

Sunday, December 5, 1948

JTA *Daily News Bulletin*

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

106 EAST 41st STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

DECISION ON ISRAELI MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION POSTPONED BY UNITED NATIONS COMMITTEE

PARIS, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- A coalition in the United Nations consisting of China, Syria, the United Kingdom, Belgium and Canada held up immediate consideration of Israel's application for admission to the U.N., which has been consistently supported by the United States. The Security Council membership committee which was considering the application tonight adjourned until after the Political Committee reports to the General Assembly on Palestine.

During the debate, Britain and China joined in demanding that prior solution of the whole Palestine problem be found before the membership committee of the Security Council acts on the Israeli application. France and China favored adjournment until the Political Committee of the General Assembly reaches its final stage of work on the Palestine issue.

France added a proviso that a decision should also be reached first by the General Assembly. John G. Ross for the United States said he would defer to the desire for postponement if the committee would be reconvened by the chairman a half-day or a day after the Political Committee's final decision.

Valentine Lawford of the United Kingdom suggested that the sub-committee report back to the Security Council without recommending a decision on Israel's application and that the Council should do the rest after the Political Committee finished its work.

It is evident that the United States delegation, which alone pressed for consideration today, needs more time to persuade the wavering delegations of France, Canada and Belgium to vote in favor of Israel's prompt admission. Approaches had been made to all three countries at the highest levels in the last 24 hours.

POLITICAL COMMITTEE DEFEATS PROPOSAL TO GIVE ARAB PART OF PALESTINE TO TRANSJORDAN

PARIS, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The Political Committee of the U.N. General Assembly today continued voting on the British proposals for a final solution of the Palestine problem and all amendments to the resolution.

Among the multitude of paragraphs and sub-sections voted on an item-by-item basis by the top-ranking committee of the Assembly, few backed by the Anglo-American bloc failed to pass. Among the most important defeats suffered today by the British delegation was the Committee's rejection of a proposal to hand over to Transjordan the Arab part of Palestine. The vote on this section was 24 against, 18 for and 12 abstentions. This was a second major proposal of the Bernadotte plan which was buried by the U.N.

In place of instructions to the conciliation commission to consider the Bernadotte recommendations in seeking a final solution, which was defeated in the Committee yesterday, Dean Rusk of the U.S. delegation and Lester Pearson of Canada, offered an amendment which was accepted overwhelmingly. In effect, the U.S.-Canadian amendment rendered vague the instructions of the U.N. to the conciliation commission. In

its final form it said that the Committee "instructs the conciliation commission to take steps to assist the governments and authorities concerned to achieve a settlement."

Conciliation Commission Asked to Plan Internationalization of Jerusalem

Over the continuing objections of Israeli Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok, the Committee adopted the British proposal that the conciliation commission draft a plan for the internationalization of Jerusalem. The original proposal, plus Columbian and French amendments, also provided that the city be demilitarized, that the U.N. Trusteeship Council be responsible for its administration, and that the city be made accessible to all inhabitants of Palestine.

The committee also adopted a paragraph of the British resolution, calling for international protection of the Holy Places. The Political Committee also voted to instruct the commission to seek arrangements to facilitate the economic development of Palestine, as recommended by Count Bernadotte. Other votes called on the governments concerned to cooperate with the commission and to assist in the implementation of the over-all resolution on Palestine, and ordered the commission to report periodically to the Security Council and U.N. members.

Another vote called for the return of the Arab refugees to Palestine as early as practicable, without awaiting the conclusion of a formal peace. The conciliation commission was also instructed to facilitate their repatriation, economic rehabilitation, the payment of compensation to them and to maintain close relations with the U.N. director of relief for the refugees.

Another major point which was rejected, was a recommendation to the Security Council that after the establishment of frontiers in Palestine any attempt to alter them by force should be regarded as an act of aggression.

