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PARLEY OF RUSSIAN JEWS ENDS IN TURMOIL; NEW OLIM SEEK EXCLUSION OF VETERAN IMMIGRANTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Premier Golda Meir's appeal yesterday to recent Jewish immigrants from Soviet Georgia to join in action for the unification of Israel went unheeded. The Second National Conference of Russian Jews which was taking place in Beersheba broke up last night in an uproar and with the announcement of plans for a new association of Russian Jews limited to those who arrived in Israel after the Six-Day War.

The friction between the new immigrants and the old immigrants, some of whom came to Palestine before the Soviet Union was established, was felt from the start. The veteran immigrants from Russia, forming the establishment and handling the conference affairs, were accused by the new immigrants of being strangers to the problems of the new immigrants. The new olim demanded, therefore, that the management of the conference should be entrusted to the newcomers.

Besides this apparently legitimate demand, there existed also the undercurrent of friction between the political parties: the establishment is governed by veteran Labor Party leaders while the active group of the newcomers seems to be influenced by Gahal.

The uproar continued through the two days of the parley over the question of the qualifications of the delegates. It turned out that many of those present were simply sent to the parley without being elected or delegated by any group of Russian Jews. This involved mainly kibbutz members. The presidium--amid shouts--asked for a supper recess and then proposed to call off the parley now and resume it in 15 or 20 days.

A group of about 100 delegates of the total 400 decided to create what they termed an association of really new immigrants who "feel like us, who are acquainted with our problems." The gloomy end of the convention was turned into a tragedy when it was learned that one of the delegates, Dr. Alexander Droos, 60, had died of a heart attack just before he was to address the convention. Dr. Droos, a former puppet theater director in the Soviet Union, was about to tell the audience about the difficulties he faced trying to establish his puppet show in Israel.

ONE OF THE NINE RABBIS IN THE LANGER CASE IDENTIFIED

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The name of one of the nine rabbis who decided that Hanoch and Miriam Langer, the brother and sister who were known as the "mamzerim," could be married to their sweethearts was revealed yesterday. When the decision was originally announced last year it was decided not to disclose the names of the rabbis for fear of reprisals.

Yesterday the appointments committee of the Chief Rabbinate discussed the candidacy of Rabbi Shalom Mizrahi to the Supreme Rabbinical Court. During the discussion Sephardic Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef praised Rabbi Mizrahi as an eminent scholar and author.

When Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren discussed Rabbi Mizrahi's qualifications he mentioned his spiritual courage. Rabbi Goren noted

that Rabbi Mizrahi had been the first to sign the halacha verdict which removed the taint of basarfardy from the Langers and which permitted them to get married.

One of the members of the appointments committee was Rabbi Eliezer Goldsmith, one of the extreme opponents to the verdict concerning the Langers. When he heard Rabbi Goren's remark he expressed his reservations about Rabbi Mizrahi. Until then Rabbi Goldsmith was one of Rabbi Mizrahi's enthusiastic supporters in the appointments committee. Rabbi Mizrahi was finally approved to be a new member of the Supreme Rabbinical Court.

HERUT APPROVES NON-LABOR ALIGNMENT

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The road towards the creation of a parliamentary bloc of non-Labor parties was cleared of another obstacle when Herut last night approved the proposed formation of the non-Labor alignment. The decision was adopted by a vote of 119-18 and 8 abstentions.

It was a stormy session which lasted five hours but it had its great moments as well when Menachem Beigin and Ezer Weizman entered together in the hall and when Weizman took his seat next to Beigin--as if nothing had happened between them. Beigin and Weizman said they favored the proposed alignment. Weizman's return to activity was welcomed by many Herut members and he was warmly applauded.

Two years ago Weizman proposed a broad anti-Labor front, but at that time it was in terms of unifying all the non-Labor parties. The current counter-alignment to the Labor Alignment proposed by Arye Sharon calls for an active political front in the Knesset and apparently in local councils while each party would preserve its unique ideology and framework.

