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Conclave Of Baptists, Jews Urges Amnesty For Ruth; Upcoming Trials Denounced

CINCINNATI, Ohio, June 17 (JTA)--A four-day interfaith conference of Southern Baptists and Jewish scholars closed here yesterday with the adoption of a resolution pleading for "amnesty" for Ruth Aleksandrovich "and the other defendants of conscience who have been repressed. The resolution, which sharply condemned the treatment of Jews, Baptists and other Christians in the Soviet Union, condemned "the unjust confinement of the ailing Ruth Aleksandrovich in a brutalizing labor camp which imperils her life." It also denounced "the forthcoming trials in Kishinev, scene of Czarist pogroms, and in Odesa of Soviet citizens who are being denied religious liberty, cultural self-determination and the right to emigrate, a right to which the Soviet Union is pledged as a signer of the United Nations Universal Declaration of Human Rights."

Dr. M. Thomas Spark, secretary of the department of Interfaith Witness of the Home Mission of the Southern Baptist Convention introduced the resolution on the Soviet Union which urged President Nixon and "the proper U.S. government officials to intercede with the authorities of the Soviet Union to bring about the release" of Jews imprisoned in the USSR and to restore their full human rights. The Baptists and Jewish representatives resolved to "carry forward a joint effort of intercession on behalf of their brethren in the Soviet Union." Rabbi Marc H. Tannenbaum, director of the AJ Committee's Inter-Religious Affairs Department, introduced a resolution setting up a joint secretariate of Southern Baptists and Jews to "explore and implement programs that will help overcome misunderstanding and build a community of mutual trust between Baptists and Jews everywhere." The second national conference of Southern Baptists and Jews was sponsored by the Southern Baptist Mission and the American Jewish Committee. It was held at the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion.

Bush: Mideast Situation Exacerbated By Presence Of Superpowers

UNITED NATIONS, N. Y., June 17 (JTA)--United States Ambassador George Bush denied last night that the United Nations has been an "abysmal failure" on the Middle East crisis, but conceded that the Mideast situation has been "made more terrible by the presence of the superpowers looking over the shoulders of the Israelis and the Arabs." Over-all, he advised a UN Day dinner audience, "there is room not for complacency, but for some hope." Bush noted that "It's some comfort to say 'Well, at least they're not shooting at one another,'" but he declared that "If the countries out there are to grab ahold of peace, more must happen." He recommended, in that connection, the acceptance by the Mideast parties of an interim solution reopening the Suez Canal and mutual endorsement of the peace mission of UN intermediary Dr. Gunnar V. Jarring. "I say both these things can happen--both are worth the thoughtful consideration of all of us," Bush said. He added that only with "support from the parties" could the UN "win a major victory" in the Mideast. Denying both that the UN has been an "abysmal failure" in the Mideast and that "peacekeeping is dead due to the unilateral withdrawal of UN forces," the U.S. envoy remarked that "the UN can take a great deal of the credit for whatever periods of quiet have existed in the area."

Proposal That U.S. Give Egypt \$55 Million To Clear Canal Termed Premature

WASHINGTON, June 17 (JTA)--A State Department spokesman today termed "premature" a proposal by Rep. William S. Moorehead, Pennsylvania Democrat, to authorize President Nixon to give Egypt \$55 million to help clear the Suez Canal. The spokesman added, however, that there was "no reason" why the United States would not participate in financing such a project. He noted that "if and when" an agreement is reached, no financial problems were expected in that "enough countries are interested." Moorehead announced last Friday that he would introduce his bill, House Resolution 8775, as an amendment to the Foreign Aid Bill when it reaches the floor at the end of this month. The resolution is co-sponsored by 12 members of the House including three members of the powerful House Foreign Affairs Committee--Reps. Lee H. Hamilton, Democrat of Indiana; Seymour Halpern, Democrat of New York and Bill Bloomfield, Republican of Michigan. A spokesman for Moorehead said that such aid, if accepted, "would be a greater buffer than any Phantoms or Skyhawks."

