

Friday, December 31, 1948

# JTA

## Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY  
106 EAST 41ST STREET, NEW YORK 17, N. Y.

### ISRAELI CABINET TO MEET ON U.N. CEASE-FIRE ORDER; TWO ARAB PLANES SHOT DOWN IN NEGEV

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A Cabinet meeting is expected to be held here upon receipt of the U.N. Security Council's order for an immediate cease-fire in the Negev, it was reported today. The official order is expected to arrive here late today.

Meanwhile, it was officially announced that ground activity in the Negev has been reduced greatly. In addition, it was stated that air activity is restricted to the area of land operations. The communique also revealed that two Egyptian fighter planes were shot down in combat over the Negev today.

In Haifa, Brig. Gen. William Riley, U.N. chief of staff, issued orders to all observers in the south to proceed to Gaza. He said that he did not wish to risk the lives of his unarmed personnel during the present strife and that it was impossible to give a complete and accurate report to the acting mediator as long as the battle continues.

Following the circulation, for the second consecutive day, of reports from Iraq that Iraqi troops had resumed fighting, an Israeli spokesman again denied that such was the case. "If the Iraqi Premier says so, he is a liar," the spokesman added.

(In London, a British Foreign Office spokesman admitted today that the information on which British delegate to the U.N. Security Council Harold Bealey based his statement yesterday--that an Israeli incursion into Egypt had been made--"came not from our own sources." He declined, however, to reveal the source, adding that it was not unusual for information to be turned over to the British delegation at the U.N. without prior Foreign Office clearance.)

### Over 400,000 Jews, Arabs Eligible to Vote in National Elections

A total of 389,948 Jews in Israel will be eligible to vote in the general election--the first popular election in the Jewish state--scheduled to be held Jan. 25, Interior Minister Itzhak Gruenbaum told a session of the State Council today. The figure is exclusive of eligible members of the armed forces. The number of Arabs in Israel who will be able to vote at the 747 polling places which will be set up next month, Gruenbaum asserted, is 32,780.

The Interior Minister said that the elections will be held on time, as originally announced, thanks to special efforts by election officials. He added that full electoral lists will be published on Sunday and expressed the hope that voter-identity cards will be distributed by Jan. 10. He indicated that another "Operation Curfew"--in which all Israelis would be confined to their homes for an evening--might be necessary to facilitate the distribution of voting cards.

A delegation of 40 Argentine Jewish industrialists arrived at Lydda last night in three planes. The delegates, headed by Jose Mirelman, will remain in Israel three weeks and will meet with Trade and Industry Minister Dr. Fritz Bernstein. The delegation will also tour various industrial areas.

SOVIET TRADE DELEGATION GOES TO ISRAEL, MOSCOW RADIO ANNOUNCES; BARTER DEAL EXPECTED

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The Moscow radio, heard here today, announced that a Soviet trade delegation will be leaving the U.S.S.R. for Israel next month to establish direct trade relations between the two countries. The delegation will, among other projects, also discuss arrangements for regular steamship service between Haifa and one of the Russian ports on the Black Sea.

Samples of Israeli products intended for export have been sent by industrial firms here to the Israeli commercial attache in Moscow in the hope of securing Russian raw materials through a barter arrangement, it was reported here today.

A barter agreement is now being negotiated between Israel and Finland, under which Israeli oranges will be exchanged for Finnish cloth. The Israeli Government has started issuing import licenses under the Hungarian-Israeli transfer account for Jewish property, limiting the import to foodstuffs, raw material, and certain varieties of finished goods.

LAND LEFT BY PALESTINE ARABS CANNOT BE CONFISCATED BY ISRAEL, J.N.F. DIRECTOR WARNS

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Dr. Abraham Granovsky, president of the Jewish National Fund, warned today at a national session of the J.N.F. against any illusions that lands left behind by Palestine Arabs who fled the country during the early months of the Arab-Israeli fighting could be confiscated by the Israeli Government. He said, however, that state lands belonging to the former Mandatory Power could be taken over by Israel.