The Liberal Party also had a session yesterday coupled with the official ceremony to welcome Sharon joining the party. He was welcomed by the chairman of the party executive, Simcha Ehrlich.

Sharon said there are two things that can change the image of the State: the establishment of the broad bloc, and electoral reform and the democratization of political life. The Liberals then started debate on the proposed alignment and unanimously approved the proposed plan for the formation of the non-Labor alignment.

Gahal will soon appoint a committee to start negotiations concerning the actualization of the proposed bloc.

EBAN TO BRAZIL AND BOLIVIA

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Foreign Minister Abba Eban leaves next week for official visits to Brazil and Bolivia, two of Israel's best friends in Latin America. Details of the itinerary are being kept unpublished for security reasons.

The purpose of the visits will be twofold. Dr. Joel Barzani, head of the Foreign Ministry's Latin American Department, told newsmen here today: to tighten already close and friendly relations between Israel and the two countries and for Eban to review the Israeli aid and cooperation programs going ahead in each.

Both visits are technically return trips. Bolivia's Foreign Minister Mario Gutierrez was here

in 1971, and Brazil's Foreign Minister Mario Gibson Barboza in Feb. 1973. Barromi said Eban was planning a further South American trip after the fall elections. Both Brazil and Bolivia are not members of the non-aligned bloc of 56 nations which is so consistently hostile to Israel in the UN and other forums. On the contrary, both have sympathetic voting records on the issue of the Middle East.

Brazil was the first Latin American country to receive Israeli aid when an agricultural team was sent there in 1962. Eban will visit the team and see its work in the Recife area. He will also broach with Barboza the issue of scientific cooperation and possibly arrange for an exchange of scientific missions. Israel views Brazil as an important and potentially major power in science as well as politics.

Eban will also visit Jewish communities in Rio and Sao Paulo. There are some 150,000 Jews in Brazil and about 2000 in Bolivia. The Minister will be accompanied by Ephraim Evron, the deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry.

PANAMA AND PERU ON THE CARPET

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The Ambassadors of Panama and Peru were summoned today to the Foreign Ministry here and told of Israel's concern and displeasure at their support for the "non-aligned" draft at the Security Council last week which the United States vetoed. Israel was particularly concerned since these two formerly friendly states were among the sponsors of the draft which condemned Israel for continued occupation and called for immediate withdrawal and favorable response to the Jarring memorandum.

The Ambassadors were received by the heads of the Foreign Ministry's Central American and South American Departments respectively and they both listened in silence and said only that they would transmit Israel's views to their Foreign Ministries. Tomorrow and perhaps next week other envoys of Security Council member states will be summoned and given the same treatment. Among them will be the British Ambassador and the French Charge d'Affaires.

The Security Council vote was also raised in a meeting today between the Foreign Ministry Director, General Avraham Kidron and visiting Austrian Foreign Ministry Political Director Dr. Ludwrig Steiner. Austria too supported the draft.

SHORTEN MILITARY SERVICE FOR IMMIGRANTS, ARMY REPORTS

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The army has decided to shorten military service for immigrants. According to the Army Broadcasting Station, the manpower division of the Armed Forces has decided that immigrants aged 20 and older will serve 18 months if single, nine months if married, or three months if they have children. Newcomers who served 18 months in a foreign army will be called up for 90 days in the Israeli army. Immigrants who are going to school will be able to defer their induction date. Regular service in the Israeli army will be 33 months beginning April 1974 instead of 36 months.

REID TO VISIT ISRAEL ON FACT-FINDING TOUR

WASHINGTON, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Congressman Ogden R. Reid (D.NY) left today on an eight-day fact-finding tour of Israel that will include an inspection of the key receiving center for Soviet Jews in Austria, visits to a number of important military and social service installations in Israel and meetings with key Israeli leaders.

The Congressman, who served as U.S. Ambassador to Israel under President Eisenhower, is currently a member of the House Foreign Affairs subcommittee with jurisdiction over Near Eastern affairs. Upon his return from the tour Reid will make a formal report on his findings to the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Reid's itinerary includes a visit to Schoenau, the principle receiving center for Jewish refugees from the Soviet Union, where he will interview newly arrived refugees and meet with leaders of the Jewish Agency for Israel, which runs the center. He will then fly to Israel for a round of talks with Israeli leaders.

