

Wednesday, April 13, 1949

**JTA** Daily News Bulletin

Published by JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

NEWS START PASSOVER OBSERVANCE TONIGHT; NEW MEANING GIVEN TO "NEXT YEAR IN JERUSALEM"

NEW YORK, April 12, (JTA) -- The Passover prayer "Next Year in Jerusalem," which has been for centuries the climax of the Seder service, will assume a new meaning to-morrow evening when Jews throughout the world usher in the eight-day holiday in the knowledge that Jerusalem has this year been liberated by the Israeli Army and is now practically an integral part of the Jewish state.

In the United States the holiday will be marked by special drives in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal campaign in 3,495 Jewish communities. More than 1,200 rabbis plan to preach special sermons devoted to the U.J.A. during the holiday.

Continuing a tradition of more than three decades, the Jewish Welfare Board has made arrangements for the observance of Passover by Jewish personnel serving with the American armed services in Europe, Asia, Alaska and the West Indies. Complete Seders will be held aboard 15 Army transports on the high seas tomorrow night. In addition, J.W.B. chaplains, field workers and directors of USO-J.W.B. centers at some 100 camps, naval bases and Veterans Administration hospitals throughout the continental United States will assist military personnel in the observance of Passover.

The Army will fly rabbis assigned by J.W.B. to Bermuda and Alaska to conduct Passover services for Jewish personnel there. The Caribbean Command furnished transportation which enabled Rabbi Nathan Witkin, USO-J.W.B. director in the Canal Zone, to make a 4,000 mile trip to survey the Passover needs of Jewish men stationed at various places in the West Indies. The local J.W.B. Armed Services Committees are engaged in setting up community Seders or on-post Seders for men unable to obtain leave.

Seders Arranged for DP Immigrants by Jewish Organizations

The United Service for New Americans will hold a mass Seder for some 400 newcomers awaiting resettlement in this country. HIAS will hold its 64th annual Seders on the first and second evening of the holiday for some 200 newly-arrived immigrants at its New York shelter. Similar services will be held on Ellis Island for those awaiting hearings on entrance applications.

The Joint Distribution Committee reported today that Passover will be marked by the greatest exodus of Israel-bound Jews since Biblical days. Special Seders will be held tonight for Jewish emigrants in J.D.C. transient centers in Marseille, France; in Germany, Austria and Italy; and in North Africa, agency officials said. To enable Europe's Jews to mark the holiday in traditional style, the Committee shipped 3,000,000 pounds of matzoth and matzoth meal to Europe plus 85,000 quarts of Passover wine.

Henry Morgenthau, Jr., chairman of the U.J.A., emphasizing the need for securing the largest possible total of cash contributions, pointed out that more than 45,000 newcomers would be forced to spend Passover in primitive transit camps or tents because of the acute housing shortage in Israel. Reporting plans for the erection of

"tent cities" in Israel to expand the transient housing facilities, Morgenthau said that the Jewish Agency desires to expand its housing program but is hampered by a shortage of funds.

"Our generosity must prevent the transfer of the atmosphere of the D.P. camps to the soil of Israel," he appealed. "We must provide adequate food and clothing and shelter for the newcomers."

#### American Jewish Committee Delegation Sends Passover Message from Israel

In a Passover message cabled from Jerusalem today three of the leading officers of the American Jewish Committee described the prodigious efforts being made in Israel to absorb tens of thousands of new immigrants and reconstruct the land. They urged continued aid to Israel through foreign loans, private contributions, support of the United Jewish Appeal and the "skill, initiative and resources of private enterprise" for the absorption of the "mass of immigrants who desire or need to come to Israel."

Jacob Blaustein, president; Irving M. Engel and Dr. John Slawson, executive committee chairman and executive vice-president, respectively, who are in Israel on a survey tour, declared that "the ancient Seder tale of liberation is now being repeated by tens of thousands of Jews, from the DP camps in Germany, from distant Aden, from North Africa and other countries, who, after many wanderings, are now reaching the shores of Israel."

"Israel is teeming with life and hope. Everywhere we went we found multitudes of people building roads and houses, working in factories, tilling the soil and reconstructing the country," the message said. "We urge that continuous efforts be made to strengthen the foundations of the new-born state so that it shall be an outpost of democracy and a bastion of peace and progress."

Accelerated participation of American Jewry in the "Land for Israel" program was urged in a Passover message sent by the Administration of the Jewish National Fund in America to the Fund's Councils in more than 1,000 communities throughout the nation. "The security requirements of the new nation and the great needs of our returning brethren make the realization of the Land redemption program of the Jewish National Fund an urgent task which brooks no delay," the message declared.

