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RABIN, IN HIS INDEPENDENCE DAY MESSAGE, SAYS THE SEARCH FOR PEACE IS 'THE SUPREME PRIORITY'

JERUSALEM, April 21 (JTA)--"The search for peace" was described by Premier Yitzhak Rabin as "the supreme priority" among the "five major challenges" which "together hold the key" to the "collective welfare" of Israel and world Jewry on the 28th anniversary of the independence of the State of Israel. The anniversary will be celebrated May 5 in Israel.

In a message to fellow Israelis and Jews all over the world, Rabin elucidated on the meaning of Israel's Independence Day. He said "It draws a line between past survival by chance and future existence by self-will; of being helplessly controlled by events and of controlling events by our own choice," means and purpose." It is, Rabin's message said, "a celebration of the victory of the Jewish spirit over every suppressor and despot, past and present. It is a Jewish festival of freedom as lasting and as indestructible as the values, the faith and the heritage which inspired it."

As the second "major challenge" after the search for peace, Rabin listed "the strengthening of our defensive capacity" because "so long as the basic attitude of our neighbors remains one of hostility, we have no choice but to continue to invest heavily in our self-defense."

The third challenge, Rabin said, was "the further consolidation of our economic infrastructure; an essential component of Israel's strength is its economic development which must continue to expand. This requires of us to work even harder, export more and consume less. It requires of the free Jewish world to invest in Israel in an unprecedented fashion and share, thereby, in its upbuilding."

Other Challenges Outlined

Rabin listed as the fourth challenge "the closing of the social gap" in Israel. He noted that after 28 years of independence, "we are still engaged in the great human effort to give all our citizens equality of opportunity through better education, better skills, better housing and a better quality of life. Here too," his message said, "Israel continues to look to the generosity of the free Jewish world to give of its best in helping to create with us the instruments to meet the human needs of our society."

The Premier said that the fifth challenge was to further strengthen the bonds between Israel and the Jewish people. "Herein lies the real strength of Israel and of our people everywhere," he said, "our future, like our past, is one. It must be forged ever stronger and ever deeper through a new priority for Jewish education. It has to express itself through a new commitment to allya. And it must be reflected in closer ties of intimacy through volunteer efforts in Israel, visits to Israel in unprecedented numbers, the sharing of mutual interests, public solidarity and an ever meaningful dialogue of thinking."

Rabin said that these Jewish priorities "relate to the welfare of all of us and not least to our brethren in countries where freedom is denied

and--the remnants of communities in Arab countries where they are held hostage and the great Jewish community of the Soviet Union."

The Premier's message also paid tribute to Israel's "sons and daughters who sacrificed all so that we might celebrate this day--those who fell in the struggle for our freedom and in the subsequent battles to protect it. Their legacy is precious and it imposes upon us the common obligation to build a better, a more beautiful and a stronger Israel."

FORD, FISHER DISCUSS U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS; PRESIDENTIAL CAMPAIGN

By Joseph Polakoff

WASHINGTON, April 21 (JTA)--Max Fisher met with President Ford at the White House yesterday for an hour where the two discussed American-Israeli relations and the Presidential campaign. The Detroit industrialist, who is a leader in the Republican Party's high councils, told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency after his meeting with Ford that the President "listened intently" when he suggested that something ought to be done about the Israeli-American flare-up over the \$550 million transitional quarter aid for Israel.

The President, Fisher emphasized, gave no indication to him one way or the other on the Administration's future course on the issue. Fisher expressed himself to JTA as hopeful for a compromise.

The Administration has thus far refused to go along with a Senate formula that would add about \$800 million to the 1976 fiscal year budget to account for the three months prior to Oct. 1 when the new fiscal year 1977 begins. With the President having threatened to veto such legislation, Congress has postponed its decision until its return next week from the Easter recess.

Fisher and Ford also discussed the Mideast situation, but Fisher would not give details about that part of their conversation. Fisher, who is also chairman of the Jewish Agency Board of Governors, just returned from Israel where he had met with Premier Yitzhak Rabin and other top Israeli political authorities. Before leaving for Israel two weeks ago he and Ford had a meeting.

