

Monday, February 21, 1949

JTA Daily News Bulletin

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

STORM SUMMONS LEADERS OF ALL PARTIES IN ASSEMBLY TO CONSULT TODAY ON CABINET MEZ-UP

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- President Weizmann today invited leaders of the various parties in the Israeli Constituent Assembly to consult with him tomorrow on the composition of the new government. Each of the major parties will be represented at the parley by two delegates.

With Premier David Ben Gurion still bedridden in a Jerusalem hotel with a severe lumbago attack, it has been estimated that it will be some ten days before a new Cabinet is formed. It was reported that one of the major negotiators for the Mapai will be Goldie Meyerson, Israeli Minister to the Soviet Union, who arrived here by plane last Friday. Immediately upon her arrival she went into consultation with Foreign Minister Moshe Shertok, Ben Gurion's deputy in the leadership of the Mapai.

Although there has been some some behind-the-scenes bargaining between the various parties, little progress has apparently been made toward a final settlement.

It is generally believed that the final composition of the Cabinet will reflect labor's majority in the Assembly and will include representatives of the religious and middle class parties. Such a government would be directly responsible to at least two-thirds of the members of the Assembly. The Mapai evening paper, Hadar, today expressed confidence that most of the parties represented in the Provisional Cabinet will also be found in the new government.

RHODES PARLEY VIEWED WITH "CAUTIOUS PESSIMISM" IN ISRAELI FOREIGN OFFICE CIRCLES

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The Rhodes armistice talks should be viewed with an air of cautious pessimism, it was stated today in circles close to the Foreign Office.

These sources predicted that the talks would be completed by the middle of the week. They added, however, that even failure of the talks would not preclude armistice talks with any of the other states. It is understood that Lebanon will probably be the next state to negotiate with Israel. It was also reported that Israel would be ready to enter actual peace talks immediately after the conclusion of armistice agreements with the various Arab states.

Meanwhile, a more optimistic note was struck by the Mapai evening newspaper, Hadar. The paper reported that the Israeli-Egyptian negotiations were approaching their final stage and that an agreement had been initialed by both sides.

(A Reuters dispatch from Transjordan reported that the United Nations Palestine Conciliation Commission, which arrived today by air from Amman, is to be received by King Abdullah. The Commission will leave tomorrow for Syria where the future of the Galilee area is expected to be one of the main items of discussion with the Syrian Government. Reuters said.)

LEHMAN, WARBURG, LOCKER APPEAL FOR SUPPORT OF U.J.A. \$250,000,000 CAMPAIGN

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Governor Herbert H. Lehman and Edward M.M. Warburg, chairman of the Joint Distribution Committee today joined Eliezer Kaplan, Finance Minister of Israel, and Berl Locker, chairman of the Jewish Agency Executive in New York, in a plea to the Jews of the United States for the fullest united support of the \$250,000,000 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal. The American and Israeli leaders addressed a special conference of 200 community leaders assembled at the Sheraton-Netherland Hotel at an all-day meeting today to discuss plans for the nationwide drive of the United Jewish Appeal.

Locker, who presided at the morning session, announced that the executive of the Jewish Agency had formally invited Henry Morgenthau Jr., to continue as general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal and had agreed to Morgenthau's inviting Henry Warburg to conduct the 1949 campaign under his leadership. A cable was received from Eliezer Kaplan, Finance Minister of Israel, in which he expressed the "fervent hope that all forces in American Jewry devoted to the cause of Israel will rally" to the support of Morgenthau "sinking all differences in a supreme united effort." The text of the Israeli President's cable to Morgenthau read:

Text of President Weizmann's Message

"Deeply gratified to learn you have again assumed heavy burden of responsibility for leadership of the United Jewish Appeal. Fervently hope all forces in American Jewry devoted to the cause of Israel will rally to your support sinking all differences in supreme united effort. Israel looks forward to record achievement by United Jewish Appeal in year of record Jewish immigration into our country. We all confident American Jewry under your inspired direction will help us transform hundreds of thousands of homeless brothers into productive citizens of their own state."

Describing the financial and economic needs of the Jewish state, Kaplan emphasized that the people of Israel were fully prepared to shoulder the normal financial burdens of government and of defense. However, he maintained that only through the fullest participation of American Jewry in the United Jewish Appeal could the immigration of 250,000 this year be financed and absorbed.

"The Jews of Israel are prepared to live on an austerity basis in order to receive and give a new life to the tens of thousands now streaming to its shores. All we ask of the Jews of America is the financial resources to do the job," the Israeli Finance Minister said. "We are still on a war footing. All our manpower and economic resources are dedicated to preserving our independence. We ask the Jews of the United States to sustain the flow of immigration so that it may never be necessary for Israel to deny entry to any Jew who needs or wishes to find a home in our midst."

