

Wednesday, April 20, 1949

JTA

Daily News Bulletin

Published by JEWISH TELEGRAPHIC AGENCY

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

DR. WISE DIES AT 75; TRUMAN AND WEIZMANN MOURN HIS PASSING; FUNERAL TO BE HELD FRIDAY

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, outstanding leader of American Jewry, who was one of the founders of the Zionist movement in the United States and of the American and World Jewish Congresses, died here today in Lenox Hill Hospital where he underwent an operation on April 7 for a stomach ailment.

Funeral services for Dr. Wise, who celebrated his 75th birthday last month, will take place on Friday. President Truman and President Weizmann of Israel, who is now visiting the United States, sent messages of condolence to Dr. Wise's two children, James Waterman Wise and Justine Wise Polier. Numerous members of Congress similarly sent messages of condolence to the surviving members of his family.

Only a month ago, on the occasion of his 75th birthday, Dr. Wise emphasized that his basic hopes were: 1. For a peaceful world in which justice will reign for all peoples and faiths and races; 2. That the United States would become "more completely and triumphantly a democracy, a land in which every religious group and race shall be wholly free to make its own ethical, spiritual, educational, artistic contribution to the treasure store of American life"; 3. That he wished "to see men and women of good will in every Christian Church in the world, Protestant and Catholic, come to recognize that it is not only un-Christian but indecent to treat Jews as they have been dealt with throughout many centuries."

Gave Rapid Review of His Own Life, Enumerating Battles for Jewish Rights

In a rapid review of his own life, at the 75th birthday celebration, Dr. Wise said: "I was born in Budapest, the birthplace of Max Nordau and Theodore Herzl, on March 17, 1874. Possibly I acquired at birth my innate love for Zion and my life-long career as a fighter. I came from a fighting family of rabbis. My grandfather fought for Hungary's freedom. My father fought at his father's side. I have battled throughout my life for many causes. First for Zionism, together with some of the great men of American Israel--men like Dr. Gustave Gottheil, Prof. Richard Gottheil, Dr. H.P. Mendes and Justice Louis D. Brandeis, that great Jew and one of the great Americans.

"My second battle has been for the Jewish people through the American and World Jewish Congress, for the millions of Jews everywhere who could never become re-builders of Palestine. They required protection, the only protection Jews ought ever to have, viz, equal political rights. Together with Justice Brandeis, Judge Julian W. Mack, Justice Felix Frankfurter, Nathan Straus, Louis Lipsky, Pinous Rittenberg and others, we founded the American Jewish Congress movement. It was largely a protest against the undemocratic management of American Jewish affairs. With Justice Brandeis first as our visible and later our invisible leader, we insisted that Americans be regardless of their geographical origin or economic status were intelligent enough to manage their community affairs and not have them managed for them by well-meaning, generous philanthropists."

"Then followed the World Jewish Congress in 1936, which I helped organize with the aid of some of the most distinguished Jews of European lands. Among them was Dr. Shimon Goldmann, a brilliant statesman. The World Jewish Congress has endeavored to safeguard the rights of every minority so that the rights of Jews may not be suffered

to become inferior. We who seek to safeguard our minority rights must be prepared to battle for the protection of any and every minority. In the course of more than 50 years of service, I have also been privileged to found the Free Synagogue and the Jewish Institute of Religion, the latter now merged with the Hebrew Union College, as one of the outstanding schools for the training of men for the rabbinate."

The Jewish People Lost An Illustrious Son, Says President Weizmann

President Weizmann, in a statement issued here today, said: "One of the greatest spirits of our time has passed away with Stephen S. Wise. For two generations he was a teacher and leader of the American people and for world Jewry. All that was best in Judaism and Americanism he brought to the service of both. To the builders of Israel and the men of my generation he was a continuous help and an inspiration. He brought to our common task a devotion and understanding and a quality of vision which will make him an unforgettable man in the history of Jewry and Israel.

"America and Israel have sustained in his death an irreparable loss, but for both of them as for countless men and women of the democratic faith throughout the world he will long continue as a living and effective force for good. I have lost one of my dearest friends, the Jewish people one of its most illustrious sons."

Israeli Ambassador Eliahu Elath said in a statement: "The people of Israel will join with Jews and non-Jews all over the world in mourning the death of one of the great humanitarians of this century. We of Israel owe him much for he was, half a century ago, among the pioneers in Zionism who lifted their voice in the cause of Israel's redemption. A fearless and tireless advocate of the causes he held dear, he fought our battle tenaciously decade after decade until it was won.

