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KLUTZNICK WARNS THAT GROWING ISOLATIONISM IN THE U.S. COULD BE CATASTROPHIC TO ISRAEL

By Tuvia Mendelson

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA)--Philip M. Klutznick of Chicago, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Economic and Social Council, warned here today that growing isolationism in the U.S. "could be harmful if not catastrophic" for Israel and the Middle East. Addressing 500 delegates from 65 countries attending the Sixth Plenary Session of the World Jewish Congress, Klutznick observed that "many Americans are weary of conflict and the expenditure of resources for either political, economic or military foreign aid."

"There is a danger of turning inward to which President Ford alluded in his State of the Union message, which we Americans must fight with might and main," he said. "Isolationism is growing and international morality has its limitations where personal comfort is involved. We may be in for a long and difficult struggle in my country and its impact on the Middle East and Israel could be harmful if not catastrophic."

Klutznick, a former president of B'nai B'rith and a member of the WJC's Governing Council, opened a general debate on the theme of "World Jewry in a Changing World." His address dealt with the area of "the external front." According to Klutznick, the huge purchases of military hardware by the Arab countries may be more dangerous than the build-up of petro-dollars in the oil-producing countries. The Arabs' expenditures for jet fighters, tanks and other offensive weapons point to a "search for empire" that is far more serious than the dollars in Arab hands resulting from the quadrupling of oil prices, he said.

Diaspora-Israel Relationship

Referring to the Middle East situation, Klutznick observed: "It is wrong to think of peace in terms of merely fixing frontiers. Peace means exchanging goods and ideas and people through trade and cultural contacts and tourism. It means diplomatic recognition as well as an end to border disputes. For such a peace, Israel needs the support of every nation."

In that connection, Klutznick said, "I can think of no more important task for the WJC than to find the organizational technique and generate the formula for genuine understanding between us," meaning Israel and diaspora Jewry. "The miracle that the times require depends on two events," he said. "First, the recognition by Israel that Jews outside Israel have a genuine partnership role to play in the upbuilding of the Jewish State; and second, that the diaspora sees itself not only as giver or source of aid but as a real participant, within the accepted norms of international behavior, in Israel's political and social future."

ANNOUNCE OFFICIAL REGISTRATION PERIOD FOR CLAIMS FOR PROPERTY OWNED BY U.S. NATIONALS IN EAST GERMANY

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, Feb. 4 (JTA)--The U.S. Foreign Claims Settlement Commission, an independ-

ent federal agency, has announced the beginning of the official registration period for claims for the loss of property owned by U.S. nationals in the German Democratic Republic (East Germany). The claims, according to a press statement issued by the commission dated Feb. 1, are those which arose prior to or since 1945 and which have not otherwise been settled. The deadline for the five-month registration period is July 1 of this year.

The Jewish Telegraphic Agency was informed today at the commission that, in general, non-property claims such as those resulting from Nazi persecutions and murder of Jews are not included in this registration. "As a general rule," Robert Maddex, a lawyer in the office of the commission's general counsel, said of the registration, "property in question had to be owned by a U.S. citizen at the time of loss." He noted that the Conference on Jewish Material Claims Against Germany is handling other types of claims. The Conference is at 15 East 26 St., New York, N.Y. 10010.

At the time the U.S. and East Germany initiated diplomatic relations in September 1974, State Department officials said that the Conference and an organization to be set up by East Germany would negotiate the claims against Nazi Germany. Maddex said that the claims the U.S. Commission would review include personal real property confiscated prior to or since 1945, including stocks in companies that were nationalized. The claims, he said, are strictly confined to American citizens.

The registration of claims is for the purpose of providing information for the negotiations with East Germany, the press statement noted. "The registration of a claim at this time will not constitute the filing of a formal claim against the German Democratic Republic nor will it ensure such a claim will be covered by any future agreement," the statement said. It urged "individuals and businesses that suffered property losses in East Germany" to contact the Commission's Washington office whose zip code is 20574.

