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ORTHODOX RABBI URGE INTERMARRIAGE JEWISH LEADERS BE OUSTED FROM OFFICES

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Rabbinical Council of America, the association of Orthodox rabbis, announced today a policy aimed at "the elimination from leadership roles in Jewish public life of all those who marry out of their faith and rabbis who perform marriages between Jew and non-Jew." Only Reform rabbis perform such marriages.

In line with that policy, Rabbi Louis Bernstein Council president, said the organization would oppose appointment to office of either lay or rabbinic leaders "who violate these rules in any of the organizations with which the Rabbinical Council is affiliated."

These include the Synagogue Council of America, the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organizations, the Chaplaincy Commission of the National Jewish Welfare Board, the Joint Advisory Committee of the National Jewish Community Relations Advisory Council and the Rabbinic Advisory Council of the national United Jewish Appeal.

First Policy Of Its Kind

Each of the six constituent agencies of the Synagogue Council of America--three rabbinic and three congregational--has veto power over all decisions of the SCA. A Council spokesman said the Rabbinical Council would apply that veto to any appointment of Jews to SCA posts who were married to non-Jews. In the other organizations, the spokesman said, the Council representatives will seek to have such a policy accepted as organization policy and the Rabbinical Council will pull its representatives out of the organization if the policy is rejected.

Rabbi Bernard Twersky, Council press officer said the policy was the first of its kind to be adopted by a national Jewish organization and that the Rabbinical Council hoped it would have a major impact on organized Jewish life in this country. The policy was adopted unanimously by the organization's Executive Board at a meeting held during the Council's mid-winter conference two weeks ago in Monsey, N.Y.

Rabbi Bernstein said that Council member rabbis will carry out this policy in all Jewish organizations to which they belong as members, such as Jewish Federations, local rabbinical organizations and other agencies at local levels. In effect, this means, Rabbi Twersky said, that members will be ready to resign from such organizations and agencies if the policy is rejected by local groups.

Threatened By Suicidal Trend

Rabbi Bernstein said all Jewish groups should accept such guidelines, adding that "our call is directed to the secular community as it is to the various religious groups. It is addressed to our Federations, welfare funds and their boards for all are equally threatened by this suicidal trend." He said all Jewish groups should, by adopting such a policy, "demonstrate their desire for positive and meaningful Jewish survival."

The Council leader asserted that mixed marriages and assimilation "have become so grave a peril" to the survival of the American Jewish

community and its growth, "that drastic measures must be taken." Rabbi Bernstein stated that statistics indicated that "a substantial proportion of American Jews may be lost to us during this generation if this trend is not reversed."

He added that in some parts of the United States, mixed marriage among Jews "is approaching a 50 percent rate, and even in areas of large Jewish concentration is alarmingly high." Mixed marriage rates were highest on college campuses and among the "intellectual Jewish community," Rabbi Bernstein said, adding that this "underscores the gravity of the problem."

GOLDMANN ASKS WALDHEIM TO TRY TO GET INFORMATION ON IRAQI JEWS

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (JTA)--In spite of an official denial by the Iraq government published in this morning's edition of the influential French newspaper, Le Monde, reports continue to reach Western capitals that nine of the eleven Iraqi Jews imprisoned in Baghdad's notorious Kasr el Nihaya Prison have been murdered.

Noting the continuing fears and uncertainty, Dr. Nahum Goldmann, president of the World Jewish Congress, today sent a telegram on behalf of the WJC to Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the United Nations, urging him to use his "good offices to obtain from the Iraq government information regarding Jews held in Kasr el Nihaya Prison in Baghdad. There are great fears that nine of them may have been killed. The most convincing evidence would be to allow them, if alive, to be seen by their families."

TRIAL OF FORMER NAZI OFFICER

BONN, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Fritz Forberg, a former Nazi police officer, has gone on trial in Regensburg accused of murdering 1500 Jews near Berditshev and Winniza in the Soviet Union in the autumn of 1941. Within 48 hours, the entire 34,000 Jewish population of Kiev was herded into a narrow gully and machine-gunned. Forberg, the court said, was only one link in the chain of command during the operation. Forberg's regimental commander at the time now lives in Ulm, drawing a pension from the State. He cannot be put on trial because of poor health.

