

Thursday, January 10, 1949

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

PUBLISHED BY THE JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

NATIONAL UNITED JEWISH APPEAL CONFERENCE OPENS; \$373,000,000 BUDGETARY NEEDS DISCUSSED

ATLANTIC CITY, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The tenth annual national conference of the United Jewish Appeal opened here today to discuss the greatest reconstruction and immigration program in the history of the Jewish people, involving the expenditure of about \$373,000,000 in 1949.

The 1,200 delegates attending the conference will vote on a quota for the 1949 U.J.A. campaign after the representatives of communities throughout the United States have thoroughly discussed the needs of the Jews of Israel, Europe and the United States and the prospect for large-scale fund-raising in this country.

A blueprint of action was outlined in today's session by leaders of the Joint Distribution Committee, the United Palestine Appeal, and the United Service for New Americans--constituent agencies of the United Jewish Appeal. The liquidation of the problem of displaced Jews before the end of the year and the immigration to Israel of the largest possible number of Jewish refugees from Europe are among the major objectives which were discussed at today's session, as was the adjustment of large numbers of refugees expected to reach the U.S. in 1949.

The J.D.C. estimated that it would need \$70,086,400 in 1949. At the same time, the relief and rehabilitation agency pointed out that should the rate of immigration to Israel continue at higher than 10,000 persons per month, the J.D.C. may require \$81,915,400.

The U.P.A. estimated that expenditures for its overall program of receiving, rehabilitating and resettling new immigrants in 1949 in Israel will total \$291,246,000. It pointed out that a minimum of 180,000 Jews will migrate to Israel during 1949. The budget figures presented by the U.P.A. include the sum of \$150,450,000 for immigration and housing in Israel.

The United Service for New Americans presented a budget calling for \$11,644,505 for its 1949 activities in resettling Jewish immigrants in the United States. It estimated that Jewish immigration to this country will approximate 24,500 during 1949 as compared with 15,500 in 1948. The U.S.N.A. budget includes no allowance for additional Jewish immigrants who may be expected to come to the U.S. if the discriminatory sections of the Displaced Persons Act of 1948 are eliminated by Congress.

U.J.A. Past Accomplishments Aid Israel, Refugees Now, Rosenwald Says

William Rosenwald, national chairman of the U.J.A. who presided at the opening session today, in a keynote address, declared that the vast accomplishments during the 10 years since the inception of the U.J.A. "have brought us to the crossing of a threshold into a new era for Jews overseas and for Jews in Israel."

Emphasizing that the U.J.A. raised more than \$500,000,000 during the 10 years of its existence, Rosenwald said that the historic developments of the last year--including the establishment of the state of Israel and the beginning of mass immigration into the Jewish state--as well as the "wider opportunities" in 1949 came about as a

result of the achievements of the American Jewish communities during the past 10 years. He paid tribute to Henry Morgenthau, Jr., who headed the U.J.A. during the past two years, and pointed out that 1949 is "a year of opportunity" during which the final phase of many critical problems facing Jews overseas and in Israel can be solved.

Emptying DP camps in 1949 is J.D.C. Goal, Schwartz Says

Dr. Joseph J. Schwartz, chairman of the European Executive Council of the J.D.C., reported that the emergency phase of relief work for Europe's Jews is practically completed and that during this year major stress will be laid on emptying the Jewish DP camps, speeding nearly 200,000 emigrants to Israel and expanding the aid program in North Africa.

Dr. Schwartz described the projected emptying of Jewish DP camps as "one of our great goals in 1949." He disclosed that about 80,000 Jews left the DP camps during last year. "Today," he said, "Jews are leaving the camps at a rate of 7,000 per month. If we maintain this rate we can empty the camps, for all practical purposes, within a year or less."

The J.D.C. leader stressed that liberalization of the present U.S. DP law, which in its present form bars the great majority of displaced Jews from entry, would make it possible to empty the camps at a much faster pace. "The emptying of the Jewish DP camps depends on the Jewish communities of the United States," he added. "They have it in their power to assure a visa for every Jew in a DP camp who wants to go to Israel."

Describing the deplorable conditions of Jews in North Africa, Dr. Schwartz emphasized that the J.D.C. will concentrate on ameliorating them. He declared that J.D.C. reconstruction work among the hundreds of thousands of Jews who will remain in Europe will be centered in the countries of Eastern Europe, "where economic revolution is taking place," making it necessary for thousands of men and women to adapt and retrain themselves or emigrate.