JEWISH REFUGEE SHIP SOLD TO ARABS

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 4 (JTA)--The famed Jewish refugee ship, temporary home of 200 Jewish refugees during the years 1969-1971, has been sold to the Arabs, it was learned here. The St. Laurence, floating in Copenhagen harbor since 1967, became famous during the great refugee movement from Poland beginning in 1969. Polish Jews coming to Denmark lived aboard the ship while awaiting immigration.

But soon, the St. Laurence will leave its harbor in Copenhagen, to be towed to Beirut for repairs. From there it will sail on via the Suez Canal to Abu Dhabi. The selling price of the ship is unknown, but Norwegian interests who wished to purchase the St. Laurence were forced to give up the idea for lack of funds. The St. Laurence was originally a pleasure ship, launched nearly 50 years ago from Canadian shores.

ALMOGI EXPECTED TO JOIN CABINET; WILL STRENGTHEN RABIN'S POSITION

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA)--Yosef Almogi, the former Labor Minister who resigned from the

government last year to become Mayor of Haifa, is expected to join Premier Yitzhak Rabin's Cabinet shortly. Rabin is reported to have extended the invitation to Almogi at a private meeting yesterday. Almogi told reporters that nothing was "finalized" but close associates believe that he will accept a Cabinet seat.

Almogi would replace Information Minister Aharon Yariv whose resignation from the Cabinet, announced last week, became effective today. But he will not take over Yariv's portfolio. Informed sources said that Almogi's Cabinet duties would be tailored to enable him to devote most of his time to the business of the Haifa municipality--which he pledged to do when he ran for the mayoralty last year. He is expected to be named a minister-without-portfolio with special duties in the fields of urban planning and development.

Apart from those duties, his addition to the Cabinet would strengthen Premier Rabin's position within the Labor Party as a whole. Almogi, 65, is a leader of the Labor Party's Mapai wing and commands the support of the party's powerful Haifa branch. His return to the government would bolster Mapai whose power has eroded of late in the Labor Party's inner councils.

Seek Revival Of 'Haverenu'

Such Mapai leaders as Finance Minister Yehoshua Rabinowitz and Moshe Baram have suggested reviving the "Haverenu" (Our Comrades) group which played a significant role during the Premiership of the late David Ben Gurion. It consisted of top Mapai personalities in the government, Histadrut and the Jewish Agency who met informally but regularly to hammer out broad strategic policies on vital national issues before they came up for discussion at more formal forums.

If revived now, the group would probably include Foreign Minister Yigal Alon, Minister-Without-Portfolio Israel Galili, Defense Minister Shimon Peres and such ex-officio personalities as former Premier Golda Meir, former Defense Minister Moshe Dayan and former Foreign Minister Abba Eban. Those leaders represent the Rafi and Ahdut ha-Avoda wings of the Labor Party as well as Mapai.

Former Finance Minister Pinhas Sapir, who probably would also be included in the group, has suggested that the more narrowly based Mapai leadership bloc be reconstituted as a political power center to counter the encroachment of the two other factions. But middle-road Laborites fear that a revival of narrow factionalism would not serve the party's interests.

PLO ABSENT FROM UN CONFERENCE

By Peter Friedlinger

VIENNA, Feb. 4 (JTA)--The Palestine Liberation Organization missed its first opportunity to participate in a United Nations Conference. The PLO, granted observer status by the UN General Assembly last year, was automatically invited to attend the UN Legal Conference which opened here today. But no PLO delegates showed up. "Perhaps they will show up later or perhaps they are not interested in a conference devoted to technical legal questions," a UN spokesman said.

The invitation extended to the PLO was sent to all so-called "liberation" organizations that hold observer status with the UN. The only one to attend was the Pan-African Congress of Tanzania. Austrian officials said the liberation movement delegates were entitled to "functional immunity" even if Austria does not recognize

their parent organizations. Austria has no ties with the PLO, but last year, the head of the Austrian Foreign Ministry's political department, August Steiner, conferred with a PLO representative.