On the U.S. political situation, Fisher lashed out at the "fallacious rumor" that Ford is not interested in the Jewish vote. He said he and the President discussed the importance of the Jewish vote and other matters related to the Presidential campaign. Gen. Brent Scowcroft, Secretary of State Henry A. Kissinger's successor as assistant to the President on Internal Security Affairs, attended yesterday's meeting.

RABBI SEEKS REMOVAL FROM GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY A HYMN WHICH HAS STRONG ANTI-JEWISH ELEMENTS

By Ben Gallob

NEW YORK, April 21 (JTA)--An American rabbinical expert on Catholic-Jewish relations has renewed a long dormant effort to obtain removal from the Catholic Good Friday liturgy of a hymn which has strong anti-Jewish elements.

Called the "Improperia," or "Reproaches," the ancient hymn is sung during the "Veneration

of the Cross." While the term "Jews" does not appear in the hymn, the reference is unmistakable.

The opening verse, as given in English translation in a 1961 study made under American Jewish Committee auspices, "Anti-Jewish Elements in Catholic Liturgy," reads: "O My People, what have I done unto thee? Or in what have I offended thee? Answer Me. Because I led thee out of the land of Egypt, thou has prepared a cross for thy Savior."

The second verse reads, according to the 1961 study, "Because I led thee out of the desert in forty years, and fed thee with manna, and brought thee into a very good land, thou has prepared a cross for thy Savior." Each verse is followed by the refrain: "O My People..."

Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, director of inter-religious affairs of the AJ Committee, said the 1961 study showed that portions of the text of the hymn were efforts to take the Passover "dayenu" of thanks and turn its message against the Jews.

Catholic Officials Urged To Take Action

Tanenbaum earlier in the week sent letters on the problem to Bishop James Rausch, general secretary of the United States Catholic Conference, and to the Rev. John Sheerin, associate director of the Bishops Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations. He also wrote to the Rev. Frederick McManus, dean of the graduate school at Catholic University in Washington and a specialist in Catholic liturgy and a former president of the National Catholic Liturgical Association.

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops has a liturgical commission which reportedly has discussed modifications or elimination of the hymn but has not taken official action on making such a recommendation to the full American Catholic hierarchy.

Tanenbaum told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the AJ Committee is asking the Catholic officials to put the matter on their agendas for attention and possible action. He said Archbishop John R. Quinn of Oklahoma City is chairman of the bishops' liturgical commission and that Rausch could formally bring the issue to the Archbishop's attention for official action.

Tanenbaum said his office arranged for the 1961 study at the request of the late Augustin Cardinal Bea, then President of the Secretariat for Christian Unity. The study, one of three on possible sources of anti-Jewish hostility in Catholic teachings, was made at Bea's request after he was assigned by Pope John the responsibility of preparing the schema on Catholic-Jewish Relations for Vatican Council II.

The rabbi said the Cardinal asked that the study on liturgy be kept confidential because he was then under tremendous pressure against any changes in the liturgy from Arab-Catholic clergy and from ultra-Orthodox Catholic theologians who firmly believed that the Jews had crucified Jesus and deserved punishment for their "sins."

Some Success Noted

Tanenbaum said that the initial cooperative efforts at improving Catholic-Jewish relations, growing out of Vatican Council II decisions, had been aimed at eliminating anti-Jewish references from Catholic textbooks so that future generations of Catholics would not be exposed to such anti-Jewish teachings. He told the JTA that there were no such references in any Catholic textbook

published last year, marking the success of a 10-year effort.

In his letter to Rausch, Tanenbaum noted the elimination of anti-Jewish content from Catholic teaching materials and added that "for some inexplicable reasons, much less attention has been paid to similar problems in liturgy." He recalled that Pope John had removed the "perfidious Jew" prayer from the Good Friday service but that "little systematic work has been done in liturgy" on that problem.

Until 1970, when the English translation of the hymn became available, the "Improperia" had been sung in Latin and its implications reportedly were not understood. The issue surfaced this year when Kenneth A. Briggs, religious editor of the New York Times, who is a Catholic, became aware of the anti-Jewish elements of the hymn and discussed it with a number of Catholic clerical leaders, including Rausch, McManus, Sheerin and others.

Briggs reported, in an article in the Times which appeared the day after Good Friday, that some of the Catholic dignitaries felt that the hymn failed to conform to a set of guidelines on Catholic-Jewish relations issued in January 1975 which requires that the Catholic church evaluate its liturgy for possible anti-Jewish references.

