

JTA

Vol. XVI No. 50 (31st year)

Wednesday, March 2, 1949

Daily News Bulletin

Published by JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

MORGENTHAU ACCEPTS U.J.A. LEADERSHIP; APPOINTS MONTOR; CALLS FOR JEWISH UNITY

NEW YORK, March 1. (JTA) -- Henry Morgenthau, Jr., today announced his acceptance of the invitation to serve as general chairman of the 1949 campaign of the United Jewish Appeal which was extended to him by leaders of the Jewish Agency, Joint Distribution Committee, United Palestine Appeal and the United Service for New Americans. Morgenthau also announced that he had named Henry Montor to conduct the nationwide campaign under his leadership.

The announcement was made after the board of directors of the United Palestine Appeal last night accepted a decision of the Jewish Agency executive calling for the return of Morgenthau to the helm of the U.J.A. drive, and Henry Montor to executive directorship of the drive. The vote at the U.P.A. board meeting was 52 in favor of accepting the decision and 30 abstentions. The abstainees were supporters of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, who recently resigned from the Agency executive, in protest against its decision on the U.J.A.

Judge Morris Rothenberg, national chairman of the Jewish National Fund of America, was named acting national chairman of the U.P.A., by the board of directors, succeeding Herman L. Weisman. After his appointment, Judge Rothenberg issued a plea to both sides to put aside all animosity and work for the U.J.A. campaign.

Controversy Over U.J.A. Administration Ended

Morgenthau's announcement of his acceptance of the U.J.A. general chairmanship brought to a conclusion the controversy over the administration of the U.J.A. which lasted several months. He paid tribute to Montor as "an executive of extraordinary ability" and as "the best fund-raiser for Israel and the other causes represented in the U.J.A." He pledged all his energies to the success of the 1949 campaign and called upon all elements in the Jewish population to "go forward in a spirit of unity."

Dr. Silver issued a statement reaffirming his objections to Montor and emphasizing his opposition to "the unwarranted intervention" of the Jewish Agency executive "in the internal administrative affairs of an autonomous Zionist body such as the United Palestine Appeal." Declaring that he was "astounded" to read in the press that the Jewish Agency had signed an agreement with the other beneficiaries of the U.P.A. prior to last night's meeting of the U.P.A. board of directors, Dr. Silver said:

"Because we were thus confronted with a lamentable fait accompli we had no other recourse than to advise our friends to refrain from voting at the board meeting. We did not wish further to prolong the controversy; on the other hand, we could not approve the action which was taken. We wish it clearly understood that those who have demanded absolute control over the campaign and those of the executive of the Jewish Agency who capitulated to such demands, must now assume full responsibility for the campaign."

ISRAELI-LEBANESE ARMISTICE TALKS BEGIN IN BORDER TOWN; MEETING TO BE HELD TOMORROW

RAS EL NAHURA, Israeli-Lebanese Frontier, March 1. (JTA) -- The Israeli-Lebanese armistice talks got under way here today after an initial misunderstanding which delayed the start of the negotiations. The dispute arose over whether the negotiations would be conducted in the Israeli-held police station or the Lebanese-controlled customs house.

A compromise was reached whereby today's talks were held in the customs house and the next meeting, probably on Thursday, will be held in the police station. The meeting opened at 10:30 this morning, Israeli time, under the chairmanship of Henry Vigdor, aide to United Nations mediator Ralph J. Bunche. U.N. observers from Haifa and Beirut were in attendance. U.N. chief of staff Gen. William Riley is expected to be present at Thursday's session.

Today's session ended about 4 P.M. During the course of the day's business, which was reportedly conducted in a cordial atmosphere, both parties received a draft agreement prepared by the U.N. staff and agreed to study it in preparation for Thursday's session.

At the insistence of the Lebanese, the armistice talks, being conducted on military levels, are being held in secret and newspapermen are not being permitted access to the customs house. The U.N. did not even issue a communique on today's session, when it was completed.

The Israeli delegation is expected to exert strong pressure on the Lebanese to force a Syrian withdrawal from the Jewish village of Michmar Hagarden, south of Lake Huleh, which is the only Jewish territory in Arab hands in the north. The Syrians can supply their forces there only through Lebanese territory.

The Israeli delegation, escorted by U.N. observers carrying white flags to prevent any misunderstanding, crossed from the police station to the Lebanese customs house this morning on foot.