Weisman and Rosenberg Report on U.P.A. and USNA Activities

Herman L. Weisman, acting national chairman of the U.P.A., told the conference that the most important aspect in the present Israeli diplomatic and military situation is that "the armies of Israel have demonstrated their ability to defend the borders of their land." With Israel's borders secured and its nationhood recognized the next step must be to make possible the absorption of large numbers of immigrants and the strengthening of the country's economy, he said. "The Jews of the United States must provide the funds," he emphasized.

Weisman stressed the special situation of the Jews in Eastern Europe. Many of them, he said, wish to come to Israel and thus far they have had little difficulty in securing exit permits from their governments.

Edwin Rosenberg, president of USNA, predicted that the end of Jewish homelessness in Europe "will finally be achieved" in 1949. He credited the mass migration to Israel, the U.S. and other lands "to a combination of years of resolute effort and unceasing activity carried on by the Jews of America through the U.J.A." Rosenberg paid tribute to the Jewish communities of America for their "prompt action" in providing jobs and housing assurances for Jewish displaced persons in accordance with the provisions of the DP Act.

Harry N. Rosenfield, member of the U.S. Displaced Persons Commission, reported that President Truman is personally optimistic that a new DP act will be passed this year to enable at least 400,000 refugees from Europe to enter the U.S. within the next two years. He said that White House leaders have given the DP Commission personal assurances that the President would actively support major amendments to the DP Act of 1948, as proposed by Senators Howard J. McGrath and Matthew M. Neely.

BRITISH CABINET APPROVES BEVIN'S PALESTINE POLICY; CHARGES ON ARMS SHIPMENTS DENIED

LONDON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The British Cabinet today approved Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin's Palestine policy after a four-hour meeting; it was learned here in authoritative quarters. No change is therefore expected in the Foreign Office's activities in the Middle East.

A Foreign Office spokesman, commenting on Aubrey S. Eban's letter yesterday to president of the U.N. Security Council Gen. A. McNaughton, denied categorically today that Britain sent at "any time any military supplies to any state in contravention of the embargo," but added that contravention was carried out on a large-scale in favor of Israel by Czechoslovakia and other countries which he refused to name.

The spokesman said that reports of alleged naval movements and maneuvers in the Tripoli area were outside his competence. "If a threat to the peace exists," he added, "it derives from the persistent violation of the truce by Israelis." The Briton insisted that peace can best be served by enhancing the Security Council's authority. Britain, he stated, in policy has refrained from supplying even those states with which it has treaty obligations and was guided by the belief that the denial of arms to the belligerents is the best means to maintain peace.

He said that it was regrettable that "others" supplied arms which made possible three Israeli offensives in defiance of the truce. The spokesman also denied any knowledge of an American request to Britain to refrain from further movements to Aqaba, but voiced the opinion that these movements have now been completed. Asked about an Egyptian arms deal with Italy, he declared that Italy -- not being a member of the United Nations -- was not bound by the Security Council's resolution.

The government will be asked for a statement on Palestine when Commons reassembles next week, it was learned here today. Despite the brewing storm, it is expected that Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin will stick to his position.

U.N. PALESTINE COMMISSION WILL HOLD FIRST MEETING IN GENEVA NEXT WEEK

LAKE SUCCESS, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The U.N. Conciliation Commission for Palestine, created last year by the General Assembly in Paris, will hold its first meeting in Geneva January 17, Secretary-General Trygve Lie announced today. The three-nation commission, consisting of the United States, France and Turkey, may replace acting mediator Dr. Ralph Bunche at some future date to be designated by the Security Council, Lie added at his weekly press conference today.

Lie refused to reveal the substance of his talks with the Israeli and British representatives regarding the crisis between their two governments. However, he said that the index to his general aim in these talks was the importance of not letting these incidents mar the armistice negotiations between the Egyptian and Israeli representatives. He sidestepped all questions regarding the relation of the British-Arab security pacts with the U.N. charter and the Council resolutions. That, he added, is for the Security Council to decide. Lie added that the Israeli Government did not request an immediate session of the Security Council on its charges against the British.

Assistant Secretary-General Arkady Sobolev said that the shooting down of the British planes by Israeli forces was under investigation by Dr. Bunche. He said the British massing of forces at Aqaba will also come under U.N. probe when the Israeli Government has supplied information it offered several days ago.

U.N. headquarters today reported that all Israeli troops had withdrawn from Egyptian soil. The announcement was based on a dispatch received from the acting mediator which said that U.N. observers on the scene had confirmed the Israeli announcement on the evacuation.