"It is tragic that his failing health did not permit Dr. Wise to accept the invitation extended by President Chaim Weizmann and Prime Minister David Ben Gurion to visit the new state which he helped to bring into being. The world has lost a great crusader who was in the vanguard of every battle for freedom and whose life was one long struggle for living democracy."

Major Jewish Organizations Mourn Death of Dr. Wise

All major Jewish organizations issued statements mourning the death of Dr. Wise. The World Jewish Congress, of which he was president, said: "A prince has fallen this day in Israel. Stephen Wise was not only the founder and leader of the World Jewish Congress and one of the foremost protagonists in the battle for the establishment of the state of Israel, but he was one of the greatest fighters for democracy and human rights of our generation. The passing of this towering personality will leave a void in the ranks of Jewish leadership which cannot be filled; it will be felt wherever men fight for freedom."

Dr. Emanuel Neumann, president of the Zionist Organization of America, declared: "In the passing of Dr. Stephen S. Wise, American Jewry and the Zionist movement particularly have lost one of the foremost and stalwart champions of the cause of justice. An intrepid fighter for and outstanding exponent of Zionism, Dr. Stephen Wise personified the ideal to which he ceaselessly dedicated his great gift of mind and heart."

Statements mourning the passing of Dr. Wise as a loss to both America and the Jewish people and characterizing him as a "dedicated and courageous" leader were issued by the American Jewish Committee, Henry Morgenthau, in behalf of the United Jewish Appeal, and Edward M.M. Warburg, for the Joint Distribution Committee.

SIX JEWS KILLED, FIVE WOUNDED IN ARAB AMBUSH NEAR DEAD SEA; ARMY RUSHES INVESTIGATION

JERUSALEM, April 19. (JTA) -- Six Jews were killed and five wounded--three of them seriously--when a group of civilian hikers was ambushed early today south of the Dead Sea between Sodom and Ain Eussu. Those who escaped the ambush and succeeded in making their way to an Army installation said the assailants were Bedouins. An Israeli Army unit was immediately dispatched to the scene of the attack to track down the ambushers.

The infiltration of Arabs into Israel has been under surveillance for a long time but was made public only today following police action in Jerusalem designed to comb out Arab infiltrates from the city. Israeli police apprehended a band of Arab looters whose members fled to a position beyond the Jewish lines. The Arabs left behind them several wounded men who sought to resist the Israeli police. They also left in Jewish territory a number of donkeys loaded with loot.

Infiltration of Arabs into Jewish territory on a larger scale has been observed both in upper and lower Galilee, where members of an entire Arab village sometimes return to their former homes en masse. When asked by Israeli authorities where they found refuge during the fighting, these Arabs usually reply that they were "hidden in caves."

Meanwhile, Arab newspapers arriving here reveal that 30,000 Transjordan Arabs have entered refugee camps set up in Transjordan for Palestine Arabs who fled their homes last year following the outbreak of Israeli-Arab hostilities. By mingling with the Palestine Arab refugees, the Transjordanians are able to receive rations distributed by the Red Cross and other international refugee aid organizations.

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE WILL HELP ATTRACT CAPITAL TO ISRAEL, DR. SLAWSON SAYS

PARIS, April 19. (JTA) -- The "terrific efforts" of the Israeli authorities to absorb many immigrants were described today by Dr. John Slawson, executive vice-president of the American Jewish Committee, who just arrived here on his way back to the United States. Dr. Slawson was a member of the Committee's delegation visiting Israel.

The "problem number one" of the Jewish state, he said, was its economy. He added that the future task of the American Jewish Committee would be to help the Israelis attract capital which was the only way to assist Israel in maintaining an Army and incorporating thousands of immigrants in the coming years.

NEED FOR UNITY AMONG GENERAL ZIONISTS STRESSED AT PARIS MEETING OF EUROPEAN COUNCIL

PARIS, April 19. (JTA) -- The necessity for maintaining unity among General Zionists following the crisis which developed as a result of the recent resignations of Dr. Abba Hillel Silver and Dr. Emanuel Neumann from the Jewish Agency executive was emphasized here today at the closing session of the European conference of the World Confederation of General Zionists.

Prof. Selig Brodetsky, newly-elected president of the British Zionist Federation, presided at the sessions. A meeting of the world executive of the Confederation will be held in Jerusalem May 1.

Meanwhile, the European council of the World Jewish Congress opened its meeting here last night. The parley's agenda includes the situation of Jews in Rumania, conditions in North Africa, participation of the W.J.C. in the World Congress of Partisans of Peace and the situation in Germany.

