

January-February 1961

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AZC-PR

PRINTED MATERIAL OF GENERAL INTEREST

The Daily Press of the Nation

Analysis and Highlights -- During this period the press gave considerable attention to the BG Statement at the World Zionist Congress, the Lavon affair, BG's resignation and the Jews of Morocco. Generally speaking, press treatment of these stories was fair. In late February, there was a noticeable increase in stories devoted to the Nazi era in Germany and the Eichmann case. Treatment of Nasser, when it did appear, was frequently critical. Israel's aid to African countries continues to stay in the news. Most press features on Israel were favorable.

The opposition groups took the initiative, as in the past, via letters to the editor on such subjects as BG's speech on Aliyah, the Eichmann case, Israel's reactor, the Lavon affair and Israel's "discrimination" against its minorities. Among the more prominent letter writers were Hans Kohn, Edna Ferber, and Hamilton Fish.

The AZC Effort -- We continue to monitor the press and watch for hostile material to which we send or stimulate replies. 45 letters were submitted (excluding the letters to LIFE Magazine) during the period covered and most of these were printed. (We also arranged for the Lehman letter to go to 14 newspapers in addition to The New York Times.) In addition, background briefings by our speakers and local contacts were arranged with 32 editors... We also took the initiative in sending letters to papers throughout the country attacking Nasser on issues wholly unrelated to the Arab-Israel controversy.

The daily press of the country remains generally sympathetic to Israel, although some papers continue to question the right or the wisdom of trying Eichmann in Israel. (The most critical editorial on this subject appeared in the Richmond News Leader, and it was effectively answered.) We are arranging for material on Eichmann to go to press editors.

Magazines, Writers and Publications

LIFE Magazine (February 17) carried a hostile editorial titled: "The Crisis in Zionism". The AZC stimulated several hundred letters to the publication in disagreement with the editorial; a meeting with one of the editors has also been held and under consideration is a piece on Zionism to be prepared by us which they may print... LIFE, it should be said, has given rather good treatment to the Eichmann situation. Several other publications are preparing articles on the Eichmann case.

The three major news weeklies - TIME, NEWSWEEK and U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT - have also been sympathetic in their treatment of the Eichmann case... There were favorable pieces on other items in other publications: THE REPORTER, NEWSWEEK and the NATION. The NEWSWEEK piece exposing Nasser's bid for support in Africa was reprinted by us and is being distributed... We stimulated a number of letters to publications replying to material on Toynbee and to American Council for Judaism letters. Some of our letters were printed.

Our Magazine Committee, under the chairmanship of Morton Yarmon, continues to meet regularly. Oscar Schisgall's piece: "The Sound of Singing in Israel" will appear in the May issue of the READER'S DIGEST.

Specialized Publications

The UN REVIEW, EDITOR AND PUBLISHER and PROGRESSIVE ARCHITECTURE carried articles dealing with the Arab Refugees, Eichmann and the Hadassah Hospital. None of these required any counteraction.

Books

Dr. Joseph Schechtman's book "On Wings of Eagles" will be published by Yoseloff this spring. It deals with the plight, exodus and homecoming of Oriental Jewry... Work continues on a book which will deal with the anti-Israel groups in this country... Work continues also on the book dealing with the situation of the Copts in Egypt... "Science and the New Nations" by Ruth Gruber will be published late this spring by Basic Books.

Books Recently Published -- "A Century of U.S. Aliya" by P.E. Lapido, published by the Association of Americans and Canadians in Israel; it is recommended... "Common Sense About the Arab World", by Erskine Childers; it cannot be called friendly, although its author begrudgingly gives Israel its due now and again... "The Near East in History" by Philip Hitti; the author admits certain truths usually denied by Arab propagandists, but also plays upon the theme of Israel expansionism.

OUR SPEAKERS PROGRAM

Speakers Bureau One -- During January and February there were 347 appearances in 96 cities and 26 states and 7 additional engagements reported for December, bringing the total to 354 engagements.

Speakers Bureau Two -- During this period there were 87 speaking engagements in 61 communities.

Thus, during the first two months of 1961 there were 441 speaking engagements.

Some of the Conferences serviced under our program included:

1. "Spotlight on the Middle East" -- University of Utah, February 1-15, where our efforts were more successful than we anticipated considering that our friends on the faculty were outnumbered and because of the preponderance of Arab students on the campus.
2. The 15th Annual Harvard-Princeton-Yale Hillel Colloquium (held at Yale) February 10-12. The theme was "The Relationship of the American Jew to Israel" and 300 students, including girls from Wellesley and Radcliffe, participated.

There were also extended tours involving Ruth Gruber, Mrs. Irene Margolis; orientation sessions for graduate theological students; panel discussions at the University of the Pacific; and the International Relations Conference at Wayland Baptist College in Texas.

