

JTA *Daily News Bulletin*

VOL. XV No. ³⁰⁴ 293 (30th year)

Thursday, December 23, 1948

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

FIFTEEN JEWS MISSING IN PLANE CRASH IN GREECE; WERE EN ROUTE FROM PRAGUE TO ISRAEL

ATHENS, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Twenty-four persons, including 15 Jewish refugees bound for Israel, were reported missing today in a plane crash near Pylos. The plane left Prague yesterday for Haifa and landed at Rome last night, but all contact with it was lost after it left Rome and reached the area over the guerrilla-held mountain region of Greek Peloponnesus.

Seven aircraft were sent up to seek out the wrecked plane but the Pylos chief of police tonight stated that there is no plane wreckage in his area. A representative of the Czech Airlines in Athens told the Jewish Telegraphic Agency that the seven planes could not complete their search because of bad weather but that the search would continue tomorrow. Airport officials in Athens expressed the opinion that the missing plane may have landed in rebel-held territory.

EGYPT REJECTS ISRAELI OFFER FOR ARMISTICE TALKS; SENDS REPLY THROUGH U.N. OBSERVER

TEL AVIV, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The Egyptian Government today sent its reply to the Israeli proposal that armistice talks be initiated between Israel and Egypt. The reply was tantamount to a refusal.

The Egyptian reply was brought to Tel Aviv by Brig. Gen. William Riley, chief U.N. Palestine observer. It specified that Egypt would be ready to sit down to armistice talks only after Israeli troops withdraw from the Negev and release the Egyptian troops trapped in the Faluja pocket.

The senior Christian consul in Jerusalem, Rene Neuville of France, today announced that the Egyptians have rejected his request to permit the traditional Christmas pilgrimage from Jerusalem to Bethlehem. Lt. Col. Moshe Dayan, Israeli military commander in the Jerusalem area, said that the Jews were willing to give the Christians free passage over the part of the road which is under control of the Israeli armed forces.

United Nations and Israeli sources today confirmed reports that the Transjordan cabinet has offered its resignation to King Abdullah as an expression of disagreement with his policies on Palestine. The resignation was, however, rejected by the King. The report that heir-apparent Prince Tallal of Transjordan has been put under house arrest by his father was also confirmed here today. It is known that he objected to Abdullah's intention to reach an understanding with Israel regarding Palestine.

Turkey Will Seek Conciliation in Palestine, Minister Tells Parliament

ISTANBUL, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Turkish Foreign Minister Nejdin Sarak declared in Parliament today that Turkey will do its best, in collaboration with France and the United States, to make the U.N. Palestine conciliation commission a success so as to avert Palestine's becoming a cause of unrest in the Middle East.

ISRAELI ENVOY TO U.S. CONFERS WITH ACTING SECRETARY OF STATE ON VARIOUS PROBLEMS

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Eliahu Epstein, special representative of Israel to the United States, conferred with Acting Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett for more than an hour. He told reporters afterward that they had discussed a number of things but declined to be more specific. He added, however, that he did not discuss with Lovett the question of full recognition of Israel by the U.S.

SYRIA ORDERS JEWS NOT TO SELL THEIR PROPERTY; BANS U.S. PUBLICATIONS AS "PRO-ZIONIST"

LONDON, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The Syrian Cabinet today decided to prohibit Syrian Jews from selling their property in Syria, a Reuters dispatch from Damascus reported.

It was also officially announced in Damascus today that two American magazines, Life and Newsweek, have been banned in Syria on charges that they are "pro-Zionist."

JEWISH AGENCY AND ISRAELI GOVERNMENT APPROVE \$12,000,000 HOUSING PLAN FOR IMMIGRANTS

JERUSALEM, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- A joint meeting of representatives of the Israeli Government and the Jewish Agency here last night approved a plan providing for the expenditure for a \$12,000,000 housing program for newly-arriving immigrants. The cost of the program will be shared equally by the government, the Agency and the Jewish National Fund.

The meeting also named a three-member committee--composed of President Chaim Weizmann, Meir Ebner, veteran Zionist leader, and a government representative--to arrange for the transfer of the remains of Dr. Theodor Herzl from Austria to Israel. It is expected here that the transfer of Herzl's remains and reinterment in Israel will be completed shortly.

Other items on the agenda were postponed for next week's meeting of the joint committee. The question of convening the Agency's plenary meeting in Jerusalem in February, to discuss Israeli Government-Jewish Agency relations, was also put off for consideration next week.

ISRAEL MAPS EXPORT-IMPORT PLANS; RUSSIA WILLING TO TRADE WITH JEWISH STATE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Export and import plans for the Jewish state are now being prepared by the Israeli Government, which is negotiating trade agreements with a number of countries, it was reported here today.

Business men returning from Soviet regions report that the Russians are willing to sell to Israel large quantities of materials already stacked in warehouses at Black Sea ports. Negotiations are pending now for timber and newsprint. Rumania is next on the list, with good chances for a deal under which citrus fruit would be exchanged for foodstuffs and newsprint. Timber for citrus packing-crates will also be purchased from Rumania.

