

JTA *Daily News Bulletin*

VOL. XV No. 282 (30th year)

Friday, December 10, 1948

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

U.N. GENERAL ASSEMBLY APPROVES INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION OUTLAWING GENOCIDE

PARIS, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- In an historic roll call, the United Nations General Assembly tonight unanimously approved an international convention outlawing the crime of genocide. A total of 55 states voted in favor while three were absent.

Crowning two years of laborious drafting and revision, the new convention brands as a punishable crime against humanity any deliberate attempt to destroy in whole or in part a national, ethnical or religious group. "Political" and "cultural" genocide were dropped out of the draft convention in committee.

The attempt by the Soviet bloc to broaden the concept of the convention to include cultural genocide was beaten down by 31 to 14, with ten abstentions. The Soviets sought to add a new article providing that "genocide also means any deliberate attempt to destroy the language, religion or culture of national, religious and racial groups," such as a prohibition against teaching a language in schools, destroying or preventing the use of the libraries, schools, historical monuments, places of worship or other cultural institutions of a given group. The proposal was opposed by the United States, Britain and France.

The General Assembly also defeated a Soviet attempt to link genocide with "Fascism, Nazism and other similar race theories which propagate racial and national hatred, the domination of the so-called higher races and extermination of the so-called lower races." Alexander P. Morozov, of the Soviet Union, said that the Soviets would support the convention, although, he declared, it was inadequate and full of loopholes.

BRITISH DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL DEMANDED BY EDEN IN HOUSE OF COMMONS

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Although Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin did not mention the Palestine issue in his report introducing a two-day foreign policy debate in Commons today, the question was raised by Conservative and Liberal Party leaders, with Former Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden demanding de facto recognition for Israel.

Speaking for the Conservatives, Eden first raised the issue. He asserted that the Middle Eastern question was a threat to the cordial relations between Britain and America and urged that all possible action be taken to bring about a settlement without further delay. "I firmly believe that it would be in the interest of the Arabs as much as anyone else that we consider establishing a political representative in Tel Aviv on a de facto basis," Eden said.

Such conditional recognition would depend on an undertaking not to resume military operations and to enter immediately into negotiations for a settlement, Eden said. The Conservative leader also demanded that Jerusalem be placed under an international regime as outlined by the late Count Folke Bernadotte. Describing the Palestine situation as "very pressing," Eden referred to the alleged Jewish incur-

sions into Transjordan territory and for the first time stated that the reports of the alleged invasions came from a British resident of Tel Aviv.

For the Liberals, Clement Davies urged recognition of Israel, declaring that the government's present Palestine policy is "far from good." While the Arab state in Palestine has failed to materialize, Davies stated, Israel has been recognized by 19 nations, including the United States. "Let us drop this peevish attitude and get the United Nations to recognize Israel and admit her to the Council of nations," Davies pleaded. "This would go a long way to bring peace to the Eastern Mediterranean."

"Although we have done much for the Jewish race throughout the years, we have succeeded in alienating the sympathies of even the best and most moderate Jews," he stated. "We have succeeded in irritating and alienating every one of the Arab states," he added, stressing that there is a real opportunity to settle the problem, even "at this late hour."

Seymour Cocks, Laborite, declared that it was about time the Foreign Office "abandoned this anti-Semitic policy," and recognized Israel. He insisted that the Foreign Office reflects the views of neither the Parliamentary Labor Party nor the country at large. He stated that the Foreign Office was backing the "camel against the airplane," since the situation in Palestine is a "struggle between the Tenth and Twentieth Centuries."

BRITAIN FAILS TO EXPLAIN ALLEGATION THAT ISRAELI TROOPS INVADDED TRANSJORDAN TERRITORY

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Foreign Office officials here were today at a loss to explain the basis for allegations at the United Nations yesterday by Harold Beeley, British delegate, that Israeli forces had invaded Transjordan territory on a number of occasions. An official spokesman was extremely embarrassed when correspondents today pressed for information on the "latest developments in Transjordan."

The spokesman finally admitted that no formal complaint had been lodged with Britain by Transjordan of any alleged frontier violations. He also admitted that the Anglo-Transjordan treaty, referred to by Beeley, had not been invoked. Although not stating so in so many words, the spokesman indicated that the information had not reached the Foreign Office from a Transjordanian source at all.