Also on the Congressman's schedule are visits to a main Absorption Center for Soviet Jews in Israel, tours of key naval and military bases, inspection of a wide variety of institutions including educational, day care and senior citizens facilities and a visit to the Suez Canal. For security reasons, a detailed itinerary of Reid's tour will not be released until the Congressman and his party arrive in Israel. Reid was appointed U.S. Ambassador to Israel by President Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1959 and served in that post until the end of the Eisenhower Administration in 1961.

MOVE TO FORCE STATE TO HALT VOTER REGISTRATION ON FRIDAY NIGHTS, SATURDAYS

NEW YORK, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Leonard Silverman, a Brooklyn member of the New York State Assembly, said today a meeting is planned in Albany next week with Secretary of State John Lomenzo to determine whether the state can force local governments to change voter registration dates that fall on a Friday night or Saturday and thereby discriminate against observant Jews.

Silverman told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that if the discussion indicates that the state does not have this power, he will bring injunction proceedings against both the State Bureau of Elections and the City Board of Elections. He said S. Elly Rosen, executive director of the Association of Jewish Anti-Poverty Workers, with whom he has been working on the problem, will attend the conference with Lomenzo.

The issue has become urgent in New York City because the city Board of Elections rejected yesterday a request from Silverman and from Rosen for a change in the fall voter registration dates of Oct. 9-10 and Oct. 13. Succoth begins on the eve of Oct. 10, and Oct. 13 is a Saturday. The 10-member city elections board approved a motion to retain those dates.

Rosen said he had received today a telephone call from Lomenzo in which the state official said he was pleased that the issue had been raised. Lomenzo said, according to Rosen, that he was examining the possibilities for state action, which would apply also to 14 counties where local registration dates this year include Saturdays in Oct.

Silverman prepared legislation which was adopted by the Legislature and approved by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller two years ago which bans elections --city, state and federal--on Saturdays and Sundays but does not refer to registrations specifically. Silverman also said he was planning legislation for the 1974 session of the Legislature which will extend the ban on Saturday elections to voter registration.

Reports received in London from Jewish sources in the Soviet Union stated that two Jewish activists in Moscow, Lev Libov and Lev Levitin, have received their exit visas and will be leaving soon for Israel.

SPECIAL TO JTA

MORE LETTER BOMBS FOUND

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Two letter bombs were received within the last 24 hours in Israel. One letter bomb, received and discovered at the Tel Aviv sorting office, was sent from the Tulkarem post office. Another booby-trapped envelope was discovered at the Petah Tikva police station. The envelope, addressed to the police station, was post-marked in Kfar Saba, near Kalkilya. It contained 60 grams of explosives and a detonation device. Both Tulkarem and Kalkilya are in the administered territories.

— Security circles believe that similar envelopes may be expected. It may be, they said, the result of the arrival of a consignment of such envelopes through the summer visitors across the Jordan bridges. The public and postal workers were instructed to be on guard. On Monday a letter bomb, addressed in Arabic and mailed in Nablus, was discovered in the Jerusalem sorting office.

FORMER BIRIM, IKRIT RESIDENTS WILL NEED PERMITS TO VISIT AREA

TEL AVIV, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Gen. Itzhak Choffi, military commander of the Galilee area, said today that former residents of Birim and Ikrit would from now on need permits to visit the church and cemetery in the area of the two villages. His order came after several of the former villagers were arrested this morning for staying overnight at the church in violation of the law. It was the second day in which arrests were made. Those arrested were later released on bail.

Archbishop Joseph Raya, spiritual leader of the Maronites in the Galilee, visited the detainees at the Nahariya police station today and told them he would protest to the authorities about the violation of religious rights, since the people were arrested at the church. Former residents of Ikrit and Birim who were evicted from the area when it was declared a security zone in 1948 have been trying to get permission from the Israeli government to return to the two villages.

