has also been a strong advocate of Israel's return to the Jarring peace talks whether or not its demands for an Egyptian missile pull-back are met.

In her talk to the editors, Mrs. Meir denied knowledge of any "Dayan plan" and said that Gen. Dayan himself had dissociated himself from press reports of such a plan. She repeated the denial at subsequent meetings of the Labor Party leadership. But Mrs. Meir told a group of women members of the Party on Thursday that "it is almost certain we shall not be able to get all the conditions we demanded for the resumption of the Jarring talks." She told the editors that "Israel cannot return to the Jarring talks without clearing up three or four things" which she described as "essential." She did not elaborate but observed that "conditions" were necessary to avoid placing Israel in a position of inferiority at the forthcoming peace talks. The Cabinet today adopted a resolution expressing good wishes to President Zalman Shazar on his 81st birthday. The Ministry of Education and Culture announced a \$1,430 prize for the best original Hebrew play in honor of the President's birthday. In another area, the Cabinet ratified a treaty with Britain that will allow certain court rulings there to be enforceable in Israel and vice versa. The treaty, signed yesterday in London, relates to judgments for debts, damages or other financial awards.

Orthodox Political Leaders May Not Be Able To Compensate Auto Race Promoters

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29 (JTA)--Orthodox political leaders ran into trouble today in their attempt to raise \$60,000, to compensate the promoters of last week's international automobile race in Ashkelon for re-scheduling the contest from Saturday to Sunday. The money is supposed to cover losses incurred by holding the race on an ordinary work day instead of the Sabbath. Only 10,000 of the expected 50,000 spectators showed up. The rest had their money refunded. The Mizrahi Bank agreed to pay the promoters by Jan. 10, 1971 but there were doubts today whether the guarantee for the loan would be forthcoming. The guarantee was supplied by the Eretz Israel Fund, a financial tool through which the National Religious Party gets its funds from the Jewish Agency for educational and party organizational expenses. Jewish Agency Treasurer Aryeh Dolzin said today that he would discontinue the NRP's allocations if funds ear-marked for other purposes were used to pay off the race promoters.

Meanwhile the NRP leadership came under strong criticism from the party's younger elements for "buying out" the Sabbath. They objected to a special campaign for funds to pay the Mizrahi Bank loan. A member of the Ashkelon City Council obtained an injunction from the High Court today prohibiting the town's religious council from using municipal funds to pay bills incurred by preparations for a mass demonstration against the race. The religious elements were planning to bring thousands of yeshiva students and other zealots to Ashkelon when it appeared that the race would be held on the Sabbath. They ran up a substantial debt for sleeping accommodations, food and drinks for the would-be demonstrators. The City Council petitioner claimed that the religious council's money is intended solely to provide Orthodox residents of Ashkelon with religious services.

27 New Cholera Cases Reported In Gaza Strip; Total Now Up To 115

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29 (JTA)--Twenty-seven new cases of cholera have been registered with health authorities over the weekend, increasing the total number of cases reported in the Gaza Strip to 115. All cholera suspects have been hospitalized, although some have already left the hospital after fully recovering.

UOJCA Plans To Form Single Body To Serve Orthodox Jewry; Maps Aid For Elderly Jews

WASHINGTON, D.C., Nov. 29 (JTA)--Plans for the establishment of a single body of clergy and layment to serve American orthodox Judaism and a program to help elderly Jews in the inner cities were announced here this weekend at the 72nd biennial convention of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations of America. The more than 2,000 delegates and guests attending the five-day conclave which ended today also adopted resolutions calling for the expansion of ongoing programs on behalf of Soviet Jewry, increased government aid to non-public schools, cultivation of an ongoing dialogue with Jewish youth, condemned violent tactics as counter-productive to the intended goal of improving the situation of Soviet Jews, and to protect the employment rights of Sabbath-observing orthodox Jews. Rabbi Joseph Karasick of New York, President of the Union, told the convention that "American Orthodox Judaism should be represented by an articulate, unified and united voice." He said that he expected in the near future to call a national conference of Orthodox Rabbis and lay leaders to discuss his proposal for the establishment of a single Orthodox agency that would end "duplication, rivalry and wasteful fragmentation." He said that "precious manpower" was being wasted because of "the lack of coordination and efficiency."