ISRAELI DELEGATION TO RHODES PARLEY FLIES TO ISLAND; EYAN, COL. YADIN HEAD MISSION

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The Israeli delegation to the armistice negotiations conference between Israel and Egypt this noon flew to Rhodes where the conference opens today under the auspices of the United Nations acting mediator, Dr. Ralph J. Bunche.

Heading the Israeli Foreign Ministry representatives is Walter Eytan, director-general of the Ministry. Other Foreign Office experts on the delegation are Reuven Shiloah, Eliahu Sassoon, and Shabtai Rosen, legal advisor. Col. Yigal Yadin, Israeli Army Chief of Operations, heads the military delegation which also includes two majors.

PREMIER BEN GURION HINTS TWO ARAB STATES BESIDES EGYPT MAY BEGIN PEACE TALKS SOON

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion today indicated that Israel may soon begin peace negotiations with two Arab states, in addition to Egypt. Speaking to a Mapai conference here, the Premier also declared "we are looking to peace but not peace at any price."

Despite the fact that negotiations with Egypt begin today at Rhodes other peace talks may be in the offing, Ben Gurion said that it is not yet certain that the war is over since "this also depends upon the third party." He said that the "hostile forces around us have not yet given up their plans to destroy Israel or at least cut into its territory." He insisted that if the Jews faced the Arab world alone, peace would have come a long time ago.

Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok, speaking later, voiced the hope that the Rhodes parley would be "the turning point and a step towards peace. We are possibly entering a stage of diplomatic relations with the Arab states and the day is perhaps not far off when we shall send ministers to Cairo, Amman and Beirut and they will send their representatives to Tel Aviv," Shertok declared.

The Israeli Foreign Minister emphasized the "ideological differences between Mapai and the two opposition parties -- the Mapam and Heruth" and charged that both "want a continuation of the war -- Mapam because it wants the establishment of an Arab Palestine state alongside Israel, and Heruth because it wants to conquer the entire Palestine area." Shertok emphasized that Mapai has "throughout been against extremism."

Turning to British intervention in the Palestine conflict, the Israeli Foreign Minister said that "we always knew one enemy was continuously behind the scene, but now that enemy has come out into the open." In a bitter denunciation of British Foreign Secretary Ernest Bevin, Shertok asserted that Bevin's "policy is -- if not the destruction of Israel -- at least the reduction of its size and the weakening of its strength,

"Egypt and Transjordan are now weighing the scales as to whether to depend on Britain or make peace with us," he added. "In negotiations with the Arabs, we will face very difficult problems: the return of the Arab refugees and the future of Jerusalem."

BRITISH PILOT SHOT DOWN LAST WEEK CONFIRMS HIS PLANE WAS OVER ISRAEL WHEN IT WAS HIT

TEL AVIV, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Frank Harvey Close, one of the British pilots shot down last week in the Israeli-R.A.F. incident, who is now recuperating from his wounds in a military hospital here, confirmed to correspondents today that he was flying over Israeli territory when ground fire downed his plane.

A total of 2,725 displaced Jews arrived in Haifa today, making the group one of the largest contingents to arrive in Israel in a single day.

U.S. ASKS BRITAIN, ISRAEL, EGYPT NOT TO IMPEDE RHODES ARMISTICE NEGOTIATIONS

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The United States Government has informed the governments of Britain, Israel and Egypt of the American hope that they would exercise the greatest restraint in dealing with the shooting down of British planes, in view of deep American concern that nothing should impede the progress being made in getting the truce talks under way on the island of Rhodes, Acting Secretary of State Robert A. Lovett told a press conference today.

American concern, he said, had been over perfecting the truce agreement which up to the moment of the incident had appeared to show promising signs of progress. He said the Department feels that the situation, now in the hands of the U.N., has a promising prospect of settlement if, "and I underline the if," he said, the conversations at Rhodes go on as scheduled. Asked if this government had any information as to why the British planes were in the Palestine area at that moment, Lovett replied that the United States only knew what the British told it.

Eliahu Epstein, Israeli representative to the United States, conferred with Lovett this afternoon for 45 minutes but told reporters later that he could not disclose the details of their discussion. Epstein was accompanied by Aubrey S. Eben, Israeli representative to the United Nations.

Later, it was learned that Epstein told Lovett that Britain should bear full responsibility for wrecking efforts being made by the United States Government and by Israel to achieve peace in the Middle East. He was understood to have told Lovett that Israel was deeply disturbed by reports Britain was applying pressure to Egypt and other Arab states to keep them from entering armistice negotiations in order that the peace could be achieved only on Britain's terms.

He was also understood to have told the Acting Secretary that recent British military preparations in the area, amounting to a "war of nerves," had been timed to start at a moment when Israel was closer to peace with the Arabs than ever before in the past.