Time Consuming Process

In his letter to Rausch, Tanenbaum said he had sent some of the findings of the 1961 study to Briggs in the belief that enough time had elapsed since 1961 to permit such release and that he was also making the findings available to Rausch and the other Catholic leaders.

Tanenbaum also wrote Rausch that "we would authorize you to make this available to the appropriate commissions or persons who would be responsible for undertaking any program of revision of negative or injurious references to Jews or Judaism in present-day liturgical materials."

Tanenbaum added that, after those commissions or persons made a study of the 1961 findings, "perhaps it would be in order to consider issuing a set of guidelines dealing specifically with the removal of negative references and the incorporation of more affirmative liturgical expressions that would advance the cause of Catholic-Jewish understanding."

Tanenbaum said that to make such changes, the nation's bishops would have to request permission from the Vatican. This is understood to be a time-consuming process.

ANTI-BOYCOTT RESOLUTIONS PRESENTED AT BANKS' SHAREHOLDERS MEETINGS

NEW YORK, April 21 (JTA)--Identical resolutions sponsored by the American Jewish Congress which require corporate disclosures of participation in the Arab boycott of firms doing business with Israel or in Arab discrimination against Jews were presented yesterday at the annual shareholders meetings of the Bankers Trust Co. and the Chase Manhattan Corp.

Will Maslow, general counsel of the AJ Congress, submitted the resolution at the Bankers Trust meeting on the basis of a proxy given him by an AJ Congress member who is a stockholder in that corporation. Phil Baum, the AJ Congress' associate executive director, offered the resolution at the meeting of Chase Manhattan shareholders. The AJ Congress holds five shares of Chase Manhattan stock.

The resolution was defeated at both share-

holders meetings. But it gleaned 300,000 votes among Bankers Trust shareholders, about five percent of the six million shares voted, which automatically qualifies the resolution for inclusion on the agenda of next year's shareholders meeting, according to an AJCongress spokesman.

Rank And File Support

He told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the organization was "immensely gratified" by the support it received from "rank and file" stockholders in the Bankers Trust voting. He noted that the AJCongress had not solicited proxies because of the great expense involved in writing to all stockholders. It entered the meeting with only 100 shares--the proxies for which were assigned by an AJCongress member--and emerged with 300,000 votes which constitutes a "victory," the spokesman said.

The results of the Chase Manhattan voting were not immediately available. But an identical resolution presented at the shareholders meeting in Boston yesterday of the E.G. & G. Co., an electronics manufacturer, gained 7.2 percent of the votes, the AJCongress reported.

Maslow and Baum presented statements at the Bankers Trust and Chase Manhattan meetings charging that the respective banks admittedly processed letters of credit from Arab importers which require American exporters to certify that they are in compliance with the boycott.

They pointed out that this was in violation of a Dec. 12, 1975 directive by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System which stipulated that "The participation of a U.S. bank, even passively, in efforts by foreign nationals to effect boycotts against other foreign countries, friendly to the United States--particularly where such boycott efforts may cause discrimination against United States citizens or businesses--is, in the Board's view, a misuse of the privileges and benefits conferred upon banking institutions."

HIAS OFFICIALS REPORT ON JEWISH SITUATION IN SOUTH AMERICA

NEW YORK, April 21 (JTA)--Carl Glick, HIAS president, and Gaynor I. Jacobson, executive vice-president, who have just returned from a fact-finding mission to major Jewish communities in Argentina, Chile, Brazil and Uruguay, reported that they met with diplomats of the United States and other nations, Jewish community leaders, officials of the Intergovernmental Commission on European Migration and the United Nations High Commission on Refugees.

According to Glick, a major concern of HIAS was the well-being of 500,000 Argentinian Jews. Under the Peronist government, the country had suffered from political turmoil, social unrest and heavy inflation pressures. The HIAS group arrived in Buenos Aires simultaneously with the revolutionary takeover by a military government. In support of the new regime, the Jewish community participates in the rebuilding of the country and hopes for an end to instability and urban terror.