Shertok Gives Views of Demilitarization of Jerusalem, Control of Shrines

At various times during the day, Shertok voiced the Israeli position on the Israeli caretaking of shrines of all religions, on international control of the Holy Places and on the proposed demilitarization of Jerusalem. On the last problem, the Israeli Minister said:

"At the time the acting mediator studied this problem he concluded that demilitarization would not do, but that on the contrary Jerusalem would have to be militarized and a large international force would have to be introduced. Anyhow, the Jews of Jerusalem will not be able at this stage of uncertainty in Palestine and in the world at large to rely on a token force for safety after the experiences of the past year. I submit, therefore, that at this stage we should reach no definite decision as to the status of Jerusalem and should leave the whole question to the conciliation commission which should study the matter on the spot for later conclusions and a report-back and final decision at a later stage."

The Israeli Government was doing its utmost to help the Nazareth Arabs get jobs or relief, Shertok said. All religious buildings in Nazareth were intact and worship was proceeding regularly. "The supreme Catholic authorities in Galilee expressed complete satisfaction with the arrangements," Shertok declared. "I would like to reaffirm our full, whole-hearted agreement with the supervision of all Holy Places and shrines all over Palestine."

FORMER ARAB MAYOR OF JERUSALEM WILL ARRIVE IN ISRAEL TO HEAD ARABS IN ELECTIONS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Ragheb Nashashibi, former mayor of Jerusalem, who is now in Europe, will arrive in Israel soon to head the Arabs in Israel in the forthcoming national elections, it was reliably reported here today. The return of Nashashibi to Israel would give the Arabs in the Jewish state a prominent leader. The Nashashibi family has always been strongly opposed to the ex-Mufti of Jerusalem.

An Israeli Government spokesman today described a statement issued last week by the Syrian legation in Washington denying published reports that Druses were fighting with the Israeli Army as "just as true as the Egyptian claim that they had recaptured Beersheba."

Replying to correspondents' questions today, an Israeli Government spokesman said that "British planes have been sold and given to Arab forces both during the fighting period and during the truce."

Israel is expected to demand that the United Nations send an investigation team to Yemen to look into the plight of the Jews in that country, it was indicated here today.

ISRAELI SOLDIERS PARADE IN ACRE; PARTICIPATE IN CEREMONY REOPENING OLD SYNAGOGUE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- More than 2,000 Israeli soldiers paraded in Acre today, escorting patriarchs carrying Scrolls of the Law to the reopened old synagogue in the town. Minister of Religious Affairs Rabbi Judah L. Fishman participated in the parade.

The vessel Galila, which was acquired two months ago, was today formally turned over to the Israeli merchant marine when the ship's Panamanian flag was hauled down and the Israeli banner was hoisted to the mast. The Galila can carry 1,100 passengers and a 100-man crew and was formerly a wartime American troopship. Two vessels carrying immigrants arrived in Haifa today.

LIBERAL AND LABOR M.P.'S TO URGE BRITAIN TO SUPPORT RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

LONDON, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- A number of Liberal and Laborite members of Parliament united today in efforts to bring up a motion on Palestine, which may come up in next week's Parliamentary debate on foreign affairs.

The motion expresses anxiety "over the continued and unsatisfactory situation" in Palestine and calls on the British Government to support, in the United Nations, a settlement which will ensure speedy international recognition of Israel "so that the boundaries problem will be settled equitably for both Jews and Arabs."

PAN CRESCENT, RECONVERTED INTO PASSENGER VESSEL, SAILS FOR ISRAEL FROM ITALIAN PORT

ROME, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The S.S. Pan Crescent, which carried Jewish refugees to Cyprus after making an unsuccessful attempt to land its passengers in Palestine before the termination of the British Mandate, sailed this week for Israel as a reconverted, full-fledged Israeli passenger vessel capable of carrying 2,800 passengers. The ship was launched from Venice where it had been in the repair dock for the past four months. The crew is entirely Jewish.

\$40,000,000 ISRAEL COLONIZATION PROGRAM FOR 1949 OUTLINED BY JEWISH AGENCY OFFICIAL

JERUSALEM, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- A large-scale Israeli colonization program in 1949 requiring a minimum outlay of \$40,000,000, was outlined here today by Levi Eshkol, head of the Jewish Agency's agricultural department. He voiced the hope at a press conference that the Jewish people would provide the necessary funds for this program, since colonization of Israel is one of the "pillars of Zionist ideology" and the Jewish state was established to "quench Jewish thirst for soil and colonization."