#### Rabbinical Groups Extend Holiday Greetings to American Jewry

The Synagogue Council of America, through Rabbi Robert Gordis, its president, declared that "this year the Jewish people will celebrate the truest Feast of Liberation in two-thousand years. The age-old yearning for freedom and for the restoration of the Land of Israel has now become a reality for hundreds of thousands of our people. Jews everywhere are finding a new and deeper meaning in the story of Redemption."

A joint statement by the Union of American Hebrew Congregations and the Central Conference of American Rabbis asserted that "American democracy is based upon the ideals of freedom and liberty first proclaimed by the Jews' successful revolt against slavery and oppression. Our founding fathers relived the same atmosphere of tension and fear in their flight to the New World and it is a testament to their endurance and freedom that we in America enjoy the rights and liberties they won."

Extending holiday greetings to American Jewry, the Rabbinical Council of America stated: "We in America who are conscious of the enormous task to rehabilitate the 800,000 of our brethren, who will return home this year after a decade of unprecedented

suffering, will gain the courage necessary for the sacrifices we must make in support of the United Jewish Appeal, by reciting the time-honored story of our redemption as related in the Hagadah."

Sharett, Eban, Elath To Be Guests at "Third Seder"

Israel's Foreign Minister Moshe Sharett, its U.N. representative Aubrey S. Eban, and Ambassador Eliahu Elath, will be guests of honor at the 17th annual Passover Third Seder Celebration of the National Committee for Labor Israel next Saturday evening. More than 5,000 persons are expected to attend the Histadrut event. Principal speakers at the Third Seder will be Barnett Janner, British Laborite M.P.; Dr. Nahum Goldmann, chairman of the American Section of the Jewish Agency; Jacob Potofsky, president of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers of America; and Hayim Greenberg, member of the Jewish Agency executive.

Coincident with the approach of the Passover holidays, the Zionist Organization of America has launched a nationwide registration of American Zionists in a "Book of Remembrance," signifying the American Zionist role in the efforts leading to the creation of the Jewish state of Israel. In his Passover message, Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Z.O.A., said that "the state of Israel is the child of the Zionist movement" and "its welfare will continue to be a Zionist responsibility" for years to come.

Leon Gellman, president of the Mizrahi Organization of America, issued a statement declaring that "all mankind might justly join in celebrating Passover 1949," because it stands today "as a symbol of man's eternal striving to be free and untrammelled in a land that is his own, in a world that recognizes the dignity of the individual."

Israeli Ambassador Issues Passover Message to Jews of America

WASHINGTON, April 12. (JTA) -- In a Passover message to the Jews of America, Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Elath today appealed to the Jews of this country and Israel to rededicate themselves to the liberation of the Jews of the DP areas and elsewhere who must be accepted and absorbed in Israel.

"The independence of the state of Israel brings to the celebration of this year's Passover the freshness and the challenge of a new epoch which will undoubtedly be the forerunner of a golden age in Jewish history," he stated. "The achievement of this statehood was a primary lesson in successful cooperation between the Jews of Israel and the Jews all over the world, and especially with the great Jewish community in America. It was a lesson well learned and one on which there is much to build for the future," he said.

FRENCH OFFICIALS RELEASE MATZOHS FOR MOROCCAN JEWS AFTER U.S. CONSUL'S INTERVENTION

WASHINGTON, April 12. (JTA) -- The intervention of C. Paul Fletcher, U.S. Consul-general in Casablanca, has caused the release of 500 pounds of matzohs withheld from Moroccan Jews, a spokesman for the French Embassy here admitted today.

A cable received by the Embassy said that the French were unaware that the matzohs were to be eaten as part of a religious ceremony until advised by Fletcher's complaints. They said that they thought the shipment was for one person and customs officials "didn't realize" it was a free gift.

TRUMAN NAMES ENVOY TO WELCOME WEIZMANN; ISRAELI PRESIDENT ARRIVES IN N.Y. TODAY

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- President Truman has designated Ambassador Ray Atherton as his personal representative to welcome President Dr. Chaim Weizmann of Israel upon his arrival here tomorrow morning from Paris for the first time since he was elected President of the Jewish state. Mayor William O'Dwyer of New York will lead a group of distinguished national and civic leaders who will go to Idlewild Airport by special motorcade to welcome Dr. Weizmann to this country. Ambassador Atherton will also represent the State Department.