The Jewish communities of Santiago, Chile and Montevideo, Uruguay are primarily middle class and have suffered serious economic distress as a result of rampant inflation. The great majority of Jews in Chile and Uruguay support the present military governments. While coping with the ongoing pressure of inflation, the Jewish communities are maintaining their religious and

educational institutions; Glick and Jacobson reported.

Brazilian Jews Have Most Freedom

They observed that Brazil afforded its citizens the largest measure of freedom of those nations visited. This was strikingly indicated when a delegation of Brazilian Jewish leaders were encouraged to visit with President Ernesto Geisel to express concern about Brazil's anti-Zionist vote in the UN in November 1975.

It was indicated to the Jewish community that this position in the UN reflected Brazil's large balance of payments deficit caused principally by the increase in the price of imported oil and efforts to encourage Arab petro-dollar investments.

While in Brazil, the HIAS representatives were cordially received by Foreign Minister Azaredo da Silveira and Justice Minister Armando Falcao. The ministers expressed high regard for the constructive accomplishments of the Brazilian Jewish community. Glick and Jacobson were accompanied on their tour by Fred Weinstein, HIAS director of Latin American operations.

VOTING PATTERN STUDY SHOWS HOW JEWS MAY VOTE IN PRESIDENTIAL ELECTION

BOSTON, April 21 (JTA)--American Jews overwhelmingly prefer the Democratic Party to the Republicans and overwhelmingly support Sen. Henry M. Jackson of Washington over President Ford or Gov. George C. Wallace of Alabama in the 1976 Presidential race, according to a recently published study by the Institute of Politics of the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

The study, "Voters, Primaries and Parties," tabulated voter preferences according to religious affiliation in only two areas--"voting behavior" and choice of candidate. In the first category, only three percent of Jewish voters favored the Republican Party against nine percent of Roman Catholic voters and 17 percent of Protestants.

Among Jews, 56 percent indicated they would vote Democratic compared to 43 percent of Catholics and 38 percent of Protestants. Thirty percent of the Jewish voters were "ticket splitters" compared to 36 percent of Catholics and 34 percent of Protestants. Among Jews and Protestants, 11 percent were undecided. Twelve percent of the Catholic voters were in the undecided column.

Ford, Jackson and Wallace, the latter designated as an "independent" were pitted against each other in the hypothetical question, if the elections were held today, who would you vote for? Jews picked Jackson by 64 percent; 17 percent were for Ford and three percent for Wallace. Ford was favored, however, by the largest number of Catholics (33%) and Protestants (30%). Twenty-six percent of Catholics preferred Jackson and 21 percent Wallace. Jackson and Wallace were tied among Protestants, each favored by 24 percent of the voters.

The study was made before the 1976 Presidential primaries began and was just released. It did not contain any indication of voter attitudes toward Jimmy Carter, Morris Udall and others seeking the Democratic Presidential nomination or Sen. Hubert H. Humphrey, who is not a declared candidate but is regarded by many as a strong contender. Ronald Reagan was not included as a possible Republican choice.

AJ CONGRESS TERMS CATHOLIC LEAGUE CHARGE OBSCENE, OUTRAGEOUS SLUR

NEW YORK, April 21 (JTA)--The American Jewish Congress strongly rejected today a charge that its support of legalized abortion meant it had adopted "the posture of legal positivism, the very ideology that enabled Hitler to pursue his genocidal policies."

Naomi Levine, executive director of the AJ Congress, said that "any comparison between the right of a woman to have an abortion and the Nazi slaughter of the Jews is an obscene and outrageous slur on the memory of the six million murdered in the Holocaust."

The charge against the AJ Congress was made by Dr. Lowell A. Dunlap, assistant executive director of the Catholic League for Religious and Civil Rights in a study called, "Neo-Nazism in America?" He specifically took issue with arguments presented by Leo Pfeffer, counsel to the AJ Congress, in a brief filed by the AJ Congress and seven other groups before the Massachusetts Supreme Court seeking reversal of the manslaughter conviction of Dr. Kenneth Edelin, who was charged with causing the death of a fetus

Many Groups Were Attacked

In a statement issued by Mrs. Levine, she said: "Dr. Dunlap's irresponsible statement, while singling out the American Jewish Congress is in fact an attack on all the organizations that with us signed the friend-of-the-court brief in the Edelin case--the American Ethical Union, American Humanist Association, Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church, National Women's Conference of the American Ethical Union, Union of American Hebrew Congregations, Unitarian Universalist Association and United Church Board for Homeland Ministries."