Israeli economists are trying now to determine what goods to request from Sweden in exchange for the season's citrus exports. Since Sweden restricts only the export of newsprint, a supply of timber will probably be arranged.

Trade with Britain carries no special limitations except the embargo on military supplies for the entire Middle East. The major difficulty is British insistence that exporters insure themselves against risk by demanding payment in advance.

PROSECUTION CHARGES STERNISTS AND FATHERLAND FRONT ARE ONE GROUP; ESPIONAGE ISSUE RAISED

HAIFA, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The trial of Sternist leader Nathan Friedman-Yellin in Acre reached its climax today when the prosecution charged that the Stern Group and the "Fatherland Front" are one and the same organization. The Fatherland Front claimed responsibility for the assassination of Count Bernadotte.

To prove his point, the prosecutor quoted from Sternist and Fatherland Front pamphlets which were published at the same time and which dealt with the same subjects. The leaflets, the prosecution maintained, used the same words.

The prosecutor then told the Acre military court, where Friedman-Yellin and his aide, M. Schmulevitz are being tried on charges of terrorism, that the Fatherland Front was created especially to carry out the murder of the late United Nations Palestine mediator, so as to remove all responsibility for the deed from the Sternists themselves.

Although conceding that the Fatherland Front was a terrorist group with ideas similar to those of the Stern Group, Friedman-Yellin asserted that this did not necessarily mean that the two groups were one and the same. The prosecution countered with the charge that the defendant had given freedom of action to the Fatherland Front insofar as fixing the exact date for the assassination of Bernadotte was concerned, but the Front assassins carried out the murder before the date originally set, thus making it impossible for Friedman-Yellin to leave the country in time.

During the last hour of the trial, the prosecutor accused the Stern Group of espionage and of communicating secret movements of the Israeli Army. Both Friedman-Yellin and his defense counsel asked the prosecutor not to use the term "spies" in his remarks. The prosecutor said that he would not make public certain secret documents in his possession unless all newspapermen left the courtroom.

For the first time since the trial began, all newsmen covering the proceedings were asked to leave the court chambers. The trial is now continuing behind closed doors.

REMANENTS OF JEWISH CITY DATING BACK TO 10TH CENTURY, B.C., FOUND NEAR YARKON RIVER

TEL AVIV, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The remnants of a Jewish city dating back to the 10th century, B.C., which was a thriving community from the period of the first Israel kingdom until the destruction of the First Temple in the year 586, B.C., was discovered today north of the River Yarkon. The city was populated by thousands of inhabitants.

At the same time, the traces of an ancient fortress were discovered along the Yarkon estuary. Indications are that the site of Tel Aviv was once the seat of a Philistine town, directly south of the Yarkon River.

The discoveries were made by Prof. Benjamin Meisler, of the Hebrew Archaeological Association, who holds the first license for exploration issued by the Israeli Government.

INDIAN GOVERNMENT ANNOUNCES AGREEMENT ON SURFACE MAIL, TELEGRAPH SERVICE WITH ISRAEL

BOMBAY, Dec. 22. (GTA) -- The government of India announced today the establishment of surface mail and telegraph service with Israel. Arrangements for the services were reached following protracted negotiations.

CANADA IS ASKED TO INSIST THAT I.R.O. PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION OF DP'S TO ISRAEL

MONTREAL, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The Canadian Jewish Congress announced today it has made representations to the Federal Government to instruct Canadian representatives on the executive committee of the International Refugee Organization to insist that the I.R.O. pay for the transportation of all displaced Jews to Israel.

The Congress pointed out that under the terms of its constitution, the I.R.O. is obliged to pay the transportation costs of displaced persons to various countries but, since the establishment of Israel, the U.N. relief agency has suspended sponsorship of refugees going to the Jewish state. The cost of the DP's' transportation--amounting to \$1,500,000 per month--is being met by the Joint Distribution Committee.

Disappointment over the fact that Canada abstained from voting on Israel's application for admission to the United Nations was expressed here today in a statement issued by the United Zionist Council of Canada. Lester B. Pearson, Minister for External Affairs, refused to comment on the action of the Canadian delegate at the Security Council, but emphasized that the Canadian Government "must recognize the fact that the state of Israel exists."

202 JEWISH DISPLACED PERSONS ARRIVE IN U.S.; ANOTHER GROUP SCHEDULED TO LAND TODAY

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- A total of 202 Jewish displaced persons arrived here yesterday among a group of 549 DP immigrants admitted to this country under the Displaced Persons Act of 1948. The immigrants' journey aboard the Marine Flasher was marked by high seas and stormy weather.

Another vessel, the Marine Marlin, is due to arrive here from Bremerhaven late tomorrow or Friday with a group of 191 Jewish DP immigrants.