Some communities (Philadelphia, Miami Beach, San Francisco, and Los Angeles) are planning to augment our speakers program by establishing local speakers bureaus. This involves recruitment, training and placement of speakers on local platforms.

CHRISTIAN RELIGIOUS GROUPS

Sessions of the Commission on Inter-Religious Affairs, under the chairmanship of Rabbi Judah Nadich, were held in January and February. Additional members have been added to the Commission whose work has grown to the point where it requires more staff assistance... The Institute for Christian Clergy to be sponsored by the New York Board of Rabbis, will be held on April 13 at the House of Living Judaism; an attendance of approximately 80 clergymen is expected... We are also hoping to run an Institute for Christian Clergy in San Diego later in the spring.

Protestants -- The Church press devoted considerable attention to BG's statement in Jerusalem before the World Zionist Congress and has also concentrated on the Eichmann case, on which issue some of the press has been quite critical. In some cases the American Council for Judaism's position is referred to favorably; it has undoubtedly had an effect on Christians.

The Christian Century continues to print pro and con letters commenting on Mrs. Bro's critical piece on Israel; the letter submitted by our friends have been quite effective. Dr. Nelson Glueck, whose remarks were distorted by a spokesman of the ACJ, is writing the publication to clarify his position... Together had a damaging article titled, "Still No Room in Bethlehem". We stimulated a number of letters in reply... The ACJ had a letter in The Churchman attacking Dr. Israel Goldstein's proposal for a "World Academy of Peace" on the grounds that being a Zionist, he is incapable of acting as a citizen of the world... Our photo stories continue to appear in church journals.

It has been reported that the attitude on the part of the missionary groups within the National Council of Churches and the Foreign Mission Boards of the various denominations has softened considerably on matters relating to Israel.

Catholics -- Much of the Catholic comment on the BG statement and on the Eichmann case was unfriendly. The Boston Pilot has virtually carried on a crusade on the latter issue... The Brooklyn Tablet memorialized Dorothy Thompson... America reported recent restrictions in the Arab world on the freedom of Christian schools... A favorable article on Israel is being submitted to Ave Maria which recently published Rabbi Dolgin's letter replying to Father Wagner's hostile piece which had appeared earlier.

RADIO, TV, FILMS

The TV-Radio Committee, under Edna Epstein's chairmanship, has met regularly. Current activity is concentrated on programming for the Israel Anniversary period; approximately 20 producers have already been contacted and we anticipate good results. AZC is proceeding also with its traditional radio documentary which is being offered to stations throughout the country.

During January and February we arranged for 59 film showings... Our speakers were interviewed on 42 TV and Radio programs.

Program producers of both local and network shows are doing their best to build programs on the Eichmann case, and they generally prefer to inject controversy by finding dissenting Jewish viewpoints; in this they were undoubtedly being encouraged by the Council for Judaism. The excitement generated by the Eichmann case has made it impossible, in some cases, to dissuade them from their objectives; it is anticipated, therefore, that some shows will feature unfavorable positions presented by ACJ people. It is becoming evident that we will have to reenforce the work of our own TV-Radio Committee by finding personalities of more than average stature who will be in a position to approach top network officials and in this work we shall be seeking the assistance of the non-Zionists, and more particularly of the religious bodies.

ACADEMIC CIRCLES

The Inter-University Committee on Israel continues to meet regularly under Dean Jacob Hartstein's chairmanship and it is at work in firming up a program of activities; this program will require some funds and staff assistance. Currently, work is proceeding on preparation of a Unit on Israel (about 100 pages) for use by Jr. and Sr. High School teachers. The Committee plans to find and recruit nuclei of friendly academicians in areas outside of the Greater New York Area.

Arab
The Student Area -- The 5,000/students in the U.S., organized into 65 chapters, continue the pace of their propaganda. It is in the smaller communities where we are lacking in contacts that they are most damaging although it should be pointed out that in many areas, they are being effectively countered by our friends, including the Israel Students and the Student Zionists... Arab students have become more active in Central and Northern California.

A partial scholarship is being offered to an Israel student to transfer to the Monterey Peninsula College where propaganda carried on by three Arab professors has been most harmful... Mrs. Lasdon of Schenectady has been instrumental in obtaining the cooperation of Union College in creating a scholarship for an Israel student there.

Our campaign in finding and orienting campus delegations which are to represent Israel at Model U.N. Assemblies has been most successful; a number of such Assemblies have already been held where Israel's case has been most capably presented.