U.N. CHIEF OF STAFF AND IRAQI COMMANDER MET TO DISCUSS ARMISTICE ON CENTRAL FRONT

HAIFA, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Brig. Gen. William Riley, chief of staff to the United Nations acting mediator in Palestine, today met Gen. Nur el Dine, commander of the Iraqi Army in Palestine, in Nabulus in order to discuss an armistice on the Iraqi front. It was announced here by U.N. staff headquarters. Upon his return to Haifa, Gen. Riley expressed his "complete satisfaction" with the results of the parley.

They also discussed the local cease-fire on the central front which was signed Monday. The cease-fire applies in a sector some 25-30 miles long, extending from a point east of Hadera to a point east of Petach Tikvah.

ISRAELI STATE COUNCIL APPROVES ARMY PENAL CODE WITH DEATH SENTENCE FOR HIGH TREASON

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Israeli State Council tonight approved a draft of an Army penal code which provides death by a firing squad as the supreme penalty for high treason. Minister of Justice Dr. Felix Rosenblueth announced that no death sentence will be carried out until it has been considered and approved by the State Council.

COURT DENIES STERNIST REQUEST TO SUMMON PREMIER BEN GURION AS WITNESS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- A request by the Sternist chief Nathan Friedman-Yellin's attorney that Premier David Ben Gurion and Army Chief of Staff Yaacov Dori be called as witnesses in the trial against him now under way in Acre was turned down last night by the court. The defense had asked that the two Israeli leaders be summoned to testify on the causes which brought about the passage of the anti-terrorist law enacted immediately after the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte.

In Jerusalem the Israeli Supreme Court today confirmed the legality of a government order declaring that the Stern Group is an illegal terrorist organization. The decision was announced after the Supreme Court had considered an application from the Sternists for an order nisi calling on all members of the Israeli Cabinet to show cause why the order making the Stern Group illegal should not be revoked.

BOX OF ORANGES SENT FROM ISRAEL TO BRITISH OFFICIAL X-RAYED; NOTHING SUSPICIOUS FOUND

LONDON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- An entire box of oranges sent from Israel to Foreign Under Secretary Christopher Mayhew were X-rayed one by one, the British press reported today.

The Under Secretary became suspicious when he found a piece of steel attached to one of the oranges. The examination revealed merely that the orange in question was overripe. Mayhew is reported to have received Sternists warnings previously.

Five men, including two Jewish councilors of the Borough of Stoney, were today arraigned in a London court on charges of willful obstruction of the police in connection with an anti-Mosley demonstration in the East End of London yesterday. The five defendants, including the councilors, Max Levitas and Morris Rosen, were remanded for a later trial when they requested legal representation.

ISRAELI CONSUL DENIES BRITISH CHARGES JEWISH ARMY INVADED TRANSJORDAN TERRITORY

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- British charges in the United Nations yesterday that the Israeli Army invaded Transjordan territory "are frivolous and without foundation," Arthur Lourie, Israeli Consul General of New York, declared today at a meeting of the American Jewish Committee.

"I think that we are entitled in retrospect to regard with sober satisfaction what has been achieved militarily and politically in the course of the past 15 months," Mr. Lourie declared. "But the struggle is far from over. As reported in the press, the British Government, whose 'neutrality' was so conspicuous at Lake Success last year and in the earlier months of this year, when it looked as if the Jewish state would either not come into existence or must certainly be destroyed, has now again assumed the offensive.

"It is extraordinary that the government of Transjordan should have made no complaints about Israeli Army incursions into its territory. These charges which, as my government has already indicated, are frivolous and without foundation, obviously have once again the ulterior motive to make difficult and to discredit the position of the Israeli Government before the United Nations," the Israeli Consul said.

FORMATION OF CZECH JEWISH LEGION TO FIGHT IN ISRAEL AS VOLUNTARY FORCE IS STOPPED

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- American newspapers today carried dispatches from Prague quoting Jewish sources in Czechoslovakia as saying that the formation of a Czech Jewish Legion to fight in Palestine had been stopped. According to these sources, the Israeli Government had refused to accept the Czech unit as a voluntary force. Premier David Ben Gurion was reported to have insisted that all volunteers come to Israel as Jews and not as members of a special legion.