Emergency Measures Sought To End Strikes; 1,000 Doctors Join Hospital Strikers

TEL AVIV, June 17 (JTA)--The Cabinet will meet in emergency session tonight to consider measures to end the wave of strikes that hit Israel this week. The most serious strike is that affecting 29 government hospitals where 4,000 management and service personnel walked off their jobs Tuesday and were joined yesterday by 1,000 physicians staffing the clinics. Six thousand electric power station workers are continuing their strike begun last Sunday. Labor Minister Joseph Almog said this evening that marathon discussions with representatives of the strikers yielded no positive results and the government would have to take "legal steps" to bring the workers back to their jobs. He said a special session of the Knesset would be called. Premier Golda Meir and several of her ministers met at the Premier's Tel Aviv office this morning with strike representatives and Histadrut officials. The meeting, described as "stormy," failed to change the situation. The affects of the hospital worker's walk-out are being felt. Two hospitals, Tel Hashomer and Assaf Harofe, have discharged 50 percent of their patients. None of the struck hospitals are admitting new patients except emergency cases. Beds remain unmade, laundry is not being collected and meals are not being distributed to patients and staff. All but emergency surgery has been cancelled. The strikers turned down an appeal by the Health Ministry to keep the hospital kitchens functioning. High school student volunteers are working in some of the kitchens and are helping nurses care for patients.

The power station strike has had no widespread effects yet because the generators are fully automated.

But power failures have begun to occur in some localities where breakdowns have not been repaired. This afternoon, electrical workers repaired a broken power line in a Tel Aviv slum area after an appeal by a local rabbi, Yedidya Fraenkel, that the residents were suffering hardships. There has been a walk-out of 85 dock foremen at the port of Ashdod. In Afulleh, four movie houses closed down to protest against television which they say robs them of patrons. Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir was reportedly furious with Histadrut leaders for backing the strikers' wage demands which Sapir considers inflationary. Sapir has accused the unions of violating his wage-price "package deal" which labor and management accepted last year as an anti-inflation measure. The hospital workers are demanding wage parity with employees at hospitals run by Kupat Holim, Histadrut's sick fund. The electric power workers reached an agreement with the State-owned Israel Electric Corp. on a new wage contract only to have it vetoed by the government. They are demanding that the government rescind its veto. The government is expected to ask the Knesset to issue a back-to-work order. The Knesset will meet on the issue tomorrow but may have to convene again Sunday if it cannot pass a bill before adjourning for the Sabbath.

Israel Not Seeking Security Council Meeting On Tanker Attack

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 17 (JTA)--An Israeli spokesman denied today published reports that Israel was thinking of requesting a special Security Council meeting on the June 11 attack--presumably by Palestinian terrorists--on a Liberian tanker bound for Eilat. "It's not true," the Israeli spokesman said. (In Jerusalem, the Foreign Ministry stated that while Israel is not considering asking for any meeting of the Security Council, it is considering submitting a report to the Council on the attack on the tanker for circulation to member countries as is often done in similar cases.) Meanwhile, Israeli Ambassador Yosef Tekoah conferred with Secretary General Thant today on the plight of Soviet Jewry. Thant will embark soon on an international tour that will take him to Kiev, Moscow, Warsaw and Geneva by month's end.

American Rabbi Accuses Israel: Leaders Of Indifference To Plight Of Poor

JERUSALEM, June 17 (JTA)--An American rabbi has accused "Israeli leaders, rabbis and intellectuals" of "indifference" to the plight of 20 percent of the families in Israel who live below the poverty level, most of them of Oriental origin. Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg of Temple Emanuel in Englewood, N.J., a member of the Jewish Agency Executive, made the accusation in a lecture at the American Culture Center here. He is currently teaching at the Hebrew University. The Conservative rabbi said he was disappointed by the Israeli society's reaction to the appearance of the Black Panthers, a group of Jerusalem slum youths of North African and Asian origin, who have been demonstrating against inadequate housing and lack of jobs. He said the reaction was the same as the American reaction to the original Black Panthers, a Negro militant organization whose name and style the Israeli youths have adopted. "Here, like in the United States, everybody says that the whole thing was overplayed by Leftists and that the leaders of the Panthers care only about themselves," Rabbi Hertzberg said. "Even if there is some truth in these assumptions, they are of no practical meaning." He observed that according to government statistics, 20 percent of the families in Israel live below the poverty line. "It is difficult to understand the indifference of Israeli leaders, rabbis and intellectuals," he said, and warned Israel against repeating the mistakes of the U.S. "Solving the poverty problem is no less important than the defense of Israel," Rabbi Hertzberg declared.