PERON SENDS INSCRIBED PHOTOGRAPH TO BE PRESENTED TO WEIZMANN AT NEW YORK DINNER

BUENOS AIRES, April 19. (JTA) -- Argentine President Juan Peron today gave Dr. Abraham Mibastan, Jewish Agency official, a photograph of himself with an inscription addressed to Israeli President Chaim Weizmann. The photograph, which bears the inscription: "Israel -- an example of the perseverance of an immortal people," will be presented to Dr. Weizmann at the testimonial dinner in his honor which will be held in New York's Waldorf-Astoria Hotel this Saturday under the auspices of the American Committee for the Weizmann Institute.

President Peron today received a Jewish delegation including Henry Shoskes, of HIAS, Jacobo Feurman, of the local HIAS office, and Manuel Scheinsohn and Pablo Mangol, leaders of the Organizacion Israelita Argentina. Domingo Mercante, Governor of the Province of Buenos Aires, was also present at the interview, during which Shoskes thanked the President for his efforts in behalf of the legalization of the status of thousands of Jews who had been classified as illegal residents of the country. He also asked Peron for the admission of several hundred skilled Jewish workers and their families.

After the audience, Shoskes quoted the President as saying that skilled Jews would be welcome, provided they prove useful to the Argentine economy. He promised speedy completion of the legalization program and called anti-Semitism "insanity," according to Shoskes.

GOLDA MYERSON, FIRST ISRAELI MINISTER TO U.S.S.R., LEAVES MOSCOW TO ASSUME CABINET POST

MOSCOW, April 19. (JTA) -- Golda Myerson, Israel's first Minister to the Soviet Union, left here by plane today for Prague, en route to Israel where she will assume her new duties as Minister of Labor. The legation has been placed temporarily in the hands of Mordecai Namir, counsellor.

Mrs. Myerson, who was Minister to Moscow since last August, was seen off at the airport by M. Molochkov, chief of protocol of the Soviet Foreign Office, and a number of her friends in the diplomatic corps. Prior to her departure, she paid a call on Andrei Vishinsky, Soviet Foreign Minister. In a statement issued to the press yesterday, the retiring Israeli Minister said:

"I have learned much here and consider my stay in Moscow as one of the greatest experiences in my life. In the course of my work here I have had the honor of meeting ministers and high officials of the Soviet Union. They have all accorded me the most cordial reception. I will always remember the profound understanding shown by them of many problems of our young state.

"It was my earnest endeavor to further the development of friendly relations between the Soviet Union and the state of Israel. I sincerely hope I was successful to some extent. I will be very proud and happy of anything I was able to achieve in that direction.

"I have seen many magnificent expressions of culture and spirit in this great country of the Soviet peoples and its outstanding historical heritage. It is impossible to stay in the Soviet Union for even a few months without becoming deeply aware of the tremendous constructive effort which animates the entire Soviet society."

AMERICAN JEWISH COMMITTEE URGES REVISION OF U.S. IMMIGRATION LAWS; PRESENTS PROPOSALS

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- Revision of American immigration laws to conform with national interests and principles, and to eliminate discredited racist and bureaucratic approaches is recommended in an 80-odd page booklet entitled, "Americanizing Our Immigration Laws," issued by the American Jewish Committee.

The booklet contains the testimony presented before the Immigration Subcommittee of the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee on September 23, 1948, by Irving M. Engel, chairman of the executive committee of the American Jewish Committee, on behalf of the Committee, HIAS, USNA, Jewish Labor Committee, and Synagogue Council of America. The specific proposals for changes, contained in the A.J.C. booklet, are:

1. That Congress make the quota system more flexible by permitting the carrying over of unused quotas from year to year and the transfer of unused quotas from one country to another. This action would make possible full utilization of the ceiling figure established by law.
2. That the carry-over restrictions of the law be modified to permit the establishment of a pool of the unused quota of the previous year and that this pool be administered without regard to national origins.
3. That steps be taken to eliminate the concept of racial discrimination from our immigration laws, and to extend quotas to groups heretofore inadmissible.

STATE TO INVESTIGATE CHARGES OF ANTI-SEMITISM AGAINST N.Y. CITY COLLEGE PROFESSOR

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- The New York State Department of Education yesterday announced that it would investigate, within the next few weeks, charges of maladministration against the New York City Board of Higher Education in connection with its clearing Prof. Knickerbocker of City College on charges of anti-Semitism.

Meanwhile, students of the College, who went on strike last week to force the ouster of Knickerbocker and William C. Davis, an instructor convicted by the College of anti-Negro discrimination, were picketing the school again today after a five-day recess for Passover and Easter.