The UN Legal Conference is discussing the legal status of international organizations. The opening session was addressed by President Rudolf Kirchschlaeger of Austria. Sets Camara, of Brazil, was elected president of the conference.

HERTZBERG URGES FREE JEWISH EDUCATION FOR DIASPORA JEWISH YOUTHS, JEWISH PEACE CORPS

By David Landau

JERUSALEM, Feb. 4 (JTA)--Rabbi Arthur Hertzberg urged tonight that the World Jewish Congress take the lead in formulating programs aimed at universal free Jewish education for Jewish youth in diaspora countries and the establishment of a Peace Corps type system whereby Jewish youths would devote a set period of service for the Jewish people. His proposals were contained in an address prepared for delivery tonight at the Sixth Plenary Assembly of the WJC here.

Addressing himself to the problems of the "internal front" in the context of the Plenary Assembly's overall theme, "World Jewry in a Changing World," Rabbi Hertzberg, president of the American Jewish Congress and a professor of history at Columbia University in New York, declared that world Jewry was obliged to provide a free Jewish education for every Jewish youngster who desired it.

"It is a shocking paradox that, particularly in the post-World War II period when we have witnessed the increasing availability of free public education, Jewish education is becoming more and more expensive and therefore, increasingly inaccessible," he said. "If the great task in the first three-quarters of this century was to make the world safe for Jews, the task that must be undertaken in the remaining quarter must be to make Judaism safe among Jews," he said. He called on the WJC to lead world Jewry into "a moral commitment...a fundamental decision" to make Jewish education freely available "to every child in the diaspora."

Rabbi Hertzberg also said that it was "scandalous" that Israeli youth were called to serve their country in the army for three years while diaspora Jewish youth made no similar effort to serve the Jewish nation. Noting that Mormon youths gave three years of service to their church, Hertzberg asked, "Is it not conceivable that Jewish young people from California might serve six months leading a youth group in Maalot or teaching arithmetic in a Jewish school in Bogota?" Here again, the WJC could set in motion "a powerful sustained effort that will give every young Jew the opportunity for Jewish service," he said.

FUNERAL SERVICES FOR ELI M. BLACK

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA)--Funeral services will be held here tomorrow for Eli M. Black, 63, a New York industrialist and Jewish communal leader, who plunged to his death yesterday from his 44th floor office of the Pan Am building in Manhattan. Mr. Black, chairman of the billion-dollar United Brands Co., was a descendant of ten generations of rabbis and scholars and served a congregation in Woodmere, L.I., 30 years ago as an ordained rabbi. He had been a member of the boards of the American Jewish Committee, the Jewish Guild for the Blind, the graduate schools of Yeshiva University, the Jewish Museum and the PEC Israel Economic Corp.

BEHIND THE HEADLINES
A ZIONIST MISSION IN SEARCH
OF A FUNCTIONING APPARATUS
 By Murray Zuckoff

NEW YORK, Feb. 4 (JTA)--The Zionist movement in this country is caught between the Scylla of Arab propaganda and the Charybdis of its own inertia and complacency. At a time when effective Zionist information, qualitatively and quantitatively, is an imperative necessity the educational and informational Zionist apparatus in this country and in Israel is barely in first gear. Zionist leaders and activists concede that the apparatus requires an immediate tune-up, if not total overhaul, to place it on an emergency basis.

The consensus is that after all the talk from Zionist officials about the need to engage in high powered ideological activity is neatly formulated, packaged and submitted to the various Zionist departments for approval and as press releases to the media, the vast majority of Jews still lack the requisite information to counter anti-Israel and anti-Zionist propaganda.

There is mounting frustration and anger in the lower echelons of the Zionist establishment and especially among grass roots Jews in small communities over what is described as business-as-usual in the face of a grave emergency. A number of leaders and spokesmen, as well as activists interviewed by this writer in the past two weeks, asserted both on the record and not for attribution that the Zionist leadership is filled with the best of intentions. "But, you know which road is paved with the best of intentions," one Zionist activist said laconically.