Dr. Granovsky announced that the Jewish National Fund budget for the Hebrew year 5709 is \$104,000,000, which will be used for the redemption of 1,000,000 dunams of land. He called for a "development regime" to undertake a large-scale program of land acquisition and soil amelioration which would lead to the creation of a land reserve enabling the settlement of large numbers of immigrants, and pointed out that during all of its previous 46 years the J.N.F. acquired only 1,000,000 dunams. In 5708, he stated, the organization raised \$44,000,000.

The establishment of an annual "Forest Day"--to be used for the raising of funds for afforestation in mountainous regions and in areas unsuitable for agriculture--was also urged by Dr. Granovsky.

TURKEY DENIES TRADE TALKS WITH ISRAEL; ROLE IN CONCILIATION SEEN AS INFLUENCING FACTOR

ISTANBUL, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The Turkish Ministry of Trade today denied reports that trade negotiations between Turkey and Israel are in progress.

Political circles here explain that the announcement was made because Turkey is now a member of the U.N. Palestine Conciliation Commission and does not desire to give the impression that she recognizes the Jewish state. This, these circles point out, despite the fact that trade relations with Israel are now of great importance to Turkey.

The Israeli Government radio, "Voice of Israel," has begun to broadcast a special program to Turkey three times a week. The Israeli Information Office informed the Turkish newspapers that the programs are aimed at building up goodwill and neighborly relations between the peoples of the two states. The program features news and commentary, as well as popular Hebrew music.

SHIP CARRYING 500 JEWS TO ISRAEL IS TOWED TO CRETE; FORBIDDEN TO LAND ON GREEK SOIL

ATHENS, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The Greek Government today issued an order strictly prohibiting the landing on Greek soil of any of the passengers on the S.S. Tampa, which was towed into Souda Bay in Crete earlier by the Dutch salvage vessel, the S.S. Uruguay, after it had floundered helplessly at sea for two days when it lost its rudder. The Tampa, a Panamanian ship, is bound for Israel with 500 refugee passengers.

Meanwhile, the Israeli Foreign Ministry has asked the Jewish Agency office in Athens to report to it on the condition of the DP immigrants. The Foreign Ministry said it would send a vessel to Crete to transport the Jews to Israel on the last lap of their journey.

All the Jewish passengers killed in the crash in Greece of a Czech plane which was carrying them from Prague to Israel--except the three members of the Kuperman family of Brazil--were buried yesterday in Kalamata in the Peloponnessus where there is neither a Jewish community nor a Jewish cemetery.

The bodies of Mr. and Mrs. Julius Kuperman and their baby were brought to Athens by a member of the family. A telegram was received from the Vienna Jewish Community requesting the transfer to Vienna of the three bodies of the Victor Bend family.

J.D.C. DOCTORS NOTIFY BRITAIN OF POSSIBLE EPIDEMIC AMONG JEWISH INFANTS ON CYPRUS

KYRENIA, Cyprus, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Joint Distribution Committee physicians ministering to the needs of Jews interned here today notified British authorities on the island that they are no longer able to accept responsibility for the welfare of babies living in the internment camps.

Owing to the ban on the immigration of military-age Jews to Israel from here, and the refusal of many of the refugees to break up their families, there are at present 772 infants under six months of age living in the British detention camps. The J.D.C. physicians expressed fears today that an epidemic--"which could not be stopped"--might break out at any time.

A report submitted to Maurice Laub, J.D.C. director for Cyprus, by Dr. Sonia Raines, a children's specialist affiliated with Hadassah Hospital in Jerusalem, points out that leaking Nissen huts--in which most of the Jews reside--as well as the lack of heating facilities hamper regular bathing among the refugees. These conditions, coupled with the cold spell which has gripped the island, have led to an alarming number of skin infections and other diseases, the report says. Dr. Raines adds that many of the Cyprus parents distrust the island doctors because they are unable to remedy even the most common complaints. The present birthrate in the camps is more than 100 per month.

DR. WISE CHARGES DETENTION OF JEWS ON CYPRUS IS VIOLATION OF MAGNA CARTA

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Dr. Stephen S. Wise, president of the American Jewish Congress, in a letter to British Ambassador to the U.S. Sir Oliver Franks, declared today that the continued detention of Jews on the island of Cyprus is a flagrant violation of the principles of the Magna Carta. The only "crime" of the Cyprus Jewish detainees, Dr. Wise stated, "is their passionate belief in and dedication to the principles of the Magna Carta."