The State investigation will be based on charges filed by the American Jewish Congress last October. The New York chapter of the American Jewish Committee has announced that it had requested a public hearing of charges in the Knickerbocker case, under the direction of the State Education Department.

OWNER CHARGED WITH ANTI-SEMITISM ASKS F.C.C. PERMISSION TO TRANSFER HIS RADIO STATION

WASHINGTON, April 19. (JTA) -- G.A. Richards, radio station owner who was ordered to appear before the Federal Communications Commission on charges arising from anti-Semitic broadcasts, yesterday asked permission of the Commission to transfer control of his stations to trustees.

The trustees named include Harry J. Klinger, vice-president of General Motors; Lawrence P. Fisher, a director of General Motors; and, John A. Hanna, president of Michigan State College.

Richards had previously asked a stay of hearing because of his "health." He later announced his retirement from the radio business, and a postponement was granted to enable him to transfer his holdings.

\$1,000,000 CAMPAIGN FOR ISRAEL LAUNCHED IN URUGUAY; J.D.C. CONDUCTING SEPARATE DRIVE

MONTEVIDEO, April 19. (JTA) -- A United Israel Campaign with a goal of 3,000,000 pesos (approximately \$1,000,000) was launched here at a public meeting at which Israeli Minister to Uruguay Jacob Taur was the principal speaker.

The Joint Distribution Committee launched a fund-raising drive in Uruguay to raise 300,000 pesos (approximately \$100,000). The campaign was launched following the arrival here of J.B. Lightman and Tobias Berelejis, J.D.C. officials from Argentina. The J.D.C. effort emphasizes that the goal of \$100,000 set for the Uruguayan Jewish community will help transport some 1,000 displaced Jews from Europe to Israel.

PALESTINE ECONOMIC CORPORATION APPROPRIATES \$500,000 FOR HOUSING PROGRAM IN ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- The Palestine Economic Corporation, American development company operating in Israel, today announced plans to launch a housing program to help relieve the critical shortage of living units in the new state.

The sum of \$500,000 has been appropriated by the corporation to start the work, Julius Simon, president, reported. The P.E.C., he added, has hopes of interesting other investors to put up additional funds so that the program can be expanded at once. "Construction," Simon said, "will be undertaken on a section of the 1,400-acre tract owned by the Bayside Land Corporation, a wholly-owned P.E.C. subsidiary, at Haifa Bay."

CENTRAL CONFERENCE OF AMERICAN RABEIS TO HOLD 60TH CONVENTION IN BRETTON WOODS IN JUNE

HARTFORD, Conn., April 19. (JTA) -- The 60th annual convention of the Central Conference of American Rabbis will be held in Bretton Woods, N.H., June 23-28, it was announced by Dr. Abraham J. Feldman, of Hartford, president of the organization. Among the highlights of the convention will be the presentation of two papers evaluating the growth of Liberal Judaism since the founding of the C.C.A.R.

DELEGATION OF AMERICAN CHRISTIANS LEAVING TODAY FOR TWO-WEEK STUDY TOUR OF ISRAEL

NEW YORK, April 19. (JTA) -- A delegation of prominent American Christians sponsored by the American Christian Palestine Committee will leave tomorrow aboard the Queen Mary for Israel for a two-week study tour. The delegation is composed of churchmen, jurists, educators and editors.

R. MAX LERNER JOINS FACULTY OF BRANDEIS UNIVERSITY; WILL TEACH AMERICAN CIVILIZATION

BOSTON, April 19. (JTA) -- The appointment of Max Lerner, political scientist, author and lecturer, to the faculty of Brandeis University, was announced today by Dr. Abram L. Sachar, president. Dr. Lerner has accepted the post of Professor of American Civilization and Institutions and is scheduled to begin teaching in the Fall of the 1949-50 academic year. His courses will include Comparative Government and American Civilization.

R. NISSAN COHEN, FORMER HEAD OF HUNGARIAN ZIONIST FEDERATION, DIES IN TEL AVIV

TEL AVIV, April 19. (JTA) -- Dr. Nissan Cohen, who served for many years as head of the Hungarian Zionist Organization and was one of the founders of the Zionist movement in Hungary, died here today at the age of 66. He was interned during the war in a Nazi concentration camp. Following his arrival in Tel Aviv several years ago he found employment with the local office of the Jewish National Fund.

BECAUSE OF RECOVER, THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE BULLETIN WILL APPEAR ON FRIDAY