MORE SPY RING SUSPECTS DETAINED

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The number of detainees held in connection with the uncovering of the Syrian-sponsored Druze spy ring in the Golan Heights reached 25 yesterday, as five more were arrested in the village of Majdal Shams on the Mt. Hermon slope.

Meanwhile, one of the suspects of the group charged with sending letter bombs to President Nixon, Secretary of State William P. Rogers and former Defense Secretary Melvin Laird has helped police reconstruct his activities on the day the letters were sent. Accompanied by heavy police guard, he led the investigators through Kiryat Shemona along the route he took from the bus to the local post office, buying the stamps and placing the letters in the mail box.

JEWISH AGENCY CALLS FOR RENTAL HOUSING, NEW MORTGAGE SYSTEM TO CUT HOME PRICES

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Jewish Agency Assembly declared in a resolution today that

more rental housing in Israel was vital for absorbing immigrants and to relieve the indigenous housing shortage. Adopting a draft resolution of its housing committee—which included some of America's top Jewish builders—the Agency Assembly called on its permanent technical committee on housing to “consider ways of reducing both financing costs and building costs with the purpose of creating the framework for a new mortgage program in Israel essential to reduce the price of apartments and to encourage investments in rental housing.”

The resolution reflected a detailed plan for overhauling Israel's mortgage system proposed to the housing committee by Max Karl of Milwaukee, president of Mortgage Guarantee Insurance Corp., the giant mortgage guarantee firm. The plan called for 90 percent mortgage loans for low-price flats and no mortgages at all for expensive ones. Karl's plan has attracted a good deal of attention in Israel and Jewish Agency Chairman Louis Pincus promised it would be thoroughly studied.

A resolution from the aliya committee urged that officials of the Agency's immigration department receive on-the-job training to raise their professional standards. The Assembly urged the department to recruit professional workers from among the new immigrants themselves. The Assembly also called for special housing facilities for elderly immigrants and young single immigrants.

A resolution submitted by the agricultural settlement committee called for the formation of a joint body of Jewish Agency officials and representatives of diaspora Jewry to introduce new industries into rural settlements. The Assembly noted with satisfaction the progress of many settlements under the Agency's aegis towards full economic independence.

Unprecedented Mobilization Of Resources

Another note of satisfaction came from the fund-raising committee which praised the Agency for the “unprecedented mobilization of Jewish resources” last year. Nevertheless, the committee's resolution noted that needs far exceeded resources and called on world Jewry to recognize that its efforts were not yet adequate. The Assembly called on all other Israel-based fund-raising bodies to coordinate their efforts with the United Jewish Appeal or the Keren Hayesod in each country.

The Assembly, adopting the resolutions of the higher education committee, called on the Agency to set up a permanent committee to define criteria for the allocation of Agency funds to Israeli universities each year and for supervising the universities' long-range planning. Most of the universities' funds come from the Jewish Agency. The Assembly, noting this fact, urged more careful planning to avoid duplication of programs and facilities and to determine the necessity of new institutions before they are established.

Approve \$470 M For 1973/74

The budget committee approved the \$470 million budget for 1973/74 but stressed that it was not really enough for all of the Agency's programs. The committee urged that all Assembly members receive periodic reports on the implementation of the budget items and that the standing budget committee include people who are not members of the Board of Governors.

In the general resolution, the Assembly assailed the Soviet education tax and the persecution of Jews in Arab lands. While congratulating

Israel on its 25th anniversary, the resolution noted that even after 25 years of Statehood there are still “considerable numbers of citizens suffering from deprivation in housing, education and social and economic standards.” The Assembly pledged itself to help these people as well as to help the State continue to absorb new arrivals.