British Ambassador Sir Oliver Franks conferred with Lovett late today and told reporters after his call that they had "looked over the Palestine situation and reviewed some of its problems." He declined further comment.

TRUMAN GETS REPORT URGING ESTABLISHMENT OF PERMANENT FEDERAL CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION

WASHINGTON, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- President Truman met today with a delegation from the National Citizens' Council on Civil Rights who presented him with a draft for a permanent federal Commission on Civil Rights. Herbert Bayard Swope was chairman of the group.

The report stated that the establishment of such a Commission will not of itself guarantee our freedoms. The Council called for a new body of law affecting such areas as employment, education, suffrage and the protection of life and property against mob violence. The Civil Rights Section of the Department of Justice "should be raised in status to a Division of the Department, headed by an Assistant Attorney General," it recommended.

The report urged that, within this larger framework, the Commission on Civil Rights should devote itself to fact-finding, assist in the prevention of conflicts, prepare recommendations for the improvement of civil rights practices, call attention to emerging civil rights problems, cooperate with other agencies and make its reports available to the President and the people. "In pursuance of its functions the Commission should have the power to investigate, subpoena witnesses, take testimony and hold public hearings," the Council contended. "We believe that the Commission could best meet its responsibilities if it were directed by full-time Commissioners, preferably three in number," the Council also proposed.

ARGENTINE PRESIDENT DEMANDS THAT ALL ALIENS BECOME CITIZENS AFTER TWO YEARS

BUENOS AIRES, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- All aliens who maintain residence in Argentina for two years must become citizens or leave the country, President Juan Peron's new draft of the Argentine Federal Constitution, made public here yesterday, reveals. The draft was presented to a caucus meeting of the Peronist delegates to the Constitutional Convention, which is expected to open next week with that group in control.

A special law will determine cases where citizenship applications can be re-fused by the Argentine Government. Another clause of the new draft calls for the outlawing of organizations opposed to democratic principles, pledges individual liberties, and confirms equality for all citizens.

MAJOR JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS ASK SCREENING OF DP IMMIGRANTS TO ELIMINATE NAZIS

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Careful screening of displaced persons entering the United States under the Displaced Persons Act was urged today by several major Jewish organizations, it was announced here by the National Community Relations Advisory Council.

Citing testimony of UNRRA, I.R.O., and other officials, the American Jewish Committee, the American Jewish Congress, the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the Jewish Labor Committee, the Jewish War Veterans, and the N.C.R.A.C. declared in a statement that there are many former Nazi collaborators and other persons of Nazi sympathies in the displaced persons camps. The statement added "that American public opinion generally will demand screening techniques to bar Nazis, their collaborators and all others contaminated with racism and totalitarianism as rigorous as those now properly being used to bar Communists."

Meanwhile, Senators H. Alexander Smith, N.J., Leverett Saltonstall, Mass., Homer Ferguson, Mich., and Wayne Morse, Oregon, joined yesterday in sponsoring three "liberalizing" amendments to the DP Act of 1948. The three proposed amendments provide for changing the disputed cut-off date in the present law, repeal of special priorities for Balts and the removal of the "mortgaging quotas."

STATE DEPT. TAKES ACTION ON W.J.C. REQUEST FOR PROTECTION OF YEMEN JEWS

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Information provided by the World Jewish Congress on the arrest of six leaders of the Jewish community of Sana'a, the capital of Yemen, has been forwarded by the U.S. State Department to the American Minister to Saudi Arabia and Yemen, it was reported here today by the Congress. The W.J.C. had appealed to the State Department to investigate the detention of six Jews, following the alleged discovery of the bodies of two Arab girls near a synagogue.

THIRD ANNUAL PARLEY OF RABBINICAL BODY ON JEWISH EDUCATION CONCLUDES

NEW YORK, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- The final session of the third annual conference on Jewish education, sponsored by the Rabbinical Assembly of America, concluded here today, with more than 150 delegates from all sections of the United States and Canada attending the two-day meeting. More than 350 Conservative rabbis are affiliated with the Assembly.

RABBI MOSHE SILVER, FATHER OF DR. ABBA HILLEL SILVER, DIES IN JERUSALEM; WAS 86

JERUSALEM, Jan. 12. (JTA) -- Rabbi Moshe Silver, father of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency, died here today at the age of 86. Leaders of Jerusalem's cultural, civic and political life, including Chief Rabbi Isaac Herzog, participated in the funeral. Rabbi Silver was well known as a scholar and commentator on the Torah.