HIAS OFFICIAL RECOGNIZES EX-GESTAPO OFFICER AMONG REFUGEES BROUGHT TO U.S. UNDER DP LAW

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- A Latvian refugee, Theodor Daniloff, who was charged by a HIAS representative with being a former Gestapo officer who tortured Jews in a Nazi concentration camp, was detained yesterday by U.S. immigration authorities at Ellis Island. He was one of the 549 displaced persons who arrived here yesterday on the Marine Flasher from Germany, under the DP immigration law.

Simon Mirkin, the HIAS representative, was himself a victim of Daniloff. He told immigration officials that Daniloff beat him and, using a lighted cigarette, burned him in a concentration camp in Riga, during the Nazi occupation of Latvia, in an attempt to make him turn informant against Jews imprisoned in the camp. After the war, Mirkin worked for HIAS in Germany and entered the United States two years ago. He serves as a HIAS reception official for newly-arriving DP's.

When the Marine Flasher docked yesterday, Mirkin spotted Daniloff aboard the ship. He recognized him as his former tormentor and reported him to the U.S. immigration officials, who transferred Daniloff and his family to Ellis Island pending an investigation. Daniloff became an UNRRA official after Germany surrendered.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF MOURNING FOR JEWISH MARTYRS ANNOUNCED BY SYNAGOGUE COUNCIL

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The Synagogue Council of America today announced that an international "Day of Memorial" for the Jews exterminated by the Nazis will be observed on January 11. The plan to proclaim an international day of mourning was initiated by the Council, which represents the Orthodox, Conservative and Reform Jewish religious groups in the United States, and was confirmed yesterday by cable by the office of the Chief Rabbinate in Israel.

NEW CULTURE WILL EMERGE FROM "JEWISH MELTING POT" IN ISRAEL, ANTHROPOLOGIST PREDICTS

PHILADELPHIA, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- "The emergence of a new, original and indigenous culture in Israel is dependent upon the successful solution of the problems presented by the meeting and merging of fifty different racial communities from all over the world that make up the population of Israel," declared Professor Raphael Patai, well-known Hebrew anthropologist, who is a member of the faculty of Dropsie College's newly established Institute for Israel and the Middle East. Dr. Patai spoke last night in the second of a series of lectures sponsored by the new Institute.

Speaking on the subject, "Israel, the Jewish Melting Pot," Dr. Patai, who is the recipient of the first Ph.D. from the Hebrew University, said: "The mixed makeup of the population of Israel is a highly charged dynamic situation, in which opposing forces and trends can easily turn contact into conflict. Each community brings along to Israel its own traditional culture, its language, outlook, character and personality, widely differing from one another. In the cultural and social situation in Israel, one can observe the working of certain forces making for the continued segregation of these communities and for the perpetuation of their differences.

"On the other hand, equally potent, but probably even stronger, forces are at work in the opposite direction: common schools, common newspapers, social and economic contacts, common ideals and aspirations, all these tend to obliterate, or at least to diminish rapidly, the heterogeneous character of the various Jewish communities," Prof. Patai pointed out.

Emphasizing that a certain amount of intermarriage exists between the various groups in the Israeli population, Prof. Patai concluded: "But it is still a question whether these 'mixed' marriages will assure proportions necessary to merge them effectively into one ethnic group. Thus, for some time to come, there will continue to be some element of conflict between the forces making for continued segregation and the maintenance of differences and the even stronger cultural, economic, and social forces that will inevitably make for development of a single people."

JEWISH BOOK COUNCIL AWARDS DR. WOLFSON PRIZE FOR BEST NON-FICTION JEWISH BOOK OF YEAR

WASHINGTON, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Dr. Harry A. Wolfson, noted scholar and philosopher, was awarded the \$500 prize for the best non-fiction Jewish work of 1948 granted by the Jewish Book Council of America at a ceremony today at the Jewish Community Center here. The prize, funds for which were donated by the Jewish Community Council of this city, was given for Dr. Wolfson's book, "Philo-Foundation of Religious Philosophy in Judaism, Christianity and Islam."

AMERICAN PALESTINE SECURITIES FIRM RESUMES ACTIVITIES; SUSPENDED DURING WAR

NEW YORK, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- The American Palestine Securities Company, which suspended at the outbreak of the war, today announced resumption of its activities, offering its services as a marketing organization in America for persons seeking to buy Israeli securities. The company is headed by Abraham H. Sakier, of New York.

ALBERT K. EPSTEIN, PRESIDENT OF AMPAL, DIES SUDDENLY IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, Dec. 22. (JTA) -- Albert K. Epstein, of Chicago, president of the AMPAL, American Palestine Trading Co., died here suddenly today of a heart attack. He was 58 years old and was visiting here for the first time since the establishment of Israel.

A well-known chemist in Chicago, Mr. Epstein was active in numerous Jewish welfare and Zionist causes. He served in leadership positions in the Jewish National Fund, Jewish Welfare Fund, and Board of Jewish Education in Chicago.

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