The Faculty Area -- We continue to cultivate faculty people in many areas and are making progress here... Unfriendly faculty: Efforts are being made by our friends in the San Francisco area to persuade Stanford to drop Fayez Sayegh from the faculty on the grounds that he is a paid propagandist rather than an objective academician. Talks have been held with Prof. Oscar Handlin who recently addressed the American Council for Judaism meeting in New York... Dr. Zucker at the University of Utah is at work attempting to obtain endowment of a chair to be held by a Jew who should be a distinguished Semiticist, and the prospects seem favorable. This campus is especially significant as it is staffed with Arab professors and its 50 Arab students are highly active.

Miscellaneous -- Ambassador Harman will be the guest of Fordham University in April... We are currently at work in arranging for speakers for the World Affairs Conference at the University of Colorado in Boulder... The Harvard Law School World Tax Series, as a result of efforts of our New England office, will do a study of Israel's tax system... St. Louis University, in cooperation with the American Association of Middle East Studies, will sponsor a Conference on the Middle East in November with Prof. Mihanovich as chairman; Mrs. Meltzer was most helpful in this project... The February issue of the Institute of International Education News Bulletin carried an article on the Peace Corps; Israel's assistance to African students was pointed up as an example of what could be done.

ORGANIZATIONS, PROJECTS, CURRENT ISSUES

National Organizations -- We are covering the Middle East Institute Conference in Washington this April... We will also have two representatives in attendance at the Conference of the Academy of Political and Social Science to be held in Philadelphia... Colleges and universities are increasingly turning to the American Association for Middle East Studies for guidance and assistance in matters relating to the Middle East... We are covering the Annual Meeting of the AAUN in Washington... The American Christian Palestine Committee is giving serious consideration to its future structure and operations. The final issue of Land Reborn will appear in late April.

Israel's 13th Anniversary -- The Department has sent out memoranda on this subject to our community contacts with detailed suggestions as to projects and activities to be carried on locally to bring this Anniversary to the attention of the general and Jewish public. Program materials are also being made available. We are utilizing all phases of the mass media in this project. Scores of communities have already notified us of their

plans to run community celebrations, arrange ceremonies at City Hall, etc... New York City will again sponsor its tribute to Israel in City Hall Plaza on April 20.

The Eichmann Case -- This issue is currently taking up much of our staff time. Literally hundreds of requests for material have been serviced. The various subcommittees of the AZC have devoted attention to it; the Commission on Inter-Religious Affairs is sending an Eichmann Kit to rabbis throughout the country as well as to Christian clergymen; we have also arranged for similar mailings to press editors, church editors, etc. The opposition on this issue is coming primarily from ACJ sources, reinforced by the Arabs and some church publications. Our greatest difficulties on this issue have been in the area of TV and Radio. Attention has also been given to providing U.S. journalists assigned to cover the trial in Jerusalem background material on the moral and legal aspects of the case... In all of our efforts on this issue, we have had the complete cooperation of the major non-Zionist organizations.

The opposition forces on this issue have also involved the Communists here whose propaganda is beginning to raise its head. Their aim: (1) to discredit the Germany of today, and (2) to attack Zionists and Israel so as to help the Arab cause along.

Professor Toynbee -- Prof. Arnold Toynbee was invited to spend about five months in this country; his base is the University of Pennsylvania. Included in his plans are about 50 lectures (to be delivered primarily before academic groups) and TV and radio appearances.

He was invited to McGill for a period of 10 days during which he gave a number of talks without once referring to Israel or the Jewish people. It was only when the Hillel Foundation there invited him to talk that he blathered away at Israel and his remarks were carried widely. Ambassador Herzog then invited him to debate and additional attention was given to Toynbee's remarks.

When Toynbee accusations first broke in the press, we called together the major non-Zionist groups and evolved a common policy: (1) Discourage all Jewish groups for issuing invitations to Toynbee; (2) Monitor all public appearances and refrain from bringing up the subject of Israel or the Jews unless Toynbee raises the subject in his presentation. The two recommendations were carried out.

Toynbee's record here shows that by and large he has not been the one to bring up the subject; generally, some Jew in the audience has goaded him on the subject... We provided our community contacts with material they could use should the situation warrant it; this material has been used effectively in several situations... Toynbee will address the ACJ annual conference in May.

Cultivation of Special Groups -- The Special Committee, of which Mr. Bernard Harkavy is the chairman, is concentrating in the Negro field as well as among liberal and labor elements. Discussions have been held with Negro leaders... A program for the other elements is now under consideration... Our photo stories continue to appear in the Negro press.