The general resolution concluded: “This Assembly, on the eve of the 25th anniversary of the establishment of the State of Israel, places on record its earnest thanksgiving for the greater dignity enjoyed by the entire Jewish people in our generation as a result of the existence and character of the State of Israel, for the new courage and hope which Israel has inspired in communities living under duress and for the solidarity and unity of purpose that now pervade the whole of the Jewish people.”

WEST GERMAN FIRM BUYS 50% INTEREST IN ISRAELI FIRM CONTROLLED BY KOOR

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Korff steel mills of West Germany have bought a 50 percent interest in the Israeli “Steel City” controlled by Koor industries, in the industrial zone on Haifa Bay near Acre, it was announced yesterday. The partnership agreement, signed in Baden-Baden, will further the expansion and modernization of the Israeli steel plant. The present output of 130,000 tons of steel per annum will be increased to over 200,000 tons by replacing two obsolete Siemens furnaces with two electric arc furnaces which convert scrap and pig iron into steel.

The new furnaces will have a capacity of 45 tons every 68 minutes. The plant will be supervised by the Korff engineering company of Dusseldorf. The expanded plant will require only 550 workers compared to the present 650. About 100 workers will be shifted to other jobs.

MOSLEM COUNCIL SAYS ISRAEL TRYING TO 'JUDAIZE' OLD CITY OF JERUSALEM

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--The Moslem Council in East Jerusalem has accused Israel of attempting to “Judaize” the entire area of the Old City and of planning to change the cultural patterns of its Arab residents. The charges, contained in a statement published today by the Council, referred to the activities of the Jewish Quarter Reconstruction Co. which since 1968 has been engaged in the rehabilitation of the Jewish quarter destroyed under the Jordanian regime.

The statement protested the recent evacuation of Arabs living on the border between the Jewish and Moslem quarters. The evacuees received compensation and alternative housing. A spokesman for the Israeli company said the evacuation affected only the area where the company had legal powers to act.

The Moslem Council also protested the Israeli decision to open a Moslem court under Israeli jurisdiction in East Jerusalem. It will be run by Israeli Moslem judges and will parallel the religious courts set-up under the former Jordanian regime. The move was taken after the failure to integrate the former Moslem courts into the Israeli judicial system.

President Zalman Shazar reiterated this week that he plans to retire after ending his second term in office in May. “I think I would not advise the government to suggest I serve an additional period,” the 83-year-old President said on Israel Radio. He declined to say who might be a suitable candidate to succeed him. “Whoever does take the job has to aspire to represent all sections of the people, and I would advise anyone who feels he can't, not to take the post,” Shazar said.

ALLON: FREE HIGH SCHOOL EDUCATION FOR ALL IS ISRAEL'S GOAL

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Yigal Allon, Israel's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education, said yesterday that Israel was working toward the goal of a free high school education for everyone. At present, free compulsory education in Israel extends only from kindergarten through the tenth grade. Addressing the second annual Jewish Agency General Assembly, Allon promised a free 11th grade within four years. He said that until then, 11th grade tuition would be reduced by 25 percent.

Referring to the pre-academic courses offered by Israeli universities in cooperation with the government and the Jewish Agency for Army veterans who did not have matriculation but wished to enter a university, Allon said that 80 percent of the students attending these courses eventually were admitted to a university.

The Education Minister reflected a questioner's comment that Jewish students from abroad were taking Israeli university places at the expense of local students who had to attend college overseas and often did not return. Allon said Israeli universities had room for all qualified students. He added, however, that there was a shortage of places for would-be medical students "since so many mothers wanted their sons to be doctors."

Allon praised the work of WIZO and other women's organizations in the area of pre-kindergarten training. He said that over 70 percent of four year olds in Israel attended nursery schools, the highest figure in the world. What a child loses by not attending nursery is never made up later in life, he said.

TEL AVIV U. TO HELP PUBLISH AN UNPUBLISHED NOVEL BY MARKISH

TEL AVIV, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Tel Aviv University will assist in the publication of an unpublished novel by the late Russian-Jewish poet and writer Peretz Markish. The manuscript was rescued by a friend from the Markish home only minutes before the KGB (secret police) arrested him at midnight, Jan. 27, 1949, his widow, Mrs. Esther Markish, disclosed here. Mrs. Markish spoke at a reception on the Tel Aviv University campus marking the first issue of a university-sponsored periodical, "Shvut," devoted to the current problems and recent history of Soviet Jews. It is edited by Yehesha Gilboa.