ISRAELI-TRANSJORDAN ARMISTICE TALKS DELAYED UNTIL TOMORROW; MEDIATOR PREPARING AGENDA

RHODES, March 1. (JTA) -- The Israeli-Transjordan armistice negotiations are not expected to begin until Thursday, it was learned here today. Meanwhile, acting mediator Ralph J. Bunche is preparing an agenda for the talks, which may be ready tomorrow.

The reason for the latest delay is two-fold: the Transjordanian delegation seems to be confused as to the nature of the talks; and, the Israeli delegation cannot get down to really serious discussions until the arrival of Shabtai Rosenne, Foreign Office legal aide, who is now on the Israeli-Lebanese border participating in the armistice negotiations there, and who is expected here Thursday. The Transjordanians came here apparently under instructions to raise the question of Palestine Arab refugees as the first point on the agenda. The Israelis, however, have indicated that the question of the refugees will not be considered at armistice talks, but only at peace conferences.

Even before the armistice sessions opened, the Transjordanians today complained to Dr. Bunche of an alleged movement of Israeli forces heading in the direction of Aqaba. According to the Arabs, an Arab Legion patrol encountered a convoy of nine Israeli armored vehicles and several jeeps en route to Wadi Araba, some 30 miles north of Eilat. After receiving the complaint, Dr. Bunche ordered U.N. truce observers to investigate the report. (In Tel Aviv, meanwhile, an Israeli military spokesman denied the report, declaring that he could "not imagine what inspired such a report, unless it was intended to influence the armistice talks at Rhodes.")

STATE DEPARTMENT LIFTS BAN ON TRAVEL TO ISRAEL; FORD NAMED U.S. COUNSELOR TO ISRAEL

WASHINGTON, March 1. (JTA) -- The bans to travel to Israel set up by the U.S. Government during the early period of the Palestine hostilities have now been lifted, the State Department today informed the American Zionist Emergency Council.

Richard Ford was named counselor for Israel today by the State Department. As counselor he would act as charge d'affaires should Ambassador James G. McDonald leave Israel. Ford previously served as consul-general at Barcelona and has served in various State Department posts throughout the world for the last 26 years.

TALKS ON COMPOSITION OF ISRAELI CABINET CONTINUE; MAPAI-RELIGIOUS BLOC AGREEMENT REACHED

TEL AVIV, March 1. (JTA) -- Talks on the composition of the new Israeli Cabinet continued today with Premier David Ben Gurion still making an effort to establish a broad coalition government.

It is understood that Ben Gurion has reached an agreement with the Religious Bloc which would involve the assignment of three Cabinet portfolios to their leaders and the continued maintenance of the Ministry of Religion, which the Premier had indicated previously he wished to abandon. The three portfolios to be assigned to the Religious Bloc are: Religious Affairs to Rabbi Judah L. Fishman; Immigration to Moshe Shapira; and Social Welfare and Rehabilitation to Rabbi I.N. Levin. All three men held the same positions in the Provisional Cabinet.

Meanwhile, the Mapam has called on Ben Gurion to expand in detail his four-point program announced immediately following the elections. The division between the two labor parties is believed to have narrowed down to the foreign, wage and fiscal policies of the proposed coalition government. At the last meeting between the representatives of the two parties, the leftists offered their minimum program in the form of an ultimatum. The Mapai leaders said they wished to consult with members of their central committee before making a decision. It is understood that both groups showed a desire to reach an agreement.

At a national conference of the Fighters Party, formerly the Stern Group, it was decided last night that members of the party would settle in cooperative colonies in the Negev and along the route between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv. Sheikh Youssef Abu Oseh, rich Arab landowner and former Sternist officer, announced that he would join one of the cooperative settlements.

PRESIDENT WEIZMANN PAYS FIRST OFFICIAL VISIT TO TEL AVIV; ADDRESSES GOVT. EMPLOYEES

TEL AVIV, March 1. (JTA) -- President Chaim Weizmann's first official visit to Tel Aviv took place today in a beflagged city filled with cheering crowds. He was officially greeted by the municipal authorities.

When he arrived at his office in Hakiryah, the government seat, all Israeli officials stopped work and assembled at the Presidential building where Dr. Weizmann appeared on the balcony. The President stated that the time had come for the government officials to devote all their efforts in behalf of the country to "fulfill a major responsibility" resting on them. Afterwards, a closed meeting took place in the President's office, attended by all ministers and heads of departments.

SECURITY COUNCIL MEETS THURSDAY ON ISRAELI APPLICATION FOR U.N. MEMBERSHIP

LAKE SUCCESS, March 1. (JTA) -- The U.N. Security Council will meet Thursday afternoon to consider Israel's application for admission to the United Nations. The meeting was called by Cuba's delegate to the Council, Dr. Alberto Inocente Alvarez, who is Council President for the month of March.