Harold M. Jacobs, Chairman of the Union, announced the appointment of a special commission to develop a program designed to help the "thousands of elderly and poverty-stricken Jews abandoned unwittingly by the organized Jewish community to the slums of our major cities." He noted that up until this time "no national Jewish organizations have taken up their problem." Appointed to the commission were Dr. Bernard Lander, a sociology professor at Hunter College; Harold H. Boxer, Chairman of the UOJCA Youth Commission, and Nathan K. Gross, Chairman of the UOJCA Joint Commission for Kosher Certification. At a special session devoted to the plight of Soviet Jewry, delegates resolved to "convince all segments of the world community that the Soviet Jewry cause is one of the great humanitarian issues of our day." Constituent congregations and their members were urged, "to continue and expand, in cooperation with the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, ongoing programs designed to educate the world to the hardships facing our brethren in the Soviet Union." The Soviet government was called on to "permit in practice to Soviet Jews the freedom of religion assured the Soviet Constitution of 1936 and the Human Rights Covenant to which the USSR has subscribed."

Delegates also urged the repeal of constitutional provisions "which unfairly restrict aid for the secular programs of religious schools," and noted that it was "both constitutional and equitable for government to share the cost of their secular programs." The resolution noted that Orthodox Jewish day schools, "like other institutions of learning, are experiencing huge deficits and facing a financial crisis." Another resolution issued by the delegates declared that the UOJCA would commit itself to "be in the vanguard of an ongoing effort to secure legislation and regulations that would accord to Orthodox Jews the right of public and private employment free from discrimination." Dr. Walter S. Wurzbarger, Associate Professor of Philosophy at Yeshiva University, urged delegates to cultivate an "ongoing dialogue with our youth" as a means of wresting them out of the hands of the New Left.

He warned that "blind apologetics for the status quo, all-out defense of the 'Establishment' and hysterical flag-waving--be it of the American or Israeli variety-- will only play into the hands of the New Left which flourishes on the exploitation of disenchantment with our society." Dr. Wurzbarger expressed the view that "the recent involvement of young people in the decision-making apparatus of many Jewish communal agencies," including a number of Jewish Federations and Welfare Funds, "was a most significant step forward." He also deplored the "present turmoil" on American college campuses. Rabbi Bernard L. Berzon, president of the Rabbinical Council of America, the rabbinic arm of the Union, urged the Orthodox community to "marshal all its resources" in a campaign to retain and increase the loyalties of college students to their Jewish heritage. He proposed that every Orthodox congregation near a college or a university set up a student center to welcome students with a "home away from home." Rabbi Karasick was re-elected to a third term as president of the UOJCA.

Aid On Way To Colombian Flood Victims; Pakistani Officials Refuse Israeli Aid

TEL AVIV, Nov. 29 (JTA)--Cartons of drugs and food for victims of the floods that devastated parts of Colombia, were shipped there by air on Friday. The aid was provided by the Mogen David Adom, Israel's official Red Cross Agency. Another shipment of medicines and first aid for Pakistani victims was also being prepared by the Mogen David Adom, when the International Red Cross notified them that the Pakistani authorities were refusing any help from Israel.

Jewish Community Service Group Plans Aid For Poorer Jewish Communities

LONDON, Nov. 29 (JTA)--Plans for cultural activities as well as humanitarian aid for the poorer Jewish communities on the Continent were made by the European Council of Jewish Community Services meeting here today. The meeting will continue tomorrow. Claude Kelman of Paris, Council Chairman, noted that the organization, founded in 1960, was entering its second decade. He said the Institute for Jewish Studies in Paris was a success and similar ventures are being considered in other European centers. He reported that the Council was sponsoring a special course at the Hebrew University in Jerusalem to prepare teachers and civil servants for posts in European Jewish communities. He said there were 13 students enrolled in the course which is taught by Dr. Hanoch Rinit.

Hussein To Meet With Nixon; Will Seek U.S. Support For Israeli Withdrawal

WASHINGTON, Nov. 29 (JTA)--A Jordanian Embassy spokesman confirmed to the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today that King Hussein will be in Washington Dec. 8-10 and that he will meet with President Nixon at the White House. George Shamma, press attache, said the purpose of the King's visit was to seek American support for Israeli withdrawal from Arab territories it conquered in 1967.

Record \$8.1 Million Raised For Labor Israel; \$10 Million Fund Goal For 1971

NEW YORK, Nov. 29 (JTA)--A record \$8.1 million was raised by the National Committee for Labor Israel during fiscal 1969-70 for Histadrut supported health, educational, vocational training and social welfare institutions in Israel, Dr. Sol Stein, the organization's national executive director, reported here. Dr. Stein presented his annual report at the National Committee's 47th annual convention attended by 2,000 delegates. The convention, which opened Friday ended today. He said \$4.2 million in cash had been raised in the United States, Canada, and Latin America through the Israel Histadrut Campaign and an additional \$3.9 million came in the form of bequests and other long term commitments to the American Histadrut Development Foundation. Dr. Stein, who was re-elected to another term as national executive director, said that since its inception in 1923, the National Committee for Labor Israel and its affiliate, the Pioneer Women, raised approximately \$94 million for the needs of Israeli youth, women, new immigrants and pioneers. He said funds raised by the organization aided over 1,500 enterprises, from hospitals and clinics to cultural centers, children's villages, vocational schools, libraries, synagogues, sports centers and retirement homes. "We are entering an unusual decade which was full of grim developments and momentous achievements, climaxed by the Six-Day War," Dr. Stein said. "We enter the 1970s knowing that the fruits of that victory have eluded Israel, that the day of peace is not yet in view," he said.