Eshkol disclosed that there are two colonization schemes under consideration. One would provide for the establishment of a minimum of 100 new settlements during the coming fiscal year, while the second plan calls for the setting up of a minimum of 50 new colonies within the next six months, if not in the next three months.

A special committee, made up of representatives of the Jewish Agency, the Keren Kayemeth, Keren Hayesod, the Israeli Government and the Army, has worked out a priority scale for colonizational activities and has even spotted on a map of Israel which settlements should be erected first.

Colonization will be carried out in three main sections of the country--in Galilee, the Jerusalem area and in the Negev. The plan is designed, firstly, to meet Israel's urgent requirements, secondly, to absorb new immigrants and, thirdly, to consolidate the achievements of the Israeli Army. The scheme also calls for the establishment of a chain of settlements along the Syrian frontier, all of them on land previously acquired by the Jewish National Fund.

Under the plan's provisions, a "colonization zone" embracing the approaches to Jerusalem would be established. Nine settlements have already been launched in this zone, while several others will be added within the next two months to fortify the approaches to the Holy City. These colonies will constitute a "pincer-like" protection for Jerusalem, thus removing any danger of an assault on the city. The "pincer" will stretch from Beer Tuviah to Beersheba through Beit Jibrin, while the center of the third chief area of colonization--the Negev--will be Beersheba, where regional offices of the Agency's agricultural department will soon be opened.

Eshkol further outlined a plan for the development of Beersheba as the agricultural, administrative, cultural and commercial center of the entire Negev, with a highway stretching from that town to the Dead Sea.

ISRAEL GOVT. EXPECTS TO HAVE DATA FOR EXPORT-IMPORT BANK LOAN READY WITHIN A FEW DAYS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government expects to have all information requested of it by the Export-Import Bank with regard to a loan for projects in Israel in the hands of Bank officials within a few days, it was learned today. The information, covering details of the various projects under consideration and projected uses of the loan, will be given to technical officials of the Bank who will study the material and make a report to the Bank's board of governors.

A report that the Bank would "probably not decide before early next year whether to grant Israel's request for a \$100,000,000 loan" was "inaccurate," a highly placed Bank official told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency today. "No statement has been made by the Bank as to the time element involved in granting the Israeli loan," the spokesman said. The Israeli application is under "active consideration" and is being "pushed forward," he added.

AUSTRIAN CABINET EXTENDS TIME LIMIT FOR FILING RESTITUTION CLAIMS TO JUNE 1949

VIENNA, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The Austrian Cabinet decided today, following a request submitted by the World Jewish Congress, to extend the time limit for filing claims under the third restitution law from Dec. 31 of this year to June 30, 1949. The December deadline would have made it impossible for Nazi victims residing abroad to file their claims in time in view of the many technical difficulties involved.

U.S. GROUP LAUDS ADOPTION OF GENOCIDE CONVENTION; HOPES BRITAIN WILL SUPPORT IT

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The adoption by the legal committee of the U.N. General Assembly of a genocide convention making destruction of national, ethnical, racial or religious groups an international crime, was lauded today in a statement issued by the U.S. Committee for a United Nations Genocide Convention, over the signatures of James W. Rosenberg, chairman, and Willard Johnson secretary.

"This is a historic step which can in future years rank with the Magna Charta and our Bill of Rights as a milestone in mankind's struggle for human rights," the statement said. "The vote for the convention was 30 in favor, none opposed, but there were eight abstentions; namely, the Soviet bloc and, to our amazement, also Great Britain. That Britain, the birthplace of Magna Charta, should have abstained from support is hard to comprehend."

Mr. Rosenberg expressed the hope that Britain will eventually join with the United States in supporting the genocide convention. He revealed that during a visit to London he conferred on this subject with Hector McNeill, British Minister of State. He paid high tribute to Ernest Gross, legal advisor of the State Department, and to John Foster Dulles, member of the U.S. delegation at the United Nations, for their active interest in bringing about a genocide pact and emphasized that credit for the idea to outlaw genocide is due to Prof. Raphael Lemkin, formerly professor of international law at Warsaw University, who lost more than 40 members of his family in the Nazi extermination camps. He is now a professor of law at Yale University.