Mrs. Markish, who arrived recently in Israel with her son, David, said the manuscript was secretly taken to Baku where David, then aged 11, buried it. Several years later the manuscript was dug up and was eventually smuggled out of the USSR and reached Israel.

Markish, one of the first victims of the Stalin purge of Jewish intellectuals, was never seen after he was taken from his home 24 years ago. An official statement said he was shot on Aug. 12, 1952. Fellow inmates at Moscow's Lubyanka prison claimed that he was tortured to semi-consciousness before his execution. Markish was posthumously rehabilitated in 1955 after Stalin's death.

BEN-GURION'S GRANDSON SAYS IDEALS SPURNED BY YOUNGER GENERATION

By Yitzhak Rabi, JTA Staff Writer

NEW YORK, Feb. 8 (JTA)--"Today in Israel we are faced with the phenomena of political, economic, and personal corruption which in my grandfather's generation were rare," says

Yaariv Ben-Eliezer, the 32-year-old eldest grandson of David Ben-Gurion, who is now studying for his master's degree in the field of mass communication at Queens College where he also teaches.

"Ben-Gurion's generation related its actions to social and cultural values, and was imbued with an ideology, while my generation lacks a sense of social responsibility in its race for power and domination. They have turned their backs on tradition, Judaism and Socialism; values they pretend to represent."

Ben-Eliezer is married to an Israeli, and is the father of two sons. "When my second child was born, here in New York, I received a letter from my grandfather congratulating me, but hoping that my wife and I would bless him with two great grand-daughters in the near future. My grandfather feels that every Israeli should have at least four children."

Concerning the Middle East conflict, the bearded grandson of the first Prime Minister of Israel claims: "I would like to see Israel remain within the context of its present boundaries, but I am a realist and I understand that for the sake of a real peace we must return a portion of the territories that Israel occupied in the last war. I don't believe in formulas. If you want peace you have to sit around the table and talk. I also don't believe in preconditions to start these talks. I am convinced that once peace talks begin many things that now seem to have priority will shape out differently. But as long as the present situation continues, Israel shouldn't give up any geographical advantages that are so important to her security and existence."

According to Ben-Eliezer, who corresponds regularly with his grandfather and who, while in Israel, had long conversations with him, Ben-Gurion believes that as long as peace is out of reach there is a national obligation to settle the occupied areas and to establish Israeli settlements there.

Ben-Eliezer, who is the secretary of the Israeli Student Organization in the United States and Canada, says that he doesn't intend to engage in politics upon returning to Israel. "I had a short experience in politics," he says, "and I didn't care for it. I don't like the moral attitude that is present in Israeli politics."

KNESSETERS MUST STOP PLAYING HOOKY

JERUSALEM, Feb. 8 (JTA)--Moshe Baram, chairman of the Alignment Knesset faction, issued a warning that unless Alignment members were more diligent in attending the Knesset, the opposition just might catch them napping and deal the coalition some embarrassing defeats.

Apart from Cabinet ministers, the number of Alignment members in attendance at the plenum is in the low twenties, Baram said. The Labor-Mapam Alignment has 56 Knesseters, including Cabinet ministers.

Baram singled out deputy ministers and said there was no reason why they could not attend more often, especially on Wednesdays when motions for the agenda and private bills are debated.

Twenty Jewish communities throughout the United States will play host to Israeli intellectuals for a period of two weeks, as part of Israel's 25th anniversary celebrations. These visits are part of a special project entitled "Scholars-in-Residence," sponsored jointly by the American Zionist Federation and the American Zionist Youth Foundation. The project will begin March 26. On April 8 a major dialogue will be held in N.Y. concerning "The American Jewish Experience and its Relationship to Israel."