The Israeli President will also be welcomed by Henry Morgenthau, Jr., general chairman of the United Jewish Appeal; Moshe Sharett, Foreign Minister of Israel; Ambassador of Israel Elishu Elath; Aubrey S. Eban, Israel representative at the United Nations; Arthur Lourie, Consul General of Israel in New York; Dr. Nahum Goldmann, acting chairman of the American section of the Jewish Agency; Hugo E. Rogers, chairman of the Mayor's reception committee, and Judge Morris Rothenberg, a national chairman of the U.J.A.

Dr. Weizmann and his official entourage will be escorted from the airport to the Hotel Waldorf-Astoria by a motorcade of city cars with police escort. The Israeli President is accompanied by Mrs. Weizmann and their son, Benjamin; the President's aide de camp, Major David Arnon; Dr. Samuel Zonček, his personal physician; Dr. David Bergmann, scientific director of the Weizmann Institute in Rehovoth; and other aides, including Yigal Kimche, his personal secretary.

ISRAELIS PREPARE TO CELEBRATE FIRST PASSOVER SINCE PROCLAMATION OF JEWISH STATE

TEL AVIV, April 12. (JTA) -- As all Israel prepares for the first celebration of Passover since the proclamation of the Jewish state more than a thousand guests from abroad have already reached this land.

With the country suffering from an acute shortage of accommodations, many of them will be guests in private homes for the Seder. Hundreds will attend Seders at settlements throughout the country, all of which have arranged to receive guests for the occasion.

Public Seders have been arranged to accommodate residents of the country and special functions have been arranged for the Israeli armed forces. All members of the forces will receive special gift parcels from the Soldiers' Welfare Committee.

In Tel Aviv and other cities, the food situation will be somewhat easier for Passover since special food allotments have been authorized to supplement the strict rationing. Several thousand men, women and children will participate in a special pilgrimage to Jerusalem organized by the Ministry of Religion.

SYRIANS AGREE TO EVACUATE DISPUTED HILL; PROGRESS REPORTED IN RENewed NEGOTIATIONS

ON ISRAEL-SYRIA FRONTIER, April 12. (JTA) -- The Syrians have agreed to evacuate the disputed hill "233" which they have held since last August, it was announced following resumption of the Israeli-Syrian armistice talks in a tent near the settlement of Mchanayin. A session was also scheduled to be held tomorrow despite the impending Passover holiday.

Representatives of both sides agreed that good progress had been made in the renewed meetings, and an Israeli Foreign Ministry spokesman declared that the negotiations had been held in a "cordial atmosphere." The definite date for the Syrian withdrawal remains to be fixed by Brig. Gen. William Riley, military chief of staff to Dr. Ralph J. Bunche, U.N. acting mediator.

U.N. ASSEMBLY TO ACT TODAY ON ISRAEL'S APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP; MAY DELAY VOTE

FLUSHING MEADOW, April 12. (JTA) -- Israel's application for United Nations membership will be taken up tomorrow by the General Assembly. However, last minute pressure is being exerted on Assembly President Herbert V. Evatt to delay a direct vote and to send the application to the Political Committee for preliminary discussion.

The International Court of Justice ruled yesterday that the U.N. may claim compensation from any government for damage suffered by U.N. personnel in line of duty. The ruling was sought following the assassination of Count Folke Bernadotte.

BEN GURION TELLS KNESSETH HE WILL QUIT AS DEFENSE MINISTER AFTER PEACE IS ESTABLISHED

TEL AVIV, April 12. (JTA) -- Premier David Ben Gurion last night told a session of the Israeli Knesseth that he would resign as Minister of Defense after the conclusion of peace treaties with neighboring Arab states and as soon as the Army is reorganized on a peacetime basis.

Participating in a Knesseth discussion on the government-sponsored veterans rehabilitation bill, Ben Gurion said that since he was responsible for mobilization of Israel's troops he also wishes to be responsible for their demobilization.

The Knesseth adjourned for two weeks today after adopting the first ten paragraphs of the veterans rehabilitation bill. Earlier, the question of the discharged police officers and government officials who served the former Mandatory power was highlighted during a discussion of a bill regulating the status of former Mandatory civil servants.

The Knesseth also agreed to extend the validity of the State Council-approved law governing these officials for an additional two-month period. At the same time the Knesseth decided to extend permanent status to some 4,000 government officials who have already been screened. A committee to which 260 officials who were discharged can apply for appeal of their dismissals was also set up.

Fifth of Iyar Proclaimed as "Independence Day"

The Knesseth today decided to make the fifth day of the Hebrew month Iyar--anniversary of the proclamation of Israeli statehood--"Yom Haatzmauth," or Independence Day. The Knesseth ordered that Independence Day should hereafter become a public holiday. A proposal submitted by a Religious Bloc deputy urging that the holiday be postponed to Sunday if the fifth of Iyar falls on the Sabbath was rejected.