CHINESE GOVERNMENT EXTENDS RECOGNITION TO STATE OF ISRAEL; TRANSJORDAN ALSO RECOGNIZED

LAKE SUCCESS, March 1. (JTA) -- The Chinese Republic today formally recognized the states of Israel and Transjordan. A report to this effect was received here from Canton.

Antony S. Eban, head of the Israeli delegation to the United Nations, in a letter to Chinese delegate Dr. T.F. Tsiang, expressed gratification over China's recognition of Israel. "The people of Israel," he stated, "are eager to contribute to the renewal and development of progressive life and culture in the continent of Asia, in which its own civilization was born. We are, therefore, particularly gratified to be accorded the recognition of the oldest Asiatic power. The action of your government will doubtless be regarded as highly significant by all the peoples of Asia."

STATE DEPARTMENT PERMITS DR. WEIZMANN TO BUY U.S. PLANE FOR HIS TRIP TO NEW YORK

WASHINGTON, March 1. (JTA) -- The State Department today gave Israeli President Chaim Weizmann permission to buy a four-engine transport plane for use on his trip to New York in April.

Weizmann certified to the State Department that the plane was for his personal use and that Israel now has no aircraft of that range and size. A spokesman for the Israeli Embassy said today that negotiations were under way for the purchase of a used C-54.

It was specified by the State Department that the plane may not be transferred or resold without American permission owing to the arms embargo still in force for the Middle East. The purchase authority represents the first granted the Israeli Government for aircraft acquisition here. After Weizmann's April trip, the plane will be used by the El Al Aviation Company, Israeli Government airline.

WASHINGTON OFFICIALS PREVENT AMERICAN SHOWING OF FILM EXPOSING NAZI BRUTALITIES

BERLIN, March 1. (JTA) -- State and Army Department officials in Washington have decided not to exhibit the United States military government's powerful documentary film "Warsaw" to audiences in the United States, it was reported here today. The film exposes Nazi brutality.

The reason assertedly given for withholding the picture--a history of the Nazi movement in Germany--from American movie-goers is that it would revive anti-German feeling among Americans. This decision was made by a group of officials of the two departments whom the military government forwarded it for approval to the capital. The opinion of the Washington reviewers appeared to be that the film might raise opposition to Marshall Plan grants to Germany in coming years.

EP COMMISSION CHAIRMAN CRITICIZES IMMIGRATION ACT IN TESTIMONY BEFORE SENATE COMMITTEE

WASHINGTON, March 1. (JTA) -- Ugo Carusi, Displaced Persons Commission chairman, testifying before the Senate Appropriations Committee today, criticized various provisions of the present EP immigration law and asked that it be changed. Among the provisions he scored were the act's requirement that 30 percent of the DP's who enter the U.S. shall be agriculturalists and shall remain in farm work, and that 40 percent of all immigrants be of Baltic origin.

ZIONIST CAMPAIGN IN RUMANIA INTENSIFIED; JEWISH GROUP IN BUCHAREST DISSOLVED

BUCHAREST, March 1. (JTA) -- The anti-Zionist campaign conducted by the press intensified today. Even the newspaper "Popular Sports," which normally reports nothing but events in the world of sports, today joined the general chorus with an editorial viciously attacking Zionism.

The Official Gazette today published a decree dissolving the Chevra Kaddishah in Bucharest which has been engaged in arranging burials for Jews. The property of the organization has been turned over to the Jewish community.

WAR CRIMINALS WHO MURDERED JEWS IN POLAND DURING WAR SENTENCED TO DEATH

WARSAW, March 1. (JTA) -- Five Polish and German war criminals who tortured and murdered Jews during the Nazi occupation of Poland have been sentenced to death by Polish courts during the past week, it was reported here today. In addition, condemned war criminals have been executed.

The men sentenced to death were: Jan Geimek, who was active in the liquidation of the ghettos at Lvov and a number of other cities and who admitted the murder of at least two Jews; Stanislaw Shirechak, Gestapo informer and murderer of Jews in Jasko; Heinrich Lindert, a German policeman who "excelled" in tracing Jews in Cracow who were passing as Aryans; Hugon Voerster, who tortured Jewish slave laborers in a glass factory at Piotrkow; and, Arnold Busher, a former commandant of a concentration camp at Lubow who was guilty of sending thousands of children to the gas chambers at Auschwitz.