8,000 JEWISH DP'S ENTERED CANADA IN 1948; THEY CONSTITUTE 17% OF TOTAL DP'S ADMITTED

MONTREAL, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- About 17 percent of the displaced persons admitted to Canada in 1948 are Jewish and their total figure is approximately 8,000, it was reported here today by Saul Hayes, executive director of the Canadian Jewish Congress.

Hayes pointed out that the "highest authorities of the Immigration Branch have been vigilant" against the injection of anti-Jewish prejudice in the selection of immigrants for Canada. "Our Congress urged the Canadian Government to admit a reasonable number of Jewish war victims so that they may begin life anew in this country and add to Canada's human resources. It is only fair to state that our government is fulfilling its promises and moral obligations by making it possible for a fair number of Jewish persons to enter Canada," he emphasized.

DISPLACED JEWISH PHYSICIANS TO RECEIVE SCHOLARSHIPS FOR RENDERING SERVICE TO J.D.C.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- More than 100 scholarships worth \$500 each are being offered to displaced physicians by the Joint Distribution Committee under a plan aimed at helping DP doctors make a rapid adjustment to their new homelands, it was announced here today. Eligible for grants under the plan are Jewish physicians who have rendered one year of outstanding service with J.D.C.'s medical department in the DP camps of Germany and Cyprus.

PRESIDENT'S COMMITTEE ON RELIGIOUS WELFARE IN ARMED FORCES MEETS IN WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The President's Committee on Religious and Moral Welfare and Character Guidance in the armed forces held its first meeting today at the White House with President Truman, Secretary of Defense Forrester, Secretary of the Navy Sullivan, and Assistant Secretary for Air Whitney attending.

Frank L. Weil, president of the National Jewish Welfare Board and chairman of the President's Committee, said the President greeted the nine members of the Committee, using the ideas he expressed in his executive order of Oct. 27 setting up the committee. The President said at that time that it was "the policy of the government to encourage and promote the religious, moral, and recreational welfare and character guidance of persons in the armed forces and thereby to enhance the military preparedness and security of the nation."

AMERICAN JEWISH CONGRESS PROPOSES AMENDMENTS TO D.P. LAW; CALLS FOR PUBLIC HEARINGS

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- The executive committee of the American Jewish Congress adopted a resolution calling upon the 81st Congress to pass six major amendments to the Displaced Persons Act of 1948, Rabbi Irving Miller, chairman of the executive, announced today.

The resolution urges that the Displaced Persons Commission establish a special division for the screening of Nazi collaborators and pro-Nazi elements from the ranks of displaced persons seeking admission. It also calls on Congress to initiate a thorough investigation of the entire denazification program in the American zone of Germany and to arrange for public hearings on the breakdown of the denazification program and on the commutation of sentences of persons found guilty of crimes against humanity.

The proposed amendments are: To allow any displaced persons who entered DP camps before April 21, 1947, to benefit by the act rather than restrict its provisions to those who entered before Dec. 22, 1945; to repeal the section that mortgages future immigration quotas, in order to give emergency relief to DP's; to repeal the section granting special preference to DP's from the Baltic states and eastern Poland; to expand the definition of eligible DP's to include all victims of Nazi racial and religious persecution; to repeal the section giving persons of German ethnic origin, the Volksdeutsche, special benefits; to permit legalization of immigration status of DP's now in this country without requiring advance Congressional approval.

U.S. POST OFFICE ANNOUNCES EXPANSION OF SERVICE TO ISRAEL; PARCEL POST INAUGURATED

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- An expansion of U.S. postal service to Israel, effective immediately, was announced here last night by the Post Office Department. The new service will include regular parcel post, with a weight limit of 22 pounds per parcel.

EINSTEIN ASSAILS BEIGIN'S "FREEDOM PARTY" IN ISRAEL; TERMS IT "FASCIST PARTY"

NEW YORK, Dec. 3. (JTA) -- Prof. Albert Einstein was one of 122 signatories who last night issued a statement assailing the Irgun-sponsored Freedom Party in Israel, led by Menahem Beigin, who is now on a visit to this country. The statement said that the Beigin group was a "fascist party" and Beigin and his followers "have had no part in the constructive achievements in Palestine."