HUNGARIAN GOVERNMENT SIGNS PACT WITH JEWISH LEADERS ON FUNCTIONS OF JEWISH COMMUNITY

BUDAPEST, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Hungarian Government and the Jewish Orthodox and Reform communities have signed an agreement under which the state guarantees the Jews complete freedom of religion, subsidizes various aspects of communal activity and guarantees the Jews independent control of their communal structure, it was revealed here today.

Primarily, the state binds itself to recognize full religious liberty, including religious practice and education, according to the compact. The government also agreed to permit the Jewish community to operate independent publications for purposes of education. The state will provide financial support for the activities of the Jewish community, but will reduce that subsidy by one-quarter every five years. All pensions granted by the community will be guaranteed and met by the government.

The Jewish schools will become part of the national system of education and the staffs of the institutions will become civil servants. Jewish students will continue to be free to observe Saturday as the Sabbath in the schools. Institutions which depend on charity will be permitted to operate within the scope of the Hungarian legal code, while raising of funds for charitable work may be continued.

The agreement also establishes a Joint Standing Commission, composed of representatives of the government and the Jewish religious denominations, to settle whatever problems arise. Minister of Education Gyula Cserutay signed the pact for the government, while Lajos Stokler represented the Reform community and Samuel Kahan-Frankel signed for the Orthodox community.

ROMANIAN JEWISH GROUP OPENS OFFICE TO ADMINISTER HEIRLESS JEWISH ASSETS IN TRANSYLVANIA

BUCHAREST, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Federation of Jewish Communities today opened a central office in Cluj to administer the heirless property of north Transylvanian Jews murdered during the war in the Oswiecim and Theresienstadt death camps.

The property was turned over to the Federation in accordance with a law passed earlier in the year by the Rumanian Government. Proceeds from the sale of the property will be used for the relief of needy Jews in the country. The Federation appointed an official for each district in North Transylvania to be responsible for the administration of all heirless assets in his respective territory.

POLISH GOVT. PROMISES LOAN TO BUILD JEWISH THEATRE; FIRST YIDDISH TEXT BOOK PUBLISHED

WARSAW, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The Polish Ministry of Art and Culture has promised the Jewish Central Committee a loan of 40,000,000 zloty--approximately \$133,000--to build a Jewish theatre in Lodz, it was revealed here today.

The education department of the Central Committee has published the first Yiddish-language textbook on Yiddish literature since the end of the war. The volume, intended for use in Jewish schools, contains short stories and poems by prominent modern Jewish poets and authors.

The Jewish congregation of Cracow has regained control of Aysick Synagogue in that city, one of the oldest in the country. The building was damaged by the Germans and the congregation has begun repairing it.

RECOVERY OF EUROPEAN JEWRY IN SIGHT. WARBURG REPORTS; WARNS OF EMERGENCY IN NORTH AFRICA

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Europe's 1,300,000 Jews have reached the point where their essential recovery can be completed within three years barring unforeseen circumstances, Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee, declared at a press conference here today, following his return from Europe, where he delivered the keynote address at the first International Conference on Jewish Relief and Rehabilitation.

Warburg warned, however, that while the end of the emergency period in Europe is in sight, "a new emergency has arisen in North Africa and other Moslem countries." Here, he said, "hundreds of thousands of Jewish men, women and children are living under conditions as miserable and wretched as any on the face of the earth." In the "mellah" (ghetto) of Casablanca, he pointed out, one out of every four Jewish children die before the age of one year, and tuberculosis, typhoid and rickets rage on an epidemic scale. Some 20,000 homeless Jewish children, hundreds of them blind with trachoma, roam the streets, he stated.

The deteriorating situation in North Africa and the Arab lands of the Middle East, is one of the chief problems which the J.D.C. must face in the next twelve months, Warburg said. A second major responsibility, he added, will be the emptying of the DP camps through a speeded-up emigration program. He disclosed that the J.D.C. visualizes expenditures amounting to \$18,000,000 for emigration activities alone next year, adding that "by next October we hope that everyone who wants to leave the camps for Israel will have found a home there" and that several thousand Jews eligible for admission to the U.S. under the DP Act will have been resettled in this country.

The third major aspect of J.D.C. operations next year will cover increased efforts aimed at economic reconstruction, Warburg reported. Included under this heading will be intensive, short-term training courses for at least 75,000 Jews in Eastern Europe, now "economically displaced" because of the nationalization of industry and commerce there. Another phase of J.D.C. work on the continent next year is planned to help local Jewish communities become strong enough to meet their own needs.