Governor Lehman paid high tribute to the "wise statesmanship" of the people and government of Israel, which, he pointed out, resulted in "achievements that have far surpassed our fondest expectations and our greatest hopes." In his appeal for unity in the conduct of the 1949 United Jewish Appeal, Governor Lehman said that \$250,000,000 was urgently needed this year for the programs of immigration and settlement in Israel; for emigration aid and rehabilitation assistance in Europe and North Africa and for the adjustment of refugees in the United States.

The 250,000 prospective immigrants for 1949 are to come from the following places: 60,000 from the D.P. camps; 20,000 refugees from France and other countries; 15,000 from Bulgaria; 5,000 from Yugoslavia; 20,000 from Czechoslovakia; 10,000 from Poland; 20,000 from Rumania; 20,000 from Hungary; 45,000 from the Near East and 25,000 from Shanghai, Aden and other lands.

CHAIRMAN OF ZIONIST COMMITTEE OF CONTRIBUTORS ASKS PEACE AND UNITY WITHIN U.J.A.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- An appeal for "peace and unity and an end to the internicine conflict inflicted on our movement by Henry Montor and his associates," was issued here today by Benjamin G. Browdy, chairman of the Committee of Zionist Contributors, vice-president of the Zionist Organization of America and a member of the United Palestine Appeal executive committee and board of directors. (See Page 4 for earlier developments in the U.J.A. controversy.)

The appeal, issued in behalf of the committee of contributors to the United Jewish Appeal, declared that the resignations of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Emanuel Neumann from the Jewish Agency Executive has greatly weakened the authority and effectiveness of that body. It also stated that since the establishment of the state of Israel a "conspiracy was set afoot to disrupt the United Palestine Appeal and to wreck the Zionist Organization of America."

The statement concluded by declaring: "We refuse to accept a choice between Mr. Morgenthau and Dr. Silver but, if forced to do so, we choose to stand by the man who is not a recent convert but whose leadership and devotion has been tested during forty years in the fires of adversity. We demand a solution which will restore unity and enable the American Zionist leadership to resume its proper place in the great effort on behalf of Israel."

At a meeting this morning the administrative committee of the American Mizrahi movement decided not to attend today's session of the Agency and U.P.A. leaders. It was agreed that the movement would be represented at Tuesday's meeting of the U.P.A. executive committee. The decision was taken in behalf of the Mizrahi Organization of America, the Hapoel Mizrahi and the M. zrahi Womens Organization of America.

SHOLEM ASCH DENIES REPORT HE PLANS TO LEAVE JEWISH FAITH TO EMBRACE CATHOLICISM

MIAMI, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Sholem Asch, noted Jewish novelist, this week-end issued a statement at his home here denying a published report that he is contemplating embracing the Catholic religion. His statement reads as follows:

"Such rumors, as the one appearing in Irving Kupcinet's column this morning, have no foundation of fact and are circulated, in my opinion, by enemies who wish to destroy my reputation with the Jewish people who have my permanent and unswerving devotion. I have never considered deserting the faith of my fathers and I never intend to do so.

"My books have made enemies in some quarters because I have chosen to write, on occasion, about a Christian subject. But I have shown how deeply rooted Christianity is in Jewish history, Jewish religion. And it has been my intentions to demonstrate the inter-dependent of the two faiths in the hope that mutual understanding might lead to a better world."

BRITISH SHIPPING LINES CANCEL SURCHARGES ON CARGOES BOUND FOR ISRAELI PORTS

LONDON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Dr. Maurice Fisch, Israeli trade commissioner in the United Kingdom and Eire, was notified today by the Peninsula and Mediterranean Committee--which comprises most British shipping lines operating in the Mediterranean Sea--that it has been decided to cancel existing marine freight surcharges of 25 percent on cargoes from the United Kingdom to Israeli ports. Abolition of the surcharge, which has proved a considerable obstacle to conclusion of an Anglo-Israeli trade agreement, becomes effective March 1, the committee said.

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The Jewish Agency executive today continued meeting in camera with American Zionist leaders on the controversy within the United Jewish Appeal. Agency members were slated to meet with United Palestine Appeal leaders tonight.

Last night, Herman L. Weisman, acting U.P.A. national chairman, issued a statement criticizing Berl Locker, Jewish Agency executive chairman, for calling a U.P.A. board meeting "without the authorization of any of the U.P.A. officers or of its executive committee." Weisman termed Locker's action a "highly irregular and unwarranted assumption of power," adding that when he called for tonight's session the Agency chairman was aware that a U.P.A. executive committee meeting had been called for next Tuesday.