A disgruntled Zionist youth who tries to organize Jewish students on campus, stated bluntly: "Routine is the order of the day. While pro-Arab propagandists are pummeling us and swaying a lot of people, our Zionist 'machers' act on the assumption that things will automatically correct themselves in our favor. Some mornings, when there is a pro-Arab ad in the local newspaper they begin to sweat a little, squeeze out a counter-ad, gloat when it appears, and go back to routine."

Bureaucracy, Waste, Competition

A Zionist official who has frequently travelled around the country lecturing on Zionism and Israel said glumly that he was getting somewhat discouraged by attending Zionist leadership seminars "where great ideas are produced and refined" but which never seem to get out of the room in which they are discussed. "The worst thing about all this," he said, "is that very little information is getting to the grass roots Jews in small communities where it's really needed because they're isolated and feel the weight of pro-Arab propaganda much more acutely than Jews in cosmopolitan centers."

On the record and also not for attribution, each of the more than dozen Zionists interviewed were asked how they account for this state of affairs. Each one gave almost the same answer, give or take a variation on the basic theme:

The Zionist informational and educational apparatus in this country and Israel is encumbered by a hydra-headed bureaucracy, competition is rife between various Zionist groups and spokesmen for publicity and leverage, a welter of overlapping activities leading to duplicated and wasteful motions, the inability to plan long-range programs, the assumption that some other organization is doing the job, in-fighting between the various organizations when they get together in un-

brella groups, and a tendency to deprecate the day-to-day work of those in the "field" while over-exaggerating the performances by functionaries at the "center."

Much of this criticism was levelled on the record by two persons who are intimately involved in the "center." One was David Friedlander, an Israeli who is the shallack of the Department of Organization and Information of the World Zionist Organization to the American Zionist Federation. The other was Dr. Mordecai Chertoff, the director of public information of the WZO-American Section.

Friedlander, who came to Palestine in 1934 at the age of four, and is currently on leave as spokesman for Technion in Haifa, came to New York a year ago to help the AZF in its public relations and information drive. Dr. Chertoff is a former foreign news editor of the Palestine Post (now the Jerusalem Post), was a United Nations correspondent and news analyst for the now-defunct Israeli newspaper Hador, and was a member of Haganah.

Problem Of Artificial Dissemination

"In the early days, before Statehood, we also had propaganda battles with the Arabs," Dr. Chertoff recalled. "But there is a cultural lag between then and now, an illusion that once a battle was won it was finished. We felt we had answered all the objections to our satisfaction. We don't realize that there is a whole new generation grown up asking the same questions and we assume they should know the answers, but they don't."

Friedlander focussed on a sore point: the competitiveness between the various Zionist groups and leaderships. "We're not only fighting the Arabs, We're also fighting ourselves." He noted that there is a "beautiful community of Jews in this country. They are warm towards Israel. But when it comes to an organizational problem they're still wonderful Jews but every one has an ax to grind. What the WZO puts out is not good enough for the AZF, and what the AZF puts out is not good enough for Hadassah."

Every group, Dr. Chertoff and Friedlander noted, has its own special interests, functions, milieu, and ideology. "The information each puts out focusses on its own activities," Friedlander said. "Zionist information of a general nature is secondary. One million Jews out of six million Jews get material from every organization because all are on the same mailing list, while five million Jews don't get anything."

Along the same lines, Dr. Chertoff observed: "We are simply drowning in organizations. There is no general agreement in handling the broad problems. We can't get any unanimity, any unity in action. The big problem is not the nature of information but who will get the play, whose picture will be sent to the press, who will control what gets into a statement. In short, a unified response to Arab propaganda is virtually impossible because there is a basic lack of rapport between Zionist organizations."

Not Getting To Middle America

But if the problem is the inability to get Zionist information down to the grass roots Jewish communities, there is even a larger problem in getting a consistent and sustained informational and educational message across to the non-Jewish middle American population which is sympathetic to Israel but buffeted by Arab propaganda as it relates to such emotional issues as, "We have a right to return to our homes," "We were forcibly expelled from our land," and, "If Jews from Russia,