VISITORS TO ISRAEL

Because of budgetary considerations, we have curtailed our activities in this area considerably. A small subsidy was given to Miss Margaret Kohl of the University of California at Berkeley; she is a 4H Club Specialist attached to the Agricultural Extension Service at the school. Dr. Clarence E. Downing of the University of Redlands, Redlands, California, was also given assistance. Other subsidies are under consideration for spring visits, and a few commitments have been made for the summer... The ACPC is at work in organizing its Annual Study Tour to the Middle East... Briefings continue to be given to individuals and tours leaving for the Middle East under various auspices... Most of the tours leaving under Christian religious auspices spend several weeks in the Arab lands and only several days in Israel.

Our representative in Israel continues to look after visiting Christian personalities, arranging briefings, hospitality, etc. A reception was arranged for Prof. Gustav von Grunebaum, leading Middle East expert at the University of California (UCIA). Also given special attention was the Rev. Samuel Pugh, editor of World Call, international magazine of the Disciples of Christ, in Indianapolis.

We continue to try to make contact with those who have gone to Israel under other auspices following their return in order to advance our p.r. program.

THE ORGANIZED OPPOSITION

We have in previous reports referred to the close cooperation which exists between the Arabs, the American Friends of the Middle East, and the American Council for Judaism. A very concrete example of their intimate liaison was brought vividly to our attention: Davidson College (North Carolina) authorities in February invited an Arab to appear on a platform to debate with an Israel spokesman. When the Arab speaker was unable to appear, the invitation was turned over to the Council for Judaism whose spokesman appeared to "present the other side" in opposition to the Israeli. (P.S.: the Israel speaker did a far superior job.)

The Arabs -- Officials have been active as usual on speaker platforms (concentrating heavily now in the California area), but we are managing to reach the same platforms. Those most active were: Abu-Diab, AIC Director in Chicago; Mawlawi, his assistant; Hadawi of their Dallas office; Batal in the Florida area; Sawabini, Director of the American Middle East Relief, operating in the New England area; Mehdi, Director of the AIC in San Francisco; Said, History Instructor at Monterey Peninsula College; and Hassan of the Arab States Delegation.

American Friends of the Middle East -- The January and February meetings of AFME's New York Chapter did not touch on Israel... AFME is establishing a "Dorothy Thompson Fund" to make travel and study grants to the Middle East... Its "Newsletter" lauds Fulbright for stepping "forward to call attention to the dangers of these (Zionist) pressures"... AFME's influence and effectiveness, it appears to us, has been somewhat diminished, except in the academic area where, because of adequate funds available, it makes it possible for professors and foreign student advisors to spend considerable time in Arab countries.

American Council for Judaism -- ACJ continues to grind out its literature at an amazing pace; this consists of their regular publications, special reprints, photo offets, etc. An educated estimate is that they are spending about \$600,000 annually, with most of it going into their anti-Zionist program... They distributed a 32-page booklet dealing with the recent World Zionist Congress.

Prof. Oscar Handlin addressed their February 27 meeting in New York and he also contributed an article on Eichmann to their "Issues". We have had people in Boston and New York speak to Handlin, who insists he is not a member of ACJ... Berger recently visited the West Coast to make some speeches; we placed Ruth Gruber on the same platforms... We have alerted our friends in Philadelphia to take appropriate warranted counteraction to the ACJ Annual Conference which takes place there May 4-7.

The ACJ is today the most effective anti-Zionist and anti-Israel force on the American scene. It continues its aggressive campaign and is concentrating on the mass media and in church circles. Its success is due primarily to the fact that being a Jewish organization (they operate under the term "Judaism") it becomes acceptable to those in the communications field who thrive on controversy and who can now present "another Jewish point of view". Its position also finds an echo among those Christians - who, either because of some degree of latent anti-Semitism or because of obligations to the Arabs - can also now join the fray without fear of being called anti-Semitic; ("I am in good Jewish company").

Whatever the reasons, the ACJ will require much more attention on our part now than in the past. In this campaign we will need the assistance of the non-Zionists and especially that of the organized Jewish religious leadership. It is the task of the AZC to stimulate, mobilize and direct this effort, and will require the services of a full-time staff person.

MAILINGS AND ROUTINE

Hundreds of separate requests for materials or information (we do not keep statistical tabulation on this) via correspondence, phone calls and visitors to our office have been serviced... Lists are constantly in need of revision; we are short of adequate clerical assistance and the work, therefore, suffers... Useful material is written, mimeographed or reprinted and mailings go out routinely to field offices, community contacts, public opinion molders in all categories, etc. During January and February, 16 literature items were produced (or processed) and mailed to many thousands of people. The above takes up a good deal of staff time.

OBSERVATIONS

The work of the Department has grown to the point where we are falling behind due to lack of personnel on both the executive and clerical staff level. Also, the various subcommittee chairmen expect more staff assistance from AZC. If this cannot be supplied, we should re-evaluate the scope of our responsibility - and, if necessary, cut down that responsibility to what is realistically feasible of achievement.