Weisman revealed that 22 members of the U.P.A. board have dispatched a joint telegram to all board members deploring Locker's action as "illegal" and urging all members not to attend tonight's session. Finally, Weisman's statement calls on "Locker and his associates from Jerusalem" to "desist from their irregular methods to commit the U.P.A. to terms designed to give unlimited and arbitrary powers" to Henry Morgenthau, Jr., and Henry Montor.

Meanwhile, Harold J. Goldenberg, chairman of the National Council of the U.P.A., released a statement on behalf of himself and 15 other members of the U.P.A. board warning that a "handful of men guided by the dogma of 'rule or ruin' are seeking to sabotage the destiny of the Jewish people." The statement attacked the present leadership of the U.P.A. as having sunk to the "lowest depths of moral bankruptcy" in the attempt to prevent a meeting of the board, which the statement called the "fully legally entitled body to decide the affairs of the United Palestine Appeal."

In an attack on Drs. Abba Hillel Silver and Emanuel Neumann, the statement said they have "flouted the will of the overwhelming majority and in a fit of pique resigned from the Jewish Agency executive." Drs. Silver and Neumann were also accused of having attempted to stop tonight's meeting, while Weisman was charged with holding the post of acting chairman of the U.P.A. "without legal warrant or authority and without the approval of the board of directors."

UJA DELEGATION RECEIVES BUST OF WASHINGTON FROM N.Y. MAYOR FOR PRESENTATION TO WEIZMANN

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Acting Mayor Vincent R. Impellitteri will tomorrow morning present a bronze bust of George Washington to a group of 45 leaders of the \$250,000,000 United Jewish Appeal, which is leaving tomorrow afternoon by air for Israel where the bust will be presented to President Chaim Weizmann. The presentation ceremony will take place at City Hall.

The delegation, which will make a three-week survey of the operations of United Jewish Appeal agencies in Europe, North Africa and Israel, began its tour today at the refugee shelter maintained at the Hotel Marcellines, 103rd Street and Broadway, by the United Service for New Americans, one of the three constituent agencies of the U.J.A. The Jewish communal leaders, who come from major cities throughout the country, spent the entire day at the shelter studying the U.J.A.-supported program for refugees entering the United States, which will receive 25,000 displaced Jews during 1949. Members of the group shared the normal routine and meals of the residents of the shelter.

The bust, which was cast in the 1800's from the famous Bowden bust of Washington now in Mount Vernon, bears the following inscription on its black, marble base: "George Washington, First President of the United States of America. Presented to Dr. Chaim Weizmann, First President of Israel by the United Jewish Appeal on Behalf of the American Jewish Community."

PRISONERS OF WAR EXCHANGE BEGINS IN PALESTINE; 7,000 ARABS, 1,200 JEWS AFFECTED

JERUSALEM, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A general exchange of Arab and Jewish prisoners-of-war throughout Palestine was begun today. It will affect, in all, 7,000 Arab and 1,200 Israeli war-prisoners,

Under an agreement between Col. Hecbe Dayan, commander of the Israeli forces in Jerusalem, and Lt. Col. Abdullah el Tel, commander of the Arab Legion, 157 Arab war-prisoners, mostly Palestinian irregulars, were handed over to the Transjordan forces this afternoon. The exchange of prisoners is expected to be completed in several weeks.

According to the records of the International Red Cross, the Arab war-prisoners held by the Israeli forces consist of 5,000 Palestinians and 1,200 Egyptians, with the rest comprised of Syrian, Iraqi, Transjordanian and Lebanese. Some 700 Israeli prisoners are held by the Arab Legion at the Mafraq camp in Transjordan. Syria holds some 45 Israeli prisoners, Lebanon has a very small number and the rest are held by the Egyptian Army.

Yaacov Dori, Israeli Army chief of staff, at a meeting in Tel Aviv this week-end revealed that Israel's future peace-time army will consist of a small regular force and a large body of trained militia in reserve. This peace-time army, Dori said, would make up for its lack of size by concentrating on increased fire power. The civilian population will be trained and ready to be mobilized in "an instant" in the event of an emergency.

He pointed out that since Israel is a small country, each town and settlement must be converted into a "bastion of defense" with its own arms supplies and manpower reserve. Each border colony must be converted into a fortress, he added. He pointed out that the security of the state does not depend on military victories alone, but also on planning. Because of the country's great need for manpower to expand its industrial and agricultural horizons the army's personnel will not be changed much.