Leon H. Keyserling, former chairman of President Truman's Council of Economic Advisors, who was re-elected to a third term as president of the National Committee for Labor Israel, claimed that the United States "could learn from Israel and its people, if only we had the perception to learn," how to meet political, economic and military crises. Mr. Keyserling devoted a large part of his address to deploring what he regarded as permissiveness and a deterioration of "responsibility and discipline" in the U.S. "We are losing the sense of responsibility which requires that we bear the cost of a national defense second to none," he said. In contrast, according to Keyserling, "Israel is supporting, without a whimper, a larger national defense burden than any nation on earth relative to its resources." He claimed that "Israel is not permitting this national defense burden to interfere with social services and human progress....Israel is combining great political freedom, and the right to political differences, with the maintenance of political decorum and decency in public affairs," he said. Jacob Bar-moore, a member of the Israeli mission to the United Nations, told the convention that Russian naval expansion was an indicator of the increased appetite of the Soviet Union for a dominant role on the sea, as she has on the great Eurasian land mass.

Yehoshua Levy, treasurer of Histadrut in Israel, described the trade union federation as the largest voluntary body in that country engaged in health and welfare programs. He said approximately \$16 million would be required for those programs in 1971. Lillian Roberts, associate director of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO, described her impressions of Israel where, she said, "there is dignity....Whether a person washes the floor or cleans the kitchen or sweeps the streets or drives a bus, he knows his work is worthwhile and everyone respects everyone else for the part he plays in building the country." Jean Baudy, executive vice president of the Canadian Labor Congress, praised Histadrut for demonstrating that "the labor movement must be concerned not only with the well-being of its members, but also with the security and well-being of all classes of society." The convention re-elected Charles S. Zimmerman as chairman of the board of the National Committee for Labor Israel. Messages of greetings were received from President Zalman Shazar, of Israel, Premier Golda Meir and Yitzhak Ben Aharon, secretary general of Histadrut. A \$10 million fund-raising goal for 1971 was adopted. The convention also adopted resolutions saluting Histadrut pioneers of an earlier era; hailing U.S. government aid to Israel in the present crisis and urging "all our friends....to respond to the challenge of the coming decade to help us assure the success of the Histadrut campaign we launch today."

Agudath Israel Charges Yeshivas Smeared By AJCongress, AJCommittee

CHICAGO, Nov. 29 (JTA)--Agudath Israel has accused the American Jewish Congress and the American Jewish Committee of "smeared the yeshivas before America's highest legal tribunal" in the recent brief by them and other non-Orthodox groups to the Supreme Court seeking an end to public aid to supplement private-school teachers' salaries. In a resolution at its convention here, Agudath Israel declared: "The non-Orthodox groups, spearheaded by the American Jewish Congress, have regrettably stooped to a new low in their unrelenting fight against government support for yeshivas. To use the Jewish day schools as an example of racially segregated institutions, even by implication, is a desecration of the Jewish religion taught in these schools--a religion which first proclaimed to the world the equality of all men." The resolution advised the AJCongress and AJCommittee to "put a halt to the anti-yeshiva tactics utilized by the professionals in their desperation to stem the tide of growing public approval of government aid for non-public schools."

Rockefeller, Lindsay, Goodell, Harman To Address N.Y. Board Of Rabbis Parley

NEW YORK CITY, Nov. 29 (JTA)--Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller will head a list of distinguished speakers at the inaugural convocation of the New York Board of Rabbis 90th anniversary at the Waldorf Astoria on Tuesday night, it was announced here today by Rabbi Edward T. Sandrow, General Chairman of the 90th Anniversary Committee.

Also scheduled to address the convocation is Mayor John V. Lindsay, Senator Charles Goodell and Avraham Harman, Israel's former Ambassador to the United States and now the President of the Hebrew University in Jerusalem. The Rabbis have chosen this anniversary to honor four distinguished laymen and one Rabbi for their contributions to America and to world Jewry. They are William Kaufman, Chairman of the Board of the Council and Max Stern, Vice Chairman of the Board; Charles H. Silver, President of the International Synagogue at JFK Airport and Rabbi Harold H. Gordon, Executive Vice President of the New York Board of Rabbis, who will be cited for his quarter century of service to the rabbinic group and the community. The program will also feature a special message from Israel's Foreign Minister, Abba Eban.