PRESIDENT TRUMAN DENIES HE REQUESTED ILSE KOCH RECORDS FOR STUDY

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- President Truman today told his press conference that he knew nothing of the records in the Ilse Koch case that had reportedly been secured for his study last October. The President said that the records might have been requested in his name, but that he, himself, knew nothing of the matter.

Meanwhile, the Senate investigating sub-committee continued in executive session hearing the two reviewing officers of the European Command who had recommended and approved the reduction of Frau Koch's life sentence to four years imprisonment. Lt. Col. Clio Straight, who headed the first review board and Col. J.L. Harbaugh, Judge Advocate of the European Command, who approved the first review board's recommendation, testified for over two hours behind the committee's closed doors.

BEIGIN SAYS BRITAIN PREPARES FOR MILITARY ACTION AGAINST ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Menachem Beigin, addressing a reception in his honor at the offices of the Hebrew Committee for National Liberation, today said that British charges that Israeli troops entered Transjordan were made as part of a psychological warfare on Israel, and as preparation for direct military intervention in Israel. He revealed that he plans to visit the Israeli mission here tomorrow. (Dr. Walter Lowdermilk, noted conservation expert, announced today that he had resigned from the reception committee formed for Mr. Beigin.)

U.S. POST OFFICE DEPT. INVITES ISRAELI POSTAL OFFICIALS TO TRAIN IN THIS COUNTRY

NEW YORK, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The U.S. Post Office Department has invited several members of the Israeli Post Office Department to come to this country for training in postal administration, it was revealed here tonight at a reception tendered Zvi Prihar, Israel's Director General of Posts, Telephone, Telegraph and Radio, who will return shortly to Israel.

The reception was arranged by the Joint Conference of Affiliated Postal Employees. David Silvergleid, president of the Conference, presented Mr. Prihar with a testimonial plaque in behalf of the 25,000 post office employees in New York. Mr. Prihar emphasized that Israel will take advantage of the U.S. offer and will send some of its young postal employees to the United States "to gain much-needed experience."

He also made public for the first time Israel's plans for communications to be put into effect within the next five years. These plans provide for the initiation of direct radio, telephone, telegraph and picture transmission facilities by radio to any part of the world.

ARGENTINE JEWISH GROUP SAYS JEWS ARE ARGENTINIANS; PLEADS FOR RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL

BUENOS AIRES, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- Declaring for the first time that he was speaking on behalf of the entire Argentine Jewish community, Sucher Mstrajt, president of the pro-Peronist Jewish group, "Organizacion Israelita Argentina," said in a radio broadcast here today that the Jews here must be considered from the point of view of nationality as "Argentiniens, sons of Jews."

At the same time, he emphasized that Argentine Jews, despite their full acclimatization to this country's national life, cannot remain indifferent towards Jewish suffering in other countries. He, therefore, appealed to the Argentine Government to recognize the Jewish state, since, he said, the persecuted Jews in Europe and the Jews in Israel need a state of their own.

The O.L.A. today announced that it has no branches and urged Jews throughout the country to ignore a newly-formed group which proclaimed itself the "Jewish Peronist Propaganda Committee." This new group, headed by Samuel Smud, is now collecting signatures for a petition to President Peron to secure Argentine recognition of Israel.

Dr. Ricardo Dubrovsky, president of the DAIA, central Jewish representative body, was honored here at a dinner tendered to him on the occasion of his appointment as professor at the University of Buenos Aires.

PRIVATE INITIATIVE MUST PLAY LEADING ROLE IN ISRAELI COMMERCE, Z.O.A. LEADER SAYS

MONTREAL, Dec. 9. (JTA) -- The opinion that private initiative must play a leading role in the development of trade and industry in the cities of Israel was advanced here today by Daniel Frisch, vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America, who was the guest speaker at a conference of Hacholim. The parley celebrated the 25th anniversary of this Canadian Zionist fraternal order.

Socialization must be limited to the rural sections of Israel, Frisch said, adding that this would assure that barriers would not be erected against the influx of private capital and individuals who wish to participate in the development of the Jewish state. He lauded the leadership of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver in the United States and of Premier David Ben Gurion in Israel.