Addressing the same meeting, Levi Eshkol, Jewish Agency executive and a former leader of the Hagannah, stated that the population of Israel will soon treble, with 25 percent of its inhabitants engaged in agricultural pursuits. The "conquest of the armed forces," he declared, must now be followed by the "conquest of settlement."

P.E.C. PLANS EXPANSION OF ISRAELI RESOURCES; SERKS FOREIGN CAPITAL FOR INVESTMENT

TEL AVIV, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- The Palestine Economic Corporation plans to continue the exploitation of Israel's natural resources, industry and water power, Robert Szold, of the P.E.C., told newsmen here on his arrival yesterday. The corporation will try to attract foreign capital for such investments, he added.

The company, Szold disclosed, has already reached an agreement with industrialists for the establishment of a new plastics factory in Israel, and plans to build new hotels on a large scale. The P.E.C. also intends to bring over its own engineers for carrying out these plans. The Corporation, which is one of the principal shareholders in the Dead Sea potash works, has already worked out plans for large-scale peace-time expansion in the potash industry.

JEWISH NEWSPAPER PUBLISHERS PARLEY HAILS TRUMAN ROLE IN ESTABLISHMENT OF ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- A resolution acclaiming the role played by President Truman in the establishment of the state of Israel and recommending Truman an honorary degree by the Hebrew University in Jerusalem was adopted today at the convention of the American Association of English-Jewish Newspapers. The resolution proposed that Truman be invited by the Israeli Government to visit the Jewish

The convention decided to make an effort to extend the news service available to the English-Jewish publications in this country, in cooperation with the Jewish Telegraphic Agency. It also emphasized in one of its resolutions that the J.T.A. is "fully equipped" to serve the Jewish communities in the United States. At the same time, it criticized "excessive" publicity programs conducted by national Jewish organizations and called upon national leaders and organizations "to examine this situation."

The convention approved a plan proposed by Yeshiva University of New York to set up an annual press institute and announced that plans are being made by the Association for scholarships for young people aspiring to enter the Jewish newspaper field. The Association is also planning monthly and annual citations for excellence in editing and make-up. The plans are being prepared under the chairmanship of Dr. Alexander D. S. of the Jewish Advocate of Boston.

The convention re-elected Philip Slomovitz, editor of the Detroit Jewish News, president. Other officers were elected as follows: Dr. Brin, J.M. Feldman, publisher, The Sentinel, Chicago, and Albert Golomb, publisher, American Jewish Outlook, Pittsburgh, vice-presidents; Eli Jacobs, editor and publisher, Jewish Review, Buffalo, N.Y., secretary; Leo H. Frisch, editor and publisher, American Jewish World, Minneapolis and St. Paul Minn., treasurer.

Highlighting the four-day convention was a luncheon meeting today in observance of the 100th anniversary of the English-Jewish press. Slomovitz, who presided, outlined the history of the Jewish press. Speakers included Robert Nathan, noted economist; Repe. A.J. Sebath and Sidney R. Yates of Illinois, Sol Bloom of New York and A.A. Ribicoff of Connecticut; and Frisch and Brin, who read the numerous messages from Israeli and American leaders.

L. SEGALOVITCH, PROMINENT YIDDISH POET AND NOVELIST, DIES IN NEW YORK

NEW YORK, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- L. Segalovitch, prominent Yiddish poet and novelist, died here yesterday of a heart attack. He was 65 years of age.

Born in Bialystok in 1884, he began writing in Russian and then in Yiddish in 1904. He was jailed by the Czarist Government for his political activities on several occasions. He lived in Lodz and Warsaw for many years before the start of World War II. When the Nazis came to Poland, he fled to Palestine where he wrote three tragic poems on the fate of the Jews in Europe annihilated by the Nazis. He arrived in the United States last year and became a writer for the Jewish Daily Forward.

FUNERAL SERVICES HELD FOR ABRAHAM SHAPIRO, KEY FIGURE IN FOUNDED OF BRANDEIS UNIV.

BOSTON, Feb. 20. (JTA) -- Funeral services were held here today for Abraham Shapiro, noted philanthropist and a key figure in the founding of Brandeis University. Shapiro, 65, died suddenly of a heart attack Friday while vacationing in Florida. A trustee of the Combined Jewish Appeal of Greater Boston, Beth Israel Hospital and Associated Jewish Philanthropies, Shapiro was a member of Brandeis University's board of trustees.

AN ACCOUNT OF WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY NO BULLETIN WILL BE ISSUED ON TUESDAY