Envoy Says U.S. Will Continue To Act For Restitution Of Rights Of Soviet Jews

GENEVA, June 17 (JTA)--Ambassador Francis L. Kellogg, special assistant for refugee and migration affairs to the United States Secretary of State, asserted that the U.S. will continue to speak and act for swift and complete restitution of the rights of Soviet Jews and other Soviet minorities, including the right of emigration. Speaking at a conference on resettlement aid to Jews around the world sponsored by the United Hias Service, Kellogg agreed that the treatment of Soviet Jews violated international agreements. Gaynor Jacobson, executive vice-president of United Hias, pointed out that under the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, "Everyone has the right to freedom of movement and residence within the borders of each state. Everyone has the right to leave any country, including his own, and to return to his country." John Thomas, director of the Intergovernmental Committee for European Migration, said that the 20-year-old organization had resettled more than 1.8 million persons, half of them refugees, with the aid of the U.S. Refugee Program, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, voluntary agencies and various governments.

Iraqi Mission Urges UN To Prevent JDL 'Terror' Against Iraqi Officials

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y., June 17 (JTA)--The Iraqi Mission was called on the United States Mission to act to prevent "the new program of terror to be launched by the Jewish Defense League" against Iraqi and Syrian officials in New York. The Iraqi Mission asked the Americans to "carry out its obligations and take all necessary measures to prevent any hindrance to the normal functioning of the (Iraqi) Mission and any damage to the Mission and its staff." The Iraqis sent a copy of their protest to Secretary General Thant and asked him to circulate it among the United Nations member states and to submit it to the Informal Joint Committee on Host Country Relations.

The protest referred to a news story in the June 8 issue of the JTA Daily News Bulletin titled "Kahane Defends Alliance With Italian Group; Vows Harassment of Syrian, Iraqi Officials." The story reported that on June 7 Rabbi Meir Kahane, national chairman of the JDL, had defended his declared solidarity with the Italian-American Civil Rights League, headed by reputed underworld leader Joseph Colombo Sr., a convicted perjurer, and had "warned that his organization would launch a program of harassment of Syrian and Iraqi officials in this country." The Iraqis, referring to Rabbi Kahane as the leader of "the so-called Jewish Defense League," did not quote his reason for his new tactics, namely to help effect the freedom of Jews prevented from leaving Syria and Iraq. "In view of the despicable record of criminal acts of terrorism committed by the Jewish Defense League in the past against this and other Missions," the Iraqi statement declared without citing specific incidents, Rabbi Kahane's statement cannot escape U.S. authorities. The complaint and its references to the JTA article were broadcast on local radio stations here today.

Israel Confident S. African Government Will Rescind Ban On Transfer Of Funds

JERUSALEM, June 17 (JTA)--Official circles here expressed confidence today that the South African government will soon rescind its ban on the transfer of funds to Israel and other financial transactions between the two countries. The ban was imposed following South Africa's angry reaction to Israel's donation of \$2,800 in food and medical supplies to the Organization for African Unity which South Africa regards as a terrorist organization. The officials here said they welcomed the statement by the South African Finance Ministry that it was in the process of obtaining "clarification" of the Israeli donation. The Pretoria government had said the ban on fund transfers was temporary, pending clarification. Israeli circles said the donation to the OAU was a routine matter in response to a United Nations appeal on humanitarian grounds and did not even require Cabinet approval. They noted that Israel only last week donated \$3,500 worth of medical supplies to the Indian relief operation on behalf of refugees from East Pakistan although Pakistan is regarded by Israel as a hostile nation. This fact did not influence Israel's donation and the donation of food and medicine to the OAU should be viewed as the same kind of humanitarian act, the circles said.