JEWS SEEK MEETING WITH BOLSHOI BALLET COMPANY

CHICAGO, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Sidney Sexner, Chicago attorney, and president of the Community Council of Jewish Organizations, has asked impresario Harry Zelzer to arrange a meeting between local Jews and representatives of the Bolshoi Ballet Company, scheduled to appear here Aug. 6-11. In a letter to Zelzer, Sexner said, "...on behalf of the Jewish community, we request through your good offices, a face-to-face meeting with representatives...of the Bolshoi Company. This meeting can be at any time or place at your convenience except for the Jewish Sabbath."

Sexner's group hopes to call attention to the plight of Valeri Panov, former star of Lenin-grad's Kirov Ballet. Panov, whose request to leave the Soviet Union for Israel has been denied, is now forbidden to dance or practice his art. He has been jailed, harassed and threatened.

"Panov's situation typifies the plight of many Jewish artists in the Soviet Union today," Sexner said. "We are optimistic that Mr. Zelzer, who is bringing the famed Bolshoi Company to Chicago, will take this opportunity to help the cause of human rights. We hope, too, that members of the Bolshoi Company will be responsive to the cries of their fellow artists."

KIRYAT ARBA SETTLERS PROMISED AID

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--The settlers of Kiryat Arba, the Jewish quarter in Hebron, complained yesterday to Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir about the slow rate of development of their settlement. The settlers' complaint was expressed during Sapir's first visit to Kiryat Arba. The visit had a political significance against the background of Sapir's reservations about the establishment of the quarter and the speed of its development. During the visit, Sapir told the settlers that everything he had promised them had been carried out; adding that his Ministry would see to it that they received the money promised for building industries and roads.

POTOK: CURRENT CREATIVE WORK ALIEN TO JEWISH TRADITION

JERUSALEM, Aug. 1 (JTA)--Chaim Potok, the noted author, touched off an animated debate today at the American-Israel dialogue, an annual event sponsored by the American Jewish Congress where U.S. Jewish and Israeli intellectuals meet, when he asserted that works of the aesthetic imagination were "alien" to the Jewish tradition.

"The true artists of the Jewish past," he said, "were the halachists and lawmakers. Their material or clay was the Jewish people. Their product was the Jewish way of life." His remarks drew lively response from the 50 participants in the dialogue, the theme of which is "The Sources of Jewish Creativity."

Potok told of his own conflict as an Orthodox Jew between "the immutable values I was trained to accept and the new areas of experience and new aesthetic forms I sought to use as a novelist." Potok is the author of "The Chosen," "My Name Is Asher Lev" and many other books on American Jewish life.

Rabbi Arthur J. Lelyveld, past president of the AJCongress, disputed Potok's view that Jewish tradition lacked aesthetic forms. He cited the books of Ruth, Jonah and Amos as artistic as well as prophetic. Potok conceded that aesthetics were not absent totally but maintained that they were "not central" to Jewish sacred texts. A leading Israeli writer, Aharon Megged, also disputed Potok's view. Hugh Nissenson, the American short story writer, said the central conflict lay in "the Orthodox Jewish belief that God creates and the artist's belief that man--as artists--create."

AJCongress president Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg, agreed with this approach, adding: "The classical Jewish view has been that to dethrone God and become God the creator yourself--as the artist does --is to create a tower of Babel. In Jewish tradition man cannot be the center of things. In modernity, man is. Thus there is ultimately no harmony between Judaism and the modern temper."

The West German Foreign Office declared today that reports concerning the early release of Herbert Kappler, the only remaining Nazi war criminal in prison in Italy, were unfounded. It was learned that the legal authorities in Rome have rejected repeated and renewed requests from the West German Foreign Office, the Justice Ministry and political parties for his release on humanitarian grounds.

The National Insurance Institute in Israel will pay a husband whose wife dies in childbirth a monthly sum of some IL 300 to help him get a nurse for the infant. The payments will continue for two years providing the infant remains in Israel during that period.