Zygmund Sapart, a former guard at a concentration camp, was hanged in Ostrov, while a Ukrainian, Jan Lantz, who assisted the German police during the war, was executed in Lublin. A farmer named Edmund Kostera, who together with his wife betrayed a Jewish couple to the Gestapo in the village of Komarovo, was sentenced to life imprisonment.

JEWISH CENSUS COMPLETED IN TURKEY; REVEALS ABOUT 70,000 JEWS RESIDE IN COUNTRY

ISTANBUL, March 1. (JTA) -- There are now some 70,000 Jews living in Turkey, it was revealed here today in a survey released by the Jewish community. The survey was conducted prior to the recent wave of migration to Israel.

At that time there were 78,730 Jews in Turkey, over 7,000 of whom have since emigrated. There are nearly 16,000 family units among the Turkish Jews, the poll disclosed. About 6,000 families are described as having a "satisfactory economic position," while 10,000 are listed as having "average" means.

FRANCE COURT ACQUITS NAZI ART EXPERT OF CHARGES OF STEALING ART OBJECTS OWNED BY JEWS

PARIS, March 1. (JTA) -- Karl Epting, head of the German Institute in Paris during the occupation, accused of requisitioning pictures and antiques belonging to French Jews, was acquitted at a trial here today after testimony in his behalf by Otto Dietz, Germany's wartime ambassador to France.

The French Education Ministry has ordered all teachers to read to their classes the United Nations Declaration of Human Rights, with appropriate comments. It is expected that the teachers will stress the clauses directed against racial and religious discrimination. The Ministry's order follows the publication of the full text of the Declaration in the Official Gazette.

UNITED JEWISH APPEAL DELEGATION ARRIVES IN TEL AVIV; WILL REMAIN IN ISRAEL TEN DAYS

TEL AVIV, March 1. (JTA) -- A delegation of the United Jewish Appeal, composed of 45 American Jewish community leaders, and accompanied by six American correspondents, landed this afternoon at the Lydda airport.

Julian Veneky, U.S.A. national chairman for regions, who heads the delegation, declared that the group will spend ten days in Israel and will fly from here to North Africa to study the conditions of the Jews there. From North Africa it will return to the United States to help in the U.S.A.'s \$250,000,000 campaign.

ISRAEL'S SINGLE-HANDED VICTORY IN WAR MAKES INDEPENDENCE MORE SECURE, ELATH SAYS

DETROIT, March 1. (JTA) -- Eliahu Elath, Israeli Ambassador to the United States, last night told the Economic Club of Detroit that he felt it was better that Israel won its war single-handedly rather than to have had the aid of Russian or American troops. He added that future generations would be proud of Israel's triumph and that it will make Israeli independence more secure on both political and moral grounds.

Discussing the future of Israel, Ambassador Elath said "we hope to be able to emulate Switzerland, the important industries of which are based on highly skilled labor. Our diamond, optical and chemical industries are a beginning in this direction. Since Israel's territory is very limited, we look to the sea and the air for further development. In recent months we have energetically begun to build up a merchant marine and we hope that boats under Israel's flag will carry a considerable percentage of our immigrants and tourists in the future.

"Israel lies at the crossroads of the world," he continued, "near the junction of three continents. Before the last war Lydda had become one of the major airports in the Middle East and we are determined to put forth every effort to make it an even more important center of air communications." All these development programs will be accelerated with the help of the \$100,000,000 loan granted by the U.S. Export-Import Bank, Ambassador Elath said, adding that it was Israel's hope that in addition private capital will be invested in Israel "at a growing pace."

NEXT VESSEL TO FLY ISRAELI FLAG IN WESTERN HEMISPHERE WATERS TO BE NAMED "S.S. HAIFA"

NEW YORK, March 1. (JTA) -- The first vessel to fly the flag of Israel in the waters of the western hemisphere will be officially named the S.S. Haifa at a dedication ceremony to be held on Monday at Potts Cove Pier, Queens, New York, it was announced here today by the American Israeli Shipping Company. The vessel is a former Canadian victory ship of 10,800 tons.

TEODOS GELER, NOTED JEWISH PAINTER AND ILLUSTRATOR, DIES IN CHICAGO AT AGE OF 60

CHICAGO, March 1. (JTA) -- Teodos Geler, noted Jewish painter and illustrator, died here of a heart attack at the age of 60.

He was born in Russia and migrated to Canada in 1906. Nine years later he moved to Chicago. His work is represented in the Buckingham Collection at the Chicago Art Institute, in the Tel Aviv Museum, in the Birobidjan State Museum and in many Jewish institutions throughout the United States.

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