JEWISH COMMUNITY OF HAMBURG RECOGNIZED AS PUBLIC INSTITUTION; WINS THREE-YEAR FIGHT

MUNICH, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The Jewish Community of Hamburg has finally won its three-year fight for legal recognition. The Mayor of Hamburg, Max Brauer, formally presented the community with a charter recognizing it as a public institution. Representatives of the British military government and members of the Hamburg municipal council attended the ceremony.

The Frankfurt Jewish Community has become the first such body in the American zone of Germany to represent both Jews residing in the German community and DP's in the area. The DP committee, which merged with the Community, will remain affiliated with the Central Jewish Committee of Germany. Negotiations for bringing about a similar merger in Munich are already under way and it is expected that by late next month it will be completed.

The Jewish community of Koeln has opened a synagogue. It is housed in a former Jewish nursery which was rebuilt after the war following its return to its former owners whom the Nazis ousted.

JOINT DEFENSE APPEAL ANNOUNCES PROGRAM TO MEET ITS 1949 GOAL OF \$6,826,115

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A four-point program of action to meet the 1949 Joint Defense Appeal goal of \$6,826,115 was announced here today by Charles W. Morris, chairman of the J.D.A. National Council.

Declaring that American Jewry has "experienced an upsurge of self-confidence as a result of the decline in organized anti-Semitism and the creation of the state of Israel," Morris predicted that the new year would see the American Jewish community "rally to the Joint Defense Appeal as an expression of militant desire to advance the cause of human rights." He outlined the four-point program as follows:

1. Council members will seek to have the Joint Defense Appeal incorporated in local Welfare Fund campaigns as an "integral, important and publicized constituent."
2. They will work for "fair local quotas" in communities, the quotas to be considered prior to the campaign for inclusion in the local goal.
3. The J.D.A. will increase the number of its regional conferences to reach every state and section of the country. At the same time it will offer the cooperation of its personnel in support of Welfare Fund drives in order to stimulate greater giving.
4. The J.D.A. National Council will call upon the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League to enlist the participation of their membership in support of Welfare Fund drives. The Joint Defense Appeal is the fund-raising arm of the American Jewish Committee and the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith.

PROF. EINSTEIN TO UNDERGO OPERATION TODAY OR TOMORROW; REPORTED RESTING COMFORTABLY

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Prof. Albert Einstein will undergo an abdominal operation within a day or two at the Jewish Hospital of Brooklyn, an announcement by the hospital said today. Dr. Einstein is still under observation and was resting comfortably today, the announcement said. It is understood that the operation will be performed to correct a non-malignant condition.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT AND JEWISH AGENCY SEND JOINT DELEGATION TO U.J.A. CONFERENCE

TEL AVIV, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- A joint Israeli Government-Jewish Agency executive meeting decided last night to send a delegation to attend the United Jewish Appeal conference which opens in Atlantic City on Jan. 12. The Israeli deputation will explain the current problems confronting Israel, particularly the question of absorbing, housing and settling newly-arriving immigrants.

In an editorial on the United Jewish Appeal, Israel's leading newspaper, Davar, declared today: "The war in Israel continues and it is impossible to foresee when it will end, but it is clear that just as 1948 was a year of war for the establishment of the Jewish state, 1949 will be a year of great constructive effort and wide immigration.

"The tasks of building in Israel are linked with important tasks facing Jews in the Diaspora in many countries," the editorial continued. "In some countries, the only salvation for the Jews is swift migration to Israel. The coming year will be a supreme test for the Zionist movement and for millions of Jews. First and foremost, it will be a test -- both numerically and qualitatively -- of Jewish strength, the Jewish community of the United States.

"The United Jewish Appeal has already shown how United States Jewry is conscious of the Yishuv's needs and those of Israel. It knows how to fulfill these tremendous tasks. Now, after it overcame an organizational crisis, which threatened for many precious weeks to paralyze all of its activities, the U.J.A. will know how to master its entire strength and carry on the burden of great tasks which this coming year will make necessary to save Israel," the editorial concluded.