Continuing, Mrs. Levine said: "The kind of mentality represented by Dr. Dunlap underscores the need for a nationwide educational effort to insure that Americans understand how the drive for anti-abortion laws impairs the basic rights of religious freedom, privacy and equality. We respect the religious and conscientious scruples of those who reject the practice of abortion. However, to the extent that these persons would embody those scruples in law binding on all persons, we vigorously oppose them."

BOSTON CITY COUNCIL ADOPTS RESOLUTION AGAINST ARAB BOYCOTT

BOSTON, April 21 (JTA)--The City Council has adopted unanimously a resolution declaring that, "as a matter of public policy, the City of Boston declares that it will not trade with any company or corporation which practices discrimination against persons of Jewish faith."

The resolution, drafted by Councillor Christopher A. Ianello and adopted earlier this month, added that the city's "Director of Administrative Services and the Purchasing Agent be... requested and directed to enforce the above policy with respect to all goods and services purchased by the city." Ianello noted that the Arab League has been promoting practices which include discrimination against "the hiring of persons of the Jewish faith; the serving in managerial or executive positions of persons of the Jewish faith; trade with the State of Israel; or the ownership of such companies by persons of the Jewish faith."

Despite the unanimous passage of the resolu-

tion, one of the City Council members, in retrospect, condemned the move. Councillor Frederick C. Langone said the Council action was "polarizing people" and called Ianello a "demagogue" for proposing it. "What are we doing taking sides in the Arab-Israeli dispute?" Langone asked. "Whatever we say in this dispute is meaningless, not worth the paper it is written on."

An aide to Ianello said: "We are not anti-Arab, we are anti-discrimination. We sponsored another resolution recently deploring violence in Lebanon." The aide said Ianello's teen-age son is an altar boy at Cedars of Lebanon Church in Jamaica Plain, a largely Lebanese congregation.

Albert Schlossberg, president of the Jewish Community Council of Metropolitan Boston, in a letter to Ianello, wrote: "We applaud your courageous and forthright stand, which is in the best tradition of America. As you so well understand, the Arab boycott does not only harm members of the Jewish faith, but it discriminates against all true believers of democracy and the principles of free movement and free trade."

ABZUG RAPS U.S. ARMS SALES

NEW YORK, April 21 (JTA)--Noting that the U.S. has sold more than \$12 billion in military weapons and equipment to Saudi Arabia, Iran and other Persian Gulf oil states in the past three years, Congresswoman Bella S. Abzug (D-L NY) yesterday called for a halt to such sales as a way of strengthening the chances for peace in the Middle East. In a speech to an Overseas Press Club luncheon at the Hotel Biltmore, Abzug also criticized the Ford Administration's "long-range plan to sell arms to Egypt."

"Congress has gone along with the U.S. sale of six C-130 military transport planes to Egypt after winning a commitment from Secretary Kissinger that the U.S. will not supply Egypt with any more military equipment this year," she said. "But I think it is becoming increasingly clear that if President Ford were to be reelected, he would be back next year with requests for military aid to Egypt. It is also evident that the so-called U.S. even-handed policy in the Middle East is tipping toward the Arab nations."

The Ford Administration, Abzug noted, has argued that Egypt needs a "symbolic" gesture of tangible military support from the United States in order to assure its continued cooperation. "The only problem with this is that symbols have a way of turning into tanks and missiles, and Israel can feel no assurance that these weapons will not be pointed at her," she said.

"If Israel is expected to follow up the Sinai pact with further concessions, it has a right to expect that the U.S. will stop selling arms to its present and potential enemies."

AMSTERDAM (JTA)--The Iraqi authorities have refused to hand over the body of Alexander Aaronson, the Dutch Jew executed last December, or even to let his mother see his remains. Mrs. Aaronson returned to Holland last night from a two-week stay in Baghdad where she tried to obtain permission to bring her son's remains to Amsterdam for burial. She was not allowed to see either the body or any of her son's personal belongings and was given only three rings, including his wedding ring, which he wore at the time of his execution. Mrs. Aaronson was granted an Iraqi visa on April 6 and left for Baghdad the following day.