SSSJ Cancels Co-Sponsorship Of Identity Week; Cites Possible Violence As Reason

NEW YORK, June 17 (JTA)--The Student Struggle for Soviet Jewry has cancelled its co-sponsorship of next week's "Jewish Identity Week for Soviet Jewry" program in Washington, D.C., because it does not want to risk having its youthful members subjected to possible violence. Two SSSJ board members--Rabbi Steven Riskin of Lincoln Square Synagogue here and Rabbi Avraham Weiss of Congregation B'nai Jeshurun, Monsey, N.Y.--explained that their experience at a May 27 rally here "has taught us that we cannot become involved in any demonstration over which we have no control. The May 27 rallies were co-sponsored by the SSSJ. The upcoming "Identity Week" is co-sponsored by the Jewish Defense League, the (Philadelphia) Student Activists for Soviet Jewry, the International League for Repatriation of Soviet Jewry, Young Israel Intercollegiates, Betar, the student newspaper Achdut and the Washington Committee for the Release of Captive Soviet Jewry.

The rabbis referred to a student strike for Soviet Jewry and a demonstration at the Soviet Mission at which "there were a number of people who urged youngsters of high school and elementary age to become involved in acts of civil disobedience which aroused the ire of the police and could have potentially caused untold damage were it not for our personal intervention." Rabbis Riskin and Weiss stated jointly that "While we are not opposed to adults engaging in acts of nonviolent civil disobedience...we regretfully cannot join with any group which may incite younger people to become involved in dangerous acts." Rabbi Weiss told the JTA that he was not singling out any of the groups involved in the week-long program as a possible source for violence. The program is scheduled to include picketing, lectures, speeches and guerrilla theater.

Protestant Leaders Commend Israel For Scrupulous Care Of Protecting Holy Places

JERUSALEM, June 17 (JTA)--Leaders of 1,500 Protestant Evangelicals from 22 countries holding a conference here, commended Israel today "for the scrupulous care with which it has protected Christian holy places and people" and called for the preservation of Jerusalem as a united city "at all costs." Six American clergymen representing several major Evangelical bodies, signed a statement criticizing proposals to internationalize the city. They said it "would not be a viable solution." They characterized internationalization as "an idea which never worked in the past." The clergymen's statement continued, "Jerusalem has never been the capital of any people except for the Jewish people. Comparing the period of Israeli occupation of the Old City with 19 years of Jordanian rule, they said, "We are struck by the fact that since the Six-Day War all people are free to worship in the place of their choice, unlike the situation that pertained during the period 1948-67."

Riad Charges U.S. With Duplicity In Its Relations With Egypt

PARIS, June 17 (JTA)--Egypt's Foreign Minister Mahmoud Riad accused the United States of "duplicity" in its relations with Egypt in an interview published in the newspaper Le Monde today. Riad, who is also a deputy premier, denied that any "real negotiations" have ever taken place for reopening the Suez Canal. Riad's attack on the U.S. was one of the bitterest to be made by an Egyptian official since Cairo accepted the American peace initiative in the Middle East last summer. The Egyptian diplomat drew an analogy between today's situation and the 1949 Rhodes talks following the first Arab-Israeli war. "Then like now we were made to swallow poison in a sugar coating. Today the same tactics prevail, the same propaganda and the same duplicity," he said. Riad claimed that he personally never had any illusions as to what America's real intentions were. After the cease-fire last summer, he said he decided to "wait and see whether America would carry out its promises." He said that U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Joseph J. Sisco brought nothing new to Cairo when he doubled back there last May 8 after his and Secretary of State William P. Rogers' Middle East tour. All that Sisco brought with him to Cairo was "an Israeli demand for Egypt's capitulation, a series of Israeli demands in exchange for an Egyptian agreement to reopen the canal," Riad said in the interview.

\$2.7 Million IBM Computer To Be Installed At Feinberg Graduate School

JERUSALEM, June 17 (JTA)--A \$2.7 million IBM computer, larger than any other now operating in Israel, will be installed at the Feinberg Graduate School of the Weizmann Institute of Science in Rehovoth this year. The giant IBM 372, Model 165 will be located in the Institute's new computer center under the supervision of a committee of scientists headed by Prof. Yehuda Eisenberg of the department of nuclear physics. The center will be directed by Jules Finkel, an American scientist who emigrated recently to Israel.

6,500 Arab Workers From Occupied Territories Now Working In Jerusalem Area

JERUSALEM, June 17 (JTA)--Some 6,500 Arab workers from occupied areas are now employed in the Jerusalem area, according to a report by G. Rowinoff, chairman of the Jerusalem district labor exchanges advisory council. This time last year about 4,400 such Arab workers were employed in the capital.