The fifth of Iyar, which this year falls on May 5, will be celebrated as a national holiday, with regular workday schedules cancelled. Minister of Education Zalman Shazar urged that Independence Day be marked by Jewish communities throughout the world. Deputy Ben Zion Dinaburg called for the appointment of a special writers committee to prepare a "Scroll of Independence" which would be "read from generation to generation as a symbol of the liberation and freedom of Israel." A government proposal to name the fifth of Iyar "Day of Restoration" was defeated.

ISRAELI-ARAB CONFERENCE TO BEGIN MAY 26, U.N. BODY ANNOUNCES; RHODES MAY BE SITE

JERUSALEM, April 12. (JTA) -- The proposed conference between Israeli and Arab representatives will begin May 26 or thereafter, a U.N. Conciliation Commission announcement said today. Some reports meanwhile said that Rhodes might be selected as the site for the "exchange of views" parley instead of Lausanne, Switzerland. Commission members are said to be ready to leave here for the site of the talks at a moment's notice.

U.S. WAR CRIMES COURT FINDS TWO TOP NAZI AIDES RESPONSIBLE IN MURDER OF 6,000,000 JEWS

NUREMBERG, April 12. (JTA) -- The American war crimes court which recently finished trying some 20 top Nazi aides today convicted two of them of helping in the extermination of 6,000,000 European Jews. The convicted Germans are Gustav Steengracht von Moyland, ex-diplomat in the German Foreign Office, and General Gottlieb Berger, former head of the Gestapo main office.

Von Moyland, who organized the Nazi "Office for Anti-Jewish Action Abroad," was found guilty of assisting in the deportation of Hungarian Jews to German death camps and in blocking Allied attempts to rescue some 5,000 Jewish children who were ultimately murdered. The court's judgment, which will require four days to read, highlights the fact that Von Moyland tried to use the rescue offer as part of an anti-British propaganda plot. The tribunal declared Berger to be guilty of a "callous and brutal policy" in relation to the Jews.

J.D.C. ANNOUNCES TERMINATION OF SOS COLLECTION; RECONSTRUCTION POLICY SUPERSEDES RELIEF

NEW YORK, April 12. (JTA) -- The Joint Distribution Committee announced today that its SOS (Supplies for Overseas Survivors) Collection has been terminated because the J.D.C.'s task of assistance to Europe's Jews has "shifted from relief to reconstruction and emigration." The announcement was made at a J.D.C. meeting at the Hotel Commodore here, attended by 200 community SOS leaders from all parts of the country.

In the more than three years of its existence--from January, 1946, to April, 1949--the SOS Collection raised approximately 26,000,000 pounds of relief supplies over and above American Jewry's contributions to the United Jewish Appeal. In a message to the conference, Edward M.M. Werburg, J.D.C. chairman, declared that the "generous gifts of the American people to the SOS will make the SOS campaigns long and well remembered in the history of aid to Europe's 1,500,000 surviving Jews." Speakers who raised SOS volunteers and contributors in 1,000 American communities included Rabbi Jonah B. Wise, J.D.C. vice-chairman; Moses A. Leavitt, J.D.C. executive vice-chairman; Joseph W. Beckleman, vice-chairman of J.D.C.'s European executive council; and Mrs. Isaac Gilman and Albert M. Kahn, S.O.S. national co-chairmen.

ISRAELI GOVERNMENT RECONSIDERS DECISION ON STANLEY; WILL GRANT HIM ENTRY PERMIT

TEL AVIV, April 12. (JTA) -- The Israeli Government announced today that it has reconsidered its refusal to admit Sidney Stanley to Israel and that an entry permit would be given him. Stanley, who is stateless, was ordered expelled from Britain following his involvement in an alleged corruption scandal of British Government officials. Today's decision came after receipt of a new application from Stanley's attorney, Max Seligman.

220 SHANGHAI JEWS SAIL FOR ISRAEL FROM VENICE; LAST TO LEAVE ITALY BEFORE PASSOVER

VENICE, April 12. (JTA) -- A total of 220 Jewish refugees from Shanghai today sailed for Israel aboard the transport Campo D'Oglio, following their temporary stay at the Barletta DP camp. The steamer was the last to depart before Passover.

(A Haifa dispatch reported the arrival in Israel today of 1,100 Jewish immigrants from Italy. They came aboard the S.S. Galilah.)

THE NEXT TWO ISSUES OF THE BULLETIN WILL NOT APPEAR BECAUSE OF THE PASSOVER HOLIDAY