ISRAELI FARM DELEGATION IN U.S. SEEKS TO RAISE FUNDS TO BUY AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT

NEW YORK, Dec. 30, (JTA) -- Three members of a delegation of the Farmers Federation of Israel today explained at a press conference that they were in this country to study the latest agricultural methods and machinery used in the United States and to raise funds for the purchase of an estimated \$12,000,000 worth of farm equipment for Israel.

The members of the mission include Zvi H. Itakson, president of the Federation; H. Ariav, general secretary and manager of the Federation; and T. Miller, prominent agriculturalist and chairman of the board of directors of the Agricultural School at Pardess Hanna.

BRITISH CHIEF RABBI SAYS JEWS OUTSIDE ISRAEL ARE TIED SPIRITUALLY TO JEWISH STATE

LONDON, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- "Although politically we do not belong to Israel, spiritually and culturally we are of the body of Israel," British Chief Rabbi Israel Brodie declared today at a reception tendered him by the British Mizrahi Federation. "Religion, as we understand it, serves as a binding force that links the Jew in the Diaspora with Israel," he added.

Declaring that recent events in Palestine affected Jews throughout the world and helped to bring about a "normalization of Jewish life," Chief Rabbi Brodie warned that such a normalization cannot be regarded as an aim in itself. "However normal may become our national attributes, our distinctiveness as a people will be recognized by the peoples of the world only insofar as the state of Israel is based on the eternal values of Judaism," he said. "We in the Diaspora will always look to Israel for guidance."

CANADIAN PRESS LAUDS GOVT.'S RECOGNITION OF ISRAEL; URGES ISRAEL'S ADMISSION TO U.N.

MONTREAL, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- The Canadian press today published editorials lauding the government's de facto recognition of Israel and expressing the hope that the new year will bring peace to Palestine.

The Star emphasizes that the state of Israel "has achieved its external independence and showed its ability to maintain it against the only parties disposed to dispute it, the neighboring Arab countries." The editorial points out that Israel has also succeeded in organizing "an effective internal government" and is now functioning as "a viable state."

The Gazette urges the United Nations to recognize the existence of Israel and admit the Jewish state to U.N. membership. "By its action in extending de facto recognition to Israel, the Canadian Government has probably only anticipated the ultimate action of the United Nations in extending a similar de facto recognition by admitting the state of Israel into the United Nations," the editorial says.

DAVID PINSKI, NOTED JEWISH WRITER, LEAVING U.S. FOR PERMANENT SETTLEMENT IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- David Pinski, noted Jewish playwright and one of the leaders of the Labor Zionist movement in the United States, was honored last night at the Henry Hudson Hotel on the occasion of his departure for Israel where he will take up permanent settlement.

The function was arranged jointly by the Jewish Writers Association and the Jewish Pen Club. More than 100 writers, journalists and political leaders attended the testimonial. Responding to tributes paid him by numerous speakers, Pinski said that by settling in Israel he not only is realizing his life-long dream, but he will also be fortunate enough to be an on-the-scene participant in the development of the Jewish state.

DR. SILVER GETS 1948 AWARD FOR "FINEST CONTRIBUTION TO ESSENTIAL JEWISH LIFE" IN U.S.

CLEVELAND, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Dr. Abba Hillel Silver was tonight named as the recipient of the Phi Epsilon Pi Fraternity's National Service Award for 1948. The award is presented each year to the Jew who has made "the finest contribution to the essential Jewish life of America."

Presentation of the award, which is symbolized by an inscribed plaque, was made at the annual convention of the Fraternity at the Carter Hotel here. In accordance with the Fraternity's tradition, the name of the recipient of the award had been kept secret until the actual presentation was made. Speakers at the banquet included Mayor Thomas A. Burke, of Cleveland.

ORTHODOX JEWISH GROUPS IN U.S. FORM JOINT FRONT TO HELP MIZRACHI-AGUDAH IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, Dec. 30. (JTA) -- Orthodox Jewish groups in the United States today announced the formation of a joint front to support the Mizrahi-Agudah bloc in Israel.

At a press conference arranged by the Union of Orthodox Rabbis it was revealed that the new group is composed of all Orthodox rabbinical groups in the United States, the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, Mizrahi, Agudas Israel, Young Israel, Hapoel Hamizrahi, Agudas Israel Youth Organization and Agudah Laborites.

BECAUSE OF NEW YEAR'S, THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN WILL APPEAR ON MONDAY